



Cowethas Kernewek Loundres

London Cornish Association Newsletter



www.londoncornish.co.uk

Spring 2010

After a very cold winter, the first signs of spring are beginning to appear: daffodils are starting to emerge from the ground and there are now crocus flowers in the lawns. Hopefully this means that won't be long before we start to enjoy warmer weather.

This year seems to be flying by and we are now only a couple of weeks away from St Piran's Day. It is interesting to see the different ways this special 'Cornish' day is celebrated around the world. At the library where I work, there are four of us with Cornish connections and we have decided that the time has come to 'educate' our colleagues and introduce them to a bit of Cornish culture. We will serve a cream tea (with genuine Cornish clotted cream and saffron cake – and of course there will be St Piran's flags. Our staff are a cultural mixed bag and it will be interesting to see how they react!

In April, many of us will be heading to Torbay for the biennial Cuntelles Kernewek weekend. This is always such fun and a great opportunity for kindred spirits to get together and enjoy beautiful views, camaraderie and good food. I know that several people will also take the opportunity to 'escape' to Cornwall for a break after CK: it takes a lot to beat the beauty of a Cornish spring.

This year, once again, the LCA will be having a stand at the Royal Cornwall Show. Several members will be heading to Wadbridge to man the stand and we know from the past that they will be joined by members of other associations. If you are visiting the RCS, please make sure you drop in to the stand – and any offers of help will, I know, be gratefully received.

The LCA has an exciting programme in the coming months – a Family History day, an outing to Bletchley Park, and a picnic, not to mention the Trelawny Lecture. You will find more information on them on page 2 (and on the website – www.londoncornish.co.uk) Please do support these events – and if you have ideas for future events, let us know.

Some of the most popular of our events are the Family History Days. Apart from the excellent programme, one of the highlights is Cornish fare which is included in the entry fee: a delicious pasty lunch and a cream tea in the afternoon. Responsibility for preparing the food has, for some time, fallen on just a couple of people. Kath Slatter, Cap'n of the crew would like to expand the team and has put out a call to members to help out. You will find more information on page 3. Even if you don't want to commit to every session, any help you could offer would be greatly appreciated. Please do think about it and contact Kath if you can help.

You will notice two flyers in this newsletter. The first is a reminder that annual subscriptions fall due on 1st April. Those who pay by standing order can ignore this but it would be appreciated if everyone else could send their payment to the membership secretary as soon as possible.

The second flyer is a call for nominations for the Paul Smales Award. This prestigious award, which is presented at the Cornish Gorsedd, is given to a Cornish person, not currently living in Cornwall, who has contributed in an outstanding way to the enhancement of the common good and welfare of the people of Cornwall. Please send your nominations, with evidence, to the Hon Gen Sec by the 30th April.

Dates for your diary ...

4th April
Family History Day

15th May
Outing to Bletchley Park

2nd June
AGM and
Trelawny Lecture

10th July
Annual Picnic

Informal Lunches
22 March 2010
26 April 2010
17 May 2010
21 June 2010

Further details of these events can be found on page 2

Have you considered getting your newsletter by email?

The Newsletter is the biggest single expenditure item for the LCA and so, with the continually rising cost of both printing and postage, we are keen to increase the number of members who receive the e-newsletters in preference to hard copy. There are advantages for those choosing this option:

- You get your newsletter more quickly and
- The pictures are in colour

If you are worried about downloading big files, fear not. The files come as PDF and are compressed. The last few issues have ranged from 330 to 450KB.

If you would like to get your newsletter by email in future, please contact the editor on: editor@londoncornish.co.uk

Deadline for the Summer Newsletter is

5th May 2010

Please send all contributions to The Editor 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 - Saturday 24th April 10am to 4.30pm

See details at the bottom of this page.

Outing to Bletchley Park - Saturday 15th May 10.30am to 4.30pm

This is an opportunity to visit the 'Home of the WW2 Codebreakers'. We will have our own guide for this full day tour and members will have the chance to visit the many exhibitions and collections on the site.

Much of the site is 'disabled friendly'.

Getting there:

Bletchley Park is situated just south of Milton Keynes and has adequate car parking. Parking costs £3.

There is an excellent rail service from London Euston to Bletchley Park Station (40 minutes).

Cost: £20 per head which includes lunch.

Please let Dick Richards know if you would like to join the tour.

(Tel: 01235 530623/ Email: dickrichards10@hotmail.com)

Annual Picnic - Saturday 10th July 2010 12 noon

Venue: Golders Hill Park, North End Road

After the picnic there will be an opportunity to explore the park's flower garden as well as its ponds which are home to ducks and swans – of both the black and white variety. There is also a small zoo

Getting there:

Nearest tube station: Golders Green (*Northern Line*)

Bus: 210 or 268

Contact: Tony Wakeham - Tel: 020 77037378

Informal Lunches , 12 noon

22 March 2010

26 April 2010

17 May 2010

21 June 2010

Venue: Methodist Central Hall, Westminster

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

AGM and Trelawny Lecture - Wednesday 2nd June, 3 - 5pm

Speaker: Kingsley Rickard

(Vice-Chairman of The Trevithick Society)

'The Trevithick Society- Looking forward in the Industrial Archaeology of Cornwall'

Venue: The Naval Club, 38 Hill Street,
Mayfair, London W1J 5NS

Please let the Hon Gen Sec know if you are coming:

Contact: Francis Dunstan - Tel: 01494 531703 or

Email: gensec@londoncornish.co.uk

Dinners of Other Associations

Tunbridge Wells - 5th March 2010 (St Piran's Lunch)

West Glamorgan - 7th March (Dinner)

West Somerset - 13th March 2010 (Dinner)

Midlands - 15th May 2010 (Dinner)

West Kent - 6th June 2010 (Lunch)

FAMILY HISTORY DAY

Saturday 24th April 2010

Speakers:

Tony Pawlyn, Head of Research, National Maritime Museum Cornwall

'Falmouth Packets: Traders in Treasure'

Michael Ball, LCA member

'How I traced my Cornish ancestors and found interesting topics along the way'

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

Time: 10am to 4.30pm

Entry fee: (includes pasty lunch and cream tea):

(Vegetarian pasties can be provided if requested in advance).

£15 for members (including members of affiliated societies and Cornwall Family History Society) and £20 for non-members.

Booking essential!

Contact:

Francis Dunstan (01494 531703/cornish@francisdunstan.plus.com)
or Lorna Leadbetter (0208 989 7634/leadbetter@lineone.net)

FREE LUNCH AND TEA?????

Would the thought of a free pasty and saffron cake lunch, followed by a cream tea, all in good Cornish company, appeal to you? I need help with catering responsibilities at Family History days (usually one in April and one in October). There are already a few members who volunteer to lend a hand on the day but they are sometimes unable to attend and in any case like to listen to the talks rather than work in the kitchen. So the ideal volunteer would be a member (or a friend of a member) who is not interested in family history but could help with the provision and preparation of the food. A Cornish lunch and tea is as much a part of Family History days as the speakers and the presentations, but I am concerned that one day I may not be able to carry out my usual duties, either in part or in whole. We have prepared some written guidelines and all will be explained in advance.

Could anyone interested please contact me on 01494 464375 and I will explain more about what is involved.

Many thanks, Kath Slatter

Cuntelles Kernewek- 9th -11th April 2010

A message from Mary Watters, Chairman of the Torbay Cornish Association...

Your Editor has kindly given details of our weekend, 9th-11th April 2010, at Livermead Cliff Hotel, Torquay in recent Newsletters. If you need some more details of that weekend and have not yet communicated with me directly or through your Secretary, there is still time – just get in touch and I will explain all. I am hoping that it will be a happy time – making new friends and doing what we do best – ‘Do you remember...?’ or ‘Did you know...?’ I already have some new recruits – that is very encouraging!

An enquiry doesn't constitute a booking, but it's a beginning!

Miss Mary Watters, 44 Ivanhoe Road. Plymouth PL51PG (Tel: 01752 361880)

News of Past Events

New Year's Lunch at the Knights Templar pub

The weather on the day was wet, but it did improve - although there were, at times, heavy showers.

Twenty six brave souls made it to our New Year's lunch at the Knight's Templar pub. The decor at the pub was fair and the service was speedy. When the meal was over, it was time for general chat. Then Liz, our Chairman, thanked all for coming and welcomed them to 2010 events.

