

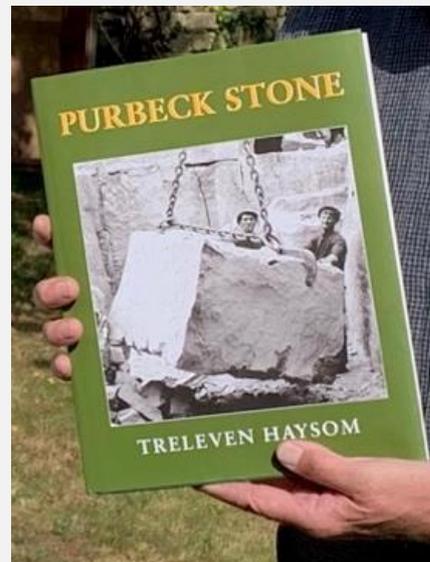
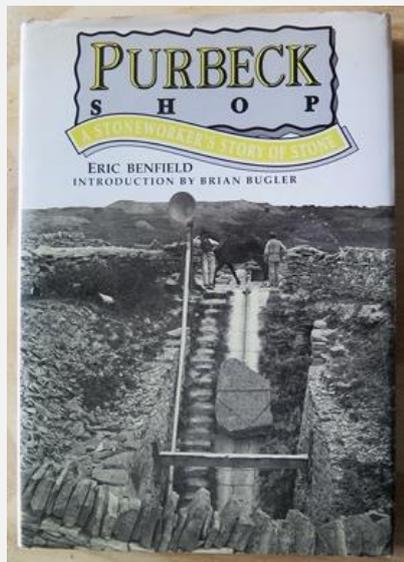
# PURBECK SHOP and PURBECK STONE

Two books published eighty years apart, written by life-long stoneworkers inform us in great depth of the methods and history of Purbeck's stone trade. Their knowledge of the subject handed down from their antecedents and gained from their personal experiences working in the industry.

Most recent, Treleven Haysom's book *Purbeck Stone*. Meticulously researched and well-illustrated. Trev pieces together the industry's past, drawing on existing records. Scrutinizing the stonework in situ., identifying its provenance whilst investigating the complicated archaeological remains in the redundant quarries. Explaining the geology and the characteristics of the different limestone beds named by the quarrymen.

Exploring the evidence, Trev explains the work of Purbeck's Marble trade throughout the 12<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> centuries and the Stone trade that followed on from this. How cliff stone was extracted along the four and a half mile stretch of coast at the edge of the plateau and precariously lowered into boats by gibbet and derricks. And in the Inland Stone Quarries how shafts were sunk, and freestone was dug in narrow, underground candlelit 'lanes' referred to by the quarrymen as 'quarrs'. And of the masonry skills, looking at how much of the work might have been completed in Purbeck before being transported out.

Trev's book is described as 'the definitive account of a stone'. Exploring the evidence from the earliest Purbeck marble workings before charting the stone industry's operations right up to the 1950's when traditional methods, used by his father, gave way to machinery. The past seventy years of new technology, the National Trust and greater planning controls is in my view the chapter that is missing.



**Purbeck Shop, A Stone Worker's Story of Stone** by Eric Benfield. First published in 1940 and again in 1990 by Eric's grandson Brian Bugler.

**Purbeck Stone** by Treleven Haysom. Published in 2020 by The Dovecote Press.