



# Cowethas Kernewek Loundres

## London Cornish Association Newsletter



[www.londoncornish.co.uk](http://www.londoncornish.co.uk)

**Autumn 2009**

Welcome to the Autumn edition of the Newsletter - the first of the new 'slimmer' versions. The small reduction in the number of pages makes a big difference to the printing costs so, with all of us watching the pennies at the moment, we have taken the decision to go for 16 pages instead of 20.

The newsletter might be smaller, but lots of 'copy' is still needed to fill it. I am putting out another plea to 'One and All' for items which can be included. You are encouraged to submit short items on something you have seen or experienced. Have you seen the new batch of choughs? Or visited somewhere special? Or met someone interesting? Please share it with other readers.

While on the subject of the newsletter, have you thought of getting the e-newsletter rather than a hard copy? The big advantage is that it has coloured pictures! Many of our members have email addresses, but few of them opt to get their newsletters by email. Maybe they have never thought of changing!

On the subject of emails, please make sure you let us know if you change your address. We are getting quite a lot of 'bounce-backs' at present. We'd hate you to miss your newsletter or any other news we send out by email. The same goes for your home address. If you move, please let us know. You can contact me and I will make sure our Membership Secretary gets the details.

It is always sad to hear of members who have passed away. We have lost a couple this year, and they will be missed. The best known of these is our past President, Sir John Trelawny. Sir John was a very special person who was passionate about Cornwall and determined that strong links be forged between Cornish Associations around the world. He himself was a true advocate for Cornwall and did so much to promote the county and its heritage. It was this which made him the ideal candidate to receive the LCA Shield this year. Sadly, he will not be in Saltash to collect it, but he did get the

news that he had been selected just days before he died.

Many people will miss 'John T', and I will be amongst them. Right from the day it was announced that I was to take over the editorship of the LCA newsletter, he has kept in contact and encouraged me. I received emails after almost every issue. Some were long and chatty, some were short, but all were kind and supportive. I will really miss them and him.

As we approach autumn, so our new social programme comes into effect - and as usual, there are some good things coming up. Details of most of them will be found in the yellow brochure which you will shortly be receiving, and they will also be found in the newsletters and on the website - [www.londoncornish.co.uk](http://www.londoncornish.co.uk). We have lots more exciting things in the pipeline as well.

One of these, we hope, will be a rugby match between London Cornish RFC and the crew of HMS Cornwall. The date for this match has not yet been set as it is largely dependent on the ship's duties, but we are hoping it will be in January. It should be great fun and will be made more special by the fact that the winners will be presented with the LCA's Walpole Cup. This cup was given to the LCA's Sports section by Mr and Mrs R Walpole in the 1930s and has not been used for many years. It seemed a pity to have it just gathering dust so Council looked to see if it could, again, be awarded for a sporting event. It was the suggestion of Dickon Moon and his colleagues that it be used for a LCRFC/ HMS Cornwall match. As soon as we have a date for the match, we will be publicising it to encourage as many members as possible go and watch - all the more reason to check those email addresses are correct!

Best wishes,  
*Kernow bys vyken*

### Dates for your diary ...

**17th October**  
Family History Day

**17th November**  
Annual Service

**Informal Lunches**  
21st September  
26th October  
23rd November

### Future events to put in your diary...

**16th January**  
New Year's lunch

**13th February**  
Visit to Traveller's Club

**13th March**  
Annual Dinner

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

**Deadline for the Winter Newsletter is**

**5th November**

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

*Do we have your correct email and mailing addresses? 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*

# Forthcoming events

*A warm welcome is extended to non-members who would like to attend any of the London Cornish Association events.*

## FAMILY HISTORY DAY

17th October 2009

### Speakers:

Sue Gibbons, Librarian, Society of Genealogists –  
*'Cornish Sources in the SoG Library'*

Ann Hicks, Chairman, Cornwall Family History Society –  
*'The CFHS Burials Project (and other grave matters)'*

(Ann will have the CFHS database with her for consultation, and will also update us on database developments)

Venue: Bloomsbury Central Baptist Church, 235 Shaftesbury Avenue  
(nearest underground stations Holborn or Tottenham Court Road)

Time: 10am to 4.30pm

There will be a pasty lunch with saffron cake and a cream tea.  
*Vegetarian pasties can be provided if requested in advance*

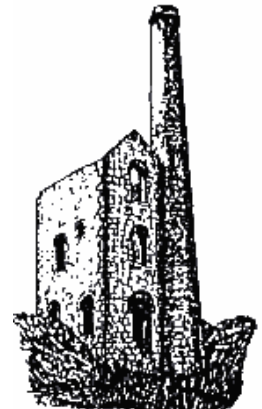
### Further details from:

Francis Dunstan (Tel: 01494 531703 Email: [cornish@francisdunstan.plus.com](mailto:cornish@francisdunstan.plus.com)) or  
Lorna Leadbetter (Tel: 0208 989 7634/ Email: [leadbetter@lineone.net](mailto:leadbetter@lineone.net))

**Please let one of us know if you intend to come**

Time permitting, we will have an open session at the end of the afternoon to enable members to contribute their own favourite Cornish sources

A warm welcome will be extended to all - and there may be a few Cornish surprises on the day, so do come, whether or not you are interested in family history.



### Annual Service

**Tuesday 17th November - 7pm**

The Service will be led by LCA Chaplain,

**Rev Dr Malcolm White**

**Preacher: Rt. Rev. Tim Thornton, Bishop of Truro**

Venue: The Chapel, Methodist Central Hall,  
Westminster

(Nearest tube station - St James's Park, Circle and District Line)

*Light refreshments will be served in the Broadbent Room after the service.*

Contact: Francis Dunstan Tel: 01494 531703

### Informal Lunches:

**21st September**

**26th October**

**23rd November**

Venue: Methodist Central Hall, Westminster - 12 noon  
(Nearest tube station - St James Park, Circle and District line)

### Important future dates to put in your diary...

#### New Year's Lunch

**Saturday 16th January - 12 noon**

*The Knight's Templar, Holborn*

Contact: Tony Wakeham Tel: 0207 7037378

#### Visit To The Travellers Club

**Saturday, 13th February 2010**

**10.45am – 1pm**

The club was established in 1832 to provide a meeting place for gentlemen who had been travelling, foreign visitors and diplomats. (See article on page 3)

**As space is limited, please let Lorna know if you would like to attend.**

Tel: 0208 989 7634 or Email: [leadbetter@lineone.net](mailto:leadbetter@lineone.net)

#### Annual Dinner

**Saturday 13th March**

**6.30 for 7pm**

The Clarendon Hotel, Blackheath

# News of a Recent Event

## Picnic at Battersea Park

The weather was very unsettled, but 18 members turned up for the picnic. During the picnic, brollys went up a couple of times because of light drizzle. After a while, it looked very dark so we made our way to the café. It was a pity the sun did not come out more as there were plenty of trees, shrubs, grasses or flowers which would have looked very nice in the sunshine. We had a good place near the lake for our picnic.

After a while, the sun tried to come out so we did a little walk and enjoyed the views of the river. We saw the Peace Pagoda, the old pier of the Festival of Britain and Chelsea Bridge. We continued walking along the river to Albert Bridge road where we were glad to have a rest in the Albert Bridge pub. While we were in the pub courtyard it tried to shower a few times. Fortunately, we were under cover.

After a while we made our way back to Queenstown Road to get our transport home. I think most agreed it was a fair get together.

*Tony Wakeham*

*Our thanks go to Tony for organising this, most enjoyable, event.*



*The weather might not have been the greatest but it did not dampen the spirit of the intrepid picnickers*

## New Member

*We welcome the following new member who has recently joined the LCA:*

Katie Treggiden.

*Do you know anyone who has Cornish connections – whether by birth, descent or marriage? Why not encourage them to join the LCA? They can obtain an application form from:*

The Membership Secretary  
17 Trellyn Close  
Barming  
Maidstone  
ME16 9EF

or on the website: [www.londoncornish.co.uk](http://www.londoncornish.co.uk)

## Cuntelles Kernewek - 9th - 11th Aril 2010 Livermead Hotel, Torquay

If you are wanting to attend CK in April, please let your secretary know urgently. Expressions of interest are required by the end of September although no deposits are required at this stage.

An exciting programme is being planned for the weekend, including an exhibition of Cornish memorabilia, music and singing, a Celtic service, a chance to visit Torre Abbey... and lots more.

### Costs:

Friday dinner to Sunday afternoon tea - £165pp.

Saturday lunch to Sunday afternoon tea - £97.50pp.

Additional nights can be booked at £60pp.

For a small additional charge, your 4-legged friends are welcome to join you.

