

14. FHA BASSET STREET LEASE LIVES 1 MAY 2024

Facebook: 11 Likes (+2) 2 Comments (+1) 2 Shares

Instagram: 10 Likes



In the 19th and early 20th century, people living in Falmouth wanted long-term secure housing as much as they do today ...

From records in the Falmouth History Archive we know that during this period many Falmouth residents, including those in Basset Street, lived in leasehold properties where the landlord owned the land on which their house was built. In Basset Street, the landlord would have been a member of the wealthy mining family, the Bassets, from Tehidy.

The duration of the lease was often fixed by naming three specified lives - often family or friends. The lease would expire upon the death of the longest lived of these named lives, and the property revert to the landlord.

It was therefore in a lessee's interest for the term of their lease to be as long as possible, and some chose a young member of the royal family as one of their named lives, presumably in the hope that that individual would have a long life.

It is thought highly unlikely that the member of the royal family was made aware of this when the lease was created.

So - if you live in Basset Street today - it might surprise you to learn that in the past your house may have been linked to royalty!

Pictured lease: 23rd October 1901.

Granted by Arthur Francis Basset to Mr John James Cleophas Polglase.

Lives: Timothy Cornelius Polglase, age 56

HRH Beatrice Mary Victoria Feodore age 44

HRH Prince Edward Albert of York age 7.