



# Cowethas Kernewek Loundres

## London Cornish Association

# Newsletter

Autumn 2007

### Good times ahead

With so many good things to report in this newsletter, it is sad to have to begin with a tragedy. No one could be unmoved by the terrible images of the inferno at Penhallow Hotel in Newquay. It must have been a frightening experience for all those involved and a tragic event for some. Our thoughts and prayers are with those who were affected by the events of that terrible night.

The LCA has planned another very exciting programme of social events for 2007/8. Members (and their friends) are encouraged to attend the events. They are always a great deal of fun and provide an opportunity to spend time with other Cornish folk. If you are coming to an event, it would be helpful if you could contact either the Programme Co-ordinator (Francis Dunstan Tel: 01494 531703) or the person who is responsible for the particular event (listed with the event details). Several of the events include a pasty and saffron cake lunch and it is helpful for our caterers to know numbers in advance.

The first event of the season is a visit to the Freemason's Hall in London. This promises to be a very special event for anyone interested in genealogy or architecture (it is a good example of an art deco building). Shortly afterwards is the Family History Conference with speakers coming up especially from Cornwall. The venue on this occasion is the Central Methodist Hall in Westminster and being there will enable those who are interested to access the Methodist Historic Role.

You will have noticed in newsletters over the past year that we are trying to get out and about more – both to raise our profile and to promote our Cornish heritage. Following last year's very successful exhibitions at the Leadenhall Market and the Royal Cornwall Show, it was decided to have a stand at the RCS again this year. As you will see from the reports, this was a great success and looks as though it will become an annual event – so if you visit the show next year, come and look

for us. Maybe you would like to join the crew in manning the stand!

Seeing the potential of exhibitions for promoting our cause and recruiting new members has made us look closely at our marketing and Council has been working hard to create a modern-looking image which reflects what we are. We obtained a new display stand in time for the RCS and now have special membership application forms which we can have available for potential members. The display aroused a great deal of interest in Wadebridge, so we know it works!

It is good to see the London Cornish RFC doing so well. After a really good season last year they seem geared up for an even better one in 2007/8. They would love some support from Cornish folk, so if you can, go along and watch their home matches. It is free to enter and you will be given free programmes!

One of the highlights of the next few months is Cuntelles Kernewek which takes place in Torbay at the end of March. This is a weekend of tremendous fun and camaraderie. As always, there will be competitions where those who enjoy a variety of crafts – from pasty making to photography – can test their skill against others. You have a few months to prepare, so get working on those items. Winter is on its way, so this is the ideal time to treat yourself to some time out and to indulge in something you enjoy.

Finally, a reminder – the LCA newsletter and Cornish Worldwide are available via the internet. If you would prefer to receive your newsletter in this way, please contact me via email and I will put you on the mailing list. I can imagine some people thinking that this would involve long download times – especially for those with a dial-up connection. You can rest assured that this is not the case. You will be sent a link to the LCA website and so, instead of downloading a file, you just open a website. The big advantage is that the photos are in colour! Think about it.

*Comero weeth.*

### Dates for your diary

**24th September**  
Visit to Freemason's Hall

**6th October**  
Family History Conference

**14th November**  
Annual Service

**12th January**  
New Year's Lunch

**1st March**  
122nd Annual Dinner

**Informal Lunches**  
24th September  
22nd October  
26th November

*Further details of these events can be found on page 2*

**Deadline for the Winter issue of Cornish Worldwide is**

**5th November**

**Please send all contributions to The Editor at the address on the back page**

# Forthcoming Events

## **Visit to Freemason's Hall 24th September - 1.45pm**

The tour will last about 45 minutes and will be followed by short talks from the museum curator and the librarian.

There are wheelchair facilities for those who might find standing or walking difficult..

**If you would like to attend this event, please contact Don Foster (Tel: 0208 5302233).**

*Directions:* Nearest tube station - Holborn (Central and Piccadilly lines)

On leaving the station, proceed down Kingsway and turn right into Great Queen St. Freemason's Hall is on the left side of the road (approx 5 mins walk). Meet at the entrance at 1.45 pm.

## **Why not meet beforehand for an Informal Lunch?**

12 Noon - Methodist Central Hall, Westminster (nearest stations - St James Park and Westminster on Circle and District lines).

## **Family History Conference 6th October - 10am to 4.30pm**

### **Speakers:**

David Holman: *Using Medals to Help Trace Your Family History*

Richard Ratcliffe: *The Methodist Historic Role and Some Cornish Connections*

There will be an opportunity to consult the Historic Roll on the day.

Registration - 10am

### **Venue:**

Emmanuel Room, Central Hall, Westminster (Nearest stations - St James Park or Westminster - on District and Circle Line).

*Further details can be obtained from:*

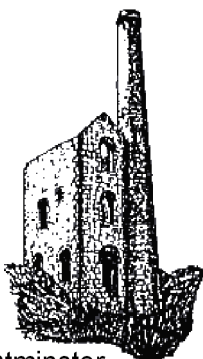
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**A warm welcome is extended to both members and non-members of the London Cornish Association.**

**For catering purposes, please let Francis Dunstan know if you are coming.**



## **Annual Service 14th November - 7pm**

**Preacher:** Bishop Bill Ind, Bishop of Truro

New Chapel, Methodist Hall, Westminster.  
(Nearest stations - St James Park and Westminster on Circle and District lines)

## **Don't forget to diarise...**

**New Year's Lunch** - 12th January 2008

**122nd Annual Dinner** - 1st March 2008  
Tickets will be available in January.

**Annual Picnic** - 5th July 2008  
Hyde Park, London

## **Informal lunches**

12 Noon - Methodist Central Hall, Westminster  
(nearest stations - St James Park and Westminster on Circle and District lines)

*Dates for the coming months:*

24th September (before visit to Freemason's Hall)  
22nd October  
26th November  
28th January  
18th February  
28th April  
26th May  
24th June

*Information about the Association's social events, can be found in the LCA Newsletter, Cornish Worldwide and on the website - [www.londoncornish.co.uk](http://www.londoncornish.co.uk).*

## **News of Past Events**

### **Annual Picnic – Holland Park Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> July**

After a week of atrocious weather, members were wondering what to expect on this July Saturday. The morning dawned bright but, at about 11.30, just when the first members started to arrive, some thick clouds built up. Fortunately, the sun came out later and it was a very good, warm day.

We found a nice spot in the flower garden where there were seats which we were able to use. The café was close by which was convenient for those who wanted to buy something to eat.

There was a good attendance although some people arrived a bit late because public transport was in disarray, as a result of the Tour de France events taking place that day.

*Tony Wakeham*

**Do we have your correct email and mailing address? Please let us know if you change your address.  
Contact the editor on [editor@londoncornish.co.uk](mailto:editor@londoncornish.co.uk) or at the address on the back page**

# “Cornish Churches, Chapels and Odd People”

Tony Jasper

*This article is the second part of an extract from the 2007 Trelawny Lecture. Part 1 can be found in the Summer 2007 issue of Cornish Worldwide (available on [www.londoncornish.co.uk](http://www.londoncornish.co.uk))*

How did Methodism, with its eventual construction of chapels arrive in Cornwall? It would seem that the Movement came in 1743, after a Bristol sea-captain, Joseph Turner, visited St. Ives, and founded a society. Private houses provided meeting places in the early days. The first Society House or Chapel was at Morvah in 1744. John Wesley would call each year from 1743 to 1750 - in all some 31 times, the last time being in 1789, when at the astonishing age of 86 he preached through most of Cornwall. It is said that there were 25,000 in the congregation when he preached at Gwen- nap.

Like his brother Charles, John Wesley met much opposition from both the ordinary people and clergymen. The Rector of St Ives described the brethren as seducers, troublers, scribes, Pharisees and hypocrites. At Wednock, the curate accused them of proclaiming a hodge-potch of railing and foolish lies as Satan himself might be ashamed of. This same clergyman said that Methodists ought to be driven away by blows, and not arguments. On one occasion in St Ives, when Charles had just announced his text, rioters burst in upon the meeting, threatening to murder the people if they did not leave that very moment. They broke the sconces, dashed the windows in pieces, and tore away the shutters, benches and poor box.

Some Methodists became particularly known for their rejection of alcohol, and also of work on the Sabbath - not that those were the only subjects, for being a Methodist could extend to seeing various aspects of a members behaviour examined at a public meeting, especially if you were a local preacher. A few examples...