## ***A special outing has been arranged for February...***

### **Visit To The Travellers Club**

Saturday, 13<sup>th</sup> February 2010

10.45am – 1pm

The Travellers Club was founded in 1819 and moved to its present purpose-built clubhouse at 106 Pall Mall in 1832. The intention of its founders was to provide a meeting place for gentlemen who had travelled abroad, their foreign visitors and diplomats posted in London who might enjoy the privilege of using the Club. It continues to fulfil this role today. Among the Club's members are foreign Ambassadors and High Commissioners as well as men from the Diplomatic Service, Home Civil Service and Armed Forces. Ordinary members have come from a variety of professions, but with a continuing emphasis on travel, exploration and connections abroad.

A 2-hour guided tour of the club has been arranged for Saturday, 13<sup>th</sup> February 2010. This will cover the club's history, architecture and art, and includes coffee/tea on arrival and a glass of sherry in the library at the end, during which time we will have the opportunity to ask questions. There is a lift, and there are seating arrangements in some but not all the rooms.

The cost of the tour is £12.50 per person and, although you can pay on the day, there is a minimum and maximum number that can be included, so booking in advance is essential to secure a place. Please contact me on 0208 989 7634 or [leadbetter@lineone.net](mailto:leadbetter@lineone.net) if you would like to come, or if you have any questions. We will meet at 106 Pall Mall at 10.45am, and those of us who wish can have lunch together afterwards (suggestions for venue welcome).

What is the connection with Cornwall? If you let me know in advance the name of any Cornishman who you think may have been a member, the Librarian will search to see if they have any record of that person. For example, I have suggested Richard Lander, the explorer, whose statue can be seen at the top of Lemon Street, Truro.

*Lorna Leadbetter*

# Sir John Barry Salusbury-Trelawny

4<sup>th</sup> September 1934 – 29<sup>th</sup> July 2009  
President of the London Cornish Association 1997 to 2005

The following tribute, which appeared in the Western Morning News on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> August 2009, is reproduced with the permission of Simon Parker.

## Sir John Trelawny, 13th Baronet Trelawny of Trelawne

Simon Parker

Flags flew at half-mast across Cornwall yesterday following the death of well-known Cornishman Sir John Trelawny.

Sir John, who died from a heart attack, had been suffering from cancer.

The Trelawny name is synonymous with Cornwall's history - and as the 13th Baronet Trelawny of Trelawne, Sir John cherished his ancestry and particularly that of Bishop Jonathan Trelawny who was sent to the Tower of London on the orders of James II in 1688.

The bishop's imprisonment led to the celebrated pledge by "2,000 Cornishmen" that they would march on the capital to free him. The bishop's story was revived in the 1820s by Morwenstow vicar Robert Stephen Hawker, who penned The Song Of The Western Men, which - as Trelawny - has become Cornwall's unofficial national anthem.

In recent years Sir John was responsible for instigating the Trelawny Plate award, which is given every two years to the person deemed to best embody the "spirit of Cornwall". Last month, July, Shelterbox founder Tom Henderson was presented with the plate by Sir John's daughter, Emma Trelawny-Vernon.

Speaking yesterday, Mrs Trelawny-Vernon said: "He was a great man and a great father. He always made a point of being in Pelynt for the annual Trelawny Day celebrations and loved nothing more than listening to Pelynt Male Voice choir singing Trelawny.

In the last week of his life he learnt that he was to be awarded a shield\* from the Gorsedd for his contribution to Cornwall. He was hugely proud of this."

Sir John was born in Folkestone in 1934, the son of Sir Robin Salusbury-Trelawny, 12th Baronet Trelawny of Trelawne, and Glenys Kynoch, and spent his formative years in Looe.

After the war, he attended a prep school in Bognor Regis and then joined the training ship Mercury and HMS Worcester, leaving with a number of sporting achievements from rowing to rugby, as well as developing a life-long love of the sea and a deep sense of duty. He served with the Merchant Navy and then the Royal Navy, leaving as a sub lieutenant.

In 1956, he inherited the Baronetcy from his father, settling to family life with his wife Carol and pursuing a career in management consulting.

Although work commitments meant he spent much of his life in the South East, Sir John always regarded Cornwall as his spiritual home. He served as President of the London Cornish Association for many years, was Presi-

dent of Trelawny's Army and had strong links with Looe Old Cornwall Society.

During his retirement he researched the Trelawny family history, writing The Trelawne Book of 1600, which was highly commended by the judges of this year's Holyer An Gof publishing awards. His writing also spanned poetry and fiction. A historical novel, The Islanders - set on Looe Island - was described by one reviewer as "telling the story of Cornish smuggling in a clear way and from the Cornish point of view".

Looe Island was dear to his heart and he was instrumental in transferring its ownership to Cornwall Wildlife Trust.

One of his proudest achievements was the inauguration of the Trelawny Plate for outstanding contributions to Cornwall. In 2007, when the plate was presented to Bishop Bill Ind, Sir John said: "Everyone knows what we mean by the spirit of Cornwall, but it's difficult to put into words. There isn't anywhere else in Britain where such an award could have so much meaning."

Sir John leaves a widow, four children, 15 grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. The title will be assumed by his son John, who will become the 14th Baronet. The family plans to arrange a memorial in Cornwall at a later date.

\* This is the LCA Shield which is awarded by the Gorsedd Council for 'Outstanding Services to Cornwall and Cornish People'



Sir John and Lady Carol at an LCA dinner

## A Service of Thanksgiving for the Life of Sir John B S Trelawny

*'What the caterpillar perceives is the end, to a butterfly is just the beginning'* Anon

By John Carbis

This was held in the St. Peter and Paul's Church in the village of Saltwood, Kent on the afternoon of Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> August 2009.

The day had started cloudy and dull, with signs of possible showers, if not something heavier, when I had left

Chelsea. I arrived in the village in time to share a lunch at the Castle hostelry with Liz Broekmann, Kath Slatter and our other Cornish treasure Francis Dunstan.

It was just as well that, having finished our meal, we did not linger for by the time that we had walked across to the church, it was beginning to fill up. The church, dating back to before 1205, is a typical small village building with seating for about two hundred but the attendance was overflowing to such an extent that it had the Verger scurrying around and pulling folding chairs out from all sorts of hiding places.

The service was introduced by the Reverend Canon Peter Henwood another goodly Cornish name. This was followed by a 'Reading' from 1 Corinthians, Chapter 13, given by Jamie Martin:

*'Though I speak with tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal'*

A sterling tribute to his Father was given by Sir John T. His grandson, Matthew Startin, the eldest son of Amanda, gave a further tribute.

Two poems were then read. The first, which was composed by Sir John Barry Salusbury – Trelawny, was read by Victoria Wilkinson, Sir John T's daughter; whilst the second offering, 'What is Dying' by Bishop Brent was read by Lizzie Trelawny-Vernon. And then there was a sound that his grandfather 'enjoyed', a single euphonium bursting forth with Elgar's 'Pomp and Circumstance' played by Tommy Trelawny-Vernon. As Jane said to me afterward 'with such a large family everyone wanted to do their 'own bit' for Grumpy.

In a less formal gathering at Beavers Hill, there was an opportunity to meet some of the family and the many friends that had gathered, so many that I am really, really sure John T would have been both amused and hugely delighted. The sun shone though all afternoon – what better way to say 'Goodbye' to a very special man.

*Along a parabola man's fate like a rocket flies.  
Mainly in darkness, now and then on a rainbow.  
– Andrei Voznesensky 'Parabolic Ballad'*

## Condolences

We were saddened to hear that the following members had passed away recently:

**Ted Trembath**  
**John Playle**  
**Joan Tonkin**

We offer condolences to their families and friends.

*Apologies:*

In the last newsletter, we mentioned that **Cyril Hore**, a past LCA Chairman (1982-1984), had passed away. Unfortunately his name was incorrectly spelt. We offer apologies to his family and friends for this mistake.

## Dressing of the Well at St Cleer

On 3<sup>rd</sup> July, over 260 children from the St Cleer and Darite primary schools came to lay posies and craft items at the St Cleer Village Holy Well. They participated in a programme of songs and dances to celebrate the life sustaining water. The Darite Primary School played *Trelawny* on handbells borrowed from the teenage group – the St Cleer Belles. Lessons and prayers were offered in Cornish by Mike Smith and the blessing of the well and its waters was conducted by Rev. Keith Lanyon-Jones.



