



History Matters

by Wembury Local History Society



wemburywaves.uk Bringing local history to life



wemburywaves.uk started as an online radio station, set up to share music, local features, and bits of village life. From the beginning, many of the songs and features were already drawing on Wembury's past, using stories, memories, and newspaper reports as their starting point. History was part of the project from the outset, even before it was formally organised.

As more of this material was created, especially songs based on real local events and people, it became clear that a live stream on its own was limiting. If you missed something, it was gone. A story or song might be heard once and then disappear.



So, the website wemburywaves.uk was developed to give this growing body of work a permanent home. It allows people to look around and choose what interests them. People can wander through the site, listen to songs, and read the stories behind them. The radio stream is still there, but the website ensures that the village's history and memories are easy to revisit.

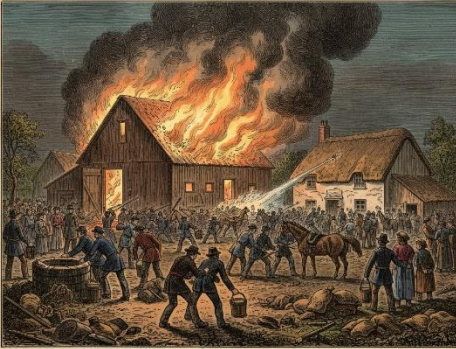
The site is built around stories. Some come from old newspapers, parish records, memoirs, and archives. Others come from people's memories and village life. Together, they show how Wembury has

changed, and how much has stayed the same.

One of the main features is the "On This Day in Wembury" series, which links each date to real, checked events from the past. Care is taken not to guess or fill in gaps where evidence is missing. Wherever possible, original sources are used first, and the articles are written directly from them. Images are added afterwards to help bring the story to life. Alongside this, the site also includes local information, such as tide times, bus details, community notices, and news updates. There are also quizzes, Wembury themed games, and even virtual reality flights over the village.

ON THIS DAY IN WEMBURY

19 June 1868



Langdon Farm Fire: £250 of Damage as Blaze Destroys Grain

Illustration from the North Devon Journal, 26 June 1868

ON THIS DAY IN WEMBURY

18 JULY 1939

OLD SHELL FOUND IN KNIGHTON FARM ORCHARD

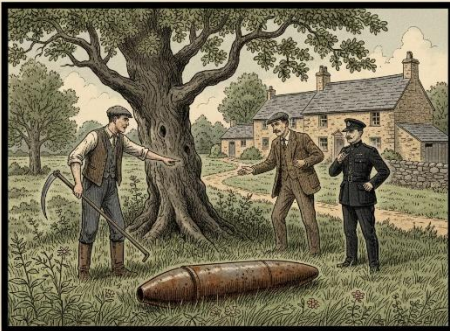


Illustration from the Western Morning News, 19 & 20 July 1939

What really sets wemburywaves.uk apart is the use of original songs to tell local stories. Many are based on real people, places, and incidents, including shipwrecks, court cases, wartime memories, and lost buildings. Others focus on everyday village life.

For example, *Wembury's Guns*, about the former HMS Cambridge gunnery school at Wembury Point, includes the lines:

"Wembury's guns still call the bay
Their echoes rise then fade away
You hear them when the storm draws near,
The old range calling clear."

A very different song about childhood memories, *Up to No Good*, recalls:

"We hid in the ash tree on Church Road bend

Waiting for a walker we could pretend
Was a ghost or a witch or a war time friend
Then we'd jump out shouting loud as we could

And run like fury back into the wood."

These are based on real places and experiences that many people still recognise.

The songs are carefully researched and checked. Digital tools, including artificial intelligence, are used to help with the

musical side, but the human bit is still the important part. The lyrics and the story come first, and each track is then refined before it is shared. wemburywaves.uk is not a formal academic project. It is a personal, community-based website, run by someone who lives in the village and takes a real interest in its past and present. The aim is straightforward: to record local history with care, to share it widely, and to make it enjoyable.

As new material comes in and more memories are shared, the site continues to grow. It is becoming a place where Wembury's stories are collected, explored, and shared.

Scan the code to visit wemburywaves.uk

