



# Cowethas Kernewek Loundres

## London Cornish Association Newsletter



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

Autumn 2011

### A busy time for 'One and All'

So much seems to have happened since the last newsletter, it is hard to believe it has been only three months. Probably the biggest event was the Gorsedd, which took place in Helston recently. We were thrilled that one of our members was initiated as a Bard and one was awarded the London Cornish Association Shield. You will find more details at the bottom of this page. We were also proud to know that two of our other friends, Mary Watters and Tom Knight had their contributions recognised as well.

In July, I had the privilege of attending a service of thanksgiving in Pelynt Church during which the Lord Lieutenant of Cornwall, Mary Holborow received the Trelawny Plate Award. We were so pleased to hear that she had been chosen for this prestigious award as she has done so much for Cornwall in her seventeen years as Lord Lieutenant. In this newsletter you will find a report on the event, as well as the citation which was read at the service.

The rugby report has a new look this time – it includes a couple of photos from the wedding of Dickon Moon, the coach of the London Cornish Rugby Team. Those of us who have seen him on the sidelines at the rugby pitch will hardly recognise him all 'tarted up'! It sounds as though it was a great day for him and Davina and we wish them all the best for the future.

There is so much which is positive, but inevitably, there are sad moments. One of these takes place in the next couple of months when many of us gather to say farewell to Cuntelles Kernewek. So many people have attended these Cornish gatherings since they started many years ago

and we can be sure they will be sharing fond memories when we gather for a special 'farewell' meal at the beginning of December. One person who will be sorely missed at that event is Pat Snow who attended every CK since its inception.

This year has been the Passmore Edwards Centenary. Dean Evans has been the major force behind this and has worked hard to publicise the contribution of this extraordinary man. We congratulate him on what he has achieved. He gave an most interesting talk at our Family History Day in April and so, it seemed appropriate as the year draws to a close, to get Dean to write a short article on Passmore Edwards for this newsletter.

The Social Committee has worked hard in the past few months to put together a most exciting programme for the coming year. You will see the details in the yellow brochure and more information on each event will appear in the newsletters and the on the website. We hope to see many of you at these events.

We have been having problems with some members' email addresses and emails have been bouncing back. We are keen to update the addresses we have - not to bombard you with emails, but to remind you of special events or notify you of any changes to plans. To ensure there are no mistakes in the transcription, I would appreciate it if you could email me at [editor@londoncornish.co.uk](mailto:editor@londoncornish.co.uk). Please put 'Email Address' in the subject line and make sure your name is in the body. I will acknowledge your email so you know I got it. Thanking you in anticipation!

*Kernow bys vyken*

### Congratulations to our Gorsedd Winners!

We offer our congratulations to two members of the London Cornish Associations whose support for Cornwall was acknowledged at the Open Gorsedd 2011 in Helston:

The **London Cornish Association Shield** for outstanding services to Cornwall and Cornish people is awarded to:

**Rev. Dr. Malcolm White** – Honorary Chaplain – LCA

**Mr David Holman** was initiated as a Bard in recognition of his services to Cornish Family History.

### Dates for your diary ...

#### 21st September

Visit to Zoological Society of London Library

#### 8th October

Family History Day

#### 24th October

Visit to Duchy Offices in London

#### 9th November

Annual Service

#### 17th December

Christmas Past at the Geffrye Museum

#### Informal Lunches

19th September

24th October

21st November

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

**Deadline for the Winter Newsletter is**

**5th November**

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

# Forthcoming events

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

## Visit to the Zoological Society of London Library

**Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> September - 2.15pm**

The library was founded in 1826 and is one of the major zoological libraries in the world, with a unique collection of journals and books on zoology and animal conservation.

**Meet:** 2.15pm at ZSL's main office building which is situated on the Outer Circle of Regent's Park, approximately 200 yards from the zoo's main gate. It is not necessary to enter London Zoo to get to the Library.

**Cost:** £5 – includes tea/coffee and biscuits.

**Booking essential:** Please contact The Treasurer: 74 Sandmere Road, London SW14 7QH. Tel: 020 77386795

**General enquiries:** Darren Tossell Email: [publicity@londoncornish.co.uk](mailto:publicity@londoncornish.co.uk)

**The first 10 people to book will enjoy complimentary entry to ZSL London Zoo at 11.30am on the same day.**

Members who want to join the group visiting the zoo before the Library event are welcome to do so. Please let us know you will be there when you book so we can make sure you have the meeting details.

## Family History Day

**Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> October - 10am to 4.30pm**

See box below for details.

## Visit to Duchy Offices

**Monday 24<sup>th</sup> October - 2.30pm**

10 Buckingham Gate, London SW1E 6LA  
(*opp. Buckingham Palace.*)

**Meet:** 2.30pm at entrance to the building.

**Cost:** £5 (includes tea and something to eat)

**Booking essential.** Contact the Treasurer:

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

Tel: 020 77386795

*Why not meet for lunch at Methodist Central Hall, Westminster beforehand?*

## Annual Service

**Wednesday 9th November - 5pm**

**(Please note change of time)**

**Preacher:** The Rt Rev Tim Thornton

*The Bishop of Truro*

*The service will be led by LCA Chaplain,*

Rev Dr Malcolm White

**Venue:** The Chapel, Methodist Central Hall,

Westminster. (*Nearest tube station – St James's Park, Circle and District Line*)

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

**Contact:** Francis Dunstan, Tel 01494 531703

## LONDON CORNISH ASSOCIATION

### FAMILY HISTORY DAY

**Saturday, 8<sup>th</sup> October 2011**

#### Speakers:

#### ***Ian Waller – On the Right Track***

In the South West of England there were many railway companies beside GWR providing both passenger and industrial/mineral services. Railways were one of the largest employers and many companies left a legacy in staff records. This talk examines how those records help piece together the career of a railway worker using a variety of records up to nationalisation in 1948.

#### ***Mari Alderman – Dating Victorian Photographs***

Mari has agreed to hold an advice session after her talk but we may have to limit this to one photo per person, depending on the time available.

#### Venue:

Bloomsbury Central Baptist Church  
235 Shaftesbury Avenue  
London WC2H 8EP

*(nearest underground stations Holborn or Tottenham Court Road)*

#### Time:

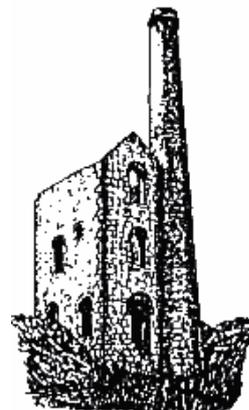
10am to 4.30pm

**Fee:** £15 for members (including LCA-affiliated societies and Cornwall Family History Society)/£20 for non-members.

This includes coffee, pasty/saffron cake lunch and cream tea. Vegetarian pasties can be provided *if ordered in advance*.

#### Contact:

Francis Dunstan (01494 531703/[cornish@francisdunstan.plus.com](mailto:cornish@francisdunstan.plus.com))  
or Lorna Leadbetter (020 8989 7634/[leadbetter@lineone.net](mailto:leadbetter@lineone.net))



## Christmas Past at the Geffrye Museum

**Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> September - 11am**

Kingsland Road, Shoreditch E2 8EA

**Meet:** 11am inside the entrance.

A cafeteria serves lunches and teas.

