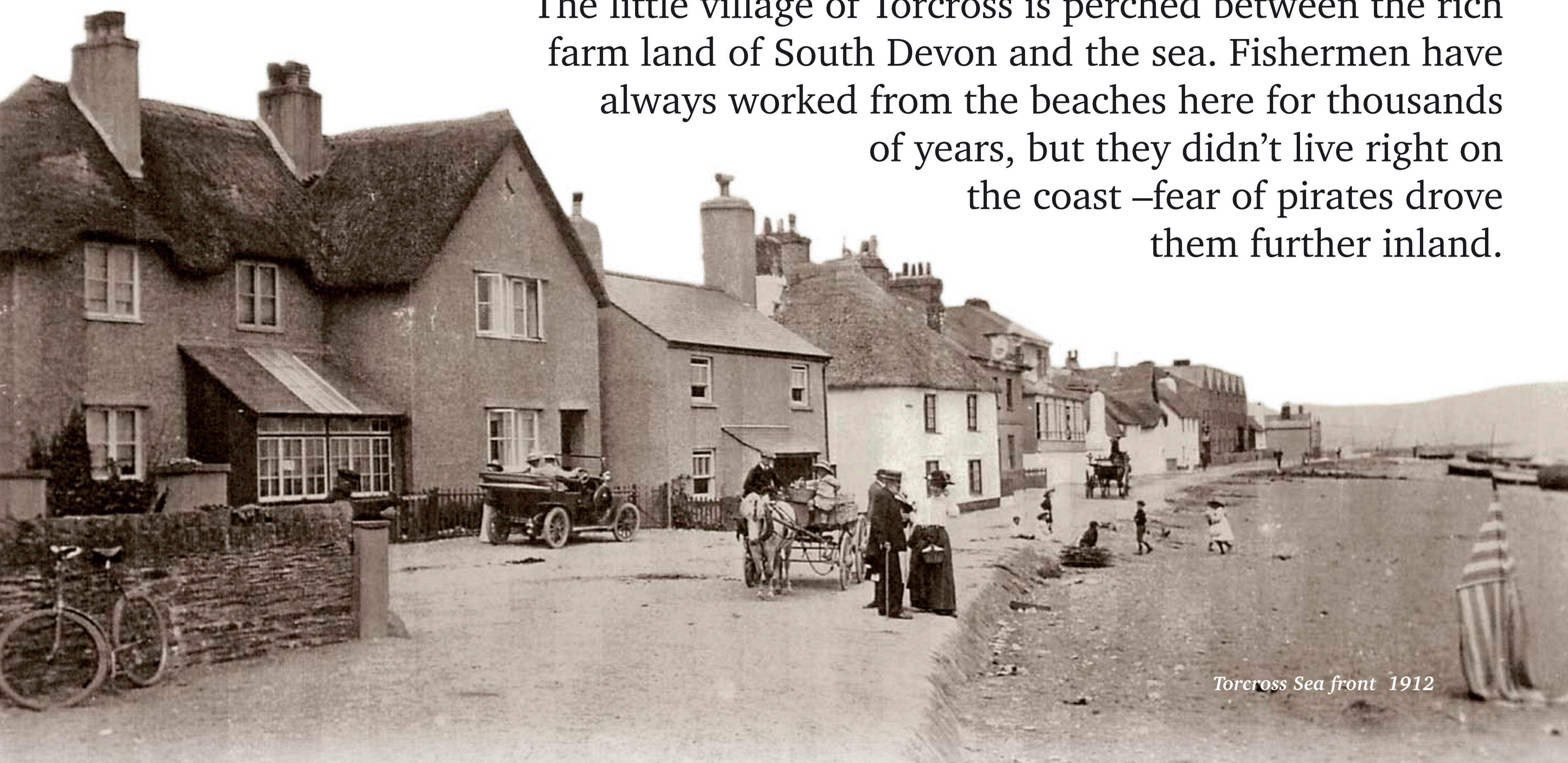


explore start bay

Torcross ..the Village

The little village of Torcross is perched between the rich farm land of South Devon and the sea. Fishermen have always worked from the beaches here for thousands of years, but they didn't live right on the coast – fear of pirates drove them further inland.



Torcross Sea front 1912

In Elizabethan times, England began to build a navy, scaring off the sea-raiders and making it safe, for fishing families to live close to their work. The village of Torcross was first recorded in 1602, when it took its place together with the other settlements in the Stokenham manorial court.



Fishing in Start Bay, 1895



Village car park, 1938

TORCROSS, 214



Torcross sea front, damage during storms, December 1978



Beach defences at Torcross, during WWII

In 400 years Torcross has seen many changes, some caused by world events, some by the sea which it lives alongside.



Torcross beach, 1920



Start Bay fishwives, 1890

What's in a name...

As often happens, there are various theories about where Torcross got its name:

Tor (rock) cross – a cross was said to have stood on the rocks and used both as an aid to navigation as well as for 'devotional purposes'. Legend has it that the cross was moved by the lord of Widdicombe Manor to his own grounds where it still stands.

Tar Crofs – Old maps refer to Tar Crofs (dwellings) – fishermen used to dip ropes and nets in tar in order to preserve and waterproof them.

Two prominent families in the area were those of Walter de la Torre (1281) and Adam de la Cros (1316)

The fishing village of Torcross. A station of the Home Missionary Society. Drawn by T Harrison

The village has many stories to tell and a rich and varied history – stop a while and look at the photos here, or on www.explorestartbay.org. Visit the other information points around the village or follow one of the trails. They are marked on the board by the tank or look for the explore logo

