



Former Oban resident Mike Thomas Monroe with the treasure map from which he located the Spanish galleon in Tobermory harbour.

A FORMER Oban man has found real treasure from a Spanish galleon which sank in Tobermory Harbour in the sixteenth century.

Mike Thomas Monroe worked for the Northern Lighthouse Board and stayed in Oban for six years around twenty years ago.

There he developed an interest in Spanish treasure and began a lifelong quest to hunt for treasure.

Mike is now an authentic treasure hunter and tells the story of the Tobermory galleon his latest book, *Too Long in Vera Cruz - the Story of Spanish Treasure*.

Mike dived in Tobermory Harbour in the 1970s when the expedition was abandoned due to sand at dangerous depths.

But after finding a treasure map earlier this year signed by a man called Raymond Hawke,

Mike put two and two together and came up with buried treasure.

Mike said: 'There was a map found in an Ivory-carved Chinese needle case. The map was signed by a man called Raymond Hawke and from that we got the location of the ship.'

'We brought a small crane ship up from Bridlington. We just dragged a little trawl across a few times and all the treasure came up.'

The *San Juan De Sicilia* was a 26-gun galleon which ended up in Tobermory on October 12, 1588 after the failure of the Spanish Armada.

Mike said: 'There they came ashore and demanded food but the chief of the Clan MacLean told the sailors he was 'not used to

*'... on October 27, 1588,  
he blew the ship up.'*

*A Taynuilt woman said to her husband: 'Please tell me if ever I become predictable.'  
Her husband replied: 'I knew you were going to say that.'*