**Contact:** Liz Broekmann

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

Tel: 01753 856441

*Please let Liz know if you want to have lunch so tables can be booked.*

## Informal Lunches - 12 noon

Methodist Central Hall, Westminster

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

**Contact:** Francis Dunstan Tel: 01494 531703

19th September

24th October

21st November

## For your diary...

## 127<sup>th</sup> Annual Dinner – 10<sup>th</sup> March 2012

### You asked...and we listened

The LCA's Annual Dinner will be held on 10<sup>th</sup> March 2012 at a new venue. In choosing the venue, the Dinner Committee took into consideration what members had asked for - a central London venue with convenient parking and good transport links. The good news is that next year's dinner will be held at The Thistle Hotel, Marble Arch which has an NCP parking garage next door and which is about 200 yards from Marble Arch tube station.

The dinner will start at 7pm as usual, but the Albert Room will be available from 5.30pm so those who wish to share a 'bit 'o chat' over a drink before dinner will be able to do so.

Booking forms will be included in the Winter 2011 newsletter.

## News of Past Events

### Royal Cornwall Show

Sun, wind, heavy showers, a close encounter with a sheep, and very special visitors!

We did enjoy the Royal Cornwall Show this year, despite the variable weather. We were delighted to meet many friends, including Colin Brewer, Cilla and Penny Oates, my cousins from Truro, and especially Mary Watters, who was looking very well.

We enjoyed visiting the various stands, watched ferret racing, horse jumping, poultry, pigs and cattle, steam engines, and the sheep! When we were returning to the LCA stand, we passed the sheep parade, with the sheep bearing the ribbons they'd won. One ram decided to come our way. He actually tried to butt with head down. I quickly jumped aside and he only grazed Don - with his fleece thank goodness, not the horns!

On Thursday afternoon, we were suddenly aware that our marquee had special visitors - Lady Mary Holborow, Lord Lieutenant of Cornwall, and HRH The Duke of Gloucester. They first visited the stand of the National Coastwatch Institution from Stepper Point, Padstow, and then came to us at the LCA stand. Lady Mary introduced us to the Duke. He admired the photos on display, and I was able to show him one of his uncle, Prince Edward, then Duke of Cornwall. He was particularly interested in the 1898 Dinner photo showing the full dining room at the Hotel Cecil on the Embankment, and one of this year's 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dinner.

*Catherine and Don Foster*

## LCA Picnic – Holland Park

The morning started cloudy with light showers. Some members were concerned about the possibility of heavy showers while some had other commitments so there was just a small group at the picnic. Nine members made it to the event and took a table on the patio by the cafe as it was felt that the seats in the garden were too open and would be cold in the wind and wet if the rain did come. Dark clouds did roll by and it tried to shower a couple of times but the sun came out and it was a very good afternoon.

The park was very busy with many young families in the open greens and the sand pit. There was also a cricket match on the cricket pitch. The activity in the park reminded us of the community spirit that we knew in towns and villages in Cornwall.

We enjoyed a quick look at the gardens, trees and glades as we set off on our journey home.

*Tony Wakeham*

## URGENT CALL FOR HELP

An organisation such as the London Cornish Association can only function effectively if its members help with important background work. The LCA is in a very difficult situation at the moment as there are not enough people to help with these tasks. Particularly urgent is the need for an

### Honorary General Secretary

The main tasks undertaken by the Hon Gen Sec are:

- Preparing the agenda for 5 Council meetings a year (in conjunction with the Chairman).
- Taking minutes at Council meetings and circulating them to Council members.
- Arranging the AGM - booking the venue, preparing the agenda, distributing supporting papers, taking minutes, dealing with nominations for Officers.
- Dealing with LCA correspondence.
- Liaising with other Cornish Associations.

It is essential that the HGS be able to use a computer and have access to email.

If you would like to discuss this further, please contact either:

Hon Gen Sec (*Acting*), Francis Dunstan –

Email: [gensec@londoncornish.co.uk](mailto:gensec@londoncornish.co.uk) Tel: 01494 531703

OR

Chairman (*Acting*), Liz Broekmann – Email:

[editor@londoncornish.co.uk](mailto:editor@londoncornish.co.uk) Tel: 01753 787530

# Passmore Edwards: Funding the Ladder

By Dean Evans

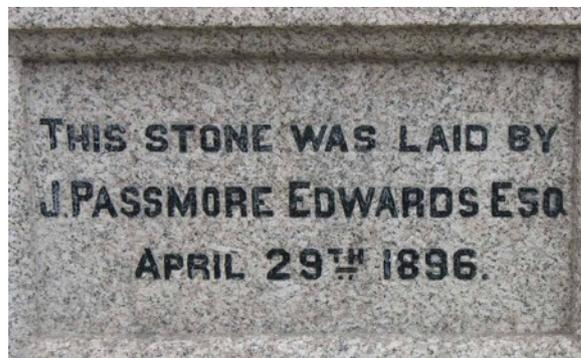
The LCA Newsletter published in Autumn last year included details of the programme of events planned to mark the centenary of the death of John Passmore Edwards, the Cornish Philanthropist who funded the construction of more than seventy public buildings. Public libraries, hospitals, schools, art galleries and homes for the sick and disabled were provided, in Cornwall and across the south and south east of England. His bequests, he said, were a duty and a privilege - a duty as a citizen and a privilege as a man. Today, only a few of the buildings are still used for their original purpose yet many of the issues that he sought to address remains relevant. Education, housing, community cohesion, health care, war; all continue to dominate daily life. During this centennial year the continued provision of these same facilities, and the responsibilities of individuals within today's communities to contribute to them, have been the subject of national debate. Through a programme of more than seventy events, the Passmore Edwards Centennial has both brought what was once a household name to a new generation and celebrated the life of this extraordinary Cornishman.

When he died, one hundred years ago this year, Edwards left a legacy way marked with a chain of public buildings, stretching from St Ives in West Cornwall to Herne Bay, in Kent. Many bore his name and even more were dedicated to those whose lives he admired, and each willingly given to fulfil a determined need. *If I can fund the ladder, he said, the poor will climb.* In less than two decades he disposed of 90% of his personal wealth, to improve the lives of those whom he considered he had a moral duty to help.

Born in Cornwall in 1823, and with only a basic education, Passmore Edwards climbed that ladder himself. Along the way he faced disappointment and failure, but struggled on, eventually to triumph. He lived a long and eventful life; being a journalist and newspaper proprietor, radical politician, anti slavery campaigner and peace activist. Living through a period of huge social and political reform he became involved in many of the major events of the latter half of the nineteenth century.

Though his father was a brewer, Edwards was teetotal for most of his life and campaigned and lectured on Temperance issues. The effect of the Corn Laws on families in Cornwall led him, as a youth, to send for and distribute Anti Corn Law League pamphlets. Attendance at a public

execution, in Bodmin in 1840, led him to campaign against capital punishment and he remained opposed to war all his adult life, publishing pamphlets denouncing the Crimean and the Opium Wars and leading campaigns against the Boer wars.