I think everyone thought it was a nice get together and a good way to start 2010. TW (Tony Wakeham) was our lunch leader – or as the Cornish say, Cap'n (Captain) for the day.

After the meal, a few members tried to find Temple Church. I think Francis, (our Hon Gen Sec) has played the organ there. The only entrance I know of is at the end of

Chancery Lance. If you are looking for it, cross over Strand/Fleet street to where there are two black doors. Go through them and down Temple Lane and Middle Temple Lane then turn left to the church.

The Temple church opens to visitors at various times and the public are welcome at their services. It is closed on Mondays but open at the following times:

Tuesday	11 – 1	Open
Wednesday	1.15	Organ recital
	2 – 4	Open
Thursday	11 – 1	Open
	1.15	Holy Communion
	2 – 4	Open
Friday	11 – 4	Open
Sat	11 – 2	Open
Sunday	8.30	Holy Communion
	11.15	Choral Matins (Last Sunday of the month, choral communion)
	2.30 – 4.30	open.

There are no services in August and September

You can find out more at: <http://www.templechurch.com/>

Tony Wakeham



Getting the New Year off to a good start

Visit to the Traveller's Club

Twenty two LCA members and friends took advantage of the opportunity to visit the Traveller's Club in London in February. The Club was founded in 1819 and moved to its present, purpose-built, clubhouse which was designed by Charles Barry (who also designed the Houses of Parliament) in 1832. It was intended as a meeting place for gentlemen who had travelled abroad, their foreign visitors and diplomats posted in London.

To qualify as a member, a candidate should have travelled in a straight line from London for a distance of 500 miles. This qualifier is still valid today although most of the current members have travelled more extensively or even lived overseas. Prospective members have to be proposed by an existing member. In the past, blackballing was used when it came to voting on whether or not the candidate should be accepted. If the person was 'blackballed' (rejected), the proposer was expected to

There are currently 1400 members. Amongst the past and current members are Eric Newby and Hugh Carless who went to the Hindu Kush, explorer Wilfred Thesiger, geologist Leigh Fermor and adventurer Ranulph Fiennes.

Douglas, our guide for the morning kept us enthralled with tales of some of the curious customs and eccentric people linked to the Club. We were fascinated to hear that in the dining room, one table was designated a 'club table'. Any member who sat there was obliged to talk to the others at the table. Those feeling less like company could sit at a special table where they could read, write or just enjoy a quiet meal.

As we wandered along the corridors, we passed a roll of honour on which two names – Lieutenant-Hon Piers St Aubyn and Brev-Maor Hon GE Boscowen - caught our eye. We felt sure they had Cornish connections and Lorna's subsequent research has discovered that Boscowen was, in fact, the son of Viscount Falmouth. Piers St Aubyn's Cornish link has yet to be confirmed.

Our tour ended in the library where we enjoyed a glass of sherry and a chance to look at some of the amazing books and unusual furniture - one of the most interesting pieces being a chair which was also a step ladder! A notice on the mantelpiece stated that *'Conversation is only permitted between the hours of 12 and 3pm except when the room is used by parties'*. Fortunately, our time in the library fell into that period and so we were free to chat and ask lots of questions!

Everyone was unanimous in their praise of this outing. It was a great success and we thank Lorna for the hard work she put into arranging it.



In the library at the Traveller's Club

The frieze on the walls is a cast of the Bassae Frieze, which was excavated in the Peloponnesus by the architect C.R. Cockerell, founder member of the Club.

And from Tony, one of those who were there...

Our leader was Lorna. We all met in the lounge for coffee and were then given a tour of the Club by one of the staff. He was very informative and told us stories of some of the past members and some of the events which have taken place at the Club.

There were leather easy chairs, French polished tables and beautiful chandeliers in the member's library. No mobiles or computers were allowed there!

One thing I noticed among the clocks we saw was a regulator (long case clock) made by Arnold and Dent. This was John Arnold, the ex-Bodmin watchmaker who made the first accurate, seaworthy chronometer (ships clocks).

The Traveller's Cub is an old fashioned gentleman's club. One day it might become more modern! ...(and include women?)

Afterwards, we made our way to some eating places for a late lunch after our lovely day.

Tony Wakeham

CRFC vs Tottonians match

It was cold, but that did not dampen the spirits of eight hardy LCA members and friends who, fortified with a hot meal enjoyed at the Telegraph Inn, braved the elements to cheer on their team: for London Cornish RFC, this was an important match against Tottonians. Sadly, our support did not bring the wished for victory but we had a good time anyway.

Several of the Cornish players were injured during the match – at one point, three were sitting on the sidelines with bags of ice on their injured limbs. Reserve players were sent on to replace those injured but the obvious concern of coach Dickon Moon revealed itself when he called out...*'come on ref, we're running out of people!'*

Apart from the match result, the other disappointment on the day was that Tony missed the match due to a bus problem. Despite setting off in good time, he was left stranded without transport a few miles away. He is now in the market for a mobile so next time this happens, he will be able to call for help!

The consensus among those did make it to the match was that we should arrange similar outings in the future. Hopefully, we will bring 'our' team better luck next time!



Aiming high!

Subscription Reminder

Subscriptions for 2010/2011 fall due on 1st April. You will find a renewal form included in this newsletter. Your completed form and fee should be sent to the Membership Secretary.

If you pay by standing order, please ignore this notice.

Bendigo It's Cornish

Tom and Libby Luke (Cornish Association of Victoria)

When William Tom a Cornishman and John Lister of Byng in NSW discovered payable gold at Ophir on 7 April 1851 (no, it was not Edward Hammond Hargraves- another myth that needs dispelling), Bendigo was just a sheep run on the flats beside a creek over the ranges on what was known as the Ravenswood Run in Central Victoria. This was a pretty area, lightly wooded and with ample water. Robert Ross Haverfield who saw the Bendigo valley before the discovery of gold wrote:

The flats carpeted with green grass, were dotted here and there with comely and shady gum trees while the creek banks, shaded with wattle, sloped down to a chain of water holes, which, in the spring and winter seasons, and indeed all of the year round, contained a good supply of sweet clear water. Down about Epsom, the valley wore a really picturesque appearance; the gum trees were very fine and the wattle flourished luxuriantly.

A shepherd from the Ravenswood Run brought his sheep over the Big Hill ranges and tended his flock. He lived in a hut on these picturesque flats. It is reported that this shepherd was handy with his fists and fancied himself as a pugilist. Locals named him Bendigo after the noted Nottingham boxer of the time, William Bendigo Thompson (or 'Bold Bendigo') of whom he was an ardent admirer. William Bendigo Thompson was twice British champion and the greatest of all 19th century bare knuckle fighters. He was never defeated. His name was a corruption of the biblical Abednego as he was one of triplets. His brothers were Shadrack and Meshack. So, Bendigo was not as, some people said, named for: 'Around the bend I go'

The area where the shepherd tended his sheep became known as Bendigo's Flats. Diggers on their way to the field simply called it 'The Bendigo'

Bendigo was called Castleton from 2nd December 1852.

However on the 18th January 1853, it was gazetted as Sandhurst after the famous British Military Academy in Berkshire. This name was never popular with the locals and on the 8th May 1891 a poll of the city voted for a change in name to Bendigo by the widest of margins.

It is generally acknowledged that Mrs. John Kennedy and Mrs. Patrick Farrell, wives of workers on the Ravenswood Run, produced the first gold in November 1851. This came from an area on the creek now known as the Rocks on Bendigo Creek in Golden Square. We ask the question: what were two women doing so far from home and one with a newborn baby? The obvious, but never able to be proved, answer is that they were perhaps told by a shepherd about gold in the creek. They undoubtedly produced the first gold, but did they discover it?

During the Alluvial rush of 1851-52 Cornishmen along with many other nationalities trekked their way to this goldfield from the copper fields of South Australia a distance of over 1000 KM's (600 Miles). As such a large proportion of South Australian miners were Cornishmen it is not surprising that the largest ethnic group to make this trek were Cornishmen. So many came that the mines in Burra became devoid of miners while ships in Port Phillip Bay were without sailors as everybody headed to the Goldfields of Central Victoria.