- At Kilkampton, Bro. Pomeroy was told that his courtship with Sophia Bartlett was considered unscriptural.
- At Redruth, Bro Ivey's name was taken off the preaching plan because he attended a harvest feast where dancing was introduced, and where some of the guests were worse for wear through heavy drinking.
- Bro. Quick was reproved for drinking too freely, and singing songs at four different public houses on four different days
- In St Ives, Br. John Victor was suspended for three months because he broke off an engagement with his sweetheart and
- A J Kitto of the Launceston circuit was censured for being in some company where cards were played.

'Keeping the Sabbath' was filled with inconsistencies. If shoes were not cleaned by 12.p.m. on a Saturday then the dirty ones were worn on the Sunday and the owner was exposed to disapproval. One man who trimmed his

beard on a Sunday would not allow his son to cut his nails. Some rode a bike on the Sabbath, for others that was not allowed. It could of course get nasty. In 1829 there was a Sabbath riot in St Ives. It seems some entrepreneur bought some speedboats which plied on Sundays. Local fishermen objected, and prevented people getting on and off. Thousands gathered to see this confrontation, and then many marched to two cafes and forced them to close. The 40 guests had to leave by the back entrance as threats were made to burn down the premises. Even in recent times there have been interesting examples of Sabbath-keeping, such as placing a cloth over the television and, for a long time, the Chapels were prominent in stopping entertainment on Sunday.

John Probert wrote the fascinating *The Worship and Devotion of Cornish Methodism*. His chapter on Decorum in Chapel brings back to me many memories. He tells of a time at Fore St, St Ives, where the preacher didn't mention Christ's name until the blessing. This elicited the shout - "Thank God you mentioned His Name at last brother." There is also the time at Madron when the preacher seemed to go on and on - and eventually the elderly steward got up and walked toward the pulpit - "Ere, mister", he said "what time bus you catchin?" On hearing the reply, he said "Es gone!" And I've always loved the story of the man who was climbing the stairs to the pulpit, and stopped when he saw one of the ladies putting a kettle on the stove. Seeing she was observed, she told him that they always had a cup of tea after the sermon. As the preacher finished, the kettle blew. 'Course', she said, "sometimes we only half fill the kettle!"

The Reverend Tom Shaw, now sadly deceased, points out that in the old days of Chapel, men and women were separated, sitting on either side of the building. This continued until 1879 at Stithians and 1893 at Hayle. The old chapels were unheated - hence the building of high backed pews. Not unexpectedly there were one or two chapels that did upgrade. In a new chapel built in 1870 at Pleasant Streams, St Issey, there was matting to cover the aisle and canvas on the rostrum floor. It had a 'ansome' cushion on what is described as the Bible Board - probably the desk-projection seen on the front pew in some chapels.

Services were very simple, as some still are - hymn, extempore prayer, verses of a hymn, sermon, short extempore prayer and benediction. The Scripture in the morning would be from the prayer book lectionary. The sermon was shorter in the morning and no more than 50 minutes in the evening. Chapel people sing more than church people - the people were led in early times by a precentor often with a tuning fork. Singing was by 'lining out' - announcing one or two lines at a time. The

custom - common to many Christian gatherings around the world, especially the American South - was still being practised in Porthleven as late as 1886. Even this practice gave rise to chapel disputes. Tom Shaw records acrimony in Camborne where the new Superintendent was told that if he went to four lines he would displease half the congregation, on the other hand the other half did not like just two lines. I suppose the only solution was first to announce in two lines because two comes before four, and then in four. But that would mean that those who liked it in two lines would then be two behind.

Not everyone wanted a choir. Tom Shaw tells of sabotage at Delabole, where a rather unfortunately named local preacher, Abraham Bastard, would try and raise the tune before the choir could open their mouths. Some chapels had musicians. They sat in the front gallery behind the pulpit with their violins, flutes, clarinets, serpents, trombones, ophicleides, and bass viols. At Voguebeloth built in 1866 the music stands carved by one of the members is still in position.

In the engaging booklet 'Methodism in St Buryan and surroundings', Mrs Audrey Wallace recalls the time when she was a child. "The highlights of our Sunday School years used to be the Parades, and bands, Anniversary and Feast Celebrations. There was also the annual trip to the beach to Praa Sands or Carbis Bay and the Choir outings to what then seemed far away places with strange sounding names. And, there were local preachers who came on a Sunday on their push bikes to take full day's services. The annual tea treat for children in Camborne could see five hundred scholars and teachers marching around the town, led by a brass band, the girls dressed in white for the occasion and the boys with clean collars".

A.L. Rowse' writings on both chapel and church remind me of my own upbringing – he talks of Sunday as an orgy of church and Sunday School-going, with the religious activity only broken up by meals, and how one had sometimes to scamper home for Sunday roast before returning at, I guess slightly slower speed. Rowse says chapel kept him and others out of mischief, but on a personal level I can recall several naughty moments perpetrated by my good self. The first was when I was sometimes co-opted into organ blowing, and I deliberately let the air out. A second was when I was ordered out of the Sunday school for standing on my chair and waving an imaginary palm tree as we came to that reference in the hymn *Tell Me The Stories of Jesus*. My last moment was more communal. The Church, the Congregational in Market Jew Street, was still given to many a midweek concert in the church hall, and with a number of other bored young people we decided we would clap lustily for any artist whom we thought was not going down well. These artists then returned, for several encores, to what they had perceived was an enthusiastic audience.

There are interesting descriptions of Sunday School. There are the memories of Neil Burden: "I shall always remember the noise and squash in the vestry just before 11 a.m; the girls worried about their hair style, and mothers straightening their sons ties as if we were

all on the catwalk of a fashion parade. Where we sat was of great importance, the boys on the end, with the teachers and the older females behind the girls to hide their knees but not their new attire. Of course the men would be in the back row and what a promotion when you attained the age to sit with the basses or tenors. How those platforms, precariously balanced on the top of pews, held up all these excited bodies, I never understood. The trestles were infected by worm, and often propped up with an older hymn book, or dare I say it, bibles (at least it was holding up God's children). The occasional nail was used, but very much frowned on as it should not really be needed.

There was one important element which was very important to Church and Chapel - food. Even to this day a Harvest Festival can be more than just hearty singing with the officiating preacher bobbing and up and down between the grapes and corn sheaves as I was reminded last year when I took this celebration at a West Cornwall chapel. The service was followed by a large lunch, and was the prelude to the following day's Harvest Supper. When I was a teenager, and a member of High Street, Penzance, I found myself invited to take the special coach to Carfury, up beyond New Mill. When I got there I knew why the coach was full - tables laden with food of a weight and kind only associated with Christmas lay before us - real farm butter, real thick crusty Cornish cream, chunky thick cut hams and home pressed apple juice. There were teas on other occasions, and a Sunday afternoon tea table, would, as former Methodist, Richard Jones, has put it, groan with meat pies, bacon and egg pies, cold chicken, fruit tarts, saffron cake, dough cake, splits and cream, trifles, home-baked bread, and goodness knows what else. Jones was curious as to how people kept awake in the evening service. Well, he recalls, the drama of the service when the preacher announced the last hymn to follow his lively sermon. The organist attacked the keys with gusto but nothing was to be heard. The chapel steward strode forward and pulled back the curtain where the organ blower sat, and then announced to the gathering, "Ee was proper far gone".

Methodists once favoured the open-air for preaching and services, but open air meetings more-or-less ceased once the Chapels were built. The most famous of the meeting places remains – Gwennap Pit – a disused mine. Wesley enjoyed preaching there. It can hold two thousand.

One last aspect of old Methodism, and not confined to it, is the love of funerals. Important to say it is a Cornish thing - the send off, hopefully to glory. Tom Shaw calls it a 'popularity thing' and some went to every funeral within 15 miles. There is the lovely remark of the Cornishwoman, "If you don't go to folks' funerals, they won't come to yours."

Of course, it can be said, and rightly in my view, that when it comes to services, Methodism does lack colour. Even now, it is too sombre, and its services often lacking imagination and the unexpected. Rowse, at the conclusion of his chapter on Church, rhapsodises on the Anglican use of purple in Advent and Lent, white for the great festivals - Easter Day, and Christmas and Trinity Sun-

day, red for Whitsun and green for ordinary occasions. He runs through the many happenings of the Church calendar, of Palms on Palm Sunday, the desolation and gloom of Holy Week, Good Friday with the altar stripped of its ornaments, and then the processions, and the somewhat chilling ecclesiastical desert, of those interminable Sundays after Trinity up to the Twenty-Seventh, in which nothing seemed to happen.