Foundation stone at St Ives library

Leaving Cornwall, aged 21, he went first to Manchester, as the representative of a radical London Newspaper, meeting the reformers John Bright and Richard Cobden, and Dr James Martineau, before settling in London. Working as a publisher's clerk, evenings and weekends were passed at the Birkbeck Institute, freelance writing, lecturing, or attending meetings of social and political reform groups. All this time he was living in Spartan simplicity and in 1850, with £50 savings he set up as a publisher on his own account. *If he could write for others then he could write for himself.* He published the *Public Good* and when this did not return a profit, the *Temperance Tract Journal*, *The Biographical Magazine*, a poetry magazine and a children's magazine. His opposition to slavery resulted in him publishing an edition of *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, in six weekly parts at one penny, so as to be affordable to the working classes. But the harder he worked the more his debts increased until he found himself physically exhausted, and bankrupt. *It was the darkest of days*, the one consolation being that his creditors, though receiving only 5/- in the £, accepted that his failure was due to unavoidable misfortune.

As soon as he was well enough he started writing again and purchased the *Building News* and *English Mechanic*, two weekly magazines both, then, operating at low profit margins, and through these established the *Strand Newspaper Company*.

In 1866 he paid back his former creditors in full and in acknowledgement was invited to a dinner and presented with an inscribed gold watch. *At last he could look them in the eye.*

In 1876, by then married to Eleanor Humphries and having two children, he bought the London *Echo*, the first halfpenny daily newspaper, which he used to push his fiercely radical Liberal politics. Though contesting Truro as a radical Liberal in the General election of 1868 and representing Salisbury from 1880 to 1885, his Parliamentary life was brief and disappointing and he never made a major speech. And it was on leaving Parliament that the period for which he was to become most well known began.



St Ives Library

During his remaining years he funded seventy one buildings, gardens and drinking fountains, memorial busts, endowments to provide pensions and an Oxford scholarship, whilst 80,000 books were placed on library shelves throughout the country and on merchant ships throughout the world.

The first bequest was in 1890 to Blackwater, the village where he was born. When asked by the Vicar of Mithian for a few books for a reading room he planned to open in the village, Edwards responded with an offer to give 500 books and to build a village institute, if a suitable site could be found. This was followed by a Convalescent Home in Perranporth, in memory of his mother, a gift that was responsible for him being presented with the freedom of the Borough of Truro. The next decade of giving resulted in an exhausting programme of ceremonies to lay foundation stones or open completed buildings - five ceremonies in one week in Cornwall in 1895 and two in one day being a regular occurrence. By 1904 there were four art galleries and museums, five schools and technical colleges, six boys clubs and village institutes, seven homes for orphans, those with epilepsy and disabled children, seventeen hospitals and convalescent homes, and twenty four free libraries.



Truro Library

The value of the public library was uppermost in his mind. He had campaigned to support William Ewart and the first Free Library Act, in 1850, and had often written about the lack of library provision in the UK as compared to Europe and the USA. He offered to build a library in any Cornish town that would adopt the Free Library Act and offered 1,000 books to any public library that was opened in London. When there was concern that the new readers had no guidance as to what they should read, he funded courses on the great novelists of the nineteenth century,

to be run by the London Society for the Extension of University Training.

It was at the ninth annual dinner for Cornishmen in London, in 1895, that Edwards asked Lord Mount Edgecombe to pass on an offer to build a free library in any Cornish town that would adopt the Free Library Act and maintain the library from the rates. Eight libraries were built in Cornwall, all but one being still in use.

Even when he fell ill in 1911 he longed to get better, saying *my work is not yet done*. Though offered a knighthood by both Queen Victoria and King Edward he had declined, preferring to remain as he was born. However, he left a legacy greater than any title would have bestowed, greater even than the buildings that remain. As the *Times* recorded *He did more good in his time than almost any other of his contemporaries*.

Dean Evans - *Funding the Ladder, the Passmore Edwards legacy*. Published by Francis Boutle Ltd.)

## Condolences

Since our last newsletter, several long-standing members have died. We offer our condolence to their families and friends:

**Audrey Vinnecombe** – who died at the end of June

**Gwithian Guy** - who died in early August

### Pat Snow

Sadly, we have just heard that one of the Association's long standing members, Pat Snow, has died. She joined the LCA in 1949 as Miss Patricia Boaden and married her husband, Charles Snow in 1957. He died in 1975.

Pat was an active member, serving on many of the Association's committees and was Chairman in 1963-4. She was made a Bard of the Cornish Gorsedd in 1967 with the name of *Myrgh Essa* (Daughter of Saltash). In 1987, she moved back to Cornwall and became a member of the Homecomers.

In recognition of her contribution over the years, Pat was made an LCA Honorary Vice-President in 1988.

(*Membership Secretary, Graham Pearce*)

### William Lambert Turan

William Turan, who died in March was Australia's longest serving Bard of the Cornish Gorsedd.

For 20 years, he was the Cornish Historian for the Cornish Association of Western Australia and for the past 15 years, was its Patron.

## New Member

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

Mr Michael Tiplady from Wadebridge who lives at Woking in Surrey.

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

The Membership Secretary, 17 Trellyn Close, Barming, Maidstone, ME16 9EF

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

# Trelawny Plate Award 2011

One of the highlights of my 'Cornish year' was receiving an invitation to attend a special service in Pelynt Parish Church on 7<sup>th</sup> July, during which the Trelawny Plate Award was presented to this year's recipient, Lady Mary Holborow, Lord Lieutenant of Cornwall.

The Trelawny Plate has been awarded every two years since 2007, to someone who is considered 'to have contributed most to the spirit of Cornwall'. The previous two recipients were Bishop Bill In d and the founder of ShelterBox, Tom Henderson.

The church was packed for the service of thanksgiving which was led by the Parish Priest, The Reverend Michael Goodland and The Bishop of Truro, Rt Reverend Tim Thornton. The music was provided by the Pelynt Male Voice Choir and the Pelynt School Choir

After a welcome from Reverend Goodland, Sir John Trelawny, the 14<sup>th</sup> Baronet, gave some background to the award. He explained that the pewter plate originally belonged to Bishop Trelawny who, in 1688, was imprisoned in the Tower of London for high treason. He was a man of principle who fought for what he believed was right. When selecting someone for the Award, the panel looks for a person who shows the same spirit. During her long association with the county, Lady Mary has worked hard to support and promote Cornwall, making her a worthy recipient.

Lady Mary was presented with a beautiful handmade replica of Bishop Trelawny's plate from St Justin.

This was a very Cornish event: the lesson was read in Cornish by the Grand Bard of the Cornish Gorsedd, the Pelynt Male Voice Choir entertained us with 'Hail to the Homeland' and the service ended with 'Trelawny's Men' – the Pelynt Male Voice Choir - leading the congregation in the singing of *Trelawny*.

After the service, 'one and all' headed off to the Jubilee Inn, just down the road, for a delicious lunch, washed down with Trelawny's own brew - and a chance to catch up with friends and meet new people in the garden behind the pub.

This was a very special day and I feel privileged to have been a part of it.



Lady Mary with LCA President, Sir David Brewer at the Annual Dinner in March

## Citation for the award of the Trelawny Plate to Lady Mary Holborow

*During the Service, this citation was read by Miss Ella O'Neill, a year 11 student at Richard Lander School. She is the recipient of an award from the Lord Lieutenant's Trust Fund for Youth in Cornwall.*

The person who has been awarded the Trelawny Plate is a renowned tackler who has also shown great skill in running with the ball and just as important knows the best time to pass the ball: never out of the game, involved in all sorts of ways and at different levels.. The contribution to Cornish life has been immense.

