



Cowethas Kernewek Loundres

London Cornish Association Newsletter



www.londoncornish.co.uk

Summer 2009

Cornwall at its best...

For me, summer is the time when Cornwall is at its best. My earliest memories of the county go back to a summer some time ago, when I first visited Cornwall – as a 21 year old who had just graduated from university in Australia. And what a visit it was. For two weeks I travelled by car, exploring many parts of the UK, and camping in the most amazing places. I saw lots of incredible things, but undoubtedly, Cornwall was the highlight. Succumbing to my grandmother's passion for Cornwall, that county was one of the first places I went to – and it made such an impression on me. What particularly struck me were the colours – black rocks, yellow gorse and turquoise seas. I was reminded of this beauty a couple of years ago as I sat high on the cliffs at Zennor, on a bright sunny day. In front of me lay black rocks, yellow gorse and the most beautiful clear turquoise sea.

One of the places I was very keen to visit was Lands End. I had heard so much about it and couldn't wait to see it for myself. It was very different then and I can remember being able to walk along the cliffs and being able to watch the crashing waves and the nesting birds. Magic! How I miss that when I visit these days. It's just not the same with all those buildings.

It is incredible to think that it is already a year since our last AGM. And what a year it has been. We have done so much, making it both an interesting and a fulfilling year. The reports which were presented at this year's AGM are included in the newsletter for the benefit of those who were unable to attend the meeting. The highlights shown in the Chairman's report reflect just how busy we have been – on both the social front,

and in the things we have been doing to promote the London Cornish Association.

Our social programme this year has been very exciting and included, for the first time, a rugby match. (Sadly, this did not bring the LRFC the luck they needed, as you will see from the report). We have also had visits to the British Museum and the Kew Steam Museum as well as a range of talks, dinners, lunches and a picnic. Two of the highlights of our year are the Family History Days which take place in April and October. They always have interesting themes and excellent speakers.

Although we offer a full and varied programme, it is disappointing to see the low attendance at most events. With the costs of hiring halls and equipment increasing all the time, this impacts very negatively on the coffers. We really do need better attendance if we are to cover our costs. One reason for the decline in numbers is the fact that our membership numbers are dropping. Membership fees help to support the many activities of the Association – the social programme, the cost of the newsletter and yellow brochure and the costs of promotional 'roadshows'. The Council is looking for ways of increasing our numbers. If any of our existing members have ideas for improving the situation, we would love to hear from them

Many of you will soon be off on your summer holidays. We wish each of you a safe trip and an enjoyable break. If you are not going away – or if you are still around on 11th July, do join us for our picnic at Battersea Park. You will find the details on page 2. Hope to see you there...

Dates for your diary ...

11th July
Annual picnic

Informal Lunch
22nd June

Family History Day
17th October

And don't forget...

OpenGorsedd
5th September

Cuntelles Kernewek
9th - 11th April 2010

Further details of these events can be found on page 2

Deadline for the Autumn Newsletter is

10th July

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 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.

Annual Picnic in Battersea Park Saturday 11th July - 11.45am

Meet at the Rosery Gate, opposite Battersea Park BR station.

Getting there:

By rail:

Trains from Victoria Station to Battersea Park Station. Turn right into Queenstown Road when you come out of the station, towards a grass covered roundabout. You will see the Rosery Gate on your left.

By bus:

137 - Oxford Circus, Sloane Square, Chelsea Bridge.
156 - Wimbledon, Vauxhall.
452 - Wandsworth Road station to Kensal Rise via Chelsea Bridge.
44 - Victoria Station, Chelsea bridge.
344 Liverpool St Station to Clapham Junction.

For those travelling by car, there is parking within the grounds.

Contact: Tony Wakeham
Tel: 020 77037378

Informal Lunch 22nd June - 12 noon

Methodist Central Hall, Westminster.
(Nearest tube stations - St James' Park on the Circle and District Line or Westminster on the Circle and District and Jubilee Lines)

Open Gorsedd - 5th September Saltash

For more details, visit www.gorsethkernow.org.uk

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

At this biennial event, which will be taking place in 2010, there will be an exciting programme of events 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.

If you want your 4-legged friends to share in the fun with you, they will be most welcome to join you for a small additional charge.

If you would like to attend, Please let your secretary know. Expressions of interest are required by the end of September (no deposits required at this stage).

More details will appear in future newsletters.

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

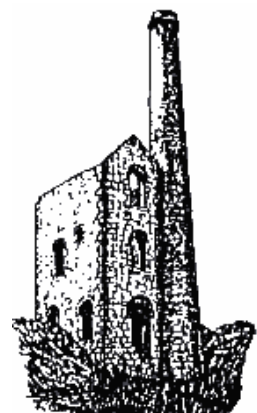
Further details from:

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



News of Past Events

123rd Annual Dinner - 7th March

The London Cornish 123rd Anniversary Dinner was held on March 7th at The Clarendon Hotel, Blackheath. Our previous and advertised venue at Victoria had unexpectedly closed following a sale of the property. So, a hurried check of 20+ possible venues in central London brought the realisation that our criteria couldn't be met or they were too expensive. The Clarendon rose to position of warranting a further check. It not only answered our needs but it also was on Cornish turf. Blackheath is the site of the battle between the Cornish and the King's men in the 1400s after the Cornish marched to London. Many Cornishmen are buried under the heath we see today, and a plaque commemorating this fact is on the wall of Greenwich Gardens, opposite the heath. Many of our members were present when Cornish folk walked to Blackheath from Cornwall in 1997, and when Lord St Levan unveiled a further plaque to commemorate the great loss of Cornish lives.

It was a beautiful spring day, made more beautiful by the boxes of flowers which arrived from Tregothnan, Caerhays Castle and Fentongollan. These were to decorate the tables for the dinner. We were short of volunteers to arrange the flowers but Mary Watters, Chairman of Torbay C.A. rode in on her white charger and joined our Chairman and his wife Sue and my husband John. It was a beautiful display of spring loveliness which was much appreciated firstly by the hotel staff and then of course our diners that evening.

Our guests arrived at the hotel and made themselves comfortable in their rooms where they could look out on sunshine and much activity on the heath. Blackheath is an interesting village of small shops and cafes with outside seating, a wonderful boulangerie and a fascinating second hand bookshop. Of course several took time to visit the Cornish plaques, Greenwich Gardens, the Observatory and other historic areas around. Several streets have Cornish names. Our Chairman Dick Richards went off to see Mounts Bay RFC play Blackheath RFC nearby.

Early evening saw folk gradually gathering in the bar of the hotel greeting familiar faces and welcoming those who had travelled from Cornwall or closer, as guests.

Our President Sir David Brewer with his wife Lady Brewer presided over an interesting evening of speeches and good food. LCA member and Deputy Mayor of Liskeard Chris Ferguson was there in full Cornish tartan dress, looking resplendent. The Mayor of Restormel, Mrs Jackie Bull and her husband Mr Bob Bull, along with our Principal Guest, the Deputy Mayor of Bodmin Mrs Maggie Denholm and her husband Lt.Cdr Ian Denholm also attended. Our Vice President Barbara Hosking was there with her friends, Baroness Wilcox and Mr Chris Treneman. We were also delighted to meet our Chairman's family Beth and Damian, Tom and Emily, and Pat Yates' daughters Emma-Kate and Claire. Principal Speaker Mr Dan Worth had two friends to accompany him, which meant that we had many young people attending which was very refreshing. His talk on *'Young, Cornish and resident in London'* revealed to us the numbers of young Cornish there are in our Capitol city. He told us how they communicate with one another in the 21st century and how they use Face book and E mails to arrange to get together. This reminds us that we must be ever open to modern initiatives if we are to remain fresh and welcoming as a society of London based Cornish men and women.

Having mentioned our guests from Cornwall it should be remembered that this Anniversary Dinner is principally held for members of our Association. It is held as a reminder of how L.C.A. started - with Helston men gathering once a year to break bread together and meet in a convivial manner - to share, whatever their station in life, their Cornish background, to recount tales of home and to support one another. If you haven't been to an Anniversary Dinner yet, why not come along in March next year. It is a lovely hotel, the staff are extremely helpful and it's in a very interesting part of London. Those who stayed overnight had plenty more to talk about over breakfast the next morning before going home or moving on to other pursuits and were able to say how much they had enjoyed being together. A good time was shared by *'One and All'*.

Rhoda Riddette-Wynton
Dinner Convenor



The Chain Gang
LCA Dinner 2009

Raffle thanks...

Another very successful raffle was held at the dinner. We are grateful to the following companies whose generous donations helped to make the raffle the success it was:

The Cornish Store
Cornish World
The Flambards Experience
Heligan Gardens Ltd
Lappa Valley Steam Railway
National Seal Sanctuary
South Crofty
Trevarno Estate
Trewithen Gardens

Thanks also to our members and friends who so generously gave prizes.

Proceeds of the raffle were sent to the Children's Hospice South West's Precious Lives Appeal.



The memorial on Blackheath Common which was erected to Michael Joseph and Thomas Flamank. They were executed for their part in the Cornish rebellion of 1497. The rebellion was over King Henry VII's levying of a tax to fund a war against Scotland.

Rugby Outing - 28th March

London Cornish Association visits London Cornish Rugby F C - 'Cornish'

LCA had organised a visit to watch our rugby-playing associates back in January. The opponents were to have been London South Africa – a fixture that would have left Liz, our Editor, with the real dilemma on which side to support – perhaps both! As it turned out the weather took the decision for Liz – a frozen ground meant the game was called off.