I intend now to focus on some particularly odd Cornish people. I know I have not defined the word *odd*, partly because I somehow presume that, as Cornish people, we know what we mean without explaining it - perhaps whacky individuals.

I can think of the West Cornwall preacher who turned to a well manicured and coiffured chapel choir and said "You painted Jezebels" and the preacher who told us that the New English Bible translation was only fit for the garbage bin. Then there was H.C. Tonking of Newquay who was well known in musical circles. When he got the sack from Westminster Chapel, he got his revenge by changing the loud and soft draw knobs on the organ.

During a sermon, Mr Solly Stone of Barrripper told the gathering "If you don't repent, you are sure to go to hell as sure as I going to kill that fly - gosh I ben an miss'ont!" Then there is the old clayworker who prayed, "I aren't no more than a humble worker o Loord: but I do thank thee Loord that I do work with thee, if only in an advisory capacity!" There was also the BC preacher, John Davey, who always took off his coat when he preached. He argued that he did so for work, and ought to do so for the Lord.

These 'characters' seem to be on the wane, the current Methodist way of doing things, of increasing the academic standards has merit, how could it be otherwise, but it means that somehow along the way something has been lost: the pulpit seemingly barred from those who find writing words and assembling thoughts far from easy. Methodism has lost the person who minds the cows, runs the paint shop, tends the local gardens and so on. The laity have been led into thinking that only the 'educated' have words of sense, and their ears are closed to the testimony of sincere men and women.

One of the best known names in Cornish religious history must be Mark Guy Pearse - preacher, author, painter 1842-1930 - from a family reputedly among the earliest of Wesleyan Methodists in Cornwall. Concerning his own funeral, he said:

"Please understand: no mourning. No grief. No gloom. No dead march. Start the service with '*Praise God from whom all blessings flow*' and let the stops be out on the organ, and ask the people to thunder it out when they sing it in triumph....remember I shall be with you and shall join in the singing." In a letter to his eldest son he wrote: I shall go not into the gloom but into the dawn.

I am conscious that much is missing from this lecture. By choosing the word 'odd', some of the great families with Methodist roots are left out. Families such as the Fooks of Pencrebar, Callington - and since I have mentioned Gwennap, I should have mentioned the yearly gathering at Trewint. And also, people such as Hubert Julian, or the poet John Harries, or the sometimes amazing Jack Clemo. The latter sometimes captures the monstrous, mysterious, magnificent mid-Cornwall clay pits.

My choosing the words *Church* and *Chapel* sidelines other interesting religious groups that have, in their way, exercised much influence on Cornish people. I speak specifically about the Christian Brethren, the various apostolic groups and the Salvation Army. And yes, I have said nothing of the Roman Catholic Church. Relations of Methodists with RC's or even Anglicans could be precarious in times past - Richard Jones speaks of his youth when Anglicans were seen as snobs, and there would be heard the voice that said "Ken't even say a prayer w'out readin' un from a book." I have said little if anything about the Baptist influence. I can only direct you to '*A History of Evangelical Christianity in Cornwall*' by Peter Isaac where there is much interesting observation. The Quakers received a short mention earlier, but my subject brief almost rules out this much admired group. But, rules are there to be broken and I must mention Loveday Hambly who is seen by many as a Quaker saint of Cornwall. This takes us back to the 17th century and particularly to the influence of George Fox who journeyed to the far West in 1655. Fox was to see Cornwall as a 'dark country' but in gathering faithful friends among its sons and daughters, he beheld this isolated peninsula in prophetic vision no longer as 'a dark country' but with 'The Seed' (the faithful people of God) 'reaching from sea to sea.' Many of those who came under his influence would suffer for their faith, and the book *A Quaker Saint of Cornwall* narrates the cruelty received by those who distributed religious tracts, who refused to take off their hats as a token of respect or to pay any



*Plen-an-Gwary, St Just*

fines. Fox was among those who found Launceston prison a place of spiritual loneliness and physical degradation.

One of the best known of the Cornish 'odds', is Wm Bray from Twelveheads. A miner by profession, poor in worldly goods, but believing he was royally blessed by the God he called his heavenly father. Of himself, he said, "I am the King's Son. As I da walk along the street I do lift up one foot, and it says Glory! and I da lift up the other, and it says Amen, and they do go on like that all the time I'm walkin!"

He is remembered as saying: If a man did not praise God, he would not rise at the resurrection. If he only praised God with his mouth, he would rise like those things carved on tombstones with swelling cheeks and wings; if he clapped his hands, he would have a pair of hands as well at the resurrection and if he danced with his feet he would rise like that to sing, to clap his hands, dance and jump too. The worst of jumping un this world, he said, was that he had to come down again, but in heaven he supposed the higher he danced and jumped, the higher he would be; walking in heaven to his mind, was praising God.

The most famous story associated with Mr Bray is his search for a pulpit for one his newly built chapels:

"I saw this 'ere large cupboard at the auction rooms. I said to myself 'ere I do want this for my pulpit..for the new chapel so when I saw this ere cupboard I thought slit in down the back, strengthen the middle, put a readin' desk in-front. I said to my friend, 'how much do 'ee think the cupboard will fetch?' 'About six shillings he said' - and, wait for this, he said, 'And I'll give ee six shillings to buy it.!' 'My soul', I said 'Glory! Glory!' My friend met me later and said somethin' like 'Go all right, then?' 'No', I said, 'twan easy'. He looked puzzled. When this auctioneer got to this cupboard, I said in a loud voice, 'ere mister, here's six shillin'. I do want it for my pulpit.' They all laughed. Dunno what for. I never been to an auction in my life – see. Someone said seven I shouted 'No, I said six.' They all laughed some more. I said never! No use though. Well, it was gone

### **First Trelawny Award Winner Announced**

Congratulations to Bishop Bill Ind who is the first recipient of the Trelawny Plate Award. The Award honours a person who is considered to be the 'living embodiment of the spirit of Cornwall'. Bishop Bill was presented with his award by Sir John Trelawny at a special service at Pelynt Church on June 29th.

The Award is named after Bishop John Trelawny who was charged with high treason for refusing to implement King James IIs *Declaration of Indulgence* and was imprisoned in the Tower of London.

that was for sure. I said to myself – 'If the father don't want me to 'ave it then I'm not to 'ave it, if you know what I mean.' So I set off without it. Well, I had a long prayer, told the Father like. When I finished doing this I was in time to see this ere cupboard comin' up the hill on a cart. So I thought I would see where it was goin' like. They stopped outside this house, and the men heaved it off the cart right up to the door. Stood watchin' like. Don't suppose it would go in. Never in a month of Sundays. They pushed and they dragged, pushed and dragged, forwards, backwards, endways and side-ways. Inch or two too big. Some commotion, I dare say. Some commotion. Well, I went down this path to where the preacher was. I heard this man sayin' 'Seven shillins spent for nothing. All I can do is scat un up for firewood, break it up like.' I said to him, 'You can do better than that.' I was right by his elbow. 'If I give ee six shillings will ee carry it down to my little chapel for me?' I tell ee, when it was in the Chapel I leapt around the room. I said to myself 'Father knew I couldn't carry it up here myself, even if I did buy un, so ees got someone to carry it down for me. Praise his name!"

My subject definition rules out a number of other important areas, such as the amphitheatres, or should I say Plaen an Guare, of which there are several in Cornwall, and found in the western part of our land in past times - in Ruan Major and Ruan Minor, and on the Lizard Downs, but best known is that in St Just in Penwith. With a different title, this could have led into the Cornish Mystery plays.

For much of this, I have narrated the past. It must now be asked what, with declining congregations, the spirit of church and chapel will be in the blood of future Cornish generations. The position isn't entirely dark - there are young people in churches and chapels, but yes, hardly to be compared with the days some of us knew even in the mid-late 1950s, when I remember High Street, Penzance, as a home for many young people. But there are pockets of considerable growth.

And on that note I end.

### **Kowethas Kernewek City Lit**

The speaker at this year's event on 6th July was Nicholas Johnson, County Archaeologist who spoke on *Cornish Mining: a World Perspective. An update on the World Heritage Site.*

A few members of the LCA went along to hear the lecture. It was a very interesting talk and included information on some aspects of mine workings as well as other topics such as family life and emigration. The aerial photos of some mining sites were very clear and gave a good view.