The first church service on the Bendigo gold field was taken by Jimmy Jeffery a Wesleyan Lay Preacher and a native of Illogan in Cornwall who came from South Australia. He stood on a stump in Golden Square and preached to the miners. Eventually the Golden Square Methodist Church (now Uniting Church) was built on this spot.

Bendigo went from being a very rich alluvial goldfield to a saddle reef quartz field requiring skilled engineers and skilled hard rock miners a craft at which the Cornish excelled. By 1860 the alluvial gold had declined and the famous quartz saddle reefs became the major source for gold exploration.

Quartz mining had very simple, tentative beginnings in 1852 on Specimen Hill Eaglehawk. It spread all over the Bendigo goldfield and continued through until 1954, when the last mine on the Deborah Reef, the Central Deborah, ceased production.



Statue of Cornish Miner at Civic Square in Bendigo

An advert in the Bendigo Advertiser newspaper of August 1861 ran an advertisement for St. Mungo's mine in Eaglehawk which read:

Wanted Miners at the St.Mungo Gold Mining Company Works.

None need apply to John Addicoat except practical miners from St. Just Cornwall.

1870 onwards saw the start of the Bendigo Goldfield heyday and expertise was needed in Steam Winding Machinery and Hard Rock (Quartz) mining. Where better to turn to than Cornwall?

The railway to Sandhurst (Bendigo) had been completed in 1862 and via this, Cornishmen arrived in their thousands. In 1871 Cornwall held a mere 1.6% of the population of England and Wales yet, in 1881, of Bendigo's British born parents 46.9% of the fathers and 41.4% of the mothers were born in Cornwall. By 1881, 49% of all households in Sandhurst were headed by active born Cornishmen whilst and 41% of the females were Cornish. Over 200 of the Mining Managers on the Bendigo Goldfields were Cornishmen.

1870 was the year that Bendigo's great underground mining boom really got underway. By 1880 Bendigo was the worlds richest gold field and even today, in 2009 although it has not produced commercially since 1954 it

remains Australia's number two, after Kalgoorlie, and is number seven in the world. It was not, in fact, until the 1970's (20 years after its closure) that Kalgoorlie overtook it as Australia's richest goldfield!

The first Australian pound note which was released in 1913, featured Cornish Miners at the bottom of the Victoria Quartz Gold Mine in Bendigo. The Victoria Quartz Mine was at that time the world's deepest gold mine at 1395 meters or 4613 feet. The Bendigo area was one of the most important areas during the gold rushes which contributed so much to transforming the economy of the country.

Sandhurst and Ballarat at that time were not small towns like mining localities in other parts of Australia but provincial cities with populations varying from 15,000 to 29,000.

Libby's Moyle family the sons and daughters of John Moyle who made a small fortune at Fryers Creek (Castlemaine) prior to returning to Cornwall in 1855 were among the Cornish who came to Sandhurst as were my Bolitho and Luke Families. Three of my direct Bolitho Family became Mining Managers on this field whilst in the next generation one, Nelson, became Inspector of Mines.

The Cornish contributed far more than just being miners and mining managers in their adopted homeland. Many were involved in business and civic duties.

Sir John Quick, born Towednack in Cornwall, became a leading figure in Federation and a permanent Exhibition in Bendigo entitled *'The Making of a Nation'* tells his life story. Bendigo, and indeed Australia, has honoured him with a bust in Pall Mall, Bendigo We, the Cornish in Victoria, honoured him in 2002 by placing a Plaque at his birthplace, Trevesa Farm Towednack in Cornwall

Noted businessman and tailor *Fletcher Jones* was the son of a Cornish miner in Golden Square and he grew tomatoes at Kangaroo Flat. His autobiography *'Not By Myself'* includes a wonderful and poignant story of growing up in Bendigo.

Henry Madren Leggo whose parents came from St. Just in Penwith set up a food preserving business in Bendigo. The firm Leggo's still survives in Australia today although because of television advertisements, many believe it is Italian. He is buried in the Bendigo Cemetery.

The Mayors of Bendigo who were born in Cornwall or were of Cornish extraction were numerous. None was more famous than *James Henry Curnow* who was born on the 21st March 1861 at Ludgvan Cornwall. He was five times Mayor of the City and was the driving force in getting sewers for the city of Bendigo. At a luncheon to welcome the Prince of Wales to Bendigo in 1920 he stated, to rousing cheers, *'Your Highness, as Duke of Cornwall you will be pleased to know it was the Cousin Jacks who made Bendigo and when your Highness visits the mines this afternoon you will note that 90% of the miners are Cornish'*

Henry Hattam was born at St. Just in Penwith on the 21st July 1830 and arrived on the Bendigo Goldfields in March 1855. He worked as a puddler at Sailors Gully and then at Ironbark. He finally settled, like so many other Cornishmen, at Long Gully and when the alluvial gold resources began to fail turned his hand to quartz mining, becoming the successful mining manager of several leading mines. He was elected Mayor of the city in 1876 and died in office just four months later. A magnificent Headstone was

erected to his memory at what was known at the time as the Back Creek (Now Bendigo) Cemetery.

Many other Cornishmen and Cornish descendants have also had terms as Mayor of Bendigo, people with names such as Delbridge, Hoskins, Dunstan, Semmens, Michelsen, Bennetts, Truscott, Grainger, Snell, Jeffrey and Nankervis. Many more men of Cornish extraction served as Councillors in Bendigo.

While Cornish folk could be found all over Bendigo or Sandhurst as it was then known, they mainly congregated along the line of the three most worked quartz reefs. One such area was Long Gully, and in the heyday of Bendigo's deep mining Long Gully was the city's largest suburb. In fact it was the first area outside the city centre of what is now known as the City of Greater Bendigo to form its own Fire Brigade. This was in 1873. Most of the early members were Cornishmen including my great grandfather and great uncle Thomas Roberts Bolitho and William Bolitho who were both Captains of the Fire Brigade in its formative years. Later on both became notable mining managers in Bendigo

Along with its satellite settlement 'St Just Point' sometimes known as 'Pasty Point', Long Gully became known as Bendigo's Little Cornwall. It is recorded that in the late 1800's a visitor to Long Gully stated that he had heard more broad Cornish spoken at Long Gully in one morning than he had heard at St Just in Cornwall in one whole week.

This area, the world's richest goldfield of the 19th century with its huge Cornish involvement became a beautiful city which, in 2008 had over 100,000 residents making it Australia's largest inland city, surpassing Toowoomba in Queensland and Ballarat in Victoria.

In his work titled *'The Cornish of Australia: An Invisible Minority with Distinctive Surnames'* Charles Price describes how with the help of phone directories, electoral rolls, as well as publications such as Pawley White's *Cornish Surnames*, he was able to estimate, in percentages, the number of people in Australia who had Cornish origins, and in which areas they congregated. His findings are as follows:

'Like most ethnic groupings in Australia the Cornish are not evenly distributed throughout the country. If we assume that, in terms of Ethnic Strength, the Cornish make up some 1.5% of the Australian population then the proportion for South Australia is 2.5% for the whole state but 4.5% for traditional areas of Cornish settlement in the Yorke Peninsula and the Lower North.

The proportion for Victoria as a whole is around 2.0% but the solid Cornish area around Bendigo reaches 4.5% and that around Ballarat some 2.6%. The NSW proportion is 1.3% but that for the old Cornish mining area of Broken Hill is 3.6% and for the farming areas around Bathurst and Orange some 2.2 %.'

As many of the statistics were taken from the 1980's era, a look today at the population of those areas mentioned could provide another perspective. In the 1980's the total population of the towns in the Copper Triangle, Moonta, Wallaroo, Kadina as well as the Municipality of Burra totalled 6,450. In comparison, the population of the Borough of Eaglehawk was 7,400, and the City of Bendigo 35,200. When the totals of the surrounding shires were added the total population of Greater Bendigo was 85,170. The claim that Bendigo is possibly the largest city

of Cornish descendants in the world today must be considered a good possibility particularly when you look at all the Cornish names in the present day telephone book. Of course you must also take into consideration that at least 50% of the cousin Jennies married men from other ethnic origins.