It sounds as if we could be talking about Phil Vickery, the Cornishman who has been the captain of the English Rugby team but we are in fact honouring today Lady Mary Holborow DCVO who has been the Lord Lieutenant of Cornwall for the past seventeen years.

In that post she was appointed by the Queen to be her representative. In that role she has been involved in many royal visits over the years. She has taken that part of her role very seriously with an extraordinary mixture of formality and informality all of which was summed up memorably by a five year old girl who after one royal visit was quite certain that Lady Mary was herself the Queen!

She has a gift for putting people of all ages at ease even on solemn occasions. She has a way for making what could have been just a duty something that was both joyful and meaningful.

All of this has meant that in the many and varied public occasions in which she has been involved as Lord Lieutenant she has brought a warmth and personal touch which has been both noted and appreciated throughout Cornwall. She did not have the good fortune to be born in Cornwall but she is now Cornish by adoption and grace and cares about Cornwall and all aspects of our life together passionately.

But just as important as this very public role Lady Mary has been a source of wisdom and advice to countless individuals, groups and organisations. She has a real gift in calling people together and helping things to happen. Just one example of this she played an important part in the birth and the development of the Cornish Community Foundation working often quietly and anonymously in the background.

She has supported all sorts of voluntary groups and organisations and has been to every part of Cornwall. She has worked also with all the varied District authorities which of course are now subsumed within Cornwall Council as a result of Cornwall now being a Unitary Authority and she has been a real source of stability during this period of change.

She has seen her relationship with all the various units of the Armed Services based in Cornwall as being of great significance and, particularly at this time, of real importance. The links are more than just formal.

On a different level she has been an enthusiastic supporter of Cornish Rugby supporting the Cornish Team vocally on more than one occasion.

Inevitably she has made speeches or given talks and they have always been appropriate and relevant and above all never too long!

So she has been out and about almost like the Scarlet Pimpernel but that is only half the story. She has been endlessly hospitable at home in Ladock where she and Geoffrey have always been the most generous and welcoming hosts.

Lady Mary has worked with a wide and varied team of Deputy Lieutenants making sure that the Lieutenancy reached out and covered all aspects of Cornish life.

Doubtless Lady Mary would say that everything she has done or said has been made possible by the work and dedication of others and above all by Geoffrey. Of course that is true but at its centre and heart is the person we salute and give thanks for today, Lady Mary Holborow, Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant and Cornwall's servant, respected, admired and loved.

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## Friends of Penmere Station get new furniture

Included in the Winter 2010 issue of the newsletter, was an article by Mike Oakley on Cornwall's Railway Stations and Halts. Several readers responded to this including member Val Harris, whose father manned Penmere Station for 20 years. She mentioned that the 'Friends of Penmere' have been working hard to look after the station and restore it to its former glory. After British Rail decided to leave it unmanned, it suffered badly from vandalism and neglect.

Recently, the Friends managed to find a new bench for their platform. This bench, which has BR(W) livery, was brought from Truro. The arrival of the bench means that there are now three different style benches incorporating GWR and BR seat end designs at the station.

## Mid-summer eve bonfire

On the evening of Thu 23 June, fifty three people gathered at the Siblyback Reservoir and Recreation Area, St Cleer, Nr Liskeard for their Mid Summer's Eve Bonfire. The Liskeard Old Cornwall Society were joined by the Launceston Old Cornwall Society and the entertainment was provided by Roger and Viv Bennett of the Looe Old Cornwall Society.

The ancient ceremony began with an address by the Rev Keith Lanyon-Jones, Vicar of St Cleer, who spoke on the significance of light in our dark world. Mr Mike Smith of St Cleer led the proceedings in Cornish and these were then translated into English by Rev Keith.

The fire was lit by Rev Keith, who was Guest of Honour. Then followed the throwing into the pyre of two herbal wreaths, graciously provided by the St Cleer Gardening Club and the St Cleer Women's Institute.

As the blaze lightened up the night sky, there was much social chit-chat, which continued until late into the evening. Refreshments, to keep the crowd going, were provided by the Siblyback Cafe which remained open for the occasion.

All this will be repeated on 23 Jun 2012.

*Duncan Paul Matthews*

## Death of the Guardian of the Cornish Miner's Cemetery, Real del Monte, Mexico

The Cornish Mexican Cultural Society Chapter Mexico has announced the death of Don Inocencio Hernández Lara OBE, affectionately known as Don Chencho, on the 5<sup>th</sup> August.

The Cemetery which he cared for is the resting place of 760 people, predominantly Cornish mineworkers and their families. Over 50 years ago Don Chencho promised the last British Vice Consul at Pachuca, Harold Pengelly, that he would care for the Cemetery, a promise he faithfully kept until his death.

In 2006 in recognition of his devotion to maintaining the Cemetery Don Chencho was awarded the Order of the British Empire for services to the United Kingdom and British settlers overseas. He was the first person in the State of Hidalgo to receive the honour which he was understandably very proud of. His daughter stated that her father would wear the decoration to bed if he were allowed!

Following many years of struggling to keep vandals out and trying to maintain the Cemetery, with little funding, Don Chencho was delighted when in 2006 a charitable trust was formed with the purpose of restoring the Cemetery.

Patronato Cornwall Real del Monte A.C. was established by the British Society Mexico and the Municipality of Real del Monte to care for the Cemetery and other Cornish heritage in the district. The British Ambassador is the Trust's President. Bridget Galsworthy Estavillo continues to lead the Cemetery restoration project. In July 2008 with the first phase of restoration work completed Don Chencho was the centre of attention at the rededication of the Cemetery during which Cornish mine water from Poldark Mine was used to bless the Cemetery.

### Can You Help?

**Were you a Cornish Miner? Are you now living in another country - or do you know someone else who is?** If you have answered yes to any of these questions, myCornwall Magazine would like to hear from you.

Bill Oakley from myCornwall magazine writes...

*For our next issue we are working with Cornish Mining World Heritage. We are showcasing and celebrating Cornwall's mining culture and its influence over the world, as well as highlighting the fact that Mines and their locations are today great places to visit.*

*I would love to be able to talk to a Cornish miner who has since moved abroad.*

If you think you can help Bill, please contact him at:  
Tel: 01209 314147 or Email: [bill@mycornwall.tv](mailto:bill@mycornwall.tv)

*From the West Briton and Cornwall Advertiser.  
Friday, 24th February, 1854 (extracted by Julia Mosman's team of transcribers and posted on Cornish-Gen)*

DISPROPORTION OF THE SEXES - By the last census returns the number of males in Truro was 4,653, and of females 6,080, or about four females to every three males in the town - a much greater disproportion between the sexes than exists in most other towns in the kingdom.

## 2011 Rosyer Lecture

On Friday 15<sup>th</sup> July, Matthew Clarke, of Radyo an Gernewegva, gave a talk entitled 'A Virtual Cornish Gaeltacht' at the City Lit in London.

The Rosyer Lectures are named for Robert Sowan who was a long-time member of the Cornish class at the City Lit. Robert was a Welsh speaker and a Bard of both the Welsh and Cornish Gorsedds. He took the Bardic name of Rosyer (a rambler).

This year's Rosyer lecture covered Irish, Welsh and Scottish Gaelic and gave ideas for ensuring the continuation of Cornish. It was an interesting talk with good audience participation.

