

Ringmore Post Offices

Until 1890 there was no post office in Ringmore. However, Mrs George Freeman, who lived at Challaborough Cottage, was known as the "Receiver" of letters, which came to her from Kingsbridge, and by some mails from Ivybridge, both via Aveton Gifford. The Money Order and Telegraph Office was at Modbury.

In 1890 a little post office was established at Challaborough Cottage. Letters were received by Mail Cart from Aveton Gifford at 9.40 am and were despatched at 3.55 pm (weekdays only). The nearest Money Order and Telegraph Office was still at Modbury.

In 1907 the Post Master was Tom Farley who lived with his wife Emma and their niece Flossie Bardens in the middle cottage of the row which is now called Ivy Cottage, in which they had the Post Office. In 1914 they moved to the house now called Hillside and the Post Office moved with them. By then the nearest Money Order Office was at Kingston and the nearest Telegraph Office was at Bigbury.

By 1923 the Sub-Post Office was at the cottage now called Sea View, which was owned by David Triggs. His daughter Miriam Olver was Post-Mistress. After the death of David Triggs in 1925, his cottage was sold and Miriam Olver moved with the Post Office to a cottage at what is now part of Ivy Cottage.

At some stage in the 1930's Owen and Molly Jarvis had the Post Office in Rose Cottage but by 1935 Fred and Bessie Ryder had allocated the northern end of their cottage (now called Wychwood) to a little shop and post office. Mrs Mary Triggs who lived at Houghton and cycled to Ringmore each day ran this. Eventually Mary Triggs moved with the Post Office to the northern end of Ivy Cottage which had previously been its home. After her death in 1951, Edward Rogers took over the cottage and Post Office.

Thus for over 50 years Ringmore residents had maintained post office services in the village by giving up space in their tiny cottages. From these small post offices mail was delivered on foot by local postmen to the farms and houses of Ringmore, as described by Margaret Lock in the booklet "Ringmore Remembered". She was for a short time the village Post-woman.

Following this period, Mr and Mrs Wyatt bought all three cottages comprising Ivy Cottage and converted them into one - using the northern part as a post office and Village Shop. This arrangement continued without interruption with Mr and Mrs Gander, Mr and Mrs Herndon and Mr and Mrs Race succeeding each other as Post Master and Postmistress. During the 1980's Roger and Susanne Race enlarged the premises by converting an old store at the north end of the cottage into an annex of the shop. This more elaborate shop did not pay and it and the Post office were closed in 1991.

Fortunately John and Rosemary Tate, who owned Cross Park, made a brave effort to convert part of their premises into a shop and post office which continued to operate until 1998 when it too had to close.



Christmas mails in a rural area near Modbury are still delivered by a mounted postman, 76-year-old Mr. Robert Hingston on his Dartmoor pony, Peggy. He is seen here leaving Harraton Farm, Aveton Gifford. "I was practically born in the saddle and never want to be without my pony," said Mr. Hingston. "There is nothing like a sure-footed Dartmoor for completing the round, even when snow stops the cars from getting through."

Friday, August 23, 2002

Downalong, backalong . . .



Postman Bob:
In 1960 the post was still delivered by 76-year-old Bob Hingston, riding his Dartmoor pony called Peggy. This sure-footed animal always completed the post round, even when ice and snow prevented cars travelling on the roads. Our thanks go to Peter Bovey of Modbury, for sending in the picture.

Original newspaper cuttings are in George's box File "Press Cuttings" Ringmore.