As Thomas Bracken, himself an early digger on the Bendigo field and the composer of 'God defend New Zealand', the New Zealand National Anthem said on a return visit to Victoria in the 1890's, '*It is Marvelous Melbourne, Beautiful Ballarat, but it is Boundless Bendigo*'.

Sadly, we now come forward to Saturday the 7th February this year when a wildfire which started in Eaglehawk swept through St. Just Point and Long Gully taking in it's path so many of the little Cornish miners cottages that dotted the landscape. The former home of Cornish Mining Manager Richard Pope was destroyed and the tenant lost his life. Coath Cottage was totally destroyed and the cottage that was George Ellis's great-grandmother's home and which has featured in so many Cornish displays is no more. My first cousin whose ancestry like mine goes back to Wendron and St. Just was left with just the clothes she was wearing and her car.



Cornish home burnt in bushfire at Bendigo in February 2009

Since the early 1990's the Cornish Association of Bendigo has erected a wonderful statue and placed plaques throughout the city to commemorate their Cornish ancestors. For this, they are to be highly commended. One Plaque at Long Gully says it all so well:

*'No dividends had they to prize.
With sweat and toil they gave their lives.'*

Cornish Festivals have been held inside the City of Greater Bendigo on three occasions since 2002. There is to be another Festival at Eaglehawk in March 2010 entitled '*Welcome Back Cousin Jack*' (We welcome you 'One and All')

The Goldfields of Bendigo were a major Australian destination for those Cornish men fleeing the declining mines of Cornwall. In Bendigo, they experienced little occupational mobility and at least two thirds of them worked as gold miners.

Fletcher Jones, mentioned earlier, the successful clothing manufacturer and son of a Cornish immigrant miner remembered as a child how between his father's house and the Golden Square State School, at least every third miner's cottage had a cotton sheet fixed between the verandah posts hiding a poor man with miners complaint, seemingly abandoned to his fate. These Cornishmen must have found it difficult to see Bendigo as the working man's paradise they had come in search of.

Today, there are four Bards of Gorseth Kernow who have proudly added Bendigo to their Bardic names. They are:

George Ellis	Map Bendygo (Son of Bendigo)
Tom Luke	Colon Hag Enef Yn Bendygo (Heart & Soul in Bendigo)
Libby Luke	Rosenwyn Bendygo (White rose of Bendigo)
Leanne Lloyd	Nanscarow a Bendygo (Nacarrow of Bendigo)

Phyllis (Phyl) Vinicombe - 1914 - 2008

A number of you will, I am sure, remember Phyl Vinicombe a long serving member who joined the LCA in 1952 and sadly died at the age of 94 in June 2008 as was reported in the Summer 2008 Newsletter. During her membership she was a very very active member serving on all committees over the years and was the producer/editor of the LCA Newsletter in the 1960s; she was also the Association Chairman for 1969 to 1970. She was made an Honorary Vice-President in her latter years in recognition of what she had done for the LCA.

The interment of Phyl's ashes took place in Cornwall in November 2009 and a report has been sent by Mrs. Pat Snow who was a long time friend of Phyl and was actually already a member when Phyl joined. It was unfortunate that this could not be included in the last Newsletter as it had already gone to print.

Graham Pearce, Membership Secretary

Interment of Phyl Vinicombe's Ashes

On Saturday 21st November 2009 at the invitation of Steven Thomas, Phyl's nephew, Charles Pryn and I joined Steve at New County Hall in Truro for the interment of Phyl's ashes.

It was a very windy and wet afternoon. We located the tree situated on a raised bed near the entrance which Phyl had had planted in memory of her Mother.

Council staff had trimmed shrubs around it and cleared prevailing ivy around the base of the tree. In the wet weather this resulted in very muddy and uneven ground for us to negotiate.

Steve dug a pit at the base of the tree and we stood silently as he deposited her ashes and filled in the drenched earth as evenly as possible.

We stood silently, happy in the knowledge that we all felt Phyl was now resting in peace in the land she loved.

Norman and Margaret Bunney were unable to join us due to a prior engagement.

Pat Snow Hon Vice-President and long time friend of Phyl.

A Message from Barbara Shaw (Mentenor a'n Ertach) - Gorsedd Awards Secretary

As the Gorsedd Awards Secretary, I appreciate the vital links with the Diaspora via the LCA Nominations from Australia and New Zealand arrive promptly each year without fail, and all accept that the Gorsedd's decision is final.

It has been a pleasure to have worked closely with Francis [Dunstan of the LCA] for the past ten years, also with the Cornish Associations in Australia, especially Bill Phillips (Mapwyn Whel Ros) of Victoria and Ros Paterson (Roslyn an Dyghow) of South Australia who submit nominations, not forgetting Lilian James (Ula Ruthvelen), Chris Dunkerley of NSW (Kevrenor), Noel Carthew (Map Caddy) and also Ian Wilson (son of Lady Elizabeth Wilson, Myrgh Bonython) who has kept in regular contact.

Recently I have produced an intensive review for 'The Gorsedd Working Group' and extend sincere thanks to Claire Bowden-Dan, LCA Archivist and Solicitor; Dick Richards (Past Chairman) and Dr. Francis Dunstan (Secretary) for their honest and detailed assessments apropos the long-standing association between the Gorsedd in Cornwall itself, and the wider Cornish World.

To mark my term of office as Scryvnyades hep wober an Gorseth Kernow : Honorary Secretary to the Gorsedd of Cornwall – together with my 'PA' Keith (Kaswydh) I was pleased that the Gorsedd Council accepted my suggestion that there should be a special award in 'general' terms that seemed to be lacking in the existing categories - hence :

Attent Dres Eghen

Rag kowlwrians kernewek dres eghen a dhendil aswonans keswlasek

Exceptional Endeavour

For an outstanding Cornish achievement meriting international recognition

The first person to be given this award was *Pete Goss of Torpoint*. The Citation read:

Successfully arrived in Australia to a heroes' welcome with his intrepid crew, after a commemorative 12,000 mile voyage in the 'Spirit of Mystery' from Newlyn to Melbourne by seven Cornish fishermen 154 years ago.

The 'Exceptional Endeavour' Trophy

The choice of a 'living' example of Cornish endeavour – Cornish Elm from the Tamar Valley – seemed to us to be most appropriate.

My design in the shape of an Awen was crafted by Fergus Parsons, an inspirational cabinet-maker-cum-woodworker from Stoke Climsland.

We were also fortunate to know an excellent pewter crafts-person, Suzannah Lucy in nearby Downgate, who embellished the trophy.



Pictured with Pete Goss are, from left to right, Barbara Shaw, (Mentenor a'n Ertach), the newly installed Grand Bard, Mick Paynter of St. Ives (Skogyn Pryv), the newly installed Deputy Grand Bard, Maureen Fuller (Stere'n Mor) of Saltash, and Keith Shaw, (Kaswydh)

We have enjoyed our "walkabouts" at the Cornish Festivals in Kadina on the Copper Coast (2005) and in Victoria (2008) at the Gorsedd Ceremonies.

Keith and I look forward to meeting friends at St. Piran's Day Celebrations, The Royal Cornwall Show and at the Gorsedd in St. Ives, whose Old Cornwall Society's 90th Anniversary will be celebrated in 2010.

Gorhemynadow an gwella dh'onen hag oll – Kernow bys vyken!

Barbara Shaw – Mentenor a'n Ertach,
Skriffenyas : Piwasow Konsel an Orseth Kernow.



Pewas Map Trevethan Award (Paul Smales Award) 2010: call for nominations

The Paul Smales Award is given to a Cornish man or woman, not currently living in Cornwall, who has made an outstanding contribution to the enhancement of the people and heritage of Cornwall. In 2009, there were joint winners: Jean Harry (New Zealand Cornish Association) and Chris Dunkerley (Cornish Association of New South Wales)

Nominations are now invited for the 2010 Award. Nominations, with supporting evidence, should be sent to the Hon Gen Secretary of the LCA by 30th April 2010.

Dr Francis Dunstan

Hon Gen Secretary: London Cornish Association

26 Sharrow Vale

High Wycombe

Bucks

HP12 3HB

Tel: 01494 531703

Email: Cornish@francisdunstan.plus.com

Back in Time for Christmas

A foggy December morning saw the County's namesake frigate return to her homeport of Devonport following her deployment combating the pirate threat in the Gulf Of Aden. More than 700 family and friends, spirits undaunted by the damp conditions, were waiting on the jetty to cheer her in as she emerged out of the gloom, played on by the Cornish Pipes and Drums.