Tony Wakeham

## The Ancient Ceremony of 'Crying the Neck'

On the evening of 13th September, twenty members of the Liskeard and Looe Old Cornwall Societies gathered at Bolitho Farm, Maudlin, Liskeard (courtesy of Mr James Moon) for the re-enactment of the ancient ceremony of *Crying The Neck*.

The history of this ceremony has been lost in time, but it was originally held to capture the Spirit of the Harvest, until the next year. Corn Dollies were introduced to provide a secure place for the Spirit to stay.

Everyone was welcomed by Mr Duncan Paul Matthews, President, of the Liskeard Old Cornwall Society, who had been conveyed to the site in the back of Mr Moon's livestock trailer!

The ceremony itself began with prayers in Cornish read by Mrs Hilda Gillbard, (Bard of the Cornish Gorsedd), with the English version read by my wife, Mrs Jennifer Matthews of the Looe OCS.

The Bible reading, from the book of Deuteronomy Ch 8 vs7-10, was read in Cornish by Mr Mike Smith (St Cleer) and then in English, by Mrs Jennifer Matthews. The passage reflected on the familiar weather patterns and the minerals found in the hills.

Mr James Moon, our host, then scythed the last of the wheat. The President held the sheaf to the North, East and South, calling out in Cornish -Yma Genef, (I have'n), with the response from those assembled of 'Pandrus' (What have ee?), then again: Pen Yar (A Neck), followed by Houra (Hurrah).

The last of the corn is shown to the North, East and South, but not the West as that direction is associated with darkness, evil and death.

Mr Kevin Grant, then gave a meaningful homily on the Fruits of our Harvest and making use of our God given talents. Mr Mike Smith, said the Lord's Prayer in Cornish.

Mr John Enever, President of the Looe OCS, read a Celtic Blessing, and the ceremony concluded with the singing of all three verses of *Trelawny*. (Originally written as : 'The Song of the Western Men', by Rev Steven Hawker, Vicar of Morwenstow, who was schooled at the Liskeard Grammar School).

All then retired to the field hedge for tea and saffron cake, which was provided by Mrs Sylvia Hoppell, Secretary of the Liskeard OCS.

Duncan Paul Matthews

Liskeard & Looe Old Cornwall Societies

## The Cornish Arms

*West Briton and Cornwall Advertiser. Friday, 24th February, 1854 (extracted by Julia's Mosman's team of transcribers and posted on Cornish-Gen)*

THE CORNISH ARMS - A correspondent having lately asked us what is the meaning of the Cornish arms and motto, we beg to furnish the following explanation to him and to such others of our readers as may feel an interest in the subject:- The Cornish arms and motto were those of Cadoc, Earl of Cornwall, who was deprived of his title by William the Norman in 1066, and who, Camden says, was the last Earl of British blood. His arms, which are used as the county arms, are a sable shield, fifteen bezants, five, four, three, two, one. The supporters, two lions rampant, are of modern date. The crest a lion passant or - motto 'One and All.' The fifteen bezants, or as they are improperly called 'Ba(?)s,' represent round pieces of gold used in the early ages as coin, and were of great value, but what their intrinsic worth was is not now known. They were originally coined at Constantinople, (Byzantium) and from the ninth to the fourteenth century were the chief gold coin in currency through Europe. The bezant represents in heraldry these round pieces of gold by which the stipends of the higher soldiers of the army in the holy wars are supposed to have been paid. They are with us always emblazoned gold, but the foreign heralds make them both gold and silver. Why Cadoc, Earl of Cornwall, assumed the fifteen bezants for his arms is not known; but as he was a great warrior it might have been to commemorate numerous battles in which he was victorious, or emblematic of large rewards received from his heroism in such battles. The bezant of gold was current in England till the reign of Edward III, when it was superseded by the English noble. The precise reference of the Cornish motto, it is not now easy to discover, but in all probability it is a translation from the old Cornish, of the war cry of the Earls of Cornwall.

## Daphne Du Maurier's house for sale

Daphne Du Maurier's 1940s home, Readymoney cottage near Fowey is up for sale for nearly £2m.

She rented the house, which was originally built as a coach house and stables for the nearby mansion in Point Neptune, in 1942.

The current owners of Readymoney cottage have refurbished it and added a plaque acknowledging the fact that Du Maurier stayed there. On several occasions they have held open days during which fans have been able to visit the gardens.

## Cornish musician, composer and teacher dies

One of Cornwall's most famous musicians died in June. Goff Richards was a well known figure in the world of brass bands and male voice choirs. A composer and arranger, he also formed many bands - Goff Richards Orchestra, Burnished Brass, Percussion Plus and The Arcadians. He wrote music for others including, The Kings Singers, The Swingle Singers, Evelyn Glennie and Benjamin Luxon.

Goff started his musical career playing trombone with the St Minver Band and was in the Cornwall Youth Band. He studied at the Royal College of Music and by the age of 21, was Head of Music at Fowey School. He left teaching to become a professional musician, working with composer Malcolm Arnold.

Goff Richards was made a bard of the Cornish Gorsedd, his Bardic name being Gwas Mynver (Son of St Minver).

## Mid Cornwall's Eighteenth Century Methodist Preaching Pits

During the early days of Methodism, the early non-conformist church had little money to buy or hire a place to hold their Bible studies and prayer meetings.

At that time, the law demanded that everyone attend worship at their local parish church on Sundays. Parishioners were summoned by the church bells, as ecclesiastical law required that bells be rung before a service so that the congregation arrived at the church in time. This was in the days before many people carried time pieces.

The senior Church Warden was one of the most powerful figures in the parish and he had the authority to punish people for non attendance. He could report them to their employers and landlords which meant the person risked losing both his job and home. Most followers of John and Charles Wesley would have been miners, quarrymen and fishermen who were less at risk than tenant farmers who were at the mercy of their landlords. Offending them could mean the farmer, his family and his animals could be turned out or have their rent increased.

The early followers of Methodism used to attend services at their parish church and then continue with their own worship at various sites. Old quarries and mine workings were ideal for this purpose as they could easily be converted into amphitheatres which had good acoustics and provided shelter from the wind.

Preaching pits held their own until the mid nineteenth century when Methodists became more organised and better accepted. They were then able to obtain land and build their own chapels.

**Gwennap Pit** (West Cornwall) is by far the most famous. In 1773, John Wesley, at the age of 70, was heard by a congregation of over 70 000 souls. Gwennap was built in a depression caused by mining subsidence. Later, it was terraced for greater convenience. It is said that to walk each terrace ring would total a mile.

**Whitemoor Rings** (Near St Austell). This semicircular pit is found in the heart of Whitemoor village near to the chapel, which was built later. This pit, referred to locally as

'The Rings' was used in the film, *Stoker's Copper* which told the story of how Welsh policemen were sent to a small Cornish village to deal with a strike by clay workers. The strike lasted eight months and the hungry clay workers eventually returned to work, not having made any gains.

**Indian Queens.** This preaching pit is large enough to hold up to 800/900 people within its concentric rings. It was converted from an earlier open cast mine/quarry in 1850 by The Indian Queens United Wesleyan Sunday School and was often used for rallies of the Newquay Band of Hope until the first world war. It is used today for Songs of Praise gatherings, open air plays, band concerts and village fetes.