We rescheduled our visit for later in the season and targeted the home game against KCS Old Boys on 28th March. The weather was much milder and 5 of us, Tony Wakeham, Pat Yates, two of Pat's daughters and myself, arrived at The Telegraph Inn on Putney Heath before kickoff. The telegraph is the adopted clubhouse of LCRFC.

On this particular day the clubhouse was hosting the first visit of 'Cornwall in Your Kitchen' who were there to launch their London food delivery service. For the 5 LCA visitors this meant pasties for lunch!

We left The Telegraph well fed and drove the short distance to the Richard Evans Memorial Ground on Kingston Vale; the home ground for LCRFC. This was to be an important game for both sides; London Cornish lying third

in the league with an outside chance of promotion and KCS Old Boys in next to bottom position needing points to avoid relegation. I'll leave any match report to Dickon Moon but suffice it to say the presence of LCA supporters did not have the desired effect – 'Cornish' were well beaten 21 to 30.

We made it back to The Telegraph just as the heavens opened and consoled ourselves with Cornish Cream Teas.

We had time to talk to Dickon and other members of LCRC before leaving, laden with saffron buns, jams and all manner of Cornish produce – as you can see there were consolations!

Dick Richards

This outing was greatly enjoyed by those who attended. We hope to include outings to other matches in our social programme for the coming year.

London Cornish Family History Day - 18th April

Our two speakers for the day provided much food for thought, even for those who knew our forefathers had not taken the brave step to transport themselves to North America, or have that decision taken for them to go to Australia.

In addition, the chance to meet other Cornish folk interested in Family History is a big bonus: I met somebody (very) distantly related by marriage but who told me of two great sources of information. Result: about thirty-five new people added to our already extensive family tree!

Lizzy Broughton

Visit to Winchester, 23rd May 2009

The sun shone for the London Cornish 'Away Day' in Winchester on May 23rd, splendidly organised by Rhoda Riddette-Wynton. 17 members gathered for a tour of the Cathedral – a snapshot of the history of the building, an hour being not long enough to cover a thousand and more years of history. We did, though, travel in time from Canute to Jane Austen, via St Swithun (watch for the weather on July 15th) and William Walker who, in Victoria's time, saved the west end of the Cathedral by diving into the mud to shore up the foundations.



Members of LCA at Winchester Cathedral

After a good lunch, courtesy of the Cathedral Refectory (to be recommended!) we were welcomed to Wolvesey Palace, home of Bishop Michael and Mrs Scott-Joynt, and formerly home to Bishop Jonathan Trelawny, immortalised in *'The Song of the Western Men'*. Trelawny, Bishop of Winchester at the time of his imprisonment in the Tower of London, completed the building during his bishopric, and his arms are above the door that leads to the beautiful gardens. His portrait hangs amongst his many predecessors and successors in a house that stands as a memorial to one of Cornwall's greater sons.

We had a guided tour of the palace, were met in his study by the Bishop and shown the private chapel by his wife, and then enjoyed some time in the city before making our way home. Thanks are due to Rhoda for a Grand Day Out!

Lizzy Broughton

And a comment from new member, Ellan Derow in an email to Lorna: *The visit to Winchester was magic! Three cheers and five stars to Rhoda. The day made me feel so proud to be connected by descent with Cornwall.*



Wolvesey Palace, once home to Bishop Jonathan Trelawny

Annual General Meeting 10th June 2009

Officers of the London Cornish Association 2008-9

<i>President</i>	Alderman Sir David Brewer
<i>Chairman</i>	Mrs Elizabeth Broekmann
<i>Past Chairman</i>	Mr JB (Dick) Richards
<i>Vice-Chairman</i>	Mrs Lizzy Broughton
<i>General Secretary</i>	Dr Francis Dunstan
<i>Treasurer</i>	Ms Jackie Trembath
<i>Membership Secretary</i>	Mr Graham Pearce
<i>Publicity</i>	Mrs Lizzy Broughton

Members of Council

Mrs Catherine Foster	Mr Don Foster
Mrs Lorna Leadbetter	Mr Graham Norton
Mrs Rhoda Riddette-Wynton	
Mr Tom Sims	Mrs Kath Slatter
Mr Tony Wakeham	Mrs Patricia Yates

<i>Auditor</i>	To be appointed
<i>Solicitor/Librarian</i>	Ms Claire Bowden-Dan
<i>Hon Chaplain</i>	Rev Dr Malcolm White
<i>Hospital Visitor</i>	Mrs Rosemary Dean
<i>Editor</i>	Mrs Elizabeth Broekmann

Trustees

Lord St Levan	Mr Charles H Williams
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Many of our events have been fully reported in our regular newsletters over the year and by Officers at this AGM. However, to ensure completeness of reporting a chronological summary of the significant events since our 2008 AGM is given as follows:

- Immediately after the AGM Sir David gave an entertaining Trelawny Lecture on the personal joys of his time as Lord Mayor of London.
- Within a few days of the AGM members of Council were at the Royal Cornwall Show where we again met many old friends at our display stand in the Heritage Marquee.
- Our annual picnic in July took place in Hyde Park and attracted about a dozen members.
- At the end of August members of Council entertained Judy Powell and Susan Pellowe, members of USA Cornish associations, who were in transit to the 2008 Dehwelans at Looe. Several LCA members also made the journey to Cornwall for the event.
- At the Cornish Gorseth held in Looe immediately after Dehwelans our Hon Secretary, Francis Dunstan, was richly acknowledged as the 2008 recipient of the Paul Smales Award. The Gorseth also awarded the London Cornish Association Shield to David Holman for his outstanding services to Cornwall and Cornish people.
- Later in September there was a visit with other Cornish associations to the Steam Museum at Kew. Regrettably there was little take-up from other local associations.
- The Family History Day Conference in October was attended by over 30 members and guests and was well received by one and all.

It should be noted that the following reports were prepared in May 2009

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Despite a decline in membership numbers and a worsening financial position, subjects that will be discussed later in this report, the Association maintained a full social and cultural programme during the year.

- Our Annual Service at Central Hall, Westminster, was conducted by our Hon Chaplain, Malcolm White, whose hospitality was greatly appreciated by the congregation.
- In January 26 diners ventured south of the river to our New Years lunch at *'The Fox on the Hill'*. Good food and 'chat' was enjoyed by all.
- On Valentine's Day a dozen or so members were guided by Tony Wakeham to Cornish curiosities in the British Museum.
- Our 123rd Anniversary Dinner was at a new location in Blackheath and was attended by over 50 appreciative diners who heard our Principal Speaker, Dan Worth talk on the subject of being 'young, Cornish and resident in London'.
- A small number of members and guests supported London Cornish Rugby FC at one of their home matches in late March. Unfortunately, we did not bring them winning luck.
- The second of our annual Family History Day Conferences was held in mid-April on the theme of 'Crossing the Seas'. These events continue to be the most popular in our calendar.
- In early May we took our display stand to the Family History Event at the Barbican to publicise our October conference. We had a good reception but wait to see if it results in more attendees in October.
- On 8th May the Chairman and his wife were invited to Helston to participate in the mid-day Furry Dance and were shown great hospitality and kindness by the townsfolk.
- Late in May several members took to road and rail to enjoy a splendid visit in glorious weather at Winchester Cathedral and Wolvesey.
- In early June the Association will again be in attendance at the Royal Cornwall Show and hope to receive many visitors to the LCA stand in the Heritage Marquee.
- In most months of last year we held our informal lunches at Methodist Central Hall, Westminster and on occasions ventured further to the east to Snaresbrook. Although attendance fluctuated good-fellowship was always enjoyed.

The Chairman was delighted to represent LCA at other Cornish Association formal dinners and lunches including Bournemouth, Bristol, Thames Valley, Torbay and West Kent.

At several of our events we continued to raise money for 'The Precious Lives Appeal' - the Cornish children's hospice charity. I'm pleased to report that LCA has now donated a total of £815.

During the year we added to our merchandising range with a stock of specially designed LCA mugs. They have proved popular and a stock of around 60 remains to be sold at future events. We thank Don Foster for all his efforts in making them available to members.

Taken in isolation 2008 – 09 can be seen as a very busy and successful year with a full social and cultural programme. However, there continues to be an underlying concern both on the level of membership numbers and a worsening financial position.

Since 2005 membership numbers had stabilized around 280. However, at the beginning of this financial year 15 members did not renew their subscriptions and our normal recruitment did not compensate for their loss. Consequently, membership current stands at 269, but worryingly this includes 30 members yet to renew their subscriptions for the 2009 -10 financial year. Although as last year we will continue to encourage these members to renew it may well be that full membership dips below 250. We have attempted to find out if the Association could influence the loss of these members, but it would appear that based on limited feedback the reasons are personal in nature. It may well be that we are seeing the effects of the general recession in the economy.

The loss of membership subscriptions has a major impact on our financial income and when combined with increasing hire charges for facilities and equipment resulted in an overall loss as reported in the accounts.

I am sure that the conundrum of falling membership numbers and increasing costs will exercise the minds of the new Council in the months to come.

Finally, it is essential that I pay tribute to all the Officers and the Council members of the Association who have played such an important role in ensuring that the previous year has had such an active programme of events available to all members. Thank you on behalf of the membership of LCA.

Dick Richards
Chairman

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

New (11) and rejoining members. (2)
Loss of members through death (5), resignations (3), default on subscriptions (13).
The decline in Membership is noted elsewhere in these reports.
Francis Dunstan (pp Graham Pearce, Membership Secretary)

HON GEN SEC's REPORT

Administration
Overall, this year 2008-09 has proved to be an interesting year for me as Hon Gen Sec
Our new Council members have brought fresh insight into our meetings. However we still need 2 Officers: a Social Sec, and a Publicity Sec, (and in addition the Vice-Chairmanship becomes vacant). There are 8 member vacancies on Council (out of 12 available). I am grateful for all the support Officers and members of Council have given me and the Association again this year.