The homecoming was the successful culmination of eight months of operations overseas that saw HMS Cornwall take Command of a NATO task force of five ships, lead them through Suez and maintain a constant presence in the Gulf of Aden to safe guard the merchant shipping from the pirates operating out of Somalia. Not a single vessel was hijacked in the Gulf during Cornwall's time on station. By the time she returned to home waters, she had steamed 43,453 nautical miles requiring her to refuel underway at sea 22 times. Her Lynx helicopter, callsign 'Rattler', had been airborne for some 214 hours (a combined total of almost 9 days in the air) carrying out 155 separate sorties ranging from tracking pirate camps along the Somali coast to casualty evacuation from nearby merchant ships in need. All in all, Cornwall and her crew of 260 had been away from home for 226 days, of which 180, or 80%, were spent at sea, not missing a single day of operations.

After some well earned leave that saw everyone get home to their families for Christmas, the new year sees the Ship exercising off the South Coast, including navigation training from Fowey round to Falmouth. HMS Cornwall will then undertake a programme of crucial maintenance and warfighting training in readiness for her next mission.

Alex Kendrick, Lt Cdr RN, WEO



A warm welcome for HMS Cornwall on her return to Devonport

Toronto Cornish Association newsletters 1904 – 1961

Barbara J. Gardner-Bray, Membership & Corresponding Secretary of the Toronto Cornish Association is trying to track down TCA newsletters from the years 1904 – 1961. Is there any Association out there which has some or has any ideas where copies might be?

If you are able to provide any information, please contact Barbara at torontocornish@gmail.com

Australian Visitors to Cornwall

Bill Phillips (Mapwyn Whel Ros) of Mount Waverley, Melbourne, Patron of the Cornish Association of Victoria and his wife, wife Gwen (Ertach Penwyth) recently came to Cornwall to attend the Saltash Gorsedd on the 6th September 2009, when their son Rod was initiated as Tresoryer . They stayed with us - Barbara (Mentenor a'n Ertach) and Keith (Kaswydh) - on Kit Hill for five days.

On Sunday the 7th everyone came to Chy an Radell (Clitters House) whence we set off to explore the World Heritage Site on the Chilsworthy Road to Gunnislake, after which we visited the mining remains at Delaware, through Albaston to Silver Valley, then along to Harrowbarrow, where Bill, Gwen, Chris (Kevrenor) and Joy (Cherya) Dunkerley, June Parrott (Gorvyrghwyn an Garrek) and Stephen Amos (Nans Melyn) were our guests for lunch at Sleepy Hollow Farm Restaurant, along with our son Jonathan, who submits DVD/Video film for the Gorsedd.

After lunch we spent some time 'war'n Vre an Skeul (Kit Hill) before attending the Gorsedd Cornish Service at the Church of St. Nicholas and Faith near the Guildhall, Saltash.

There was time to return to the Tamar to visit Halton Quay, where St. Domenica and her brother set up a small chapel. We were fortunate to meet Father Lamb, who had spent ten years in Sydney - home of the Dunkerleys! Sadly, we could not stay for Evensong as Chris and Joy had to return to Plymouth to catch the ferry for Roscoff and the next stage of their Celtic adventures in Brittany!

Barbara and Keith Shaw

Skriffenyas : Piwasow Konsel an Orseth Kernow.



The group at the World Heritage Site on the Chilsworthy Road to Gunnislake

Publications

The following books have recently been published:

White Crusted Eyes: Tales of Par

By Bert Biscoe

Publ: Creative Edge

This book of poems and photographs has been inspired by the village of Par, an area the author knows well, having lived there shortly before the closure of the harbour. The poetry reflects life in and around Par and laments some of the changes which have taken place. In one poem, he asks *Oh! What is to become of beautiful Par! Oh! What is to become of Par?* The question is answered in 'Farewell to Par'. My favourite is 'Welcome Home' which tells the story of a sailor who returns to his love after a long period at sea, bringing her a caged bird as a gift.

A selection of contemporary and archive photographs, provided by Ainsley Cocks and Steve Colwill (both from Par) are a perfect backdrop for the poems

Those who prefer to listen to poetry will enjoy hearing Bert Biscoe reading the poems on the CD which comes with the book.

The book is available from Royal Cornwall Museum, Par Post Office or from Bert Biscoe -Tel: 01872 242293 or bertbiscoe@btinternet.com.

One Big Echo of a Much Nicer Place

By Martin Philip

Publ: Scryfa

This is a new short story collection which vividly brings to life the humour and the heartache of life in contemporary Cornwall, scratching away the veneer of chic bistros and trendy surf-shacks.

This book is available in bookshops throughout Cornwall. It can also be bought online at <http://onebigecho.wordpress.com/>

The Lanhydrock Atlas: A complete reproduction of the 17th-century Cornish estate maps

By Paul Holden, Peter Herring, Oliver J Padel

Publ: Cornwall Editions

ISBN-13 978-1904880325

One of the greatest treasures of the Lanhydrock estate near Bodmin is the Lanhydrock Atlas. Its 258 detailed maps, painted in water-colour and gold leaf on vellum, document the extensive landholdings of the Robartes family during the 1690s when the family's wealth and possessions were at their most extensive. This book is a complete reproduction of the original atlas.

More details about this book and how to order it can be found at www.cornwalleditions.co.uk.

And for something different ... e-books!

The Federation (of Old Cornwall Societies) has created an e-book library with over 250 titles. The books, on a range of subjects, can be searched for and read online. You will find them at <http://oldcornwall.org/Library.htm>.

A new CD for family historians

The Cornish Association of Victoria has produced a CD which shows photographs of all the headstones in Pendeen Cemetary. Also on the CD are four databases covering Pendeen and St Just Burials.

The disk costs \$30 (Aust).

More information, including where it will be available in Cornwall, can be obtained from Tom Luke at tomluke@westnet.com.au

Some websites to look at:

<http://www.oldcornwall.org/Diaspora.htm> - This web page has been added to the Federation of Old Cornwall Societies' website. Cornish Associations around the world can use it to post up their news and provide information on their events. Associations can also put their newsletters up on this web page.

The following two websites will be of interest to family and local historians with links to Hayle. They include short films and audio clips of recorded stories and memories as well as archive photos from the Hayle Area including the parishes of St. Erth and Gwinear Gwithian.

<http://hayletareshome.blogspot.com/> - Hayle Oral History Project

<http://www.haylearchive.org.uk/> - Hayle Community Archive

New Members

We welcome the following new members who have recently joined the LCA:

Mrs. Jane Martin
Mrs. Sylvia Barnes
Mrs. Rita Ryman

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

Condolences

We extend our condolences to the family and friends of the following members who have recently passed away:

Ken Trenberth joined the LCA close on 50 years ago. He was a member of the Trelawny Club and married the Club's first Secretary, Sue Miners.

Sylvia Augur was a member for almost 60 years. She was Chairman of the LCA in 1968-9.

News from other Cornish Associations

United States

In early June, members of the **California Cornish Cousins** will be attending a gathering in Paso Robles, the site of no less than seventeen mercury mines which once employed Cornish miners. During the weekend, they will go to Cambria, a coastal town with streets called Camborne and Cornwall and they will visit a tea and pasty shop.

To celebrate St Piran's Day, they will enjoy a pub night sing-along with the Grass Valley Male Voice Choir, the annual Pasty Olympics and a pasty lunch. Guest speaker Gary Noy will speak on *Cousin Jacks in the Wild West*.

The winter newsletter of the **Cornish American Heritage Society** reflects on the legacy of the 15th Gathering which took place in Grass Valley in July. The response to the question 'What did the gathering achieve?' is 'it preserved the continuity of these bi-annual events dating back to the 1970s when CAHS began'; it is an 'international' event, attracting people from several countries and as such, 'demonstrated that the bonds of heritage and culture straddle the Pacific'.

Twenty hardy members of the **Cornish Heritage Society East** turned out for their Christmas 'do' in early December. The highlight of the occasion was the unveiling of their new website - <http://www.cornishcrier.com>. By mid meeting, the snow arrived and 'so, hardy or not, we wished each other an early Happy Christmas and left to clear off our windshields.'

