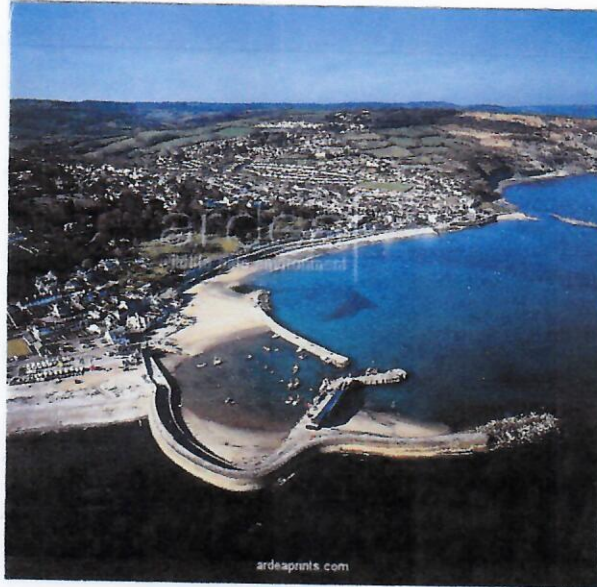


## THE COBB



'The Cobb' is an old stone pier forming an extensive harbour and is believed to date from the 13<sup>th</sup> century. The origin of the name is unknown but there are records of an ancient feast called the 'Cobb Ale Feast'. Another theory is that it is named Cobb after a male swan's neck. It is approximately 870 feet long and the natural harbour made Lyme Regis a busy place in former days with local fishing and also trading with distant lands. Because of this harbour the town of Lyme Regis developed as a port and also a ship building centre from the 13<sup>th</sup> century onwards. By the 16<sup>th</sup> century the port was larger than the port of Liverpool and traded with France. But in the 19<sup>th</sup> century the port declined because it was unable to handle the larger ships.

The Cobb was damaged by storms many times and in 1377 it was completely swept away. It is thought that when it was rebuilt it was probably the first time mortar was used. The eastern section of the Cobb ends with the Victoria Pier, so called because Princess Victoria, the future Queen, landed there with her mother in 1833.



One of the buildings on the Cobb is the ex-headquarters of sailing and power boats whilst another houses a marine aquarium which is open daily. Look out for ammonites made from Coadestone set into the pavement outside the Museum and along the Jurassic coast look out for the ammonite design street lights.

The Cobb has been featured in several literary works. Jane Austen has her heroine walking along the Cobb in her book 'Persuasion' which she wrote in Lyme Regis when on holiday there – she says “The young people were all wild to see Lyme again.....”



Extract from “Persuasion”

“There was too much wind to make the high part of the Cobb pleasant for Ladies, and they agreed to get down the steps to the lower. Louisa must be jumped down them by Captain Wentworth..... The sensation was delightful to her.”

“The French Lieutenant’s Woman” by John Fowles, is found standing on the end of the Cobb waiting for her lover, a French Lieutenant, to return to her.