In attendance terms there is a loyal core of members who give their constant support
I am very grateful to those who are kind enough to phone or email me to say they will attend (or cannot attend) each particular function. The lack of an 'official' Social Secretary means that social matters have had to be taken at full Council level although Tony Wakeham has looked after many of our Social events, for which we thank him. My responsibilities have included the Trelawny Lecture, AGM, Annual Service, and the Monthly Lunches.

Once again much of my responsibility as Family History Group Convenor has been taken by Dick Richards and

Lorna Leadbetter whom I thank greatly. Its very successful activities are covered separately.

Kernow bys Vycken!

*Francis E Dunstan,
Hon Gen Sec LCA*

PUBLICITY REPORT

At the 2008 AGM, the Association was again unable to find a volunteer to take the position of Publicity Officer and so the Chairman has covered the duties on an ad-hoc basis.

Our internal communication and publicity has relied on the well established 'Yellow Brochure', Newsletters and Website; and as last year were all magnificently managed by Liz Broekmann. Where necessary, for specific events we have used e-mails, postal fliers or direct telephone contact.

Our display stand has again proved most useful when attending external events both in Cornwall and London and was a very valuable asset at the Royal Cornwall Show in June, the Cornish Gorseth at Looe in September, our Anniversary Dinner at Blackheath in March and the Family History Event at the Barbican in early May. The Association is most grateful to all members of Council who gave their time and helped to staff the stand at these events.

We gained valuable publicity through an in-depth article on LCA in the March edition of Cornwall Today written by Dan Worth, a freelance Cornish journalist. Subsequently, Dan honoured us by being our Principal Speaker at this year's Anniversary Dinner.

Our friends in the Cornish media again gave us coverage for some of our activities including interviews with Radio Cornwall at the Royal Cornwall Show and ITV West News at Flora Day.

As last year we continue to ask that someone comes forward to take full responsibility for our publicity; particularly as we need to maintain our membership numbers and to ensure all members are aware of all the Associations activities.

*Dick Richards
Chairman*

[Good news! Since this report was written, Lizzy Broughton, our new Vice Chairman, has agreed to take on the role of Publicity Officer. We thank her for this. Ed]

PUBLICATIONS REPORT

Newsletters

The four newsletters which are published each year report on the various interests and activities of the LCA. Although they are aimed primarily at members, we do give out old copies at the various 'road shows' we attend as a way of promoting the Association.

About 330 newsletters are sent out each quarter to members, local and overseas associations, the Cornish media and Cornish MPs as well as organisations such as the Cornish Gorsedd and the legal deposit libraries. The majority of these are still being sent out by mail.

The newsletter is available in either a printed or 'cyber' version. Copies of the e-newsletter are kept on the LCA website for several years. We have had feedback which

shows that these are looked at by non-members as well as members.

This past year, we have tried to include more photographs in order to make the newsletter more interesting. This has provided some technical challenges, but, with a little innovative thinking and the help of IT friends, we have managed to find some solutions for dealing with the large files.

I would like to end by thanking everyone who has either sent items to include, or provided 'leads'. This has made my task so much easier. If you are able to help in any way, please contact me via the address on the back page of the newsletter or through the website - www.londoncornish.co.uk

Yellow brochure

The LCA Yellow Brochure is published at the beginning of September each year and is sent out to all members and to Cornish associations around the world.

Getting the brochure together is a big task which could only be completed with a large amount of help from members of Council. Special thanks go to those who provide the information and to that stalwart band of proof readers who help find typos and inconsistencies! Thanks also to our advertisers for their support.

Website

The website continues to provide information on the Association and its activities. One of its key aims is to promote the LCA. From the number of contact emails I have received over the past year, it seems as though more non-members are accessing it. Through the website we have had several requests for weblinks, been asked for information about a host of Cornish-type information and even had one or two enquiries about membership. This is encouraging and we hope the number of those using the website to link to us will continue to grow.

*Liz Broekmann
Editor/Webmaster*

FAMILY HISTORY GROUP REPORT

The main activity of the Family History Group Committee this year has centred on the organisation of two full-day events, one last October and the second in April this year. We had two guest speakers at each event, and in addition at the last session we invited contributions from members, which proved popular, as does the provision of a pasty lunch and cream tea. Despite the apparent success of each event, unfortunately we do not manage to break even as our expenditure on the hire of the hall and equipment, speakers' fees and refreshments exceeds our takings, even after an increase of £2 per person in the entry charge. If it were not for the attendance of members of neighbouring CAs and Cornwall Family History Society, our loss would be even greater. Obviously Council cannot be expected to subsidise these events in the long term, so unless there is a substantial increase in attendance we will need to consider a further increase in the entry fee or even discontinuing Family History Days, a decision which we hope not to have to make.

In an attempt to recruit new members, and publicise LCA's existence, we decided to book a table at the Family History Event held at the Barbican Centre on 3rd May. Although the nature of the event required the main focus to be family history related, and our display was revised to this end, we also took the opportunity to talk about LCA's other

activities and, where appropriate, to provide contact addresses for other CAs. A number of members helped out during the course of the day, and several others attended the event as visitors. We were kept busy most of the time and felt that it was worth making the effort to participate, especially as there was no charge for booking just one table! Whether it will result in new members joining, or an increase in people attending our family history events, remains to be seen.

Sales of the Cornish Masters & Mates CD continued with the assistance of Cornwall Family History Society, and we have now achieved the limit of 150 which we are permitted to sell under the present arrangement with The National Archives for the use of photos of their material. We are considering whether to produce a second issue in a different format, and discussions are in progress with CFHS and our other partner, the National Maritime Museum Cornwall. Enquiries for research into the named mariners continue to come in, but at a much slower rate than at the outset. LCA's share of income from the project from March 2008-February 2009 amounted to £159.92.

Finally we would like to thank all those who support us with organising, catering and attending. If you can offer help, or have ideas, please speak to one of us.

Family History Committee: Dick Richards, Francis Dunstan, Lorna Leadbetter

HOSPITAL VISITING REPORT

Rosemary Dean (Convener) reports that no Hospital Visits have been made this year although the Visiting scheme has been publicised at the Royal Cornwall Show, the Family History Event at the Barbican, the Cornwall Family History Annual Conference and elsewhere. Further ideas are being looked at in Council for making the Scheme more widely known in Cornish Hospitals and Doctor's Surgeries.

The Benevolent Fund was discontinued some years ago, but a number of our own members have been visited regularly and now a slot has been introduced at Council meetings – 'News of the Family'. This ensures that our older members who are unable to attend our meetings are kept in mind during the year as well as at Christmas.

*Francis Dunstan
Hon Gen Sec.*



2009 Trelawny Speaker, Rev Bill Ind, with Chairman Liz Broekmann and Vice Chairman, Lizzy Broughton

Kernewek City Lit./City Lit. Cornish Society

Presents the

20th Rosyer Lecture

Saturday 11th July 2009, 2.30pm

Guest Speaker: Claire Mucklow

Who will talk on

The Return of the Cornish Chough

Venue: Room 507, City Lit, Keeley Street,
London WC2B 4BA

(Nearest tube: Holborn on the Central and Piccadilly lines)

Admission free

All welcome

In Days Gone By...

(From 'Allens History of the Borough of Liskeard', 1856)

In the impolite war of American Independence, commenced in 1775, and continued for eight years, France and Spain took a part hostile to Great Britain; and in 1779 a large fleet, consisting of sixty-six French and Spanish ships of the line, with many smaller vessels, entered Plymouth Sound, coming very near to shore, and lying for several days along the coast, to the dismay of many of the inhabitants, who expected an invasion. The ships, presenting a very formidable aspect, were plainly seen from St Cleer Downs, and from the other inland elevations of the district; the discharges of the cannon, when the Ardent was taken by them, being in many parts distinctly heard and producing, as each broadside was fired, shrieks from the women and imprecation's from the men, then at work in the harvest fields. It is said that the Plymouth garrison was very ill prepared to resist an attack, and that the Commander of the Dockyard was about to burn the stores; but the fear of being blocked up in the Sound by the English fleet, though much smaller, prevented the French and Spaniards from assaulting the place, and they retired without attempting to land. Much consternation was also produced in the Western parts of the country by the appearance of this fleet, and a corps of volunteers were raised speedily...

The military were called out, volunteers were enrolled and trained to military exercises, and regular troops were quartered at Liskeard. Drunkenness and licentiousness prevailed, and the flogging in some regiments was terrible.

The peace of this tremendous struggle, which having crippled the resources of the nation, was at length ended in 1814 by Napoleon's overthrow.

Sent in by Duncan P Matthews, Liskeard OCS

Jack Clemo's London

By Michael Spinks

This is the second part of an article on the Cornish poet, Jack Clemo. The first part of the article appeared in the Spring 2009 issue of the newsletter.

Success in 1950 with his poetry and his fiction – prize winner in the national Festival of Britain competition, his first volume of verse accepted, and recipient of an Atlantic Award from the Rockefeller Foundation for his novel *Wilding Graft* – did nothing to alleviate the increasing isolation and the deterioration to both his sight and his hearing. And did nothing to prosper his chances of marriage.