Members will meet in March to 'celebrate St Piran's Day in solidarity with our Cornish Cousins everywhere!'

Canada

Members will celebrate Piran's Day with a flag raising ceremony in front of the Toronto City Hall during which, Trelawny will be sung.

Their social event later in March will be a talk on Bal Maidens by members, Glenda Cook and Marilyn Sellendowitsch. In April, the meeting will be a 'Show and Tell'. Members are encouraged to bring something Cornish to talk about.

New TCA crests which can be sewn onto clothing are now available and members are being urged to buy a couple!

Australia

Few of us will forget the terrible pictures we saw on the news in February last year when the bushfires swept through Victoria in Australia. Two of the areas affected, St Just Point and Long Gully in Bendigo, have strong Cornish links, having been settled by Cornish miners in the mid-1800s.

The Cornish Federation of Male Voice Choirs held a charity concert in Newquay in aid of the many Cornish descendents in Australia who suffered loss in those terrible fires. As most of the financial needs of the people have already been met, it has been decided that the funds will go towards erecting a monument in the St Just Point area to mark and celebrate its Cornish heritage.

A short note the bottom of the newsletter of the **Cornish Association of Victoria** caught my eye. It points out that 'The resource centre will not be open on weekdays when the forecast temperature is 38 degrees Celsius or above'. As we sit in a very cold Britain, it is hard to imagine anything like those temperatures! – although, having lived in Australia for many years, I can really understand the thinking about this decision.

Many people will be saddened to hear of the death of the Association's Vice-President, Margaret Owens recently. She was a Foundation Member of the Association and a tireless worker. She was the Convener of the St. Just Group (within the CAV) and the OPC for St. Just and Pendeen. The February issue of the Association's newsletter has an article on Margaret and reveals what a talented and hardworking woman she was. She will certainly be missed.

The CAV recently moved to a new 'home' and were faced with the enormous task of moving the library and all the equipment. It took 4 days and a large band of workers to complete the operation.

At their November Family History Day, 10 members of the Association gave short presentations and revealed some of the challenges they faced when doing their family history.

In January, BBC Radio Cornwall sent their reporter, Denis Nightingale to look at Cornish links in Australia. During his visit, the breakfast programme (Cornwall breakfast that is!) was broadcast from Melbourne. The programme, which went out live from the home of Tom and Libby Luke, included several interviews with people who had ties to Cornwall as well as the Mayor of the City of Greater Bendigo.

The **Ballarat Branch** of the CAV enjoyed a coach trip around the Creswick area in November during which they heard about the history of the area and visited a cemetery where the Cornish graves had been marked out with red flags.

At their Christmas meeting, they listened to Cornish carols before enjoying a festive meal. After this, Vice President, Joy Menhennet played the piano for a rousing rendition of Tralawny.

At their Christmas dinner, members of the **Geelong Branch** listened to a talk by Secretary, Shirley Lindsay who spoke about her Cornish family history.

The **Cornish Association of Bendigo & District** now has its own Facebook profile. This provides another way of telling people what the Association is doing, giving updates on projects and showing photos. The profile, which compliments their website will be put to good use during the Cornish Festival which takes place in March. If any other associations would like to link to their Facebook profile, they will find a link on the Bendigo & District CA website.

Members of the **Cornish Association of Queensland** celebrated Christmas with a lunch at the Regatta Hotel. The limelight was stolen by Santa who persuaded many a lady to sit on his knee! Meanwhile, June kept their brains

working between courses. Their next event will be a St Piran's Day lunch in March.

The **Cornish Association of South Australia** had a 'Grandmother's favourites' theme for their February meeting. This provided an opportunity for sharing recipes and memories. The meeting in May is part of History Week. The event, entitled *How the Cornish saved South Australia!* will include a series of brief talks on the contribution the Cornish made to South Australia.

They have already planned their programme for many months ahead. In November, they will have the opportunity to attend 'Opera at the Mines' when they will see an open air production of 'I Pagliacci' at the Moonta Mines Museum.

In January, the **Cornish Association of New South Wales** took part in the Celtic Australia Day event near the Sydney Harbour Bridge. During the day, there was a short display of Celtic wrestling. Cornish wrasslin is one form of Celtic wrestling.

The Association's St Piran's Day Lunch and 35 Year Celebration will take place early in March, just after their AGM. Members are encouraged to wear Cornish colours to this event where they will hear about the Association's achievements over the past 35 years. There will be toasts, music, poetry and member contributions.

The 7th Australian Conference of Celtic Studies will take place in Sydney at the end of September.

New Zealand

There is to be a joint meeting of the **Cornish Interest Group** of the **New Zealand Society of Genealogists** and the Greater London, Midlands and Northern England and Southern England and East Anglia interest groups in April. Visitors will have access to all resources of the Family Research Centre as well as Group resources and there will be help for those needing it.

The **Christchurch Branch** of the **New Zealand Cornish Association** held their Christmas meeting on 5th December. The entertainment began with some singing by the St Albans Choir and was followed by various items including some Cornish ghost stories and some other tales as well as a talk on Cornish wrestling. After a couple more Christmas songs, Santa and Mrs Claus, accompanied by two fairies and an angel arrived with gifts for all. Their next meeting will be a St Piran's lunch on 6th March.

Their first meeting of 2010 was the annual picnic held at the end of January at the Edmonds Gardens. Bad weather the previous week, when the event should have taken place, meant that it had to be postponed. 17 members enjoyed a very warm and sunny afternoon and a chance to catch up on news.

United Kingdom

It was with sadness that we heard of the death, in early December of Kitty French, previous secretary of the **West Somerset Cornish Association**. We send our condolences to the members of the Association. Chairman Peter Triggs writes: *We suffered the sad loss of our Secretary on December 2nd when she lost her battle with cancer. She had been our secretary for some 12 years and a member for 23 years. Many of our Association*

attended her funeral, the group providing a wreath in the shape of a heart in black and gold.

Peter has also sent in the following report on their season's activities:

We have had a good 2009 with varied speakers and, learning from other Associations, we have been out dining during the summer months. We had a Cornish cream tea in the garden of our chairman, enjoyed by some 30+ members.

The Association began the year's social programme with a talk on *Farming Memories* followed a few days later with their After-Christmas Dinner. Forthcoming talks include *Aspects of Dartmoor* and *Passing it on*. Members at the May meeting will hear Cornishman Chris Morrow tell about *Strange things in strange places*.

At the **Tunbridge Wells Cornish Association** food and fellowship continue to play an important part in the social programme! January and February saw them enjoying a carvery lunch and a pub lunch and they will celebrate St Piran's Day with a lunch at the Plough and Horses in Crowborough.

Members of the **Bristol and District Cornish Association** will be hearing Lynne Mayers talk about Balmaidens in March and in April, Peter Triggs (Chairman of the West Somerset Cornish Association) will give an illustrated talk entitled *Scenic South West of England*.

Pub lunches feature quite strongly in the social programme of the **Gloucester and District Cornish Association**. These are interspersed with some interesting talks, one of the forthcoming being *Confessions of a photographer with a one track mind!*

On Valentines Day, the **Bournemouth Cornish Association** once again marked the birthday of Captain Lewis Dymoke Grosvenor Tregonwell who was born in 1758. Captain Tregonwell is reputed to be of Cornish ancestry and is acknowledged as the founder of Bournemouth 200 years ago, in 1810.

The President, Mrs Barbara Hancock (Bodmin), raised the Cornish flag over the Bournemouth International Centre, for the ninth year in succession. This year a second flag was flown over the Royal Exeter Hotel, which stands on the site of and incorporates the first home built in Bournemouth by Tregonwell.

Members of the association then went to Church at St Peter's and after the service another event took place in the churchyard when Mrs Julia Smith, a direct descendant of Tregonwell, laid flowers on his tomb during a short ceremony conducted by Rev. Stuart Miller.

Keeping in touch

We want to make sure that you get your newsletter regularly, so please make sure you let us know if you change your contact details - either your mail address or your email.



Are You Planning to Visit London?

Don't forget to contact the London Cornish Association and let us know when you are coming. If possible, we would love to meet you.