**St Newlyn East.** This preaching pit was originally a quarry at the edge of the village. Following the major flooding of the Wheal Rose mine in 1846, it was converted into a preaching pit in memory of those who lost their lives. Here, Sabine Baring-Gould, who wrote the hymn *Onward Christian Soldiers*, wrote a ditty on a Cornish wrestler who died after winning a match. The bets had been in favour of the other wrestler.

This preaching pit is still used today for village and church gatherings, especially for tea treats. (The early followers of Methodism would not have used cane sugar in their tea because they supported the anti-slave movement.)

The Rev John and Rev Charles Wesley remained ministers of the Church of England all their lives. It was their followers who broke away from the established church and used different methods of worship. They also established night schools to improve the education, trade skills and opportunities for their people.

It wasn't until the early twentieth century that the tradition of paying their visiting preachers with a two gallon flagon of beer ceased. In the past, beer was the only safe drink because the rivers and streams were contaminated by mine working, tin streaming and the discharge of unwanted refuse. The Temperance Movement originally only objected to the increase in Gin Palaces, but later extended this to all alcoholic beverages and demanded total abstinence from their followers.

*Duncan Paul Matthews  
Liskeard Old Cornwall Society.*



*Gwennap Pit*

# News from other Cornish Associations

## United States

The President's message in the Fall edition of the **Cornish American Heritage Society's** newsletter talks about the very successful 16<sup>th</sup> Gathering of Cornish Cousins which took place in Mineral Point in August. One of the highlights of the programme was a performance of *Cry of Tin* which was presented by an ensemble of the Grass Valley Male Voice Choir. On another occasion, music was provided by IONA, a Celtic band from the East Coast. There were also talks, poetry, an opportunity to do family research using original documents and a chance to learn some Cornish dance.

This Gathering marked the culmination of Tommi O'Hagan's term as President of the CAHS. The incoming President is Tom Rusch whose parents were founding members of the CAHS. We wish him well as he starts his term.

Members of the **Illinois Cornish Society** enjoyed a Pasty Picnic early in September. Some of their members have been making Cornish flags and bezants as Christmas decorations. These were sold at the recent 16<sup>th</sup> Gathering.

The summer newsletter of the **California Cornish Cousins** has news of their 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Gathering which was held in Placerville in June. The biggest challenge of the weekend was the weather which threatened the outdoor pasty lunch. However, Emily, the daughter of President Kitty put her training in the Marine Corps to good use 'and fashioned a shelter out of one pop-up, a pair of camouflage ponchos and a canvas military half-shelter, creating a reasonably dry space'. The picnic was a success, 'the pasties were delicious and the fellowship fantastic!' The theme of the event was *Hearth and Home: Cornish Women in the 1800s*.

After the Saturday dinner, 'Gage McKinney presided over the traditional naturalisation ceremony, creating Cousin Jennies out of our guest speaker, her assistant Cindy and our President's daughter, Emily. Lucky ladies, they are now entitled to be considered for employment in any mine and certain fisheries, quarries and farms on the North American Continent.'

The aroma of fresh, warm pasties greeted about 40 members of the **Cornish Society of Greater Milwaukee** at the end of May. They had gathered to eat pasties and listen to a talk on hand-carved Welsh love spoons which was given by Alice and Joe Whitmore. Alice was dressed in traditional Welsh costume for the presentation.

At their June meeting, members of the **Cornish Heritage Society East** enjoyed a presentation on John Passmore Edwards, given by Margaret Carne and Anne Stephens. Their field trip in September will be to Bridget Smith House in Mine Hill where they will meet members of the Ferrumonte Historical Society and will have the opportunity to see how mining families lived at the height of the iron mining era.

## Canada

During the 'Show and Tell' at the June meeting of the **Toronto Cornish Association**, Michael Gichard showed a 'Transcript of Extracts from court Rolls of the Manor of

*Tweington 32<sup>nd</sup> year Henry VIII to 23<sup>rd</sup> year James I. It listed the entries for his own ancestor, Luke Gichard (1566-1611) who failed to maintain his property at Trenarren and the fines levied!* Other interesting items on show included an old picture of Botallack Mine and a handmade Cornish brooch which was bought as a souvenir.

At their July meeting members heard the second part of John Tyacke's talk on *The Helford Oysterage* in which he discussed his family connections with the oyster industry in Cornwall in the 1800s.

## Australia

We are sorry to hear that another Cornish Association is closing down. This time it is the **Cornish Association of Bendigo & District** Inc. We have received the following information from them:

*The Cornish Association of Bendigo & District Inc. will be winding down from the beginning of September in its current format as a stand alone group. We have been struggling for some time to get office bearers and at the Annual General Meeting held this month we did not receive any nominations for the positions.*

*It is sad to see the end of an era but we are going out with our heads held high and celebrating many achievements in our efforts to record the contributions the Cornish made to Bendigo and district.*

*We have done so much, including placing plaques and monuments around the city to highlight Cornish events and people, whilst some do not have our Association logo on them we were active contributors in getting the plaques up and established, and offered our knowledge and assistance along the way.*

*We have had many Cornish festivals here in Eaglehawk and Bendigo which have brought visitors from near and far and shown some good old Cornish hospitality.*

*Our Pleasant Sunday afternoons have always been well attended and we are proud to have brought back that social event which our forebears no doubt enjoyed as well.*

*We set up our Bendigo web page in the early years when other groups were yet to get on the superhighway of the internet. We were one of the first Cornish Associations to set up a Facebook page as well.*

*We've put out the very successful Pioneers of Bendigo database, an attempt to document as many Cornish born pioneers in Bendigo as possible and this project will still be ongoing as there are always new names to add to the collection and I will continue to record them all with pride.*

*So many achievements and these are only a few off the top of my head so I'm sure to have forgotten some of them and I apologise in advance if this is the case.*

*To all the guest speakers who have travelled near and far to spread the Cornish in Bendigo story – Tom & Libby Luke, Peter Mundy, Ruth Hopkins, Leanne and Rob Lloyd, George Ellis to name just a few of the regular speakers. Ian Glanville and his St Just's Point cartoon books and Ruth Hopkin's publications. They have done so much to spread the word about the Cornish in Bendigo and hopefully this will continue.*

*Tom & Libby Luke's worldwide email list has given so many people around the globe information about what is happening here in Bendigo and it has enabled the world wide Cornish family to be in regular contact.*

*Leanne & George regularly attended the Family History Expo held annually in Bendigo to provide Bendigo Cornish information to those visitors who were seeking further information about their Cornish families in this area.*

*Thanks for your interest and hopefully we will be in contact again in the not too distant future with a new plan to continue our promotion of all things Cornish in Bendigo. With enough interest and enthusiasm I'm sure that a Cornish in Bendigo group can continue on the good work that the Association has started...*

At the AGM of the **Cornish Association of Victoria**, Stephen Amos was awarded Honorary Life Membership of the Association. He has been a member since 1986 and during that time, was their auditor and has been a member of the Cornish Choir.

After the business part of the meeting, Ray Nicholas gave an interesting presentation about shipwrecks around the Isles of Scilly. It covered shipwrecks from ancient times to those more recent. Ray's grandfather was a Scillonian, and was himself shipwrecked four times during WWI.

At their July meeting, members were treated to a taste of Cornish culture when Hartley May, who is a retired Geevor tin miner, spoke about growing up in Pendeen and his role in the rescue of a miner deep underground.