*St Cleer Holy Well  
which was dressed by  
local children*

## Can you identify these Cornish Places?

1. Bearded wig
2. Into port
3. Bald owls
4. A lost wrench
5. Nine ton cats
6. Canons lute
7. Welsh toilet
8. Achy ears

**Answers:**

1. Wadebridge
2. Torpoint
3. Dobwalls
4. Charlestown
5. Constantine
6. Launceston
7. Lostwithiel
8. Caerhays

*Taken from the CK 2008 book compiled by Midland's Cornish Association*

# Merrymaids

By Duncan Paul Matthews  
Liskeard OCS

*It was the duty of all Celtic Bards to teach the young of their tribe the lore, customs and history of their community. This short article, originally written for a group of teenage bell ringers in St Cleer is one attempt to do this.*

Mermaids have been part of our Cornish folklore from time immemorial. These mythical creatures of great beauty and cunning have for a long time, been able to place a spell over sailors and landlubbers, using their charms to draw them to a watery grave. Like moral women, they have an alluring mystique, capable of melting the strongest or hardest of men's hearts. Alluring, but non-sexual!

Our mermaids were generally portrayed as young women down to the waist and thereafter with a fish tail. If exposed to the air for any time, these tails dry and become legs. Their breasts are usually shown as round and apple-shaped when above the water, but when beneath the waves, tend to be shown as empty pendulous appendages on a bony rib cage.

Most mermaids are seen on shore, sitting on a rock with a comb in one hand and mirror in the other, although, the power of their seduction is supposed to be in the beauty of their singing rather than the beauty of their near naked young feminine form.

The mermaid of Copenhagen so desperately wanted a man to love and be loved by that she was prepared to give up her voice and to become mortal to achieve this. But, having given up her voice, she could not tell her lover how much she loved him and he eventually left her for another, presumably younger, woman. Since then, she has looked melancholy - neither mermaid nor mortal, sitting on a rock and unable to communicate or to reach her dreams.

Mermaids have been seen as cunning and evil sirens, out to steal a man's soul by luring him to his death through shipwreck or by getting him to follow her into the depths of the sea. She would continue to sing, make music and merriment, while her victim struggled and drowned at her tail. She was, of course, working for the devil to steal the man's soul. Mermen, on the other hand, are far more benevolent and will rescue shipwrecked seamen from a watery grave and deliver them safely back on the land.

Whilst mermaids are very much part of our Cornish folklore, they also appear in the traditions and seafaring tales of Europe, Scandinavia and as far east as Japan. These stories seem to have existed as far back as 250 BC. Most often, mermaids are portrayed with two tails and are feminine in form. Perhaps this is why, in many European societies, the sign of a mermaid is associated with prostitution!

Double-tailed mermaids can be seen carved into the roof bosses of some of our cathedrals. Sometimes they are associated with lions and carvings of a mermaid suckling a lion can be seen beneath some clergy seats. In Zennor church, a mermaid can be seen on a chair while the ancient Book of Kells portrays mermaids in some of the highly decorated first letters to its chapters.

Mermaids feature on many of Europe's heraldic coats of arms. In the UK, this includes that of landlocked Birmingham University! The London Guild of Fishmongers has got a valuable and interesting array of paintings, memorabilia

and silverware portraying mermaids – or, in Cornish, merrymaids.

The Victorians, John William Waterhouse and Fredric K Leighton painted some really marvellous portraits of on-shore mermaids making music whilst their hapless victims drowned at their tail. Interestingly, in the conservative Victorian society, these mermaids were portrayed with far more exposure of their female attributes and sexuality than was the case in portraits of their human half sisters. This would have been accepted as they were seen as servants of the devil.

One of John Waterhouse's most famous paintings on the subject is *Ulysses and the Sirens*. Ulysses wanted to see the sirens in all their beauty and experience their powers. To do this he needed to sail near the rocks where they were singing and making merry. Before he went there, he got his boat oarsmen to seal their ears so they wouldn't hear the singing and he had himself tied to the main mast of his ship so he wouldn't be tempted to jump into the sea and go to them. When they arrived, the beautiful young mermaid nymphs clambered over the sides of the ship, their tails drying into legs as they did so. However, because the men's ears were blocked and they were unable to hear the siren's singing, they did not succumb to the mermaids' charms or spells.

A painting by Leighton shows a young, drowned seaman with a mermaid siren entwining her tail around his legs, her full bosom snuggled against his chest. She is able to make love to her cold and dead victim because she has stolen his soul.



*A mermaid has been carved on a bench end in Zennor Church. The carving is reputed to be 600 years old.*

Among our most famous mermaids are:

## The Mermaid of Zennor

This mermaid was drawn to the beauty of the squire's son, Matthew Trewell, a local church chorister. She lured him to an underwater life, and together they raised a family. Sometime later, a ship cast anchor in the area. A mermaid asked the fisherman to raise his anchor as it was resting in front of the doorway to her house. She explained that she needed to go in to see her husband and children.

### The Mermaid Morvena of Cury on The Lizard.

When a local fisherman, Lutey, heard mournful cries from amongst the rock pools above the high tide level, he searched and found the stranded mermaid, Morvena, and carried her back into the sea. As a thank you, she gave him a golden comb. If he combed his hair and called her name three times, she would come to him and grant him any wish he made. Lutey decided he would like to be able to break any evil spells or charms, cure any illness and always be able to help others Morvena is reputed to have offered him other favours as well, but being married and faithful to his wife, he resisted this temptation.

Lutey became well known for being able to dispel evil charms and cure ills, but nine years later, whilst out fishing with a friend, Morvena called to him. He leapt overboard to join her in the depths and was never seen again.

### The Mermaid of the Eddydtone Reef

A mermaid fell in love with and married the keeper of the Eddystone Light. They had a few children. One day, some Plymouth fishermen caught both their son and daughter in their nets. The son was served up on a silver platter at a City Council banquet while the daughter was placed in the Plymouth Aquarium to be exhibited as a freak of nature. Needless to say, the lighthouse keeper and the mermaid mother fell out as he was blamed for the misfortune.

*(This story is told in the nautical ditty, 'The Keeper of the Eddystone Light')*

### The Mermaid of Padstow

A callous person in a boat aimed at and shot a mermaid who lived in the river mouth at the entrance to Padstow. Injured and angered at the attack, the mermaid put a curse on the port of Padstow – a sand bank known as the Doom Bar. This would close the harbour by silting the entrance up, making it unsuitable for most shipping.

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## **A Cornish-Mexican feat of endurance**

The Cornish-Mexican Cultural Society was established in 2006 with the objective of fostering and promoting the historic cultural ties between Cornwall and Mexico .

In July 2008, the town of Redruth twinned with Real del Monte in Hidalgo State and a Friendship agreement was signed between Camborne, Cornwall and Pachuca, Hidalgo.

As part of the celebrations, there was a trip which followed the route of the 1825-6 Transport Party. This party had brought 1,500 tons of equipment from Cornwall to the mines of Real del Monte, a feat of endurance remembered in the history books of Mexican schoolchildren.

The following report on this tremendous feat comes from the Society's website – [www.cornish-mexico.org](http://www.cornish-mexico.org).

### **The Great Trek of The Transport Party 28th May 1825 - 1st May 1826**

The new company organised a Transport Party to move the machinery and equipment needed to work the mines from Cornwall to Real del Monte whilst the first party surveyed the mines, negotiated for mules and men to both assist the Transport Party when it arrived and to make roads where there were mule tracks, the traditional form of

## **From West Briton & Cornwall Advertiser 22 Sept 1848**

DISGUSTING EXHIBITION - On Monday last, a most disgraceful scene was enacted in the principal street in Truro. It appears from what we have been able to learn that a young woman named MURTON was nearly twelve months since fined by the magistrates of the borough for drunkenness and disorderly conduct, but to evade the payment she left the town. Last week, however, she returned, and the police, for want we suppose of better employment, laid hold of her, and brought her before the mayor, who ordered her to be confined in the stocks for six hours, a most brutal and indecent punishment in any case, but more especially so in that of a woman.

The girl had been placed outside the Town Hall to undergo the punishment, when some gentlemen, to mark their sense of this gratuitous insult to the feelings of the respectable inhabitants of the town, and if possible to prevent the poor creature being more deeply hardened in guilt, an effect which such a punishment of course inevitably tended to produce, paid the fine imposed, and obtained her release.

We have been so much accustomed to the strange proceedings of the mayor of Truro, that nothing which he does can now surprise us, and any remark upon his conduct in the present case is almost uncalled for. We may state, however, that the law upon which he professed to act dates so far back as the reign of James the First, and in so far as the punishment of the stocks is concerned, is generally, we believe, regarded as obsolete. In all probability there is not another magistrate in England who upon such an authority would, in the case of a woman at least, have revived a punishment so much out of date, and so utterly opposed to the spirit and feelings of the present day.