Contact Publicity Officer, Lizzy Broughton
Email: publicity@londoncornish.co.uk

A warm welcome awaits you at the London Cornish Association

St Piran's Celebrations in Liskeard 5. March 2010

On the evening of Friday 5th March, the church tower was floodlit and the bells of St Martins parish church Liskeard rang out, calling all to a St Piran's Day celebration, to commemorate the arrival of Christianity in Cornwall in AD 450 (139 years before St Augustine's arrival at Canterbury). St Piran is the patron saint of tanners.

The St Piran's flag flew high above the town from the church tower throughout the day.

The celebrations at the church were attended by several representatives of the Liskeard Town Council as well as the leading charitable and voluntary organizations of the town. There were also people from neighbouring parishes and Old Cornwall Societies and representatives from Calington, Probus, Saltash and Torpoint.

The celebrations were conducted by the Rev (Canon) Tony Ingleby. They included a concert by the Liskerret Male Voice Choir conducted by Mr Roy Wilton and Mr Frank Beer, the Town Crier reading some of his Cornish poems. Mr Mike Smith from St Cleer read the lesson from Deuteronomy in the Cornish language, thanking God for 'sprinkling rain, sparking streams and copper in those hills'. Church Warden Mr Bryan Martin provided the translation. The Rev Tony spoke of the Saint's of Cornwall who came from outside the county and shared their Christian faith with the people of Cornwall.

The St Cleer Belles, a group of handbell ringers made up largely from pupils of the Darite Primary School, rang a medley of Cornish tunes.

The celebration concluded with a sumptuous buffet in the church rooms. This was prepared by the parish ladies and included a large hevva (heavy) cake with a traditional fishing net pattern on it which was specially made by Barnicutt's bakery in Liskeard.

*Duncan Paul Matthews
Liskeard Old Cornwall Society.*

St Martin's Church, Liskeard where the St Piran's Day celebrations took place.

Harry Patch

By Bert Biscoe

Harry Patch went back,
Back to his battleground,
To Passchendale,
To say a prayer for the Germans.
As he looked
Across flat fields,
His trenches politely filled,
A breeze catching his hair,
His eyes, which have watched
One hundred and nine short years
Pass in seasons, closed
For the moment it takes
To say a prayer for the Germans.
His fading voice - *'Tell the children!
War is the calculated slaughter
Of human beings - for what?'*
Harry Patch's voice
Haunts fields of oil and poppy
It slices with the ease of a bayonet
Through the soft flesh of our resolve.
Come! Say a prayer for the Germans!

Harry Patch served with the Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry. He was the last known British survivor of Passchendale. He died aged 111 years old in 2009.

This poem is taken from 'White Crusted Eyes: Tales of Par, recently published by Bert Biscoe.



Trelawny Lecture 2010: Kingsley Rickard

Vice Chairman of The Trevithick Society

Kingsley Rickard is from a well known family in East Cornwall who were carters and bus operators for three generations. Due to the situation created by a certain Mr. Hitler he was educated at Bideford Grammar School in North Devon becoming interested in industrial archaeology whilst still at school. His first public presentation on the subject was at the age of twenty two. Railways were the initial interest before concentrating on the industrial history of Cornwall specialising in the evolution of steam and in arsenic production. He was one of the original crew of the "Puffing Devil", the Trevithick Society's replica of the world's first successful self propelled vehicle. His professional career was spent with a large firm of chemists originally training in pharmacy and agro-chemicals before moving to internal audit when extensive travelling across Southern England and South Wales provided the opportunity to visit many industrial locations of interest. After taking early retirement in 1995 he was an industrial guide with the National Trust for five years. A Bard of the Cornish Gorseth, he is also Vice-chairman of the Trevithick Society, Chairman of Camborne Trevithick Day, an elected member of the Newcomen Society, and a trustee of both King Edward Mine Museum and Harvey's Foundry Trust,

a past Chairman of Tunbridge Wells Cornish Association and past President of Bristol Cornish Association. He also serves on several other committees in West Cornwall. An additional interest is in the island of Lundy for which he is on the list of speakers. His biggest claim to fame is that during National Service he was invalided out of the Royal Army Medical Corps!

Join us for the prestigious Trelawny Lecture on 2nd June at 3pm. Please let Francis Dunstan know if you are coming. He can be contacted at Tel: 01494 531703 More details can be found on page 2.

Looe RNLI had a busy time in 2009

In 2009, Looe RNLI had another busy season with numerous shouts, there being 17 launches during the summer holidays. This compares with 13 launches for the same period in 2008. Lifeguards also had a busy summer with 136 incidents in the Caradon area.

From: Community News February-March 2010.

Rugby

Weather We Rise Or Whether We Fall !

An appalling winter in terms of the weather has meant a very disjointed few months since I last wrote, and all of our teams have suffered as a result of the uncertainty. The players have been very patient, with training and matches subject to short notice cancellations as first the snow and freezing ground, and then persistent and torrential rain have played havoc with fixture lists. I have also had to be very patient, my computer repeatedly failing me and causing this report to be massively delayed. Fingers crossed the gremlins have been banished – I certainly hope so because I am lost without my computer!

The 1s have fallen away in attempts to join in the end of season promotion hunt, sitting in our seemingly customary 5th position with 20 of the 22 matches played, and with 12 wins out of 20. We have had an appalling run with injuries but if truth be told, our die was cast in the pre season when we lost so many key established players, especially in our back line. It has taken me most of the season to replace the lost players, by which time our forwards have been thinned out by the injuries. The upshot is that we are actually not good enough to go up a level this season, but planning is well advanced for the next with a host of players set to join the fray – more on that in the next edition. It was great to see some of you at our recent home game against Tottonians. We did end up losing the game, an important one at the time, and I must apologise in case any of my language was a little fruity – I do tend to get a little excited!

A hugely sobering event took place in March when Effingham & Leatherhead, one of our opposition clubs, lost one of their 1st team players who died in his sleep two days

after playing a match. At this early stage we do not have an indication as to what caused the death, but it is a tragic event and one that has shaken up everyone in the area. We are the next team to play Effingham and they have requested a minutes silence prior to the match, which I am sure will be poignantly observed by all.

Our other sides have all performed with credit during the season, the 2s 1 win away from a fourth promotion in 5 years, our 3s in the top few of their division and our 4s, the Dukes, surviving in their first season at a higher level. I took the opportunity to use a spare weekend to make a playing comeback after a 5 year absence for the Dukes in their match against league leaders Old Paulines 3rds. Suffice to say, I have plenty of bruises for my experience and an award, albeit a 'Twit of the Match Award' for completely mishitting a penalty! I really enjoyed the runout however, and you may not have seen the last of me playing yet.

I was fortunate enough to be given a ticket to the recent 6 Nations Match between England and France in Paris. I went with 4 of my brothers (one of whom, Perran, was celebrating his 40th Birthday) and my sister, who lives in France, and we all wore Cornish colours. We certainly turned a few heads and it was a very proud day since we sung 'Trelawney' at the top of our voices in the famous Parisian restaurant 'La Coupole'!

A shorter report than normal due to the timescales, but I will be back with an extended version in the summer. Lets hope it gets a bit warmer!

Yours in (Cornish) Rugby,
Dickon.

You can find all the latest news on the club at www.lcrfc.co.uk

Mem Sec's Meanderings...

Hello again and welcome to my "Mem. Sec. Meanderings. I am pleased to report that the Association membership has crept back to 260 and we are able to welcome the following new members:

Mrs. Jane Martin, membership by descent and living in Canterbury, Kent.

Mrs. Sylvia Barnes from Manaccan and now at Ashford Common in Middlesex.

Mrs. Rita Ryman living at Uckfield in East Sussex. Her Family History connections are with Wadebridge, Fowey, Egloshayle, Bodmin and Washaway area and with the names Yellan and Parson. If you think you may have connections to her, let me know and I can pass on your details.

Sadly two members have died since our last Newsletter. Ken Trenberth, who would have reached his 50 years membership in March, was an ex Trelawny Club member and a keen Cornish singer who married Sue (née Miners) the first Trelawny Club Secretary. We offer our sincere condolences to Sue and her family.

The second member to have died towards the end of January was Miss Sylvia Auger who joined the LCA nearly 60 years ago and had returned to live in Cornwall, we send our sympathies to her family.