Since his conversion in 1938 ('after a lapse into paganism', as he put it) Jack Clemo had become convinced that his Christian witness could only properly be played out within marriage. Robert and Elizabeth Barratt Browning were his model, but no one was coming, romantically, to rescue him from his shadowed study. Instead, those women with whom he did approach a relationship all seemed to balk, finally, at his handicaps. One friend, the redoubtable Helena Charles, one of the founders of Cornish nationalism, had championed Clemo, and now presented him with the opportunity of a one-to-one meeting with a nationally famous and Archbishop of Canterbury-accredited healer. After a great deal of anguished prayer Jack agreed to let her arrange a meeting.

In October 1951, then, he and his mother travelled by train up to Paddington and took a taxi to St Anne's Soho, a church sitting beside a huge bombed-site waste in Dean Street. Helena Charles had been a part of the intellectual centre that had met there regularly. Now, the thirty-five year old Jack was led around the bomb rubble by his fifty-six year old mother and down into the barely usable crypt to meet a man who might break down the flood-wall of groping silence. Strangely enough, this healer was himself blind. Godfrey Mowatt had lost his sight as a child, but what he brought to the trembling Clemo was an assurance of God's love and power, and the comfort that he himself had found in a loving marriage and a sprightly daughter.

Too much, perhaps, was hanging on this meeting. Mowatt placed his hands on the young poet's head and said a few words of prayer. The young poet strained to catch sight of this tall, soldierly-looking man and the strange surroundings. Jack and his mother stayed the night in St Anne's House. For Jack, his was a nightmare of pictures of saints, of John Donne preaching just down the road and of Robert Browning dashing in to rescue his waiting bride just a mile or so beyond. No one arrived to rescue him.

The vicar drove them back to the station the next morning and Jack Clemo returned to a life of gathering blank silence.

Over the next years a number of visitors made their way to the out-of-the-way cottage. One in particular was to have a momentous impact. Bernard Smith was a teacher from London's eastern edge. Having read an article about Clemo, he was so moved that he took himself off on holiday to Cornwall and, by a process of asking, found his way from St Austell to Goonamarris. The meeting in September 1952 was a stirring event for all three of them. Smith was strengthened in his own resolve to write, and took Clemo as a model. Jack and his mother were blessed

at meeting someone with both an intellect and a faith that they could engage with seriously, and someone who had recognised value in the work that Clemo was moulding out of his empty landscape.

Another, very different, teacher wrote to him in January 1963. This was a young woman then teaching in Devon. She was an art teacher and swept into Jack's life like a warm, welcome storm. *The Map of Clay*, a gathering together of all his previous verse, had been published in 1961, and his personal testimony, *The Invading Gospel*, written in the face of fierce disability – blindness had finally overtaken him in 1955 - but under the impetus of Billy Graham's Haringay Crusades, came out in 1958. The art teacher came to stay for a weekend in February 1963, she and Jack became engaged a month later at Easter; in the summer they learned Braille and touch-typing together. The more time they spent together, though, the more was confirmed both their passion for each other and their differences. She could not live in Cornwall; he could not leave his mother on her own. She wanted to rid him of his evangelical faith; he could not deny God or the vision God had given him. For a second time the engagement was broken off. This time, finally.

The book of poems forged by this three-year romance was published in 1967. *Cactus on Carmel* is shot through with the impact of this whirlwind. She had an understanding of poetry that forced Clemo to the very top of his game. It was with her, too, that the selection for the Penguin Modern Poets series had been made in 1964. Now, he was not sure that she would even read the book, and *Cactus* became another cry for help.

Bernard Smith had, by now, married, and it was through him ('the gentleman from London', as Eveline Clemo called him) and his wife Avril that a young disillusioned girl wrote Jack what she thought was to be a pen-letter from her home in Weymouth. Ruth, with her sister and mother, had come to Dorset as evacuees in 1940, and stayed, becoming a central part of the life of work (Ruth became a packer in the Weymouth laundry) and the life of the local Brethren assembly. What struck Clemo by force when her letter arrived was that its date was the anniversary of the Brownings' wedding. Such 'coincidences' had always fascinated him and, as their correspondence grew and moved towards romance, he found other signals to wonder at. Ruth was a London girl – she never lost the East London tang to her voice – and, as Jack saw it, a refugee, like the Irma in his *Wilding Graft*. Ruth had grown up in the corner terrace house of 20 Edinburgh Road in Plaistow, in a family also hit by personal tragedy and loss but sustained by a strong Christian faith. Her disillusion was in love. Like Jack she had been engaged to be married, but her fiancé broke it off, with no explanation, just a month before the planned wedding. Both Jack and Ruth came to their correspondence broken and hesitant, but the letters between them, from that first unlikely approach of Ruth's in 1967, began to build trust and hope and confidence. Ruth had always found solace in poetry; now she devoured Jack's. By the time they were planning their first

meeting, their letters were laced with the most personal of terms.

That first meeting, though, was an awkward, stumbling affair. The London girl and the Cornish poet met on the road between Goonamarris and Nanpean. At the end of June 1968, Ruth and her sister Bella got off the bus at Drinnick and began walking towards the little hamlet of Goonamarris. They saw in the distance two figures, Jack and his mother. Back at the cottage Ruth found herself quite unable to speak to Jack by writing on his hand. Ruth and her sister went back to their lodgings with Ruth sobbing her heart out.

The following day was totally different. Ruth returned on her own and found that she could communicate easily with Jack. Here was the old fervour back and they sat and giggled and kissed on the sofa. Seeing no reason to drag out the courtship, they married in October of the following year, 1968 (Charles Causley as Best Man), and Ruth moved into the tiny cottage overlooking Goonamarris.

Ruth had to get used not only to being a wife, but the wife of a poet who was becoming more widely recognised, and being often the interpreter for her deaf and blind husband. The number of visitors increased. Writers made their way to the cottage; journalists came to interview him.



Jack and Ruth

In 1975 he was visited by David and Tricia Porter. Their visit was published in *Salt* magazine under the title 'Scarred Yet Singing'. *Salt* was the first publication of what became the London-based Arts Centre Group. Another of those Arts Centre Group founders came to see Jack Clemo in 1977.

Steve Turner, then working for BBC Television, was sent by his boss Norman Stone down to Cornwall to see if he thought that a viable documentary might be made on the life of Jack Clemo. Stone at that time knew nothing of Clemo, but had been told, possibly by David Porter, that there might be a story there. Turner arrived mid-August 1977, interviewed Jack, and reported back that there was a drama, not a documentary, there. Norman Stone, then Head of TV Religious Broadcasting, said that his department didn't do dramas, only documentaries. Steve Turner went back to Cornwall and came back with his opinion unchanged. Norman Stone himself went down and came back with a determination to make a drama.

What was produced was a docu-drama, 'A Different Drummer'. London staff, actors, mechanics and camera crew

descended on the locations in mid-Cornwall to film what they all called one of the most thrilling and fun-filled shoots of their careers. The film went out, appropriately, on Good Friday 1980, to enthusiastic reviews, and gained Clemo a further, wider audience. Just ahead of the public broadcast, though, Jack was invited to a preview in the BAFTA headquarters on Piccadilly on the last day of March, just a week ahead of the national screening. Jack, his wife and her sister all travelled down on the train, together with some of the new friends they had made of local people who had been drafted in to take on roles in the film. Norman Stone met them at Paddington and drove them over in his Land Rover to the Academy building, where Clemo was guest of honour.

One other treat marked a high point in the visit. Norman Stone managed to introduce Jack to the Wimpole Street address where Browning had come to court and capture Elizabeth Barrett. Inside, Clemo touched the furniture, imagining the scenes that had been such a token to him.

A third visit to the capital occurred on 26 July 1980, when Jack and Ruth attended a further showing of the 'Different Drummer' film at the Arts Centre Group. After the film Jack answered questions from the student audience, Ruth acting as his intermediary.

Two other, brief, visits were made to the capital, both relating to weekend stays with Norman Stone and his wife Sally Magnusson. For the first, Norman Stone met them at the station and drove them to the BBC Overseas studios in Aldwych where Jack was interviewed, with Ruth reading out the answers Jack had supplied. Then in September 1984 Jack and Ruth enjoyed another weekend with the Stones in Berkshire. A photo shows the four of them with Rob Duncan, the actor who played Jack in the BBC film, and Nigel Goodwin, the founder-director of the Arts Centre Group standing in front of Windsor Castle. The trip also included (gathering all the ACG people together) tea with Steve Turner's family in Cromwell Road.

A month after, Jack and his wife moved permanently to Ruth's old home in Weymouth. Sally Magnusson's book charting the romance between Clemo and his wife was published in 1986. The end of his life was crowned with a couple of visits to Italy, invited into the villas where his beloved Browning lived and wrote, tracing his footsteps from that Wimpole Street experience. Clemo died in 1994, aged seventy-eight.

There are two lasting memorials to him in London. The Arts Centre Group initiated the annual Jack Clemo Poetry Competition, and Ruth Clemo was in the audience when the first awards were handed out on the evening of 10 November 1995. The location then was in St Peter's, Vere Street, just behind Oxford Street (at the foot of Wimpole Street). By 2000 ACG had moved their offices to The Courtyard at 59a Portabello Road: sadly, the last occasion at which Ruth Clemo was present.

The other permanent record is at the National Portrait Gallery, in Trafalgar Square. In 2001 they purchased a set of photographic portraits of Jack, his mother and his wife which Tricia Porter took when she and her husband visited Goonamarris in 1975.

These capital reminders stress the recognition of Clemo's place in twentieth century writing, and are fitting, and more formal, commemorations, companions to the local Jack Clemo Memorial Room, furnished and opened in June 2001 in the chapel in which he was brought up, christened

and married, at windswept Trethosa, 250 miles from London.