*Ferreted out by Lorna Leadbetter*

transport in Mexico, and to improve the roads that existed. The leader of the road repair party was to become one of the many who lost their lives through yellow fever.

There was 1,500 tons of equipment including 9 steam engines with their large boilers, 5 for pumping, 2 for crushing ore and 2 for use in powering saw mills; various pumps; large cast iron pipes to connect the pumps to be placed at the bottom of the mines with the surface; iron works, tools and implements. The largest pieces and engines were from Perran Foundry Company of Perran and Harvey's Foundry of Hayle.

To transport the equipment 150 heavy-duty military wagons were purchased from the British government. The wagons were government surplus following the end of the Peninsular War.

In 1825, some months later than planned, the machinery was loaded onto four ships, the Melpomme, the General Phipps and the Harriet which sailed for Veracruz and the Courier which headed for Tampico. The Melpomme arrived off Veracruz on 28th May 1825 and the other two ships in June but they found that the castle of San Juan de Ulúa was still held by the Spanish so they anchored near the island of Sacrificios and landed their machinery on the open beach and surf at Mocambo. One of the group, John Buchan, kept a diary of the journey.

The Transport Party's progress is best told in Buchan's own words. ... *we had the very difficult task of landing our machinery on the open beach and then transporting it through the jungles to our first depot at Sta. Fé ..... Whilst doing this the sickly season commenced and the yellow fever made sad ravages amongst both English and Mexicans. We fought hard against all these difficulties and by the end of August all our machinery was landed and the greater part moved inland to Sta. Fé. .... Everything was now abandoned and we retreated to the higher and more healthy position of Jalapa .... This fearful campaign had cost us the lives of just one third of our officers, one half our English workmen, and of those who escaped nearly all had been at death's door.*

*The number of Mexican's who perished we had no means of judging, but I should estimate them at not less than one or two hundred. We hired the Hacienda of San Lucas Martin, about 3 miles from Xalapa, and made that our next headquarters, for nursing the sick, recovering our mules, and repairing the wagons and harness preparatory to our next campaign after the rainy season. ....*

*On the 13th February (1825) ..... we took to the road on our second transport campaign. .... our second depot, the Hacienda of Encero, situated at the foot of the great ascent to Xalapa, but being some 4,491 feet above sea .... and therefore considered to be quite out of the region of the yellow fever. We immediately commenced with 50 wagons, 550 mules and 120 men, to remove all our heavy machinery (some 350 tons) from our old station to Sta. Fé. This required four journeys with our whole force over very bad roads, but by the end of March, to our great joy, this heavy task was successfully completed.*

A reporter from the Oriente de Jalapa wrote a letter on behalf of members of the Transport Party that was published in the paper on 25th September 1825. The convoy had reached Jalapa after passing through the mosquito-infested rain forest extending inland from the coastal plain. Heavy and continual rain had turned the road into almost impassable swamps. The letter reported that the convoy had left Santa Fé on the 31st August and reached El Encero on 6th September after spending two entire days on the bad road at Manantial where several mules were lost.

The third depot selected for the convoy was the Hacienda de Guatemale, near the town of Perote, 7,400 feet above sea level. To reach the hacienda the convoy had to cross some very steep mountains rising to 8,500 feet above sea level. Buchan's diary continues ... *These difficulties were, however, quite new and varied to our late work.....At the beginning of April we commenced this ascent from Encero, with a convoy of 53 wagons, having each 2 drivers and some 9 to 12 mules. In all with spares (there were) some 550 mules and 120 men and carrying 100 tons of machinery ..... including two powerful steam engines for pumping, with their large boilers, and columns of iron pumps for reaching the bottom of the mines ..... a small engine for working saw mill lathes &c. Also a large pair of shears with necessary tackles for unloading and reloading the heavy iron machinery from the wagons when these got upset or got fixed in the sand or bogs of the road, or to pull our load up the very steep portions of the road, which were too steep for the mule draft.*

*After great labour and many accidents we conquered this great ascent, and our convoy reached Guatemale on 8th*

*April, after three days rest, proceeded on our last stage to deposit this valuable cargo at the silver mines of Real del Monte. In this portion of our journey we did not anticipate any very great difficulties ..... But "as man proposes and God disposes" the rains commenced unusually early this year, and were ushered in by a tremendous storm on our second days journey ..... torrents of water tore up deep gullies which required much labour to render them passable, while the plains became vast lakes where our heavy wagons frequently sank to their very axles. .... many of the wagons stuck so deep in the mud that they had to be unladen to extricate them, and this often occurred two or three times a day with the same wagon. Many got upset and some washed a considerable distance in crossing flooded water courses, as may be supposed, our progress was very slow.'*

The first engines arrived at Real del Monte on 1st May 1826. ...*After a few days delay at Guajolote to rest our mules and to make alterations in the very steep road ascent from this farm, we made our grand entry into Real del Monte on the first of May. It was a lovely day and crowds of Mexicans from near and far had assembled to welcome the first entry of a steam engine into any of the mining districts of Mexico. Bells were ringing, bands playing and everyone in holiday attire. Truly it was a day of rejoicing and triumph to the Transport Party who, after so many difficulties from climate, mountains and floods, had at last succeeded in transporting it from the Gulf of Mexico to Real del Monte at an elevation of 9,000 feet above the sea.*

And so started the rebuilding and modernisation of the district's mining industry. The Cornish miners had brought the Industrial Revolution to Mexico ! By the 1830's the Cornish community at Real del Monte and Pachuca had increased and now included the Cornish wives and children of many of the miners. As time went on many of the miners made the district their new home, marrying into local families.

## Trelawny Day at Pelynt

On 30<sup>th</sup> June, Trelawny day was celebrated at Pelynt, once the home of Bishop Trelawny. The event was attended by several hundred people, including the grandson of Sir John Trelawny and other members of the Trelawny family.

The celebrations concluded with a short act of worship in the village church and a joint concert by the Pelynt Primary School Choir and the Pelynt Male Voice Choir.  
*Duncan Paul Matthews (Liskeard OCS)*

*Sir John Trelawny used to attend this event each year and will be sorely missed.*



*Pelynt Church where Bishop Trelawny was buried*

# News from Other Cornish Associations

## USA

The newsletter of the **Cornish Connection of Lower Michigan** highlights the fact that, because of the state's financial crisis, there is a very real risk that the Library of Michigan will be closed. Joanne Harvey, President of the Michigan Genealogical Council (of which the Cornish Connection is a member) is urging genealogists to lobby their legislators, pointing out that the Library's collection is irreplaceable and could be damaged during any re-location. Those who would like to have their say can email the Governor of Michigan, Jennifer Granholm, at [www.michigan.gov/gov](http://www.michigan.gov/gov)

The Cornish Connection will hold their Fall Picnic on 13<sup>th</sup> September.

## CANADA

At their June meeting, the members of the **Toronto Cornish Association** heard a presentation on Mediaeval Cornish Genealogy by Brian Waters. This was an excellent illustrated overview of records and methods available to those doing genealogical research on the mediaeval period.

Future meetings of the Association will include talks on *Emily Hobhouse: Cornish Woman Extraordinary* and *Bible Christians in Ontario*.

Other news from the TCA is that singer Heather Dale, who took part in some of the concerts held at Dehwelans last year, has released a new CD. Called *'The Green Knight'* it is a collection of medieval songs. Sound clips can be heard on [www.HeatherDale.com/music](http://www.HeatherDale.com/music).

## MEXICO

The next event on the calendar of the Cornish Mexican Cultural Society is the *'1er. Festival Internacional del Paste'* which will be held in Real del Monte, Hidalgo State, Mexico from the 9<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> October. Chairman of the Society, Richard Williams writes:

The town of Real del Monte and nearby city of Pachuca are the home of pasties in Mexico. Between them they have as many if not more 'paste' shops than we have in Cornwall.

First introduced to Mexico by Cornish miners and their families in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century pasties, known in Mexico as pastes, are now as popular in this location as they are in Cornwall. In fact so popular that until recently many local people thought they were one of the meals of the Aztecs!

The town's Silver Festival, which is held in July, draws large crowds to view the amazing range of locally produced silver items. In collaboration with the British Society in Mexico and the Cornish Mexican Cultural Society Chapter Mexico, the town of Real del Monte is adding to the town's calendar of events the first annual international paste festival to celebrate this unique delicacy.

The Municipality will introduce standards for ingredients and a seal of approval for those producers who reach the standards which are to be agreed by the organising committee during the Festival.