The Association is planning a tour of Cornwall in April/May 2012. Members of other associations have been invited to join them. We hope that the LCA will meet at least some of the group when they pass through London.

The **Geelong Branch** of the CAV participated in the National Celtic Festival which took place over the Queen's Birthday weekend. They manned a stall for all three days. They also put on an 'Obby-Oss' performance in the main hall to the music of the May Day song and then paraded up the street.

In June, the **Ballarat Branch** of the CAV held its AGM and all office bearers were re-elected. Following the AGM, the President of CAV, Neil Thomas gave a short illustrated talk on the Newlyn fishing boat PZ 87 – The Rosebud.

Members of the **Cornish Association of Queensland** have been invited to join members of the Queensland Manx Society on a sightseeing cruise up the Brisbane River in September. The outing will include a Devonshire Tea! [*shame on them!* – ed.]

In June, a small group of members went on a steam train tour to Glasshouse Mountains which is known for its monolithic volcanic plugs. The mountains got their name from Captain Cook because they reminded him of the glass bottle kilns in Yorkshire. After they arrived at the mountains, the group went on a coach tour to various places of interest.

The CAQ will hold their 17<sup>th</sup> Foundation Lunch in September.

The **Southern Sons of Cornwall** was represented at the Shoalhaven Family History Fair in June and members were able to help some people with their research while also promoting the organisation.

The Association held a fundraising auction in June with member Geoff Wells proving to be a very entertaining and innovative auctioneer. The monies raised are to be used for the Association.

Planning is underway for a Cornish Cultural Celebration in October 2012. There will be speakers from Cornwall and Australia as well as some sightseeing and a chance to socialise.

The Association's latest newsletter includes an article by Fay and David Binns on their travels earlier this year. When they were in Cornwall, the Editor had the pleasure of meeting them for a drink in a very noisy pub in Helston after Flora Day and several members of the London Cornish Association met them for dinner in a London pub.

In July, the **Cornish Association of New South Wales** held a Cornish day which had as its focus, Cornish food, especially the pasty! Included in the day's activities was a demonstration of pasty making. There were also short talks, music and displays.

In October, there is to be an outing to the Corbett Gardens in Bowral to see the tulips and they will celebrate a Christmas High Tea in Camden on 19<sup>th</sup> November.

## New Zealand

In 2012, the **New Zealand Cornish Association** will celebrate its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary and to mark this important milestone, a group of Christchurch members is putting together a booklet recording the history of the Association. They have put out an appeal for photos, records or memories which could be used.

In May, the **Taranaki Branch** of the NZCA held its AGM and tea. Entertainment was provided by musician Peter Galvin, who played a variety of Cornish tunes, accompanying himself on the Northumbrian pipes and piano accordion – assisted occasionally by 'our very own can-can girls'. The meeting ended with a pasty meal.

The **Christchurch Branch** started its May meeting with the President's lesson in the Cornish Language. Some members are now 'becoming quite adept at answering the President at question time'. The Gordonaires provided musical entertainment and invited the audience to join in a singalong. The Furry dance, led by Heather, with her accordion, was danced with 4 sets, starting in the car park and ending in the hall. After the toasts, everyone enjoyed a tea of pasties, splits, saffron and heavy cake, scones, sandwiches and apple pie.

At their June meeting, Val read a story on the ingredients, manufacture and consumers of pasties over the past 500-odd years since the pasty first made its appearance in Cornwall. This was followed by a quiz and afternoon tea.

## United Kingdom

Since the last newsletter, the **West Somerset Cornish Association** has held several 'food' events, which are always popular with members. Their Fish and Chip Supper was so popular that it had to take place over two nights because of the high numbers attending! They had another meal in July and in August, a buffet supper which included a talk on how coffee is produced.

The Association welcomes members of other associations at its events. If you wish to attend any of them, please contact Peter Triggs (01823 334188).

At the end of July, members of the **Thames Valley Cornish Association** held their annual picnic next to the Thames in Marlow. For a change, it was not raining this year! They said farewell to Hon Secretary and Annual Lunch organiser, Jim Jenkin who is moving away from the area.

The Association will start its new social year with a Harvest Celebration at the end of September.

Members of the **Gloucester and District Cornish Association** have a full social programme. In August they had a skittles evening and in September, a talk on *The ups and*

*downs of life* by Miss Baron. In October they will hear a talk on *Life on the Nile* from Mr Wadsworth and shortly after this, they will hold their Annual Lunch.

The **Homecomers** have a very interesting programme of outings. In July they saw medieval glass at St Neots Church and in September they are having a guided tour of Shelterbox. They will be the envy of many Cornishmen in October as they go on a tour of St Austell Brewery.

During the summer months, the members of **Torbay Cornish Association** had a gardening talk, a pasty lunch and a cream tea. At the end of September, John Yeo will talk about *Nature's Eye* and in October, Dennis Coot will talk about *Madeira*. They will have their Christmas Party at the end of November.

## 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: The Editor

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

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

## Publications

### New Book

We have been informed that following book has recently been published:

#### From the Vision to the Noose

By Jill Batters

Publisher: CB Productions SW

ISBN-10: 0956918905

ISBN-13: 978-0956918901

This is a new Cornish book telling the story of a real-life Cornish murder that took place in 1840, on the road between Bodmin and Wadebridge; the murder of Wadebridge merchant, Nevell Norway, by William and James Lightfoot.

The book is available from the publishers at £7-95p + P&P (<http://www.chrisbatters.com/index.php/book-sales>) as well as from Amazon.

### Website

**Hayle Gallery** - [www.haylegallery.co.uk](http://www.haylegallery.co.uk)

This is a small art gallery which specialises in original, traditional Cornish art. You can view the pictures for sale on this website – and there are some lovely ones.

Enquiries about the pictures can be made via the website, emailing [info@haylegallery.co.uk](mailto:info@haylegallery.co.uk) or phoning 01736 758465. The gallery's details will be found in an advert in the 2011-12 Annual Brochure.

### A quote from the past...

*From the Cornish Association of NSW newsletter*

The kingdom of England is by no means a united whole, for it also contains Wales and Cornwall, natural enemies of the rest of England, and speaking a different language" -- Gaspard deColigny Châtillon, French Ambassador in London, 1538

**What can you say?**

## Magical Beings . . .

*From the Southern Sons of Cornwall newsletter*

**Knackers (or Knockers)** were elves who lived deep within the tunnels of Cornish mines. They dug tin each day except Easter and Christmas, and then it was said they could be heard carol singing. The Cornish miners could hear the tap-tapping of the tiny picks at some distant level or the clattering of stones in some unseen chamber with the most noise being made just before the mine was *knact*, or closed.

Knackers were friendly enough when left to themselves, often calling rhymes to one another or playing games in the depths of the mines. But they could be spiteful if spied upon, and wise miners treated them with respect. For the knackers always worked the best ground, and their tappings could lead a miner to the richest ore.

Many believe that the Knackers still hide deep within hundreds of *knact bals* in Cornwall, waiting as of old, willing to share their secrets with miners yet to come.

### Tinner's Luck

- Touch a horseshoe four times before going down a mine.
- Tip your cap in all directions before picking up your pickaxe.
- If a snail crosses your path while you are on the way to the mine, this means good luck. But should a hare run past, take care for this is an ill omen.
- Share your noontime meal with the Knackers - leave behind a few crumbs for them.
- Drip a bit of candle grease on the mine floor each time you light a candle, so that the Knackers may scoop it up and make their own small lights.