Michael Spinks

Mr Spinks is currently writing a biography of Jack Clemo. He would like to hear from anyone who has any memories of the poet. He can be contacted via the Editor at the addresses on the back page of this newsletter.

Where did you go to school?

Truro High School is looking for past pupils

Truro High School has set up a School Alumni and they are keen to get hold of as many past pupils as possible. If you were a pupil and would like to find out more, visit their website - www.trurohigh.co.uk/alumni or email Katy Young at katy.young@bbc.co.uk

Bodmin School

In the Spring issue of the newsletter, there was a short item on Bodmin County School. In response, member Barbara Hancock sent the following:

The school originally opened in 1895, as a boys' boarding school, under the name of Harleigh School. Girls were first admitted in 1906 when it became Bodmin County School. In 1945, it became the Bodmin County Grammar School.

Tony Buscombe has produced three books about the school:-

1. Harleigh School, Bodmin. An Illustrated History (1895-1973)
2. Bodmin County Grammar School. Admission Registers, Speech Day Programmes and School Photographs, (1945-1973)
3. School-Day reflections. Bodmin (County) Grammar School – and then afterwards.

The following is an extract from Book 3:

It will be noticed in the above photograph, that the late Roger Mitchell, who was then the Mayor of Bodmin, was dressed in the Cornish Tartan. For a brief moment it might seem that I am about to drift away from our School Day reflections. But I want to concentrate on our character building and self identification, which was developed during our days at School.

I now introduce the Bournemouth Cornish Association, which was formed as far back as 1921. A few Old Harleighans have moved to the Bournemouth area, and through their Cornish roots or time spent in Cornwall, felt they wanted to continue this association with other Cornish people. It transpires that the following Old Harleighans are members of the Bournemouth Cornish Association:-

- Aubrey Lane and John Smith from the 1945 entry,
- Pat Rickard (now Arthurs) from the 1947 entry,
- Barbara Owen (now Hancock) from the 1949 entry
- Elizabeth Morcom (now Uff) from the 1951 entry
- Howard (Harry) Olver from the 1930 entry was also a member, but died in 2002.

The School has gained special recognition and a fine reputation in providing this association with a succession of Presidents - Elizabeth Morcom, Aubrey Lane and Barbara Owen have all been recent Presidents. The badge of

office is engraved at the end of each President's term office (2 years), and those three names now appear on it.

One of my lasting memories of the headmistress, Miss Spear, was when I met her in the corridor on my second day. At that time I had long blonde hair (those were the days) which my mother insisted in doing in ringlets. *'That hair must be plaited, we don't want any mermaids in this school* I was told.

As girls we were not allowed to go outside the gates without our hat, which resembled a pudding basin. But, everything considered, I enjoyed my time at the school. Apart from the ex-pupil members of the B C A, I have a very dear friend, also an ex-pupil that I have always kept in touch with. In fact I was her bridesmaid over fifty years ago and she is godmother to our daughter, Carol.

Flora Day

LCA Chairman, Dick Richards, was invited to dance in the midday Furry Dance on Flora Day this year. He writes...

The weather for Flora day was excellent, dry and warm, with a good cooling breeze. I've attached a photo to prove we were at least well dressed even if my dancing was not up to Sue's standard! We also appear very briefly in the video on the following link:

www.falmouthpacket.co.uk/news/videonews/. After the advert we are about 1' 20" into the video, about the 8th couple after the second band, don't blink or you'll miss us.

Dick was interviewed on ITV local news although there was only a sound bite on the broadcast.....but LCA was mentioned!

While in Cornwall, Dick and Sue attended the 150th anniversary celebration of the founding of Penmarth Chapel in Carnmenellis. It's where Dick's great grandfather (Alfred R) preached for about 40 years. His grandfather (Alfred John R) and his father (Vivian John R) were both superintendents there and it was the chapel where he was baptised and worshipped - all in all a very special place for the Richards family.



In their best bib and tucker... Dick and Sue Richards on Flora Day

Family History Group News: Visit to the Barbican Centre

Question: When could the river Tamar be seen in London?

Answer: On 3rd May 2009, at the Family History Event held at the Barbican Centre.

Before you think I've gone completely mad, I'd better explain that LCA participated at this event, and on the neighbouring table we found the Devon Family History Society. What could have been more appropriate and geographically accurate! The space between our two tables quickly became known as the river Tamar!

We've taken our display to a number of locations, including the Royal Cornwall Show, but this is the first time we've attended a family history event in London. Although the main focus of the day was on family history, we took the opportunity to talk about and publicise all LCA's activities. Many people, even those with Cornish backgrounds, were surprised to learn of our existence so we were kept busy handing out leaflets. Let's hope that our efforts will result in some new members. We also promoted neighbouring Cornish Associations and Cornwall Family History Society, who were not present at the event as they had already spent three days at the *Who Do You Think You Are?* exhibition at Olympia earlier this year.

I'd like to thank Dick in particular for re-designing the display, transporting and setting it up, and also for wearing his chain of office throughout the day. Thanks also to Liz, Catherine, Don, Tony and John for spending a few hours behind the table and doing their best to answer all kinds of questions. It was also good to see a number of other LCA members who attended as visitors. In fact, one of our members, who like me has ancestors in both Devon and Cornwall, spent his whole day on the opposite side of the "Barbican Tamar" on the Devon FHS table. We were delighted to receive a very quick visit from David Holman, former Chairman of CFHS and currently Chairman of the Federation of Family History Societies, who has been guest speaker at several of our family history days.

And this would seem to be a good opportunity to mention our next family history day. It is on Saturday, 17th October 2009, at the usual venue, Bloomsbury Central Baptist Church. Further details will appear in the next Newsletter and on the website. Please make a note of the date, come on the day and bring your friends. Everyone is welcome, and even if you are not actively engaged in researching your family history, there will be plenty of time to talk about things Cornish and, of course, to partake of a pasty lunch and cream tea.

Lorna Leadbetter



Sir David Willcocks

The Spring issue of the Newsletter mentioned some choir workshops Sir David Willcocks was going to be running in Newquay during May. Sir David (a long-time member of the LCA and a Vice-President) then wrote to tell me how he had got started on his musical career...

I owe a great deal to my very enjoyable start in Newquay. I had two very kind parents and two fine older brothers who are now living in Cambridge aged 96 and 94...both well and happy!

My father was the Bank Manager at Barclays (then at Central Square) and I was born in the Bank. My father sang bass in Newquay Choir as he had a fine bass voice.

At the age of 7, the piano tuner discovered that I had 'perfect pitch' (ie. That I could name the notes of any chord that he played on the piano without my watching him). He excitedly told my mother (who was unmusical) that I ought to receive special tuition, as I was playing the piano well for my age.

My mother wrote to Sir Walford Davies (who was Master of the King's Music) and he kindly met me at the BBC in London where he was delivering a series of lectures. He decided to recommend me to Dr Ernest Bullock (later Sir) who was organist of Westminster Abbey who heard me sing and gave the ear tests. Aged 9, I joined the choir of Westminster Abbey and had 4 years of happiness...That was the beginning of 89 years of 'good luck' which made me many friends!!

I did not wish to write my own biography, so it came about that I was taking a big workshop in New Hampshire (USA), where one of the very good 'pupils' said that I ought to let him write a book about my life. He is a delightful man, and he is coming to Cornwall with my wife and myself on 4th May to be with me for the workshop...and to see the long walks which I have so enjoyed...eg. Newquay to Trevoze Head, Trebetherick and Wadebridge (where my father's family have farmed Tregorden for hundreds of years, and where my father was born), Newquay down the coast to St Agnes

His biography, 'A life in Music: Conversations with Sir David Willcocks and Friends', published by OUP, costs £20. Sir David is selling copies for £17, £1 of which will be given to the Newquay Choral Society.

Can you identify these Cornish bays?

1. Cirbas
2. Garngres
3. Pawtsod
4. Fatslir
5. Setvis
6. Bedu
7. Purnothroc
8. Veanry

Answers:

1. Carbis
2. Gerrans
3. Padstow
4. Fistral
5. St Ives
6. Bude
7. Porthcurno
8. Veyran

ROYAL CORNWALL SHOW, 2009

Cattle, Cavies, Cage birds, Canines, Culture, Crafts, Cooking, Cacti, Competitions, Carriages, Cycles, Combine harvesters, Clowns, Cousins, Chat, Cider, Cannonballs (human variety!) – there really is something for everyone at Royal Cornwall (no-one locally bothers to add the word Show!). And I've only listed one letter of the alphabet!

There's also Camping and for this our Chairman, Dick Richards, deserves more than one medal. Not only did he design, construct, and transport LCA's professional-looking display but, in order to be on duty at a very early hour each day, he spent three nights in a tent, braving the elements and the late-night carousing going on around him. Less adventurous, I stayed at a B&B in Wadebridge; Catherine and Don Foster stayed with their family in Mevagissey, and Hilary Rundell in her caravan at St Minver. Together we made up the LCA team, and we were pleased to be joined on different days by Mary Watters from Torbay, and Ross and Peter Maynard from Thames Valley.

I think that overall slightly fewer people called at our stand than in previous years. However, those that stopped to speak were highly complimentary about the display and delighted to talk to us. We saw many old friends and made some new ones and useful contacts. We didn't sign up any new members but it is to be hoped that the leaflets we handed out will be passed on and lead to people joining either LCA or one of the other Associations, either in UK or overseas. Some people were surprised to learn of the existence of LCA and, even though having no Cornish connection, commented that we seemed a very worthwhile organisation.