To find out more about the interesting things happening in Mexico, visit their website: [www.cornish-mexico.org/](http://www.cornish-mexico.org/)

## AUSTRALIA

The biennial Kernewek Lowender took place on the Yorke Peninsula of South Australia during May and, from all accounts, was a great success. The organisers of this special event were reassured to hear the Mayor of Kadina, (Paul Thomas) state publicly that the recent KL *'was definitely not the last'*. He is quoted as saying it would be *'ludicrous to abandon it'*.

The members of the **Cornish Association of South Australia** have a very interesting programme for the coming year. In September, they will spend a 'weekend away, at the Phillips' shack north of Wallaroo'. While there, they will get together with the **Yorke Peninsula Branch** for a barbecue lunch. In October, they will visit the South Australian Maritime Museum and in November, they will be hearing about *'Cornish sayings, superstitions and remedies'*.

Members of the **Cornish Association of Victoria** are to have an opportunity to learn about Cornish dancing and its history. In the coming months, they will hear interesting talks on *'Settlement in South Australia'*, *'Moonta Mines Museum'* and *'Fascinating Language History'*.

The August issue of the CAV newsletter reports on a new stained glass window at the Church of St Peters, Murrumbidgee. The window, which was designed by Brian Rollason and erected in memory of his Cornish parents, depicts, St Piran standing on a millstone. At the top of the window there are three other images illustrating the relationship with Cornwall and the Celtic saints – a Cornish engine house, the flag of St Piran and a Celtic cross. The new window was installed and dedicated in July.

Guest speaker at the AGM of the **Ballarat Branch** of the CAV was the President of the CAV, Derek Trewarne who took members 'on an autumn ramble through western Cornwall', retracing the journey he and his wife once took while in Cornwall. After the talk, there was a 'high tea' during which members were able to watch Robyn Coate's photographs of the recent Kernewek Lowender.

A Cornish Musical Service was held in **Bendigo** in May. The church in which it was held is a monument to the Cornish who lived in the area and was almost full. The address was given by Susan Pellowe from Illinois.

**Bendigo Cornish Association** is currently updating their web site. Do visit it at <http://home.vicnet.net.au/~bendcorn/>

Members of the **Geelong Branch** of the CAV participated in the National Celtic Festival during the Queen's Birthday weekend. Their display generated a lot of interest from the public.

The newsletter of the **Cornish Association of Queensland** carries an interesting article on a family from St Columb who decided to emigrate to Australia because of the work situation in Cornwall. Adrian, a dry stone waller had got a job in this trade in Brisbane, just when the building industry was hit by the credit crunch. Now, having no job and facing the prospect of returning to Cornwall, *his Cornish ingenuity came into action* – he decided to start

making pasties to sell. They have been very popular and production has had to be increased. He hopes in the future to do a frozen range which can be sent around the country. You can visit his website at [www.cornishpastyman.com.au](http://www.cornishpastyman.com.au).

Talking of pasties, members of CAQ got together recently for a 'Pasty Picnic'. Before a bite was taken, there was a burst of laughter as *'Paul Lashmar had thrown down a challenge to compare pasties. Suddenly, reputations were on the line. Did size matter, was it the ingredients, the pastry or the signature crimping that identifies a "proper" pasty?'* President Trish George was the judge. She declared a tie between two so there was an 'eat off'. The final result was to be decided *'by the most satisfied look when everyone was finished eating'*.

The CAQ will be holding their Foundation Lunch on 12<sup>th</sup> September.

The key speaker at the September meeting of the **Cornish Association of New South Wales** will be Jennifer Maston who will talk on *'Cornish Crosses'*. Members will also watch a DVD of the Byng Church concert. They will hold their pre-Christmas get-together on 21<sup>st</sup> November.

## NEW ZEALAND

The June issue of the newsletter of the **Cornish Interest Group of the New Zealand Society of Genealogists** has an interesting article which shows Cornish links to Wellington Zoo (Chief motivator for its establishment was John Crewes who emigrated from Grampound in 1879), Trelinnoe Gardens near Te Pohue (the owner named the area after the small farm in Cornwall where his grandfather grew up) and Whangarei's 4 miles of dry stone walls (built by the Hawkins family from St Erme parish who settled in NZ in 1869)

The May meeting of the **Christchurch Branch** of the **New Zealand Cornish Association** doubled as the National Association Biennial General Meeting. After the business part of the meeting was over, members enjoyed a May Tea while listening to the Branch Choir singing some well known Cornish songs. This was followed by a magician and Les Mitchell's usual 'News from Cornwall'.

In June, members were given their second lesson in Kernewek *'just as difficult and baffling as the first...'* They also enjoyed an illustrated talk on a trip around the world.

The May meeting of the **Taranaki Branch** of the NZCA was held in the Methodist church hall in Hawera. Prior to the meeting, members were able to look inside the recently restored 104 year old church.

## SOUTH AFRICA

We have been informed of the closure of another Cornish Association: Rob Harvey has emailed to say that the **Cornish Association of the Witwatersrand** has closed. He is, however, prepared to assist on a personal basis if anyone needs information. He can be contacted at [event@icon.co.za](mailto:event@icon.co.za) or by mail at PO Bos 567, Strathavon, 2031.

## UK

The annual picnic of the **Thames Valley Cornish Association** took place at the end of July and a hardy group gathered on the bank of the Thames in Marlow. The day,

which had looked very unpromising until close to the meeting time, turned into a beautiful, if crisp, evening.

The Association will hold its Harvest Meeting and AGM in September. At the meeting, the guest speaker will be the Superintendent of Royal Parks. Their annual dinner in October will, once again be held at the Eton College Rowing Centre, one of the sites for the 2012 Olympics.

**Bournemouth Cornish Association** members Barbara and Fred Hancock celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary on the 4th July 2009. They were married at St Petroc's Church Bodmin. To mark the occasion they held a party for family and friends. (Barbara is the Treasurer for Bournemouth and Fred is Immediate Past President)

**West Somerset Cornish Association** held its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations and St Piran's dinner in March. The fifty people who attended were given a souvenir card with their names on. The attendees included some members who were there when the Association started in 1979 as well as past chairmen, the current chairman and committee, and members and friends from other Cornish associations. The evening was made extra special with the reading of a letter from the Prince of Wales who wished the Association a great evening. The event ended with 'a hearty singing of Trelawny'.

The summer outing of the **Gloucester and District Cornish Association** was held in July. A party of 41 members and friends were coached to Chipping Sodbury where they enjoyed lunch before going to Bradford-on-Avon. There, they boarded a longboat for a trip to the Avoncliff Aqueduct. *'Boarding the craft was reminiscent of a circus act for some of the less able members, but the party spirit prevailed.'*

member of the Gloucester committee, Mr Frank Austin, has been awarded the RNLI gold medal for his efforts on behalf of that institute.

The next social event of the Association will be an in-house skittles match to be held on August 14<sup>th</sup>.

The **Homecomers** held their annual summer gathering, a lunch, at the Cheesewring Hotel, Minions. Fifty three members were present. They were treated to an impromptu address on a history of the past 12 000 years since man settled in the area.

**Tunbridge Wells Cornish Association** has a busy programme, with lots of good eating during the coming year. These include lunches at member's homes and several visits to local pubs. They will be linking up with **West Kent** for their carvery lunch in January.

## Cornish flavor at a Mexican event

Following the AGM of the British Mexican Society in London, Richard Williams, Chairman of the Cornish Mexican Cultural Society will give a talk entitled:

*Cornish Miners, their adventurous journey to Pachuca and Mineral del Monte in the 1820's and its aftermath*

**Date:** Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> November

**Time:** 6pm

**Venue:** Canning House, 2 Belgrave Square, London SW1X 8PJ

## Visit by Dana and Francis Shawn Bawden

On Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> July, a few members of the LCA went to a hotel in Lancaster Gate to meet a couple from the US – Daena and Francis Bawden from North California. They had already been down in Cornwall for about 10 days doing some family history.

Francis had been to Cornwall about 3 years ago. There, he found some interesting information about the work some Cornish miners had done in the district his family came from. He found that not many people knew about this and he is now doing further research.

It was a dreadful day with heavy showers, hail and thunder but we all made it. We went into a nearby restaurant for a meal and to chat about our various ways and customs. Daena and Francis left the next day for their flight back to the USA.

*Tony Wakeham*

Francis is a member of both the Cornish American Heritage Society and the California Cornish Cousins. While he and Daena were in London, they visited the Tower of London where they noticed a plaque which mentioned that Thomas King, who was 'probably a Cornish rebel', was imprisoned in the Salt Tower in 1550.