As far as the environment is concerned, Cornwall is trying to improve old site areas and do up old houses, possibly for the use of some businesses. In addition, old mine shafts are being fenced and some brick walls are being built to improve safety.

All in all, a most interesting evening.

*Tony Wakeham*

# Royal Cornwall Show

7 - 9 June 2007

On the day of the London Cornish Association's Annual General Meeting and the day before the Show, we set off bright and early for Cornwall, only to find ourselves delayed by more than an hour due to an accident on the M25! We met Dick Richards at the Chieveley Services, on the M4, to receive the brand new LCA display boards, resplendent in black and gold and already set out with posters and maps. We also loaded a quantity of literature to give to the visitors. We had a good journey down until we reached the Wadebridge bypass, only a mile from the showground; we then crawled in heavy traffic for another hour before getting to our designated entrance. We soon located our marquee and duly set up the stand, which we first dressed with Cornish tartan.

Staying in Mevagissey, some 25 miles away, we had to get up really early every morning, for we wanted to make certain that we were in the show ground well before it opened to the public, in order to avoid the inevitable long queues of traffic. First we would take the covers off the stall and set everything in place, and then wander out into the fresh morning air to watch the horses being exercised; enjoy a bacon sandwich at a diner or walk to the members pavilion for a full English breakfast.

On returning to the marquee we would exchange greetings with the other stall holders, among whom were representatives from the Cornwall Family History Society; Gorsyth Kernow and many others. We were joined by Dick Richards and, at various times on various days, we would be joined by Lorna Leadbetter, Hilary Rundell, Mary Watters (Torbay), Ross and Peter Maynard (Thames Valley) and others from the Homecomers.

Each day the showground was packed with visitors. This year some 127,000 people visited the show. The weather was glorious, in fact, at times it became too hot

and we were grateful to have plenty of water to drink, and what would we have done without the ice creams bought for us by Dick?

We had time to visit various stalls, stands and events over the three days of the show and enjoy good food, with several tastings of wholesome Cornish produce! It was very interesting to see the cattle parade; the sheep, goats and pigs; the craft stalls; the beautiful flower tent – a miniature Chelsea; enormous modern tractors and combines; old traction engines, in full steam, driving equally old farm machinery - there was even a fair ground! We were surprised and delighted to meet John Carbis too, resplendent in his Chelsea Pensioner's uniform.

We took the opportunity to meet, and establish contacts with, a number of stallholders and companies during our stay; introducing them to the London Cornish Association and receiving promises of gifts for the raffle at the annual dinner.

Great interest was shown in the LCAs stand, with some 130 people recording their visit to us and, in addition to which, we had numerous casual conversations with those passing by. We were also able to enrol a new member.

Everyone agreed, it was a great success for LCA and a memorable experience for the members present.

*Catherine and Don Foster*

## And Some Personal Memories of Royal Cornwall Shows...

I remember, I remember ... the first Royal Cornwall (we always omitted the third word!) after the war – Truro, 1947. Traffic was heavy and we had to queue all the way from Tresillian – unheard of in those days! When



*The LCA stand at the Royal Cornwall Show  
L to R: Don Foster, Dick Richards (Chairman), Hilary Rundell (seated), Mary Watters (Torbay), Lorna Leadbetter, Catherine Foster (seated)*

we eventually found a parking place, my father went off to do his own thing and no doubt compare notes on live and mechanical exhibits with his farmer friends. My mother and I weren't interested in tractors, machinery, fodder or manures, but we did love inspecting all the cattle, and marvelled at how tractable, clean, brushed and shiny all the animals were compared with ours at home! We patted the sheep, stroked the pigs, and watched some show jumping. We admired the poultry and waterfowl, and cooed at the pigeons and rabbits. The displays in the produce marquees were spectacular – I had never seen such lovely roses, sweet peas or gladioli, or such a variety of jams and honeys, and when I expressed surprise at how brown some of the eggs were, my mother said something about Camp coffee! There was no question of buying food – we took our own sandwiches and a flask of tea – but treated ourselves to an icecream in the afternoon. I fell asleep in the car on the way home, but the sense of excitement returned the next day when we recounted our adventure, and back at school I wrote an essay describing the day out.

Little did I think then that 60 years later I would be writing about Royal Cornwall again or that I drive myself to it with a flashy sticker on my car windscreen marked **Exhibitor**. Now there is a permanent show site at Wadebridge; the event extends over three days and there is much more to be seen and experienced. I went as one of a team representing the London Cornish Association. As I could not leave London until early on the morning of the first day of the show, I arrived to find that Dick, Don and Catherine had already set up the stand. Very impressive and professional it looked, clad in a yellow (Rhoda's bed sheets!) and tartan skirt, and proudly displaying posters and material assembled by Dick, with hand-outs and information supplied by other Cornish Associations. I heard that we were getting quite a number of visitors and there was a book for people to sign. We were in the "Heritage and Culture" marquee, along with the County Record Office, Cornwall Family History Society, Gorseth Kernow, Federation of Old Cornwall Societies, the National Coastwatch Institution, Westcountry Rivers Trust, and similar organisations. We had the advantage of being in a corner where we could lift a flap to provide badly-needed ventilation and pop out to visit our neighbours, the Countryside Alliance and their hounds, and a mini-ring where displays of wrestling, bird-of-prey flying, thatching, carriage driving, Army and Navy Cadets, and the very noisy shooting took place at intervals.

Wearing his chain of office, Dick looked very smart and took the opportunity to publicise LCA and meet local dignitaries, as well as help out on the stand. Don and Catherine also did plenty of networking and collected ideas for prizes at the Annual Dinner. Hilary reported on where the best bargains were to be found. Cilla paid us a visit on Saturday. Other helpers included Ross and Peter Maynard (TVCA) and Mary Watters (Torbay), and it was good to meet and exchange ideas with these compatriots. There was no shortage of callers at our stand; many had never heard of LCA and they seemed genuinely interested to hear about our activities and

took away leaflets to pass on to friends and family. Some were surprised to learn that there are Cornish Associations overseas and the handbook was particularly useful for them. I remember in particular a farming family from Grampound Road who are thinking of emigrating to Canada and were delighted to learn about the CAs there. Just a few people declined to sign our visitors book but most did so willingly and wrote some nice complimentary comments. In all we collected over 130 signatures over the three days.

And what did I do when not on duty? I did exactly as I had done with my mother 60 years ago: I enjoyed looking at all the cattle, sheep, goats, pigs, poultry, cage birds and rabbits. I watched animals being brushed, combed and clipped ready to meet the judges; I listened to judges commenting on why they had chosen the winners (I'm not sure what my father would make of women judging the finer points of pigs and horses!), I watched sheep shearing competitions, show jumping and other equestrian events, some serious and some for fun. I'm sure there are many more breeds of cattle on show now, including the huge Continental ones, rare breeds, and the exotic llamas and alpacas. Newquay Zoo and other local wildlife parks brought some of their animals and birds, and there were even racing ferrets. I viewed the produce marquees and the flower show. Still not interested in tractors and mechanical equipment, nevertheless I found that the displays of huge and colourful machines added to the atmosphere of the event, and I had to admire the precision of the dancing JCBs, and spectacle and drama of the "human cannonball". There is now a great deal more to see than 60 years ago, with choirs, bands, dancing displays, a fairground, other entertainments and hot air balloons. There is no shortage of stalls selling all kinds of food and drinks. I bought and ate pasties, strawberries and cream, and of course icecream.

I had two and a half days of great enjoyment and fun, and I think it was well worth making the big effort to get to Royal Cornwall 2007, both to represent LCA and to have a trip down memory lane.

*Lorna Leadbetter*

### **Annual Dinners of other UK Cornish Associations**

#### ***We have received the following details from other Associations:***

Thames Valley - 7 October 2007 (Lunch)  
Gloucester & District - 21 October 2007 (Lunch)  
Bournemouth - 17th November 2007 (Dinner)  
Torbay - 1st December 2007 (Dinner)  
Tunbridge Wells - 5 March 2008 (Dinner)  
West Somerset - 5 April 2008 (Dinner)  
West Country - 10 December 2007 (Christmas)  
West Kent - May 2008 (date tbc) (Dinner)  
West Glamorgan - 8th March 2008 (Dinner)

*For more information, contact the particular Association direct. Contact details can be found in the LCA's Yellow Brochure.*

## A 'Cornish' slave

This year is the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the abolition of slavery and there have been many events to mark the occasion. We have heard much about slaves and how they were treated but I wonder how many Cornish people know about a slave with Cornish connections.