Among our visitors we were delighted to welcome Sir David Brewer, our President, and Lady Tessa, as well as former Chairmen, Pat Snow and Cilla Oates. We had a visit from the President of the Show, Mr Anthony Fortescue, and his wife, and also a Senior Partner of Foot Anstey, the firm of solicitors that sponsors the Countryside Area and the Heritage Pavilion where we have our stand. Princess Alexandra spent some time at the Show on the Friday but, alas, did not get as far as our pavilion. We hope for better luck next year when our Patron, The Prince of Wales, will be the Show President. Make a note of the dates now, 10th-12th June 2010. Even if you don't meet HRH, you will find plenty to surprise, interest and entertain you at Royal Cornwall, and of course there will be no shortage of pasties, saffron cake, ice-cream and other Cornish fare.

Lorna Leadbetter



Cannon balls (human variety!)



New Members

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

Mrs Diana Bartrop
Mr Jon Black
Mr Michael Guest
Ms Eilan Derow
Mrs Barbara Barnes

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

News from other Cornish Associations

United States

The news coming from the US is dominated by the 'Gathering' which will take place in Grass Valley, California from 21-26 July. We wish them well with their final planning and for the event itself.

This is not the only festival coming up in the US. The 17th Annual Cornish Festival, which will be held at Mineral Point in Wisconsin takes place from 25-27 September. Information about this festival can be found at www.cornishfest.org.

In an article entitled 'Why are we Gathering in California?', which appears in the newsletter of the **Cornish American Heritage Society**, Gage McKinney writes '...it's the stories of the Cousin Jacks and Jennies...that make Grass Valley unique in the Sierra Nevada. But how can Grass Valley remain unique unless it celebrates its Cornish heritage?' Grass Valley and Nevada City mining districts were the principle Cornish settlements of the Far West.

Members of the **Cornish Heritage Society East** celebrated St Piran's day in March with a delicious cream tea. For the programme, which focused on Cornwall and the Cornish, members brought mementos of their Cornish heritage to the meeting. Some illustrated family lives after immigration while some were about family in Cornwall.

Members of the **Cornish Society of Greater Milwaukee** met in early May for their membership gathering of the year. Their special guest was Jean-Andrew, a Master Storyteller who has set out to collect stories from Celtic nations.

Canada

In March, the **Toronto Cornish Association** celebrated its 15th anniversary. To mark the occasion, Pauline Duinker read from the minutes of the first TCA meeting which was held at the Royal York Hotel on March 19th 1994. Members then enjoyed a decorated cake and other refreshments, all washed down with a selection of Sleeman's beer.

At forthcoming meetings, members will hear talks on Medieval Cornish Genealogy and Postal History while their annual picnic will take place in August.

During their meetings, members of the TCA share items of interest. Pauline Duinker recently contributed a job advert for an air controller on the Scilly Isles. The advert was published in Braille as well as text, despite the fact that 20/20 vision was required for the job, and so complied with 'equal opportunities' guidelines!

The TCA, which is always on the look-out for presentations for their meetings have come up with a novel idea. They have suggested that every member submit at least one item a year which could be read out at a monthly meeting, even if the member could not attend themselves. The item could be something about personal genealogy or some Cornish-themed research

Australia

The biennial Kernewek Lowender took place in May. One of the founders, Ros Paterson, reports that it was a huge success and was attended by tens of thousands of people.

The **Cornish Association of South Australia** is a sponsor of Kernewek Lowender and this year has, once again, been teaching the Furry Dance. They are also responsible for organising a Cornish Seminar at Kernewek Lowender. In 2009, the theme was *Cornish settlements in Australia*.

It is with great sadness that we have heard that the **Cornish Association of Tasmania** has now ceased to exist. Its members were spread all over the island which often made it difficult for them to attend events and to sustain the Association.

At their May meeting members of the **Cornish Association of Victoria** heard Susan Pellowe from Chicago, talk about *Cornish ministers who came to Michigan*. In the coming months, they will have talks about *Newlyn and the 'Mystery'* and *Settlements in South Australia*.

Their May newsletter carries a detailed account of the arrival of the 'Spirit of Mystery' in Melbourne in March. This event was eagerly awaited...*'Finally around 1.15pm, she glided around the corner into view and after furling her sails and getting everything 'ship shape', slid into her mooring...* She was greeted with cheers and waving Cornish flags by the assembled crowd, many of whom were members of the CAV. The crew were presented with pasties and Aussie beer by Derek Trewarne and June Whiffin. Derek was also involved in the unveiling of a memorial plaque to the original 'Mystery' crew of 1854-5.

At its April meeting, David Spencely, President of the Central Highlands Historical Association spoke to the **Ballarat Branch** of the CAV about that Association's history and archives. Guest speaker at their AGM in June will be Derek Trewarne, President of CAV.

In March, the **Cornish Association of Queensland** held their St Piran's Day lunch in Brisbane. Many of the men wore their newly designed black and gold polo shirts while the women wore their new v-neck black tops with the CAQ logo. In April, they had a BYO picnic while in June, they will be going on a tour of the Queensland Art Gallery.

Six members of the **Southern Sons of Cornwall** travelled to Melbourne to meet the 'Spirit of Mystery'. The Association will host a special reception for the crew when it arrives in Sydney in July.

In April, members held a picnic at Carrington Falls and had an opportunity to visit the Tree Top Walk.

Julie Wheeler of SSOC, has written a history of 19th century Cornish settlement in the Shoalhaven. If you would like to get hold of a copy, contact Julie on jingwheeler@bigpond.com.

After the success of CCC06 and CCC08, the Association is now busy planning for CCC10 which will take place from 5 – 7 November 2010.

At their recent 'pasty afternoon', members of the **Cornish Association of New South Wales** welcomed guest, Su-

san Pellowe, a Cornish Bard from the US. For July, they have planned an outing to the Sydney Boat Show to see the 'Spirit of Mystery'. They will also be attending a 'welcome' BBQ for the crew.

New Zealand

The *Christchurch branch* of the **New Zealand Cornish Association** began its AGM with a lunch to celebrate St Piran's Day in March. The grace before the meal was sung in Cornish. At the AGM, the current officers were all returned for another year.

At their April meeting, the President gave members their first lesson in Kernewek, beginning with the days of the week and the months – they even got homework! After Les Mitchell gave his roundup of Cornish happenings, members watched the DVD entitled *A Year in Cornwall* which features the cultural and folk festivals which take place in spring and summer. Just before tea, Jean and Graham Harry were presented with flowers and a small gift in celebration of their Golden Wedding anniversary.

An article from the Convener of the **Cornish Interest Group of the New Zealand Society of Genealogists** highlights the way people now do their family research. With increased access to computers, more people are able to use online resources. For some time, the group has been discussing the feasibility of creating their own website, but now feel that there are so many devoted to Cornish research, that it would not be justified unless it focused on the Cornish who went to New Zealand.

Along with all the other Branches and Interest Groups, the Cornish Interest Group has been trying to apply to the Charities Commission for registration as a charity. In order to do this, some of their By-Laws will have to change. They hoped to get the changes ratified at their AGM in May.

In June, the CIG newsletter will introduce a new section for members to share information on their Cornish family names and parishes. This will include written items and, where possible, relevant photographs.

United Kingdom

It has been very rewarding to hear from several UK associations recently and to catch up on their news. For some, it has been a very busy time.

Bristol and District Cornish Association held its Biennial Lunch at the Walton Park Hotel, Clevedon, North Somerset in March. The Association welcomed 57 guests and appreciated the support of representatives from 9 other Associations.



LCA Chairman, Dick Richards entertaining guests at the Bristol lunch

Dick Richards, Chairman of the London Cornish Association, accompanied by his wife Sue, was the Guest of Honour and he gave a most entertaining address.

On 21st March, **Bournemouth Cornish Association** and St George's Church Boscombe welcomed the St Piran Singers from Cornwall. The choir were joined by their soloist, Tricia Moore, and their accompanist Elizabeth Sidebotham. At the end of the evening, the Director of the St Piran Singers, Danny Gill, gave Croydon Parsons, President of the Bournemouth Cornish Association, an engraved Cornish granite memento to mark the occasion.



All proceeds from the concert are going to the Children's Hospice South West, Precious Lives Appeal which is the Bournemouth Cornish Association's charity for this year and is also supported by the St Piran Singers.

The Association is sad to announce the death of one of its longest serving members, Gordon Sherry.

Gordon and Mary joined the association in 1961 and have been active members ever since. Gordon was President in 1974 and 1975 and then served as Secretary until 1989. For many years and right up to last year he audited the accounts and acted as Publicity Secretary. He and Mary have also, for several years, hosted a wonderful garden party at their home every summer.

In addition to his work within the Association, Gordon was involved in getting Cuntelles Kernewek off the ground and, after the Penlee lifeboat disaster in 1994, he organized concerts to raise money for the cause. He was awarded the Paul Smales Medal in 2004, in recognition of his services to Cornwall.

West Kent Cornish Association opted for a lunch rather than a dinner this year. This was attended by about 40 members and friends, who were able to enjoy wonderful views over the golf course as they ate their meal and chatted

At their April meeting – which began in true Cornish style with hot pasties - members of the **Thames Valley Cornish Association** heard a fascinating talk by Nick Pollard on the history of Heathrow. The PowerPoint presentation covered the area's development from Saxon settlements to Heathrow as we see it today and included many fascinating photographs.

The TVCA has developed a new-look programme, with outings as well as talks. This is working well with good turnouts and positive feedback. In May, they visited the River and Rowing Museum at Henley.

Gloucester and District Cornish Association held its AGM in May. It was expected that the old Committee would continue for another year.