*After a hearty meal! Francis and Daena with members Pat, Lizzy and Tony*

## And more visitors... This time from 'Down Under'

I was caught out last year when an email arrived with bold type across the top saying 'Kernnow bys vyken'. I printed it off and handed it to Rhoda who called me back to say 'no its for you' and so began a correspondence with Lorraine and Graham Schmidt, a long distant relative on my mother's side. Her family had come from York and through Cornwall to Australia of all places.

As Graham is keen on cricket, they had come with the Melbourne Cricket Club to the UK to see the first two Ashes test matches at Cardiff and Lords. They were also using the opportunity to do a little family history. We arranged to meet with them firstly as a family, then as Cornish Association members. What a lovely couple they turned out to be. Fortunately, we didn't have any difficulties after England won the second test match!

Tony Wakeham was the only LCA member available to meet with them, but we had a very interesting evening at 'La Ballerina' in Covent Garden. This was a good location and the meal was very acceptable. Thanks to Catherine and Don Foster for their recommendation.

Lorraine and Graham presented the London Cornish Association with a book entitled *Cousin Jack, Man for the Times: A History of the Cornish People in Victoria* which was written by Ruth Hopkins. We presented them with two attractive LCA mugs which they appreciated.

*John Wynton*



*Graham and Lorraine from Oz enjoying some Cornish hospitality with Tony, John and Rhoda*

## Cornish Association of Victoria vs London Cornish Association

I made it to the dinner with the Australians, John and Rhoda's sort of cousins. They had been to Lords Cricket Ground and Warwick Castle and they were about to go to York then on to Glasgow. They were returning to Australia from there.

They presented the LCA with a book all done up in fancy ribbons.

This was my first visit to an Italian restaurant apart from the one we go to before Council meetings. I thought there would only be pastas and pizzas but I had grilled fish and vegetables.

*Tony Wakeham*

***The LCA would love to meet up with more Cornish cousins who are passing through London. If you are visiting the capital, or know someone who is, please let us know. Email: [Editor@londoncornish.co.uk](mailto:Editor@londoncornish.co.uk) or [Publicity@londoncornish.co.uk](mailto:Publicity@londoncornish.co.uk)***

### Lunch/Dinner Dates for Other UK Associations

*Bournemouth* - 21st November (Dinner)  
*Gloucester & District* - 18th October (Lunch)  
*Homecomers* - 16th December 2009 (Lunch)  
*Midlands* - 15th May 2010 (Dinner)  
*Thames Valley* - 4th October 2009 (Lunch)  
*Torbay* - 5th December 2009 (Dinner)  
*Tunbridge Wells* - 5th March 2010 (St Piran's Day Lunch)  
*West Glamorgan* - 7th March (Dinner)  
*West Kent* - 6th June 2010 (Lunch)  
*West Somerset* - 13th March 2010 (Dinner)

*Contact Association secretaries for more details. Their details are listed in the brochure.*

## ROSYER LECTURE 2009:

### *The Return of the Cornish Chough*

Life is all about choices. Much though we would like to be able to do so, we just can't be in two places at the same time so we have to make a choice. I was faced with a dilemma on Saturday, 11<sup>th</sup> July 2009: should I go to the LCA Annual Picnic, or the Rosyer Lecture? I couldn't fit in both events so, being a birdwatcher and a keen fan of the charismatic Cornish Chough, I knew I had to take the one-off opportunity to hear Claire Mucklow speak about its return to our county after an absence of over 50 years.

Sorry Picnickers - I hope you enjoyed your day in Batterssea Park. I certainly enjoyed the lecture. I saw lots of lovely pictures of Cornish landscapes at all times of the year and in all winds and weathers, as well as photos of Cornish Choughs from egg to adult. Claire Mucklow is Project Officer for the Cornwall Chough Project, which in turn is part of Action for Birds in England, a conservation partnership between Natural England and the RSPB, with the National Trust also being a partner in Cornwall. Claire contributed a fascinating article to our Autumn 2005 Newsletter, and by coincidence in the same issue I described my excitement on having seen my very first wild Cornish Choughs that summer.

Since its return to Cornwall in 2001, the chough has achieved a high reproduction rate. The original Cornish pair is still there and bred again this year; it is estimated that they have produced 32 chicks since their arrival. The younger generations have spread out and can now be seen to both east and west of the Most Southerly Point at The Lizard, and around the coast of West Penwith. This spring there were six nesting sites, although only two raised chicks. One nest failed probably because the female was inexperienced; in another instance the female was only a year old, therefore very young (choughs can breed at two years of age, but usually three) and, although it was not anticipated that she would succeed in raising young, she surprised the team by keeping two chicks alive for over a week. Another one year old female and her partner were also seen busy practising. Something very unusual occurred at the sixth site: the "nesting pair" turned out to be two "boys", who went through all the customary mating activities but obviously could not produce eggs! The team's vigilance of the vital nesting sites is essential; on one occasion a few years ago, within 15 minutes of suspicious activity being reported in the area, there were three police cars on the spot and a helicopter on stand-by!

Before they fledge but after they have reached a certain size, ideally at 3-4 weeks old and can therefore be sexed, the young choughs are visited by a licensed ringer from Wales, who makes a hazardous descent to the nest to record their vital statistics and fix two rings to each of their legs. One metal ring holds a unique reference number issued by the British Trust for Ornithology, and three plastic rings are colour coded for identification purposes. Last year a black-and-white "St Piran's ring" was introduced so that, if the wearer goes to another county, it can instantly be recognised as having come from Cornwall. For ease of reference some volunteers have started giving names to the choughs, for example one with two red rings (R/R) on the same leg is known as "Ralph Richardson", and the wearer of orange and black (O/B) is known as "Orlando Bloom"!

Overall the chough is slowly increasing in numbers, with populations in Wales, Ireland, the Isle of Man, Scotland and Brittany. They have been sighted occasionally over the last three years on the North Devon coast and in Somerset (birds possibly from Pembrokeshire or the Gower). It is thought that these may be young birds prospecting for new territories and it is hoped that it will not be long before they are breeding in other coastal counties as well as in Cornwall. It is hoped too that some incomers will settle in Cornwall, in order to extend the range of the Cornish population.

Coastal dwellers but not seabirds, choughs need a particular feeding ground: short or open insect-rich grassland. Cliff tops and slopes grazed by cattle, sheep and ponies are the ideal habitat, but choughs will feed on grasslands such as coast-top golf courses if they cannot find short open swards elsewhere. Appropriate land management is therefore essential for their continued survival, and schemes are in place to provide funding to farmers and landowners. Claire anticipates that in the coming years we will see more animals grazing on cliff tops, with farmers benefiting from sales of their beef, and the choughs benefiting from the improved habitat. However, care needs to be taken over the use of agricultural products, for example anti-parasitic drugs containing avermectin can result in sterile cowpats and possibly areas of ground that contain no insects. The same applies to some insecticides used on golf courses and Claire is hoping to persuade owners to leave some areas untreated for the benefit of the choughs.

The future for the Cornish Chough looks positive and Claire is looking forward to more birds, more broods and more nesting sites. The team's continued research and monitoring will allow them to assess the progress of re-colonisation.

Claire would love to hear from anyone who has memories of the "original" Cornish choughs, so if you saw the pair who survived near Newquay (one died in 1967 and its partner in 1973) or any others, do contact her at the Cornwall Chough Project, RSPB, Keble House, Southernhay Gardens, Exeter, EX1 1NT, or email [claire.mucklow@rspb.org.uk](mailto:claire.mucklow@rspb.org.uk)



*A young chick being examined and having a ring fitted  
(Photo: Claire Mucklow)*

## Mem Sec's Meanderings...

Hello again and welcome to my 'Mem. Sec. Meanderings'. I am afraid it's not a cheerful start as I have to report that the Association membership now stands at 257, the lowest on record. Unfortunately we have had to 'write off' 6 members who, at the end of July, had not paid their Annual Subscriptions which were due in April. I hate having to do this, but even after writing them to ask if there was a reason for their not renewing, I have not heard from them. Interestingly most of them had been members for less than 2 years!

If we are not offering what you expect, or would like, as a member, please let us know. I realise that with today's roads, railways and air travel, Cornwall is not the 'travelling time' distance that it was when Cornish Associations were more fully supported by active members. But, a true Cornish person is proud of their ancestry and always enjoys meeting up with other people from their Homeland and receiving the Newsletter and the Annual Brochure (Yellow book) which gives details of Cornish Associations in the UK and around the world.

Don't forget that your membership number is by your name in the Yellow Book and also on the address label of the envelope that contains this Newsletter.

Sadly the following members have died since our last newsletter: Sir John Trelawny, our past President, Cyril Hore, a previous Chairman, John Playle, Miss Joan Tonkin and Ted Trembath. Our most sincere condolences go to their families.