Joseph Antonio Emidy was born in West Africa in about 1775. As a child he was captured by Portuguese traders and taken to Brazil where he worked on coffee plantations.

Little is known about his early life or where he learned to play the violin, but by his mid 20s, he was playing at Lisbon's opera house and had started composing music himself. He was then kidnapped and forced to work as ship's musician on an English ship for several years.

Emidy was freed in Falmouth and settled there. He earned his living as a music teacher, concert musician and composer.

Joseph Emidy died in 1885 and was remembered in a special commemorative service which was led by the Bishop of Truro.

*Thanks to Val Harris for sending in this information*

## Did anyone witness the start of the Tour de France?

At 10.30am on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> July, I was at Tooley Street waiting to see the cyclists taking part in the Tour de France. They came over Tower Bridge, down Tooley Street and Jamaica Road, heading towards Greenwich before going through Kent. They soon whizzed by – by 11 the last had gone – but the cars and brightly coloured buses carrying spares and equipment followed and were worth seeing. Most of these were left hand drive and many had problems following the route directions on the bollards!

*Tony Wakeham*

## Photos

The LCA is currently trying to expand its photographic archives and is looking for photographs to add to the existing collection. This is a plea to anyone who has any photographs of events/activities/people they would be willing to share. If you have photographs that you would like back, we are happy to scan them and return the originals to you.

Please could you include a caption with as much information as you have and send the photographs to the editor at the addresses on the back page.

## Condolences

It was with great sadness that we heard recently of the death of Mrs Babs Nicholls, just days before her 97<sup>th</sup> birthday. She had been a member for many years and was also an Honorary Vice President. Our condolences go to her family and friends.

## Just for fun...

*From: Payne, HM Creswell Cornish Cream: a collection of stonries, articles, humour  
Star Publ, [1948]*

The following inscription is taken from an old signboard which, in the 1940s, was in the Polperro Museum. Is it still there, I wonder?

### Roger Giles

*Surgin, Parish Clark and Sculemaster,  
Groser and Hundertaker,*

Respectably informs ladys and gentlemans that he drors teef without waiting a minit, applies laches every hour, blisters on the lowest tarms, and vissicks for a penny a peace. He sells Godsfathers, kordales, kuts, korns, bunions, docters hosses, clips donkies wance a munth, and undertakes to look after everybody's navls by the ear. Joesharps, penny wissels, brass kanelsticks, fryin pans, and other moosical hinstruments hat greatly reydooced figers. Young ladies and gentlemen larnes their grammur, and langeudge in the purtiest mannar, also grate care taken off their morels and spelling. Also zarm singing, tavching base vile and all other sorts of fancy work, squadrils, pokers, weazles, and all country dances tort at home and abroad, at perfeksun. Perfumery and snuff in all its branches. As times is cruel bad I beg to tell ee that I has just begun to sell all sorts of stashonery, ware, cox, hens, vouls, pigs and all other kind of poultry, blackin-brishes, herrins, coles, scrubbing-brushes, traykel and godley bukes and bibles, mise-traps, brick-dist, whisker seeds, morel pokkerankechers, and all sorts of watemaits including taters, sassages, and other garden stuff, bakky, zizars, lamp pyle, tay kittles, and other in-toxzikating likkers, a dale of fruit, hats, zongs, hair oyle, pattins, bukits, grindin stones and other aita-bles, korne and bunion zalve, and all hardware I has laid in a large assortment of trype, dogs mate, loli-pops, ginger beer, matches and other pickles, such as hepson salts, hoysters, Winser sope, anzetrar – Old rags bort and sold here and nowhere else, new laid eggs by me Roger Giles;zinging burdes kepted, such as howles, donkies, paykox, lobsters, crickets, and also a stock of celebrated brayder.

PP – I tayches geography, ritmitmetic, cowsticks, jimnastics, and other chynees tricks.

*A true 'Jack -of-all-trades' if there ever was one. It is just hard to imagine where he found the time to lay those eggs!*

*(sent in by Tony Wakeham)*

# Cornish Masters & Mates Look-up Service

It is now a year since the Cornish Masters & Mates CD went on sale and we started the associated look-up service. I never imagined that the project would arouse such interest or result in such a large number of enquiries. Dealing with them has almost taken over my life and is proving a fascinating and enlightening task. To date we have received over 150 requests for research, and I am discovering all kinds of information about the mariners named on the CD, their voyages, their cargoes, their adventures, misdemeanours and deaths.

Many Cornish mariners travelled far from their native shores; I have found their ships in ports I had never heard of before! Here are a few examples - can you do better than me and locate the following without referring to a gazetteer? Old Calabar, Mejillones, Akyab, Novorossick, Theodosia, Frederiksstat, Perim, Sulina, Taganrog, Valentia Island, to name but a few (answers at end). Their cargoes are less easy to establish and usually only get mentioned if lost through a disaster. However, examples vary from the mundane to the exotic, and include grain, maize, rice, jute, pit-props, guano, palm oil, wine, sherry, ebony, indigo. I was surprised to find that there seems to have been a regular traffic of cattle between Northern Spain and Falmouth. After one arduous journey through the Bay of Biscay, during which two men were washed overboard and the ship suffered considerable damage, many of the oxen were no longer alive on arrival in Falmouth and were sold as hides.

Conversely, some mariners chose to engage only in the 'home trade', that is around the coasts of Great Britain, Ireland and the near Continent. Their cargoes were all part of domestic trade: copper and tin ore from Cornwall to South Wales, and coal on the return journey. China clay was another frequent cargo, as was limestone, tiles, bricks, flour, patent fuel, and two commodities unknown to me: culm and mundic (see end).

Whether a man worked in the home or foreign trade, disaster could and did strike. Many and varied were the dangers, hazards, weathers, illnesses, injuries and deprivations that had to be endured. Some mariners lived to old age but many more died an early death. Some vessels just disappeared without trace and in due time were reported missing, their crews too. Some men were washed or fell overboard; others fell from masts or into holds. Some died of fevers and other infectious diseases; some had encounters with pirates; others suffered severe shortages of food on prolonged voyages.

In view of the many deaths at sea, it is not surprising that orphanages were set up in different ports around the country to care for deceased seamen's children. What I didn't realise until earlier this year is that a large and impressive building in the London Borough in which I now live and which I knew as the local hospital before it was converted into flats, started its life as the

"Merchant Seamen's Orphans Asylum". There had been a few small homes in East London for mariners' orphans, but in 1861 it was decided that a much larger building was needed to accommodate up to 350 boys and girls between the ages of 7 and 14. A suitable site was found on the outskirts of Epping Forest and soon the new orphanage was caring for children from all over the country, including many from Cornwall. This site was vacated in 1926 when the home moved to even larger premises in Berkshire. Over the years it has changed its name several times and is now known as the Royal Merchant Navy School. I have compiled two lists of Cornish-born orphans: the first, extracted from the 1871-1901 censuses, appeared in the June Journal of Cornwall Family History Society. The second, much longer, list was contributed by the Archivist at RMNS Foundation, and I hope this will be published in the CFHS September Journal.

Despite the dangers and uncertainties of their life, many Cornish mariners seem to have been driven men; no sooner was one voyage over than they signed on for another, year after year. Some continued to work until well into their 70s. Others left the sea but took on port-related employment, becoming dock or harbour masters, port superintendents or salvage officers. Some returned to Cornwall, others settled elsewhere. Not all of them had unblemished characters. At the National Archives I discovered the existence of a "Black Book", in which various offences, misdemeanours and punishments were recorded, sometimes resulting in the temporary suspension of the master's certificate. Allegations include drunkenness, incompetence, cruelty, insubordination and manslaughter. In the latter instance, the man's certificate was cancelled irrevocably - by order of the Board of Trade.

It has been very time-consuming but great fun researching Cornish mariners and I have learned a great deal in the process. The only drawback is that my own family research has had to be abandoned for the time being, and work on extending the Masters & Mates Project to include Cornish-born engineers and fishermen is also in abeyance - I hope only temporarily.