The Association has announced that it will be replacing its monthly press release with a quarterly newsletter. We look forward to getting copies and keeping up to date on their activities.

Their new programme for the coming year includes speakers, an outing and an Annual Lunch. The usual skittles match against the Bristol Association will take place in Berkeley. Last year, at this event, their President was awarded the wooden spoon whilst Bristol won the match.

Sadly, Gloucester has recently lost two of its members – Joyce Hooper and Douglas Lander. Both are greatly missed.

The newsletter of the **Trevithick Society** reports that author Maurice Dart has donated some of his rare photographs of Cornish china clay railway photographs to the Society. These will be available to researchers in industrial archeology. The newsletter includes a delightful photo of Pentewan Railway Terminus in 1910, complete with horses and wagons!

At the end of January, the Chairman of the Society, Philip Hosken was presented with the Hopley Shield by the South Midlands Branch of the Mining and Minerals Institute. At the same event, he gave a lecture entitled

'*Trevithick – Man and Machines*'. This highlighted the development of steam raising boilers leading to the production of high pressure steam which gave rise to the steam engine as we know it today.

An opportunity to meet visitors from overseas

We have been contacted by Cornish people living in both Australia and the US who will be visiting London during July. We plan to meet them in London for a meal while they are here and would welcome other members of the LCA who would like to join us.

Francis Bawden will be here in early July, and we have set up a possible meeting on the evening of Tuesday 7th July. Francis is a member of both the Cornish American Heritage Society and the California Cornish Cousins.

Lorraine and Graham, from Australia, will be coming over at the end of July and we plan to meet with them on Friday 31st.

If you would be interested in joining us on either of these dates, please contact me at editor@londoncornish.co.uk. I will then ensure you are sent all the details once they are confirmed.

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

Condolences

Lord Eddie George

Eddie George passed away in April, after a long battle with cancer.

He was Governor of the Bank of England from 1993 to 2003 and was appointed Deputy Lieutenant of Cornwall in March 2006. In 2004, he was given a life peerage as Baron George of St Tudy in the County of Cornwall.

We offer our condolences to his wife, Lady Vanessa and their three children

Cyril Hoare

Cyril Hoare, who was Chairman of the LCA in 1980-1982, passed away recently. We offer condolences to his family and friends.

Hugh Miners

Hugh Miners, a past Grand Bard, died in March at the age of 94. He joined the LCA in the mid fifties and was Chairman in 1964 – 5. He was involved in establishing the Trelawny Club, the youth section of the LCA. He was also responsible, with Rupert Coles, for establishing Cuntelles Kernewek. Our condolences go to his family and friends.

Mr Nick Carter - thanks

John and Elwyn Carter would like to thank the members of the London Cornish Association very much for their condolences during their sad loss.

Rugby

Satisfactory Close To Season, Though 1s Fall Short!

Despite the 1st team falling away in the closing weeks of the season to finish in 5th place in London 3 South-West, decent finishes by our other 3 sides have given some gloss to the season. The 2s came 4th in Canterbury Shield Division 4 at the first attempt at that level, a description that can also be applied to the 3s who gained promotion at their first attempt by finishing 2nd in Surrey Combination Division 1, and the 4s who came a close 3rd in Surrey Combination Division 3. The 1s actually gained considerably more points than the 5th place finish in the division the previous season, so we can legitimately say all of our sides have once again finished in their highest ever placings in the league structure!

I was delighted to welcome a number of members of the LCA to our match against Kings College Wimbledon Old Boys RFC (which we lost!) at the same time as we hosted an outfit called 'Cornwall In Your Kitchen', who were selling a host of fine Cornish produce in our clubhouse at The Telegraph Inn near Putney, London. I hope everyone enjoyed the day and that they will return in numbers again next season, as will 'Cornwall In Your Kitchen' for whom the day was a real success. I was also given a present of an LCA cup by the LCA members on the day, for which I am very grateful – its gestures like that that make my job worthwhile.

It is not hard to work out just why our 1s did not close out the season with another promotion – a lack of availability in the closing weeks ensured we had to use 51 different players in the 22 league matches and only 4 players managed to play more than 15 matches. I will be asking the players to commit to a greater number of league matches in 2009/10, but in return I will make the Cup an optional extra and it will drop down our list of priorities. Since we are a totally amateur club, the sacrifices players make will have to be measured against their need to retain their jobs, and it is certain that this season has seen players come under pressure to work later and harder.

Another area of clubs that has come under pressure in the last 12 months has been in finances. No club is immune to the crunch, though Cornish don't rely on payments to retain players – our sponsors account for around ¼ of our income and we have been able to offset any shortfall with additional fund raising events as and when we need to bring in income. There are some industries that seem to have actually prospered in the downturn, and we have been fortunate to have been aligned to a couple in The West Cornwall Pasty Company and True North Human Capital. We have also had to contend with a couple of

smaller sponsors hitting the rails and being unable to fulfil their commitments – it would be unfair to name them because their suffering has already been enough, but we are planning without them now.

One event of ours that has gone from strength to strength in the last 2 seasons has been The London Cornish RFC & West Country Old Boys 7s Tournament. 20 teams lined up for this in May, including one containing no less than Englands World Cup Winning full back Josh Lewsey, who counts himself an honorary Cornishman since he now lives in St Agnes! His presence was a wonderful boost to all involved on the day, including our 4th team whose side had to try and contain him in one of the early rounds. Josh's team, Les Filles Villaines, were beaten in the final by the equally bizarrely named Badly Packed Kebab (don't ask!) The event, which raised over £2k for the club, has become an excellent recruitment tool for me for the season ahead, and I hope to have secured a total of around 20 new players across the club by the time the new season begins in September (more news of these in the next edition.)

At the time of writing, London Cornish are involved in negotiations to play in our most prestigious fixture ever, our Arthur Hunt Memorial Cup match being planned as a pre season double-header at Camborne prior to the Cornish Pirates (formerly Penzance & Newlyn) playing against one of the Welsh regions. The games would be played on Sunday August 16th and would give the club massive exposure at a time when we are keen to exploit our unique position in the rugby playing world. We are always trying to increase our exposure back in God's Country, our last game of the league season finally attracting a reporter from BBC Radio Cornwall albeit after the promotion challenge had faded. The reporter was well received and we hope he will be back in the new season, perhaps to cover the game above in Camborne.

Assuming I get voted back in to the post as Director of Rugby for my 7th season in charge, the next time I write I will outline our goals for the season, our opening league fixtures, and highlight some of the new characters coming into the club in the off season. I hope to have also squeezed in a holiday or two because the seasons seem to be getting longer and the off season shorter, a feeling that tells me I need to have a few weeks without thinking about rugby in between times!

Have a great summer wherever you are and I'll be back drekly.

Kernow Bys Vyken!

Dickon.

You can find all the latest club news on their website - www.lcrfc.co.uk

Some timely advice for those heading off for their summer holidays...

Bathing can be indulged in to the heart's content all round our Coast; with some of the best surf-bathing in the world on the N. Coast. (St Ives, Porthtowan, Perranporth, Newquay, Bude, and in many intermediate coves.)

BUT a general warning is necessary. ASK THE LOCAL PEOPLE as to WHEN and WHEN NOT TO BATHE – they know the conditions better than a stranger: obey *Warning Notices* and NEVER BATHE AT DEAD LOW TIDE!! So – Good bathing to you!

From Cornish Cream by H M Creswell

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

Mem Sec's Meanderings...

Hello again and welcome to my 'Mem. Sec. Meanderings'.

Thank you to all those who have paid their subscriptions for this year. Oh dear, there are still quite a few that are yet to be paid. If for any reason you do not wish to continue your membership would you please let us know why? Are we not offering what you want, or is there another reason that may help us to ensure that we provide what members would like?

Some members on renewal apologise for having forgotten their membership number, may I remind you all that your number is against your name in the Annual Brochure.

We have four new members since the last 'Newsletter'. I am very pleased to welcome Mrs Diana Barltrop, living in London, Mr Jon Black living in Oxford, Mr Michael Guest, now living in Essex, Ms Ellan Derow from Oxfordshire and Mrs Barbara Barnes of Milton Keynes.

Sadly one of our members, Lord Edward George (Steady Eddie), a former Governor of The Bank of England, who joined in March 2005, died in April. Our most sincere condolences go to his wife, Lady Vanessa, and his family.

Also, Hugh Miners, another past member who was also a past Chairman of the LCA, died earlier this year. He was one of the Association's instigators (by seniority, not age!) for the creation of the Trelawny Club which was for members up to 30 years old. [see the article by Hugh Miners in the spring edition of the newsletter which mentions this. Ed. J Hugh's daughter Sue (now married to Ken Tremberth), was the first Secretary. The club unfortunately 'passed its sell by date' and collapsed in 1978 due to the lack of new members in that age group joining and the fact that existing members were passing the 30 year age limit. If we could recruit more younger members, the Trelawny Club might be able to restart and, further, if we dispose of an upper age limit the programme could be adapted to different age groups depending on the interests and activities of members. Groups might be anything from only a few members to large parties depending on members interests and the activities. If you have any thoughts on this contact the Secretary, the Chairman or any member of Council (names in the Brochure) or you can pass your thoughts and comments to me.

There are no more members with 50 years of membership until November. Names will be revealed nearer the time!

A member recently contacted me with a suggestion that it could be useful to include ladies maiden names in the Brochure 'so we know who they were when they were growing up in Cornwall'. This sounded like a good idea, but I don't know the practicality of putting them in the Brochure. However, I could include a list in my 'Meanderings', or perhaps in a separate section. I have 15 maiden names on the list of members. If you do not wish your name to be on a list, please let me know. Alternatively, if you would like your name included please let me know and what it is.