On a happier note I can report that we have another member (also ex Trelawny Club) who is reaching her 50 years membership: Mrs. Mary Hanage (née Hand), a previous secretary of the Trelawny Club, and who is now living in Cornwall, actually joined on 31st March 1960. My wife reminded me that she had been at school with Mary. There are no more reaching this 50 years benchmark until March next year. I hope I am not making people feel old!

Did you see that 29 Cornish bards attended Kernewek Lowender at Wallaroo in Australia in 2009. That's more than we get to our Annual Dinner in London, I must admit though that the majority of these Bards were resident in Australia.

St. Piran's Day is still not a Public Holiday, but there appears to be quite a bit of campaigning for it! Being retired one doesn't appreciate Bank Holidays as much as when at work: there are no benefits or increased income (pension remains the same). Any thoughts? Would you like St. Piran's Day to be a holiday?

Do you like Marmite in your Pasty? I saw in a newspaper last year that a firm in Cornwall is adding this product to some of the pasties. You may wonder what it is like, well I know someone who has, for years, been adding Marmite to pasties and I must say they are very good. There are, nevertheless, many thoughts as to what makes a good pasty. People have varied ideas of the 'correct' recipe, similarly to size and crimping and how you eat it. If you had savoury at one end and sweet at the other end, which was said to be a complete meal for a miner, would they have then held the crimping to eat it from the side? What are your thoughts on this?

Now the weather - have you enjoyed the weather this winter? Not quite what I would call 'Global Warming'! Seen in 'The Daily Mail' on 13th November 2000: '*Forget global warming, it's getting cooler. Little Ice Age: The Thames often froze over during the 18th and 19th centuries.*' I thought this was slightly contradictory and I personally

prefer the term 'Climate Change' because that is what the world goes through over long periods of time, I mean hundreds and thousands of years – no one that I know remembers the last 'ice age' or when the North or South Pole melted! Our life spans are minute compared to that of the global system. I have read that the 1730s were about the same temperature as the 1990s and could never have been the results of high carbon emissions that are blamed for the changes that we think we see today. Nevertheless we do remember the cold winters and hot summers that we have experienced. Have you considered the periodicity of good and bad summers and winters? In the recent weather reports on the news it has been said that this winter is the worst for 30 years and then they comment on the snow of 60 years ago and have even mentioned 45 years; can you see a common factor in this? The multiples of 15! In fact I think it cycles around 14 to 16 year periods. For instance we had snow in January and/or February of the following years 1929, 1947 (18 years), 1963 (16 years), 1978 (16 years) and now in 2010 (32 years). Are these just coincidences or are we to expect heavy snow somewhere around 2024 and 2026? We shall see.

Here are some more interesting bits from the "Kelly's Directory" of 1897:

The population of Cornwall steadily increased up to the year 1861, when it numbered 369,390, since which it has decreased, chiefly in consequences of emigration, to 330,686 in 1881, of which 155,115 were males and 175,571 females. In 1891 the population was 322,571, viz.: males 149,259 and females 173,312.

There must have been a lot of happy men around in those days as it looks as if they had a fair choice!

'The number of houses were, inhabited 70,558; uninhabited 5,191.'

Surely these were not holiday lets!

Historic snippets from 1897,

'there were 9 Arsenic manufacturers in Cornwall, 32 Boat builders and 45 Basket makers', of these Basket makers 10 were called Moon mainly from the Truro and Falmouth area where were numerous Boat builders, but, strangely enough, only 1 Boat painter, I don't know how many worked for the firm but they must have been busy! Industries have changed over the last 100 years, where do you buy your shoes or boots today? Well, in 1897 there were in excess of 620 Boot and Shoe makers in Cornwall, but only 10 Boot and Shoe repairers, they must have been good quality shoes!

There were about 500 Smiths, Blacksmiths & Farriers in Cornwall and also 21 Steam Ship Companies & Tug Owners, with their offices mostly based around Truro and Falmouth. Rather busier than the Cornwall we know today!

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

We are always looking for Cornish people living away from home, perhaps there is someone near you who could be interested in joining a Cornish Association. Their link could be through birth, marriage or descent. Don't be afraid to approach them and if they show any interest give them my address, or send me their names and addresses and I will happily send them details of the Association together with a Membership Application form. We need to publicise the

London Cornish Association if we are to encourage new members. If they are not personally interested they might possibly give the details to other prospective members.

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

Crowdy Crawn

ShelterBox gears up the aid effort to Haiti

Tens of thousands of people died and even more were left homeless in the recent earthquake in Haiti. ShelterBox, an international disaster relief charity which started in Helston, was soon on the scene with help. Almost immediately, 700 boxes were sent to the Island to help with relief operations and more have been packed and despatched since then.

ShelterBox, which was started in 2000, specialises in emergency shelter provision. Each box contains a tent for up to 10 people, a stove, blankets and other items essential for survival. The boxes are numbered and can be tracked by donors.

If you would like to find out more about ShelterBox or make a donation visit their website <http://www.shelterbox.org/> or contact them at ShelterBox, Unit 1A Water-Ma-Trout, Helston, Cornwall TR13 0LW, Tel: +44(0)1326 569782

You're never too young to start learning Cornish

The first Slol dy'Sadorn Kernewek (Cornish Saturday School) has opened at Cornwall College in Camborne with a group of eight young children under the age of four. The aim of the school is to help these children to become bilingual.

Penhaligon's Friends get lottery funding to support bereaved children

Pehhaligon's Friends which is based in Redruth, has been given Big Lottery funding to support and develop their family bereavement service. Some of the funding will be used to roll out their 'Break it Down' programme for teenagers to other areas of Cornwall.

Penjhaligon's Friends Chairman, Brenda Bailey will be guest speaker at the LCA Annual Dinner on 13th March.

Chris (Bomber) Harris leads the pack

It is always nice to hear news of successful Cornishmen and so it is pleasing to know that Bomber Harris has now been appointed captain of both the Coventry Bees and the Great Britain team. In between his commitments with these two teams, he rides for teams in Sweden and Poland and has competed in 12 Grand Prix with the world's top 16 riders.

Britain's Oldest Twins Live in Cornwall

Britains oldest twins, Betty Richards and Jenny Pelmore, celebrated their 102nd birthday on New Year's Day. Although they were born in Manchester, their grandfather was a tin miner from Cornwall and they both now live in the county.

When Betty and Jenny were born in 1908, Edward VII was on the throne and Henry Ford was producing his

first Model T car - and the doctor who delivered the twins arrived on horseback!

Some Forthcoming Events Which May Be Of Interest..

West Cornwall Perspectives – an exhibition of work by Cornish artists

An exhibition of recent work by some of West Cornwall's best known contemporary artists will take place in London in May. These paintings will encompass a broad spectrum of styles, from semi-abstract interpretations of the Penwith landscape to still-life works exploring structure and form.

Dates and times: 3rd – 9th May 2010, 9.30am – 6.30pm

Venue: 54 The Gallery, Shepherd Market, Mayfair W1J 7QX

More information on this exhibition, as well as biographies of the artists, can be found at <http://www.elevenandahalf.com/>

St Cleer Well Dressing

The ancient ceremony of Well Dressing at St Cleer Holy Well will take place at the end of May. Children from the St Cleer and Darite Primary Schools will be involved in the activities and the ceremony will be conducted by Rev. Keith Lanyon-Jones.

Date and time: Friday 28th May 2010, 11am

For more information, contact Duncan Paul Matthews (Tel: 01579 343046; Email: duncanandjennifer@amserve.net)

Trelawny Day – Pelynt

Every year on the 30th June, a celebration of the life of Bishop Jonathan Trelawny is held in Pelynt. These celebrations include a service in St Nun's Church, afternoon tea and a performance by the Pelynt Male Choir.

More information on this year's celebrations can be obtained from Duncan Paul Matthews (Tel: 01579 343046; Email: duncanandjennifer@amserve.net)

Songs of Praise – Cornish Style

In August, there will be a *Songs of Praise - Cornish style* at St Cleer Parish Church. Each of the hymns will be sung to a tune which has Cornish connections. These include 'Bodmin', 'Marizion' and 'Morwenstow'

Date and time: 22nd August 2010, 3.30pm

The deadline for the next issue of the LCA Newsletter is

5th May 2010

Please send all contributions to:

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