For further information, don't hesitate to contact me on [leadbetter@lineone.net](mailto:leadbetter@lineone.net)

## Answers to the names of ports

*Old Calabar - Nigeria, Mejillones - Chile, Akyab - Burma, Novorossick - on the Black Sea, Theodosia - Crimea, Frederiksstat - Norway, Perim - southern end of the Red Sea, Sulina - on river Danube, Taganrog - on the Sea of Azov, Valentia Island - south-west Ireland.*

*Culm - coal dust, mundic - mine waste containing iron pyrites.*

*Lorna Leadbetter*

# News from other Cornish Associations

## USA

Things are fairly quiet on the North American front this quarter, no doubt most associations are recovering from the busy time they had at the 14<sup>th</sup> Gathering in July, and reflecting on its success.

**Trelawny**, the newsletter of the **Cornish Connection of Lower Michigan**, reports that The Holman-Climax Male Voice Choir visited several areas in the US recently. Their itinerary included performances at the 101<sup>st</sup> anniversary of the Central Mine Methodist Church in Calumet and the 14<sup>th</sup> Gathering.

The Association held a successful St Piran's Day lunch in March. Predictably, pasties were on the menu and were enjoyed by the members who then watched a video on 'The Lost Gardens of Heligan'.

The group has decided not to take part in the Saline Celtic Festival in July this year. They will participate in alternate years, when there is no CAHS Gathering. They will, however, have a table at the St Andrews Society Highland Games in August.

The summer issue of **Tam Kernewek**, the newsletter of the **Cornish American Heritage Society** carries an interesting excerpt from *The Cornish Miner in America* by AC Todd. It focuses on the role Cornish pastors and preachers played in the history of Michigan, commenting that '*nowhere else in North America did Cornwall export so many pastors and preachers*'. Over a period of 30 years, no fewer than 80 Cornishmen were recruited to go to Michigan to become Methodist ministers. The daughter of one of them, Susan Pellowe, was due to talk about this subject at the 14<sup>th</sup> Gathering.

There is also an article on the value of having projects for an association to work on. This provides a focus for the group and several successful projects – eg. compiling lists of headstones and transcribing records – have had positive results.

## CANADA

The newsletter of the **Toronto Cornish Association** reminds us how active the Association is – and how many of them travel. There is even a section devoted to 'Trips to Cornwall'! Nancy Dale's travels took her to Kernewek Lowender in May and the newsletter contains her report on her experiences.

The TCA has heard some interesting talks recently. Richard Bolitho talked about a 'family DNA' project ([www.dnaancestryproject.com](http://www.dnaancestryproject.com)) while Peter Dale described his experiences in the 19<sup>th</sup> annual 'International Marconi Day'. Peter talked via radio to Wales and Newfoundland. Gary Vivian shared slides and stories about the Vivian family in Cornwall and beyond. Some interesting talks are also scheduled for forthcoming meetings – in September they will hear about the Calumet Gathering – and anyone who attended is welcome to contribute – and in October, Brian Waters will talk on the 'Effective use of genealogy websites'.

## AUSTRALIA

The President of the **Cornish Association of Western Australia** and his wife recently attended the 2007 Kernewek Lowender and then joined friends in Victoria for a brief stay. During this time they attended a meeting of the Victoria CA. At the meeting, Ralph Thomas gave a talk and demonstration of his Geevor Carbide Lamps.

At their September meeting, members will participate in a Cornish communal supper, each bringing a contribution to the meal and in October, they will hold their annual bring and buy sale to raise funds.

The **Ballarat Branch of the Cornish Association of Victoria** celebrated its 19<sup>th</sup> year of operation at its AGM in June. They were joined by the President and Secretary of the Cornish Association of Victoria Inc, Glen Grigg and June Whiffin. There was a minute's silence for foundation member, Maxine Knight, who died earlier this year. Following the business of the meeting, the members enjoyed a talk by Glen Grigg, President of the CAV Inc. who spoke about the Cornish at Walhalla.

Not surprisingly, the June newsletter of the **Cornish Association of South Australia** carries an extensive article, with lots of pictures, of Kernewek Lowender. The festival was a great success and fears of reduced numbers because of the change in the dates of the Adelaide Cup turned out to be unfounded.

At a public meeting in Moonta Town Hall on May 14, a new branch of the CASA – to be known as the Yorke Peninsula Branch - was inaugurated.

The members of the **Cornish Association of New South Wales** have a busy programme in the coming months. In September, they will be visiting the Australian Springtime Flora Festival and in October there is the 150<sup>th</sup> celebration service of the Cornish Chapel at White Rock near Bathurst.

Cornish people and those of Cornish descent in NSW and Queensland gathered at Glen Innes in NSW early in May for the Australian Celtic Festival. There were various Celtic events including flag raising and the unique Cornish Stone ceremony.

The members of the **Southern Sons of Cornwall** have had a strong family history theme at their recent meetings. In June, they had a Family History and Cultural Fair. Despite the wet weather, the event was a success. The theme continued at their July meeting when they held a Cornish genealogy day and members had the opportunity to view Cornish census', directories and Australian bdms. Finally, in August Geoff Ford gave a talk entitled 'How to write your family history according to the times your ancestors live.

## NEW ZEALAND

David Holman was the guest speaker at the May meeting of the **Cornish Interest Group of the NZSOG**. His talk, entitled 'Fascinating Facts and Figures from Five

Centuries', was based on data from the CFHS database. The June issue of their newsletter, **Cornish News**, describes a website which provides detailed information on Cornish communities in Latin America. The URL is [www.projects.es.ac.uk/cornishlatin/index.php](http://www.projects.es.ac.uk/cornishlatin/index.php).

The newsletters of the **New Zealand Cornish Association** are full of interesting snippets of information from the Cornish press and the internet and one can only imagine the amount of time and energy Jean Harry spends looking for them. The letters are a treat to read.

The **Christchurch Branch** of the NZCA had 26 members at its June meeting. Their guest speakers, Fenn and Rodd Shaw gave an illustrated talk on their safari in Tanzania.

## UK

**The Thames Valley Cornish Association's** has had a busy year and an interesting programme. At the final meeting before summer, members were given a thought-provoking talk on personal safety by Jim Jenkin, a member of the Thames Valley police. Sadly, the annual picnic had to be cancelled because of the inclement weather which has typified this summer.

The first autumn meeting will be 'The Roger Powell Memorial Evening' to mark the first anniversary of the passing of the Association's treasurer. The speaker will be Harvey Stephens from the Savill Gardens who will talk on 'The Great Gardens of Russia.'

The Association will hold its Annual Lunch in Windsor in October.

The Chairman's Report which appears in the June newsletter of **The Trevithick Society** provides some insight into the very worthwhile work the Society does to conserve and promote the industrial heritage of Cornwall. The members are involved in educational activities, give talks to groups and give advice and support to organisations involved in the conservation of machinery. A recent example was a request from Penwith District Council who are preparing to open the studio of the late Bernard Leach to the public. The Society has been asked to check that the equipment is in safe working order. In addition to all this, members still found time to run their 'Puffing Devil' in Camborne's Trevithick Day celebrations and also to take it to the Launceston Steam Rally. Chairman, Phil Hosken took part in the recent ceremony when a new Blue Plaque

commemorating Richard Trevithick was unveiled in Dartford.

Members have very varied interests and one in this newsletter which took my fancy was a request for information about cast iron toilets in the Camborne-Redruth area and in Devonport!

## A new website for the Cornish language

MAGA, the Cornish language development project, has launched a new website with lots of information and links. Designed to act as a portal for the language, the site is run by the Cornish Language Partnership which was set up in 2006 to guide the development work.

If you don't yet know any Cornish, there are topical phrases included which you can hear as well as read. You can also submit items for translation or join the mailing list. The site links to other Cornish Language sites and sites of Cornish interest. Information relating to the Partnership and its work and meetings can be accessed along with links to information about other small languages in Europe.