On a more cheerful note I am able to report that we have a new member: I am very pleased to welcome Ms Katie Treggiden.

There are no more members of 50 years with membership until November. Names will be revealed nearer the time! The next ones are ex Trelawny Club members (how time flies!!). Keep guessing.

Don't forget that if there is another Cornish Association near you, you can of course, also support their Annual Dinner/Lunch; I am sure you would also be welcome at any of their meetings - simply contact their Secretary. Details can be found in the LCA Brochure (Yellow book).

Going back in time to 50 years ago, when we were more energetic, the annual programme kept us busy as can be seen in a copy of the 1958-59 Association Brochure which I looked at recently. The Rambling Section had a ramble every month except August and December. At the top of the list it said '*Length of Rambles approximately 10 miles*'. I don't recall them being that length but our energy was 'more available' in those days!

Looking through a daily paper the other week, I saw an article on waste tipping and among the items that are often thrown away, it stated are 'half pasties'. Who in their right mind would chuck away a proper pasty? Perhaps they meant the low grade 'imitations' that are unfortunately available to buy. If I had been stupid enough to have bought one of these, I would certainly have discarded it - but NOT by fly tipping. Reading further through the article it did state how many pasties had been found -- one. It's surprising how little things get amplified and exaggerated and then generate reactions as above!

When I drafted my notes for these 'Meanderings', I wrote '*Looking through a box of "bits and pieces" I recently found*'. I have just wasted half an hour in our attic looking for that box of LCA archives that I have acquired over the years. Where is it? I don't know. Our attic is an uncatalogued storage area as we have been living in this house now for over 40 years!! You name it and it's up there somewhere. One day I'll find it and then use some extracts as snippets in a future '*Meanderings*'.

I am not an historian but I still, from time to time, look through the *Kelly's Directory* of 1897. There are so many interesting bits of information: firms, businesses, shops, local Councillors. There were over 200 Millers some with mills driven by steam, some by steam and water and others driven by water.

How many Farmers were there in Cornwall? I am not going to count them, but there were 35 pages with about 180 names and farms per page (therefore in the region of 6300). How many are there today? A quick look in the telephone directory surprised me when I saw there are now about 1500.

When you look at the variety of shops in towns and villages it is quite an eye opener. I know that many of us can remember local shops from our childhood days when you could buy 'six peneth' of chips or ask for a 'penny apple'. Also ask your Dad for three pence to buy an ice cream, the choice being a cornet or a wafer (I wasn't so keen on a wafer as the ice cream oozed out the sides and you had to keep licking around it). I must be careful here as I am dating myself! But don't we all now say 'in my day'? Strangely, I don't recall my parents or older people saying that in my day. Just shows how things have changed, or have they?

There were 22 Cornish newspapers. How many are there today?

Boot and shoe makers? Believe it or not there were about 720 in Cornwall. We had to put our best foot forward!

What about this one? 5 Gunpowder manufacturers, 1 at Liskeard, 1 at Hayle and 3 at Perranwell Station and 129 Coal & Coke Merchants. How times have changed!

Have you any comments on the above? If so do not hesitate to come forward with them, either to me or the Editor.

I now conclude with my usual plea: If you know of any Cornish people living near you who may be interested in joining a Cornish Association (because of birth, marriage or descent), how about greeting them with a Cornish accent or phrase. At least it might bring a happy look to their faces. Don't worry or feel embarrassed if they just give you a funny look. It doesn't matter. You have tried. Give them my address if they show any interest, or let me know their names and addresses and I will send them details regarding the Association together with a Membership Application form. To encourage new members we need to publicise the London Cornish Association, if they do not join there is the hope and possibility that they may pass on the information regarding the Association to other prospective members.

Graham Pearce, 'Pengwyth', 17 Trellyn Close, Barming, Maidstone, Kent, ME16 9EF. Tel: (01622) 727167

# Rugby

## Around The World And Back To A New Season!

The first news is that I DID get voted back in as Director of Rugby at our AGM, for my 7<sup>th</sup> season at the helm so that's good news. I never take it for granted and always attend the AGM with nerves, but the club has never been in better health so I guess the nerves are unnecessary. Since I last wrote I have been on my travels, to Melbourne and Adelaide in Australia, to Malta, France and finally to Cornwall on our pre season tour. What I have learnt in my travels has confirmed my suspicions, that rugby clubs all over the world are struggling with finance and the gap between the teams at the professional end and those at the amateur are growing ever wider. This was emphasised by the unsavoury news about Harlequins RFC being involved in 'bloodgate', a scandal born out of a desire to win a match at any cost. I know some of the key protagonists involved, and they are good men who have had their judgement clouded by the lure of filthy lucre!

No such worries at LCRFC as we prepare for our new season because we remain a staunchly amateur club – our pre season tour to Cornwall saw me take in additional matches at St Ives, Camborne and Penzance, and despite the parochialism normally associated with our various clubs one thing remains universal – the interest shown London Cornish RFC made me feel welcome wherever I went and proud to be a Cornishman. Our match against Camborne for this seasons Arthur Hunt Memorial Plate went the way of the home side by 24-17, and so I had to present them with the trophy, not such an easy thing for a born and bred 'Chopper' to do! Nevertheless, we had a tremendous time with Camborne and they are very keen to play us again in a friendly in London if the fixture list allows it.

With the economic climate so tough, trying to sign new players this close season has been difficult as more players try to supplement their income with money from playing rugby. Whilst this hasn't lead to wholesale departures from LCRFC, it has meant we have missed out on a few players who seemed keen to join only to be tempted by other clubs offering small amounts of money to play. What has been disappointing has been the lack of good quality Cornish players keen to join us – it sometimes takes years

of conversations to tempt Cornish players to join and I hope we will have a number of high profile captures for 2010/11, but this season I have had to content myself with a smaller number of non Cornish newbies. Those Cornish players who have joined us will play in the 3s and 4s, so beefing up an already healthy number in those squads. We have had a couple of pre season friendlies to date, and what they do indicate is that we will have a very competitive pack this season, though the constitution of the backs still remains open. We have a new Captain in Nick Taylor and he has a very mature attitude, already commanding tremendous respect amongst the lads. We may well start the season with an all Cornish front row too, with James Turnbull, Will Carew-Gibbs and Hamish Cumming all likely to feature. One thing the pre season games has indicated is that if teams try and beat us by fighting, they will come up against what I can only describe as an indomitable Cornish spirit!

What are the targets for the new season then? Well the 1s are utterly determined to win the league (now named London 2 South-West after a restructuring of the leagues) after two seasons at our current level (the highest level at which we have ever played!). There is definitely a steely determination and with fewer changes than in previous seasons we should have some vital continuity to give us a headstart. The 2s are also determined to gain promotion after such a good season last year, whilst the 3s and 4s were both promoted so will hope to consolidate in their new divisions (the Surrey Alliance and the Surrey Combination Division 1). I have freshened up the coaching team too, bringing in former referee Howard Jones as our Fitness Coach. He has been running additional Monday night fitness sessions and a core of 10 or so players will begin the season in fantastic shape as a result. We do have to contend with an injury list before a ball is kicked in anger, so I have also recruited a 2s Physio to bolster our medical team.

The next time I write I will be able to update you on where we are against our targets, along with an update of how our new players and coaches have settled in. In the meanwhile, have a great end to what I am sure will be an Indian summer in the UK, look out for our results, and if you are around on a Saturday near London, don't hesitate to don the black & gold to come and support!

