

# Comprehensive picture of Devon and Cornwall

**V**olunteer coastguard Stewart Lenton's two separate spiral-bound volumes of *Fishing Boats & Ports of Cornwall and Devon* is a refreshingly different and comprehensive review of all Devonian and Cornish coves and harbours and all registered fishing boats based there, writes **David Linkie**.

The publication includes details of 1550 vessels and 1250+ photographs of boats ranging in size and type from 4m 'toshers' to 35m+ beamers, all being treated equally to give comprehensive coverage.

In his role as a volunteer watch keeper at Rame Head National Coast Watch Institution (NCI) station in Cornwall, Stewart Lenton embarked several years ago on the daunting task of trying to photograph every fishing boat based in Cornwall and Devon to assist with vessel

identification when he and his colleagues are on duty.

A hobby quickly developed into a passion, with the growing collection of boat photographs becoming popular with colleagues at other NCI stations, as well as harbourmasters, coastguards, lifeboat crews and fishermen. The author has clearly spent hundreds of hours and driven thousands of miles around Cornwall and Devon to obtain the photographs shown.

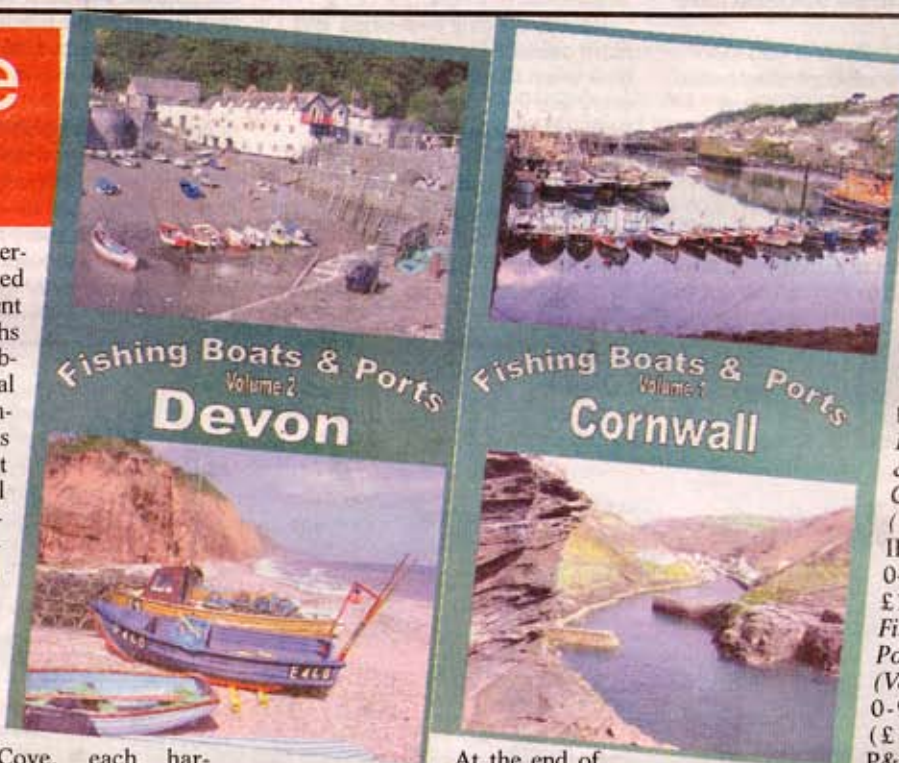
As the collection increased, many expressed a wish to see the photographs published in book form. This has been achieved in an interesting and effective style using background information on the strong fishing heritage of the area and photographs and facts about the fishing ports.

Described as "an alternative way to explore the coastline of Cornwall/Devon", the

two volumes include interesting fishing-related details past and present and location photographs of 65 harbours. In a publication that will appeal to both commercial fishermen and tourists, it is particularly pleasing that the author gives equal prominence to numerous small fishing centres that all too often tend to be overlooked at the expense of the main harbours.

Beer, Beesands, Cape Cornwall (Priest's Cove), Coverack, Church Cove, Gorran Haven, Penberth, Portholland, Portwrinkle are some of the smaller harbours covered in the same detail as larger and more commercially orientated fishing harbours such as Looe, Plymouth, Newlyn and Brixham.

The general overview of



each harbour is followed by photographs of just about every boat, both present and past, that has fished from there in the last three years, preceded by a concise table listing that includes details of each vessel's LOA, GT, kW, year of build and hull type.

At the end of each book there is a quick reference listing of boats in Devon and Cornwall in both alpha-numerical order of registration and an alphabetical list by vessel name.

The official book launch of *Fishing Boats & Ports of Cornwall and Devon* was due

to be held on Wednesday this week (15 November) in Pyston House, the oldest house in Plymouth, when author Stewart Lenton was to be interviewed on Radio Devon.

■ Copies of *Fishing Boats & Ports of Cornwall (Volume 1)* ISBN 0-554023-0-1 (£14.95 + £1.20 (P&P) and *Fishing Boats & Ports of Devon (Volume 2)* ISBN 0-9554023-1-X (£14.95 + £0.75 P&P) can be purchased from Channel View Publishing Plymouth, Channel View, Andurn Estate, Down Thomas, Plymouth PL9 0AT (01752 862832) email: slenton@btinternet.com internet: www.fishport-boats.co.uk