Comments about the website which have been received so far have been very positive

## New Members

Welcome to the following new members:

<i>Michael Carter</i>	<i>Jonathan Hernwood</i>
<i>Mrs. Patricia Richards</i>	<i>Raymond Oliver</i>

If you know anyone who has Cornish connections – whether by birth, marriage or descent, and who might like to join the LCA, get them to download a form from the website – [www.londoncornish.co.uk](http://www.londoncornish.co.uk) – or contact the Membership Secretary, Graham Pearce, "Pengwyth", 17 Trellyn Close, Barming, MAIDSTONE, Kent, ME16 9EF. Tel (01622) 727167

## Are you planning to visit London?

Don't forget to contact the London Cornish Association and let us know when you are coming. Contact Publicity Officer, Dick Richards:

Email: [publicity@londoncornish.co.uk](mailto:publicity@londoncornish.co.uk)

*A warm welcome awaits you at the London Cornish Association*

# Mem Sec's Meanderings

As Membership Secretary I thank those of you who paid their Annual Subscriptions promptly in April. This year there were only 5 people who have not responded to my reminder and have therefore been removed from the membership list. Two longer standing members have failed to respond to my letters, one of these had been paying by Standing Order, so I wonder if they have sadly died and nobody has informed us. Unfortunately, there were also three members who only joined last year, who have failed to respond to reminders.

It would be of help to the Association if members who do not wish to continue their membership told us what they had been expecting that we obviously were not providing.

Sadly I have to report the death of our longest standing member and an Honorary Vice-President, Mrs GM (Babs) Nicholls. She sadly passed away just five days before her 97<sup>th</sup> birthday. She became a Life Member in July 1948 and may have been a member before the war.

Since the last "Worldwide" we have welcomed four new members:

*Michael Carter*, membership by descent and living at Porthleven, Cornwall.

*Mrs. Patricia Richards* from Port Isaac and now residing in London N13.

*Jonathan Henwood* from Falmouth and living in London E1

*Raymond Oliver*, by descent and with an interest in Mevagissey, living in Luton, Bedfordshire.

Our membership now stands at 274.

No members will reach their "Golden Jubilee" of membership until the latter part of 2008 -- so keep guessing!

You may have noticed that your Membership Number is not on the address label, if you do require it you will find it in the new Brochure (Yellow book) which will be mailed out shortly.

As you see from my address my wife and I live in Kent where in mid-July there was the Kent County Show. Radio Kent, our local radio station, were broadcasting from the Show Ground. One of the regular broadcasters is from Cornwall, and proud of it. He announced that he had the flag of St. Piran which he was going to fly from the stand. When he was asked where it was at the time he replied that it was draped behind him on a Dalek and he would be flying it later. He likes to advertise Cornwall and enjoys delicious Cornish pasties on which he often comments.

In 1959 when I was doing my National Service in the RAF I was stationed in Cyprus and was fortunate in being able to take a holiday tour to Jerusalem (strangely enough booked through a firm called Thornton & Pengelley who were based in Nicosia – I never found out if there was any Cornish connection!). The tour took us to The Mount of Olives which included a visit to the Church of Pater Noster. In the cloisters of this church, were copies of the Lord's Prayer in 44

different languages and, believe it or believe it not, one was in the Cornish language! I wonder if it is still there?

A column in the "Bude & Stratton Weekly News" of Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> August 1924 which was entitled "Knowledge for All" had some interesting snippets, such as:

*A bronze halfpenny is exactly an inch in diameter and therefore gives us a very convenient measure. Laid on an Ordnance map of the inch scale, the halfpenny just covers 500 acres.*

What multi-use coins do we have today?

*The golden wedding is celebrated by only one out of every 100 married couples.*

*In the fifteenth century whales were constantly found on the table of the Lord Mayor of London. These monsters, or part of them, were either roasted and served up on the spit, or boiled and sent in with peas. The tongue and tail were considered especially choice.*

*Potatoes never grow larger than marbles in Greenland.*

Is this information useful or useless?

Still with newspapers - in the *West Briton & Cornwall Advertiser* of Monday evening August 20<sup>th</sup> 1877, under 'Wanted' there was a section headed:

*Heads of Families Wanting Servants, or Servants Wanting Places*

Now, 130 years on, can you imagine the furore this would cause today!?

Looking through some of the Association Brochures from years gone by you think "*Wow weren't things cheap!*". We forget how our income has also increased over the years. For instance an advert for an hotel near Penzance offered weekly terms of 7 to 8 guineas out of season and 9 to 11 guineas for July to September, with 'full sea views' (this was 1955). Today it would not even buy you a daily cup of tea or coffee. At the same time The Association annual subscription was 10 shillings!

Further extracts from the Log Book of *Copperhouse Wesleyan School, Hayle*:

## 1881

- |                        |  |
|------------------------|--|
| June 30 <sup>th</sup>  | <i>School closes for the summer vacation to re-open on Monday July 25<sup>th</sup></i>   |
| July 25 <sup>th</sup>  | <i>Opened school at the usual time this morning – all teachers at their posts. Several boys reported as having gone to work.</i> |
| August 2 <sup>nd</sup> | <i>Copy book writing not taken today for want of ink.</i>  |
| August 4 <sup>th</sup> | <i>No ink yet. Took IV, V &amp; VI for reading instead of Copy books.</i>  |
| August 8 <sup>th</sup> | <i>After waiting a week, received the ink this afternoon.</i>  |

**Now I come to my usual plea.** Do you know of any Cornish people (whether by birth, marriage or descent) living near you? Might they be interested in joining the *London Cornish Association*? If so, give them my address, or let me know names and addresses and I will send them information regarding the Association, together with a Membership Application form. Even if they do not join, it does publicise the *London Cornish Association* and they may possibly pass the information on to other prospective members.

Graham Pearce, "*Pengwyth*", 17 Trellyn Close, Barming, MAIDSTONE, Kent, ME16 9EF. Tel (01622) 727167

## Rugby

### **No Respite As New Season Closes In Fast At London Cornish RFC!**

The onset of the Rugby World Cup in September foreshortens the preseason and provides little respite for us Directors of Rugby with a mere 10 weeks off between training for 2006/7 ending and pre season for 2007/8 beginning. With weather akin to the height of mid-winter, pre season has been well attended though only once so far have we managed to train in dry conditions! Indeed, as I sit here writing this on a Thursday toward the end of July, it is nearly dark outside at 4pm and absolutely chucking it down with rain.

With each passing season we have made a number of minor improvements in the close season to the club, be it in personnel and/or facilities. This time we have erected a sign on the railings by the entrance to the club, refurbished our changing rooms to provide more showers with a more powerful pump and thermostat, recruited a Club Doctor to the club for the first time ever (Matt Gee, a Cornish Orthopaedic Surgeon, no less!), increased the amount of kit available for players and supporters to buy, recruited 2 more Coaches (including Andrew Joint, the former Redruth, Rosslyn Park and Cornwall County lock) to give us 5 in all, and attracted even more sponsorship to cover our matchballs. In themselves, these are small improvements, but if you were a player returning here after 5 years away you would have seen an enormous change from the club you left behind.

On the recruitment front, the club are heavily involved in a National recruitment initiative run by the RFU called 'GoPlayRugby'. A massive television and press advertising campaign is targeting new players and those lost to the game following school or university. We have worked in conjunction with our sponsor The West Cornwall Pasty Company to distribute posters across London trying to attract new players to the club. We have already managed to recruit over 40 through our own means but need more since some of these won't stick and we also have to replace a number who have retired, moved overseas (including my brother who has moved to Australia for a while) or drifted away from the game.

The campaign actually begins tomorrow so I will let you know next time just how effective it has been. Included in our number recruited so far is a chap called Mark Osei-Tutu, not a name known to any of our readership I guess! However, Mark saw us training in Battersea Park and joined at the back end of last season – he had never played rugby before but has shown a keen aptitude for learning the game having attended every session so far. It transpires he is a pop star who has had a number 1 hit in the UK with a group called '*The So Solid Crew*' and our younger members are quietly very excited about having him along! Above all, he is a decent bloke who fits in well and despite his success appears very level headed. Other recruits include players from Gods Country (of course), the Isle of Man, Australia, New Zealand and Ireland. One interesting note is that this is the first time that players I have targeted for recruitment are being snatched away by the offers of money from semi-professional clubs – we can help players find work in London and I was very disappointed to learn that a potential player into whom we had put much recruitment time and who had found an excellent job through us had been tempted to join another club for £5,000 per season. This is testament to the level we have reached and means we will have to be a little bit more 'cute' in our recruitment approach since we do not pay players.

The acid test of our recruitment will be when we begin playing and we begin by taking around 40 players back home in mid August to play against Newquay Hornets and Perranporth. These tours always involve more than just the rugby, and the rules and regulations by which the players have to abide are designed to ensure everyone has a barrowload of fun. Since my father lives near to where we are staying I have alerted him to the possibility that I may need to abscond myself from the madness at some stage – I have reached the age where my body requires months to recover from such tours unless I look after it!!

