

Here and There

Perranporth, Cornwall & Beyond

Cliff Jones

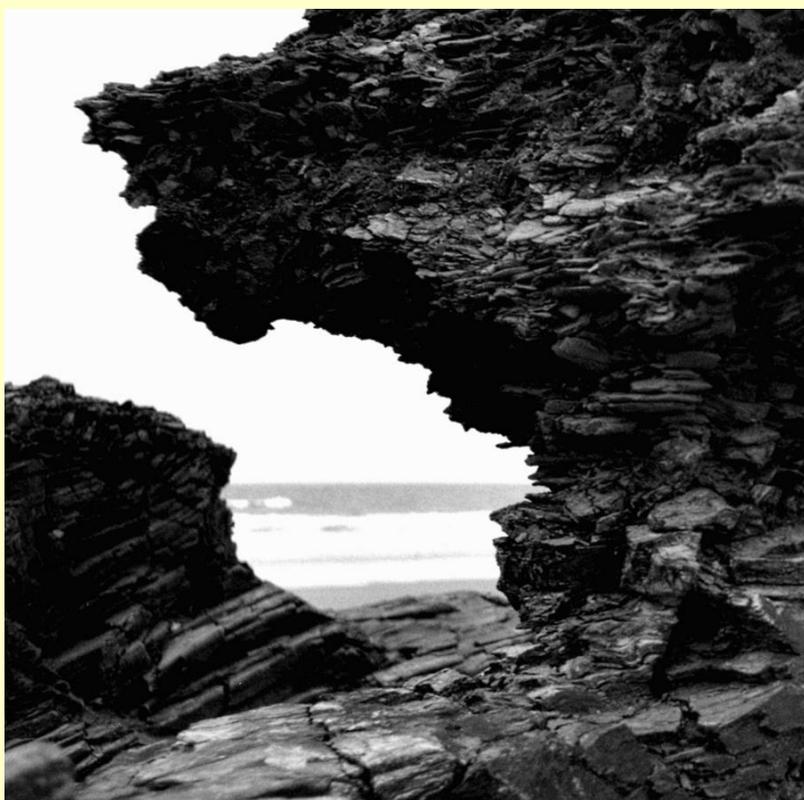
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In an era of digital colour, when enriched images of exotic places pop up on Microsoft screens to offer you compensation and perspective after hours of e-mailing and word processing it is refreshing to pull Cliff Jones' new collection of black and white photographs, 'Here and There', from the shelf and to accompany him on a journey of characters, faces, places, objects and occasions. The black and white format invites us to consider the image, to look into the detail, to reflect on the emotional capture, the composition and the narrative of each picture, and epic biographical journey of the collection as a whole.



In his own words: *'We moved to Perranporth in March 1970. And, apart from a short spell in Rose, I have lived here ever since.'* Thirty years ago Cliff produced a much-loved book called 'Time and Tide' – a collection of portraits of Perranporth people in-situ. 'Here and There' is a sequel. It tells Cliff's story, portray a Cornish seaside town, with faces that have come and gone, funerals, weddings, parties and quiet places and odd objects. Cliff worked as a designer and he has an innate sense of composition. His photographs are superb in themselves so that the viewer doesn't need to know the subjects' names to know the person, and the image is ample reward for the eye-time.

He describes his process in the engaging and informative Prologue as *'Since 'Time and Tide' I've continued to take photographs of random subjects on an occasional basis. They are not in chronological order for various reasons – some lend themselves to being presented in pairs, some in groups, and I wanted to maximise the surprise when each page is turned'.*



The modesty of the description belies the accomplishment of the artist and his book repays its viewer repeatedly. For some it will be sentimental, for some historical, for some it will offer insights into human diversity and emotion – for those who are looking without association ‘Here and There’ is a work of photographic art. The photographer is unobtrusive and editorially disciplined – there is not a second-rate image in the book. It is one intelligent eye’s view of thirty years in Cornwall, a portrait of a coastal town, and a crisp, warm collection which enriches the Cornish photographic library – a Lewis Harding of his day.

At £15 it is modestly priced and available from Perranporth Gallery and from the Lander Gallery, Truro. It is a single edition small print-run, so also eminently collectable.

Bert Biscoe

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