The Association's Annual Dinner is giving some concern as the attendance has been declining over the years. Some members have thought that it may be "too posh". How do you know if you have never been to a Dinner? It is not so, just ask anyone who has attended any of our Dinners. Yes, there is a certain degree of formality – 'black

tie' is optional but not obligatory. Members and friends go to enjoy themselves, meet other Cornish people and members from other Cornish Associations. Please don't get the idea that 'it's not you' – it is not 'classy!' Come along next year and find out for yourself, you'll enjoy it.

If there is another Cornish Association near you, you can of course, also support their Annual Dinner/Lunch; details can be found in the LCA Brochure (Yellow book).

While in Cornwall earlier this year I bought a book of photographs of Hayle over the years. This being my home town, it brought back many memories. One picture was of particular interest as I am fairly sure it was my father standing on the left. There was no date and the description was 'Hayle Town Band assembled in Copperhouse. The occasion that is being celebrated is unclear, but there is an Australian flag on the left.' A number of the children lined up behind the Band are carrying Union Jacks and I suspect it may be just after the war about 1945 or 1946. Can anybody give me any suggestions? The Australian flag may give a clue and I would be interested to discover if it is my father.

Looking through a box of 'bits and pieces', I recently found these details about Hayle Regatta Association:

1919 Total cash assets £55 2s 5d: Balance of further £54 11s 0d on Regatta and £7 5s 0d subscribed in USA (not sure what this really meant)

A lot of money in those days!

May 1921 'The financial position of the Regatta was never better'.

Deposit Account £11 6s 0d & Current Account £11 6s 10d.

Swimming Club formed.

4,700 people came to Hayle by train for the Regatta.

1922 7,000 people came to Hayle by train for Regatta & estimated that 14,000 people visited the town.

The town must have been packed! Would we get that number people today?

I still look through the 'Kelly's Directory' of 1897 and perhaps next time I will relate some entries of interest.

In my last 'Meanderings' I asked 'was life better, or not, 122 years ago?' I know that you cannot remember that far back but we still say 'In my day', I had no response. We are all getting older but are you saying that 'we can't remember'? Now that is age!!

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. Do you know of any Cornish people living near you who might perhaps be interested in joining The London Cornish Association? Their link may be by birth, marriage or descent. If you greet them with a Cornish accent or phrase, it may bring a happy look to their faces. Or, they may just give you a funny look! Don't feel embarrassed. It doesn't matter. You have tried. If they are interested, give them my address, or let me know their names and addresses and I will send them information regarding the Association together with

a Membership Application form. To encourage new members we have to publicise the London Cornish Association. If they do not join, there is the hope, and possibility, that they may pass on the information to other prospective members.

Graham Pearce, 'Pengwyth', 17 Trellyn Close, Barming, MAIDSTONE, Kent, ME16 9EF Telephone (01622) 727167

Celebrate Your Cornish Heritage

Come 'One and All'

To Eaglehawk, Bendigo, Victoria, Australia

To Celebrate our Festival

'Welcome Back Cousin Jack'

In conjunction with the Eaglehawk Dahlia and Arts Festival

18th to 21st March 2010

Organised By

The Cornish Association of Victoria, Australia

assisted by:

The Cornish Association of Bendigo

Contact for further information: Tel: (03) 98772968

or

Email: tomluke@westnet.com.au

Cornwall: Remembering the Countryside

My young mate and I, whilst at school, used to fly our kites (almost to the moon) from Beacon Hill where William Cookworthy found good china clay and stone.

The skylarks would sing and fly overhead and there were thrushes, blackbirds, wrens, sparrows, water hens and crows at the old china clay pits.

And, as we came up through Lower Foxhole, we could see fine displays of russet lupins on the red clay tips, and all around the district there were displays of (fuzzy) furze bushes and broom. Along the railway embankments towards Trevellan Bridge there were very good sights of primroses. We saw ferns and bluebells on the heaths and there were small woodlands which had willow bushes in ample supply and where we got straight, small branches for pea and bean sticks.

We could see the River Fal, flowing by at Riverside Nanpean and St Stephenns, just 2 miles from its starting point at Roche.

These are some of my special memories. Have you got any fond memories of places in Cornwall?

Tony Wakeham.

The Strength of Her Sons

At the Mabe Annual Sports, Horse and Cattle Show, September 1944, Dick Williams who hails from Penryn, gave an astounding exhibition of weightlifting.

First, he lifted a man weighing eleven stone with his right hand and a fifty pound weight in his left hand. He next raised a one hundred pound weight with the little finger of his right hand, and at the same time a seventy pound weight on the little finger of his left hand.

Later, Williams raised with his arms and legs, a piano and two fifteen stone men, the combined weight being nearly fifteen cwt. One who saw it vouches that he kept this weight raised long enough for a young lady to play, 'Deep in the Heart of Texas' on the piano.

Williams next bent a bar of steel in his jaws and completed his performance by accomplishing the amazing feat of tying the bar in knots with his hands.

A large crowd watched Mr Williams perform these feats of strength. It is not to be marvelled at that the Cornish are famous for their strength in wrestling bouts.

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

A step towards global communication...

From: Some Reminiscences (1838 – 1918) by Colonel H W Williams

As I have mentioned the *Great Eastern* steamship, I might say that at this time there was considerable interest taken in the subject of telegraphic communication between Europe and America. In 1857, a Mr Cyrus Field, a prominent American merchant, came to England to explain his scheme, which, however, was very coldly received.

In 1857, the first attempt was made, and I am under the impression the *Great Eastern* was one of the vessels engaged in 1865; but the vessels only got three hundred miles from land when the cable broke.

In the following summer another cable was laid, and was at work two or three days, during which congratulatory messages passed between Queen Victoria and the President of the United States; it then failed through faulty insulation,

In 1865, a further attempt proved unsuccessful.

However, in 1866 the feat was accomplished, and I recollect very well that considerable satisfaction was manifested not only in London but also in the country at such a splendid result.

The submarine cable, which was certainly of marvellous construction, was manufactured by Messrs. Siemens Brothers. They presented me with a sample portion, showing its construction from its smallest details to its final completion. This I still have in my possession.

Publications

We have been notified of the following publications...

From Hedgerow to High Tor: The Wildlife Diary of a Country Artist

By Dick Twinney

Publisher: Alison Hodge

ISBN 978-0-906720-69-1

Through his paintings, Dick Twinney provides a record of some of the flora and fauna common to the west country. The artist's love of the countryside shows through in his work.

The book costs £15 and can be purchased from :
Alison Hodge Publishers, 2 Clarence Place, Penzance
Cornwall TR18 2QA

The Theatre of Cornwall: Space, Place, Performance

By Alan M Kent

Publisher: Redcliffe Press

ISBN: 978-1904537991

This book, due for release in July 2009, covers the history of theatre and drama in and about Cornwall from antiquity to the present day.

The book costs £20 (+£2 P&P) and can be ordered from Redcliffe Press, 81g Pembroke Road, Bristol BS8 3EA

And a couple of websites...

Images of Cornwall

<http://www.geograph.org.uk/explore/places/1/Cornwall/>

The site contains many images of towns in Cornwall. Some are well represented (there are 97 images for Lostwithiel) but, disappointingly, some towns are not represented at all – my area of interest, St Just in Penwith for instance. Hopefully this situation will be rectified as the site develops in the future.

New Celtic website due to be launched in June

A new website, *The CelticLink.com*, aims to be the most comprehensive online source of Celtic bands, music, festivals, societies, associations etc. The website, which is completely free to use, also hopes to connect Celts all over the world through Social Networking and a Discussion Forum.

The site is due to be launched in June 2009 - www.thecelticlink.com .

Crowdy Crawn

Language and linguistics centre launches with public lecture

The Centre for Language and Linguistic Studies, based in the School of European Culture and Languages at the University of Kent was launched with a public lecture, entitled *Genocide and ethnocide: the suppression of the*

Cornish language, given by Dr Jon Mills from the University's English Language Unit.

Bomber Harris claims British Title

Cornishman Chris 'Bomber' Harris won the British speedway championship for the second time in three years in May. Born in Truro, Harris rides with the Coventry Bees.

Wesley Day 24th May

On Wesley Day, which celebrates Wesley's conversion on 24th May 1738, Methodists from all over Cornwall congregated at Isebell Diggory's Cottage in Trewint, near Alternun.

Seventy five people attended an open air service in the garden in front of the cottage which is now a museum and which was given to Wesley and his followers to use when they were in Cornwall. The service was led by the Chairman of the District, Rev. Steen Wild and the message was delivered by the local minister, Rev Elizabeth Rundell. This was followed by a tea at Alternun.

Duncan Paul Matthews

St Cleer Well Dressing

On 3rd July, the children of St Cleer Primary School will decorate the town's ancient holy well with flowers, as part of a well dressing ceremony.

The well was first adopted about a thousand years ago when early missionaries baptised converts in its water.

The waters from the well are supposed to have curative properties, even reputedly curing people epilepsy and madness.

Duncan Paul Matthews

SheviocK celebrates 750

The Parish of SheviocK is celebrating its 750th anniversary this year and there are many events taking place to mark the occasion. These include a service on June 28th for anyone who was baptised or married in the Parish Church during the last 80 years. For more details, contact Rev. Brian Anderson on sheviocK@tiscali.co.uk

The deadline for the next issue of the LCA Newsletter is

10th July

Please send all contributions to:

Liz Broekmann

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Or email to editor@londoncornish.co.uk