Our aims for the season are dependant upon the start we get in very tough higher leagues (with more matches) for our top 2 sides with games against 3 of the title contenders in our opening salvo at Tottonians, Winchester and at home to Cobham. We also face the battle of the 2 nations as we take on London Irish Amateur! Thus, we aim to win 4 of our first 6 league matches at the 1s and 2s level whilst the 3s must aim for promotion. Once we have completed these 6 matches we will be in a better position to judge just where we might aim at the seasons end, and I will communicate these targets in the next edition. Our opening fixtures are detailed below – it is still free to come and support and we are the only club I know to provide free programmes to spectators too! Stay dry and enjoy the remainder of the summer.

*Kernow Bys Vyken!*

Dickon.  
Coach

### 1st XV Fixtures Sept/Oct/Nov 2007 – Home Matches Kick Off at 2.15pm

Sat 8 <sup>th</sup> Sept	Tottonians	Away	London 3 South-West
Sat 15 <sup>th</sup> Sept	Effingm & Leathrhd	Home	London 3 South-West
Sat 22 <sup>nd</sup> Sept	Winchester	Away	London 3 South-West
Sat 29 <sup>th</sup> Sept	Cobham	Home	London 3 South-West
Sat 6 <sup>th</sup> Oct	London Irish Am	Away	London 3 South-West
Sat 13 <sup>th</sup> Oct	TBC	TBC	EDF Sen Vase 2 <sup>nd</sup> Rd
(we have a bye in the 1 <sup>st</sup> round)			
Sat 20 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Guernsey	Home	London 3 South-West
Sat 27 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Old Reigatian	Away	London 3 South-West
Sat 3 <sup>rd</sup> Nov	Andover	Home	London 3 South-West
Sat 10 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Old Wimbledonians	Away	London 3 South-West
Sat 17 <sup>th</sup> Nov	TBC	TBC	EDF Sen Vase 3 <sup>rd</sup> Rd
Sat 24 <sup>th</sup> Nov	KCS Old Boys	Home	London 3 South-West
Sat 31 <sup>st</sup> Nov	Purley John Fisher	Away	London 3 South-West

### Rugby National League

In the last season, Penzance & Newlyn (Cornish Pirates) and Plymouth Albion both had good seasons and finished fifth and sixth in League 1. They will be joined in the coming season by Launceston (Cornish All Blacks) who gained promotion from League 2. Redruth also did well and finished fourth in League 2. Mounts Bay gained promotion and will be playing in League 3 (South).

### Fixtures for 2007-8 in the London and Home Counties area are:

#### 2007

1 September	Esher v Plymouth Albion
22 September	Southend v Redruth
29 September	Cambridge v Redruth
	Newbury v Penzance & Newlyn
13 October	Bedford v Plymouth Albion
	Esher v Penzance & Newlyn
3 November	Ealing v Mounts Bay
17 November	Newbury v Launceston
24 November	Luton v Mounts Bay
1 December	Bedford v Launceston
8 December	Newbury v Plymouth Albion
	London Welsh v Penzance & Newlyn

#### 2008

26 January	Blackheath v Redruth
	Rosslyn Park v Mounts Bay
16 February	Bedford v Penzance & Newlyn
	Canterbury v Mounts Bay
	London Welsh v Launceston
23 February	London Scottish v Mounts Bay
1 March	Westcombe Park v Redruth
5 April	Esher v Launceston
19 April	Barking v Mounts Bay
	Henley v Redruth
	London Welsh v Plymouth Albion

For kick-off times, check the national press or the website of First Division Rugby Ltd:  
[http://www.national1.co.uk/fixtures\\_and\\_results.htm](http://www.national1.co.uk/fixtures_and_results.htm)

Thanks to member Brian Reed for sending in these details.

Don't forget to diarise the  
122nd Annual Dinner  
Of the  
London Cornish Association  
1st March 2008

Tickets will be available in January

## Books

### **Delabole: The history of the Slate Quarry and the Making of its Village Community**

By Catherine Lorigan

Publisher: Pengelly Press

ISBN 978-0-9554792-0-5

Both industrial and social historians will enjoy this history of England's oldest quarry and the community which grew up around it. The quarry has been yielding slate since about the 13<sup>th</sup> century and the book provides a fascinating insight into its development and important events in its history. It also looks at those who worked in the quarry over the centuries – both men and women.

A village grew up around the quarry and this book looks at its development and some of the influences which shaped it – the landscape, religion and emigration.

The book is well researched and is an enjoyable read. It is enhanced by the inclusion of about 100 photographs and sketches.

In the Winter 2006 issue of CWW, we reviewed the book. *Pip of Pengersick: a smuggler's tale*. This is the story of a puppy and his young owner who head off on a secret mission for the King of England, encountering many adventures on the way. In July, it was announced that this book had won the *2007 Holyer An Gof Trophy*. Our congratulations go to author, J A C West.

## Crowdy Crawn

*From The West Briton, June 20 1907*

*(Sent in by Val Harris)*

CORNISH FETE IN LONDON – Cornish folk in London should spend a happy day on July 6<sup>th</sup>, when under the auspices of the London Cornish Association, a garden party and fete will be held at Walthamstow cricket ground. There is to be a cricket match between London Cornish and London Devonians, as well as a varied programme of sports. In the evening there will be an alfresco concert; to be followed by the Helston Flora dance on the green. The grounds will be prettily illuminated. For the occasion refreshments will be sent up from the old county and will include farmhouse bread, butter, cream, saffron and other cakes, pasties, jun-kets, &c.

### **A Plea for Help to Acquire a Cornish Treasure**

The Cornish Record Office is trying to raise funds to acquire a book of 17<sup>th</sup> Century antiquarian's notes on the history of Cornwall. It includes rare examples of Cornish Language.

Donations towards this very special book will be gratefully received. Cheques, payable to Cornwall County Council, can be sent to Cornwall Record Office, Old County Hall, Truro, TR1 3AY.

If you would like more information, please contact them on [cro@cornwall.gov.uk](mailto:cro@cornwall.gov.uk) or telephone 01872 323127.

## The Pasty

By Rev. Henry Rogers of Painesdale, Michigan

From *Dickason, Cornish Immigrants*

[www.ancestry24.co.za](http://www.ancestry24.co.za)

How dear to my lips is a hot Cornish pasty,  
When fondly my missus presents it to view;  
It makes my mouth water to see it there steaming,  
The meal most delicious that ever I knew.  
The twist on its edge and the hole in the middle,  
The sight of it gives me an appetite keen.  
Some day they may find out a meal that is better,  
But up to this time it has never been seen.  
A good Cornish pasty, a hot Cornish pasty,  
A big Cornish pasty, its praises I'll tell.

Just take what you will it is good in a pasty;  
Potatoes and turnips and onions will do:  
And carrots and parsnips, tomatoes and cabbage,  
Leeks, beans and beats, and broccoli too.  
Then put in the beef, the pork or the mutton,  
Some liver or kidney, some chicken or veal;  
Or maybe some rabbit, or tripe if its tender,  
And you will pronounce it a Number One Meal.  
A good turnip pasty, a hot leeky pasty,  
A big chicken pasty, you'll like it so well.

And when it is Lent, put some fish in your pasty,  
A pilchard or mackerel, a herring or hake;  
A trout or a codfish, some sardines or salmon,  
And you will be surprised at what a meal it will make.  
Or if you like fruit, you can easily use it,  
Just put some black currants inside of your pasty,  
Some gooseberries, raspberries, plums or some ap-  
ples,  
Or maybe some rhubarb will just suit your taste.  
A good mackerel pasty, a strawberry pasty,  
A great big jam pasty, O, isn't that swell?

You may eat it at home or when on a journey;  
You can carry it with you in mine or store.  
Never mind plates or dishes, a paper bag holds it,  
When you've eaten one pasty, you're anxious for  
more.  
The Germans were fighting on sauerkraut and sau-  
sage;  
They thought they would win but now they are wiser.  
A lot of our soldiers were feeding on pasties,  
And when they got busy, good-bye to the Kaiser.  
So here's to the pasty, the good Cornish pasty,  
We'll never get tired its praises to tell.

***The deadline for the Winter issue of  
Cornish Worldwide is 5th November 2007***

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