*Kernow Bys Vyken!*

*Dickon.*

### 1<sup>st</sup> XV Fixtures Sept/Oct/Nov 2009 – Home Matches Kick Off at 2.15pm

Sat 12 <sup>th</sup> Sept	Guildford	Home	London 2 South-West
Sat 19 <sup>th</sup> Sept	Twickenham	Home	London 2 South-West
Sat 26 <sup>th</sup> Sept	London South Africa	Away	London 2 South-West
Sat 3 <sup>rd</sup> Oct	No Game	N/A	Bye in Intermediate Cup 1 <sup>st</sup> Rd
Sat 10 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Trojans	Home	London 2 South-West
Sat 17 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Tottonians	Away	London 2 South-West
Sat 24 <sup>th</sup> Oct	London Irish Am.Home		London 2 South-West
Sat 31 <sup>st</sup> Oct	Sevenoaks	Home	Intermediate Cup 2 <sup>nd</sup> Rd
Sat 7 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Winchester	Away	London 2 South-West
Sat 14 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Weybridge Vandals	Home	London 2 South-West
Sat 21 <sup>st</sup> Nov	TBC	TBC	Intermediate Cup 3 <sup>rd</sup> Rd
Sat 28 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Guernsey	Away	London 2 South-West
Sat 5 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Bognor	Home	London 2 South-West

*You can find all the latest news on the club at [www.lcrfc.co.uk](http://www.lcrfc.co.uk)*

## Fixtures in London and the Home Counties – 2009

### **Cornish Pirates, Plymouth Albion, Launceston and Redruth**

19 <sup>th</sup> September	London Scottish v Launceston
3 <sup>rd</sup> October	Newbury v Launceston
17 <sup>th</sup> October	London Welsh v Cornish Pirates
	Blackheath v Launceston
31 <sup>st</sup> October	Cambridge v Launceston
14 <sup>th</sup> November	London Welsh v Plymouth Albion
12 <sup>th</sup> December	Bedford v Plymouth Albion

**Check the national press for kick-off times.**

*Our thanks to Brian Reed for sending these in.*

## Publications

### **Shadows in the Sky**

By Pete Cross (with illustrations by Colin Stimpson)

Publisher: Studio Cactus Ltd

ISBN 978-1-904239-07-9

This is a book for children of all ages, even those as old as I! Its story is based loosely on the now well-documented history of the Cornish chough (called chow throughout, this being one of several vernacular words for chough in Cornwall, pronounced as in *now* and echoing the bird's cry).

The birds' adventures and their interaction with humans are a fictional representation of what has happened to the chough over the last three centuries. In the 1700s it lived in thriving communities around the Cornish coast. By the early 1900s its numbers had dwindled drastically, due mainly to persecution and changes in land use. Life was terribly hard for humans as well as for choughs in those days. In 1973 the very last one disappeared and a chough was not seen again in the wild in Cornwall until the wonderful day in 2001 when three were sighted at The Lizard. Thus began the re-colonisation that is so exciting today.

It is a delightful story, full of humour and pathos, but firmly based on a knowledge of the chough's behaviour, life cycle and needs, and the habits of the other birds it encounters, as well as some insights into human nature and problems. The birds have names (in Cornish and Breton), but the humans do not. The birds talk in *cheeow*, and some humans talk posh and some in Cornish dialect ("diggin' fer taydies" and "bleddy ol' craws").

This book will educate, entertain, amuse and touch. If you need a present for your children, grandchildren or friends, this is it. And why not get a copy for yourself too!

*Lorna Leadbetter*

### **View Points and Points of View**

By Clive Blake and Chris Robbins

Publ: Emu House Publications, 2009

ISBN 978-0-9560724-0-5

The authors of this delightful book, who both grew up in Cornwall, describe it as 'a *Phoetry Book*'. Defined as 'a

*fusion of Poetry and Photography*', this offering provides a perfect blending of words and pictures to convey its messages – some happy and some sad. While some – such as 'Required no more' which deals with redundancy are poignant, especially in these hard times, there is lots of humour to cheer you up. One of my favourites is 'Chris and Alice', a poem about two caterpillars who describe themselves as 'pillers of Socie-eat-he'. As for the photograph which accompanies this poem, I can't imagine how long Chris Robbins must have waited for those 'pillers' to pose!

The book's creativity is not stifled by normal conventions: the first poem is called 'The End' and, in some of the poems, text is used in very original ways.

This book is ideal for dipping into again and again. It is enjoyable and thought provoking and would make a lovely present.

You can get a copy of *View Points and Points of View* from [www.emuhouse.co.uk](http://www.emuhouse.co.uk) or a growing list of retailers, including Amazon.

***We have heard of the following book which might be of interest to some of our readers:***

### **Parish for Sale**

Compiled by Robert Leishman

It was 90 years ago, in August 1919, that the entire parish of Quethiock in South East Cornwall was sold by auction in Plymouth.

The parish was in the ownership of the Corytons of Pentillic Castle on the banks of the river Tamar. The ravages of the Great War and death duties forced the sale of the parish with over 4000 acres of farms, cottages, shops and inn.

For centuries life had changed little in this parish tucked away in the folds of the hills of South East Cornwall. Son succeeded father in the tenancies of farms and cottages and the community of some 400 people was largely self sufficient.

It was with great optimism that the tenants prepared to bid for their farms and homes on auction day; but for many of the farmers it was not to be and a way of life came to an abrupt end.

This book gives an account of that auction and its consequences.

***The book is available in two formats:***

A4 paperback - Price £9.99 (+ UK P&P is £1.95) or

A3 linen bound – Price £49.95 (+UK P&P is £4.95)

To obtain a copy, visit [www.parishforsale.co.uk](http://www.parishforsale.co.uk) or phone Robert Leishman (01503 230087)

***A very interesting Cornish website which is well worth a visit...***

**[www.mycornwall.tv](http://www.mycornwall.tv)**

Imagine if you could access Cornwall's finest - the sights, sounds and tastes you love - at the click of a button, wherever you are in the world.

Now you can.

mycornwall.tv is a collection of online TV channels dedicated to all things Cornish. Think of it as the quintessential window on Cornwall, constantly updated, always within reach.

mycornwall.tv brings together the very best of Cornwall's talent, commerce, heritage and history, and makes it instantly available to anyone, anywhere in the world, any time of day or night. In addition, our partners are some of the biggest and brightest names in Cornwall, companies that are trailblazers for Cornwall on an international scale.

If you're passionate about Cornwall and all it has to offer; extraordinary beaches, sublime culinary delights, surfing that's second to none and an unrivalled reputation for sustainable living – to name just a few of its treasures – then mycornwall.tv is the place to be.

If you're in business in Cornwall or have a commercial interest in all things Cornish, you can't afford to miss out.

myCornwall.tv has a series of partnerships with nationally and globally recognisable brands, including the Jamie Oliver inspired restaurant, Fifteen Cornwall, the Eden Project, The Hotel & Extreme Academy Watergate Bay and South West Tourism. There are further partnerships in the pipeline and more channel launches are planned in the coming months. mycornwall.tv and its constituent channels will soon be available through other partners and devices such as Apple's iPhone. Watch online at [www.mycornwall.tv](http://www.mycornwall.tv).

### **Subscribe to myKernow**

MyKernow is our exclusive subscription channel for those of Cornish descent far, or not so far, from home. MyKernow is the channel that helps you keep in touch with home and discover more about Cornwall and its history, language, culture and heritage.

For a limited time myKernow is available as a free-to-air channel. You just have to enter your email details to access this month's programming free of charge and there's absolutely no obligation. We just ask that we can email you the occasional question or update to understand whether you like what you've seen and give you information updates about our service.

## **Crowdy Crawn**

### **A philatelic acknowledgement of some Cornish greats**

Although Cornwall does not print postage stamps, its people and achievements and places have featured on postage stamps throughout the philatelic world. Libby Luke has compiled a collection of these stamps which include Trevithick and his engine, John Wesley, Daphne Du Maurier, life boat rescue, Wheal Coates and gorse.  
*Tom and Libby Luke (Victoria, Australia)*

### **An interesting choice for an Australian note**

The Commonwealth of Australia printed its first one pound note in 1913. On the back of the note was an engraving of a group of Cornish miners in the Victoria Quartz Mine in Bendigo. In 1910, this was the worlds deepest mine –

4316 feet – and, during its lifetime, the mine was managed by several Cornishmen.

*From Tom and Libby Luke (Victoria, Australia)*

### **Proposed changes at The National archives**

The National Archives is planning to make a number of changes to its operations and services as part of a money-saving campaign

The proposals, which are due to come into effect by 2010, include:

- Opening 5 days a week – Tuesday to Saturday
- Increasing the number of senior records specialists but reducing overall staff
- Continuing to provide access to original documents
- Charging for car parking

The savings which are made will ensure that TNA has enough funding to continue with its core activities and be able to invest in the future.

More information can be found on the TNA website - <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/>

### **St Cleer Belles make their debut**

Early in July the St Cleer Belles, a group of teenage handbell ringers, made their debut by playing a medley of pieces for a wedding in the village church. They followed this by ringing the church bells after the wedding. The girls of the group photographed the bride's arrival from the top of the 100ft church tower!

*Duncan Paul Matthews (Liskeard OCS)*

### **Strangers in our midst!**

Making themselves at home near St Breward, Bodmin Moor, are a pair of wallabies. They evidently escaped separately, but found each other... They've now produced a baby. A North American prairie dog has also been photographed on the Goss Moor Nature Trail.

### **Did you know?**

The rustling noises often heard around the Tamar Bridge after the sun goes down are rumoured to be caused by Cornish piskeys sliding down the bridge supports.

*From TAG, Newsletter of the Thames Valley CA*

***The deadline for the next issue of the  
LCA Newsletter is***

***5th November***

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