*Tales from the Droll-Teller, Retold by Shirley Climo*

# Rugby Report

A busy summer both on and off the pitch at London Cornish RFC has seen me finally get married, as reported in the last issue. Davina and I were so lucky with the weather, the sun beaming down on us as we stepped out of Gulval Church near Penzance. I have attached a photo, which also demonstrates just what a happy occasion it was. Our Wedding Breakfast took place at The Tregenna Castle Hotel near St Ives, and as we arrived there we found the staff carrying the drinks tables back inside fearing some dark clouds speeding overhead. We intercepted them, reversed their plan and asked them to trust us that it wouldn't rain – it didn't and shortly afterward the sun shone too! I would like to place on record my thanks to the London Cornish Association\* both for the card and the present they gave – much appreciated and we are about to start sending out thank-you cards so look out for those. We had a short honeymoon on Tresco on the Isles of Scilly, but actually spent most of our time sleeping (no, not what you might think, we really did sleep and during the day too!) because we were both so exhausted with all the energy the weekend had drawn out of us. We have settled happily into married life, but we are now saving for a longer honeymoon to Australia and New Zealand at Christmas and New Year to combine my brother Tom's Wedding in Adelaide with a trip to see Davina's elderly grandmother in Melbourne and one of my very best friends in Te Awamutu, NZ.



As for the rugby club, we have had 3 pre season friendlies so far and this has helped me assess how good the recruitment has been close season. We have our opening league fixture this Saturday and one new player in the pack, a Penryn man to boot! Adrian Montague is his name and he has made a great impression in training and in those pre season matches so deserves his shirt. We have around 25 new players of varying standards across the club, but since I have been away for much of the last month I am still catching up and learning more about them. I will investigate Cornish connections and report back in the next edition!

I am delighted that we have managed to agree 2 excellent Sponsorship deals since the last edition, and one of them is with the Cornish brewer Skinners from Truro. They brew my favourite beer Betty Stogs and her face will be the one on the front of our new playing shirts – I can't wait because it will also be the beer served at the pub, though I am not sure my new wife is so pleased! The other deal is with the recruitment company Robert Walters, and is significant because it is the first brought in by a player rather than me. The upshot is that the club has a very healthy balance book for the first time in a few years, and this at a time when so many other organizations are facing retrenchment and cut backs. This improved financial status has been further aided by one of our current players having become our Treasurer, and he has already made a huge difference in chasing up outstanding debtors.

We also have a new Social Secretary at the club; Steve Dixon, who is also Captain of our Dukes (4<sup>th</sup> Team) organized a City Social in London for us earlier this week at the place where the club was formed, The Olde Cock Tavern on Fleet Street. I had never been there, but I suspect we may run another next year as we will be 50 years old and it is such an important part of our history. I would like to present the pub with something so that visitors can understand the significance of the site to LCRFC.

I mentioned our annual tour to Cornwall in the last issue, and this has actually been postponed from its original August 2011 date to April 2012. The reason for this is that the only date that both we and our opponents, Camborne, could make was the Bank Holiday weekend, and those of you who have experienced the drive from London to Cornwall on frequent occasions will know just what a tough journey that can be on holiday weekends, to say nothing of the exorbitant price of accommodation!

Well, that's all for now; you can keep up to date with all the news and views on our website at [www.lcrfc.co.uk](http://www.lcrfc.co.uk) Kernow Bys Vyken!

*\* The LCA gave Dickon and Davina tickets for a boat trip while they were on honeymoon. We wish them every happiness in their life together.*

## LCRFC Forthcoming Fixtures:

Sat 10 <sup>th</sup> September	League	Camberley	v	London Cornish
Sat 17 <sup>th</sup> September	League	London Cornish	v	Wimbledon
Sat 24 <sup>th</sup> September	League	Tottonians	v	London Cornish
Sat 1 <sup>st</sup> October	League	London Cornish	v	Teddington
Sat 8 <sup>th</sup> October	League	Gosport & Fareham	v	London Cornish
Sat 22 <sup>nd</sup> October	League	London Cornish	v	Old Reigatian
Sat 29 <sup>th</sup> October	League	Chobham	v	London Cornish
Sat 5 <sup>th</sup> November	Cup	East Grinstead	v	London Cornish
Sat 12 <sup>th</sup> November	League	London Cornish	v	Guildford

## Cornish Club's Fixtures in the London and Home Counties

The Cornish Pirates had a good season in the Championship but lost in the final play-off to Worcester.

Launceston and Redruth struggled due to the loss of older key players and both clubs were relegated to National League 2 South. At least this will avoid travel to the far north and their games will be more accessible from the London area.

### Forthcoming Fixtures

2011				2012			
8 October	Southend	vs	Launceston	1 January	Bedford Blues	vs	Cornish Pirates
15 October	Richmond	vs	Redruth	7 January	London Scottish	vs	P'mouth Albion
29 October	Hertford	vs	Redruth		Westcombe Park	vs	Launceston
	London Welsh	vs	Cornish Pirates	14 January	Esher	vs	Cornish Pirates
12 November	Old Albanians	vs	Redruth		Henley	vs	Redruth
	Richmond	vs	Launceston	21 January	Worthing	vs	Launceston
26 November	Hertford	vs	Launceston	4 February	Bedford Blues	vs	P'mouth Albion
3 December	Westcombe Park	vs	Redruth	18 February	Barnes	vs	Redruth
					Henley	vs	Launceston
				31 March	Barnes	vs	Launceston
				14 April	Southend	vs	Redruth

Check the national press for kick-off times.

*Brian Reed*

**Support is welcome at all matches involving Cornish teams. We hope to arrange an outing to one of the LCRFC matches in the new year. Details will be given in the newsletter and on the website [www.londoncornish.co.uk](http://www.londoncornish.co.uk).**

## London Cornish Rugby Football Club: early memories...

Gerald Mosney, originally from Falmouth, and a member of Bournemouth Cornish Association, was a founder member of the London Cornish Rugby Football Club. He writes about those early days:

*I played in the first match of the London Cornish Rugby Team. My memory is not particularly good but I think it was in the 1962/3 season – if so, in 2012/13, it will be the Club's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary.*

*Our first set of shirts was provided by the Cornish RFU and had previously been worn by the County Team.*

*The Team was organised and run by an Inspector Bassett (ex police, I believe). We were a nomadic team with no home pitch (or meeting place) and played all over the London area. Imagine my problem, living in West Drayton (no tube,) and having to make my way everywhere on public transport.*

*I played for the Club for two seasons before moving my work to Dorset. In the first season we had a tour to Cornwall. [Gerald sent in some newspaper clippings covering this tour and the following extracts come from them. Dates and sources are not available – ed.]*

### **Lively display by London Cornish**

London Cornish on their first tour created a good impression and, as a result of a lively second half display, ran out winners over Falmouth 'A' by four tries to one.

Included in their side were GC Mosney, D Stevens and FW Hearley, all Falmothians.

Early in the first half D White cut through cleverly to send W Berks over for a try.

Before half-time P Riches equalised and in the second half C Kelynack, D Stevens and H Chester scored further tries.

### **And...**

#### **Dreyer Try**

At Truro, the London Cornish club made their debut against a Cornish senior club and although they were beaten 13-0 they showed that they have welded together

quite a useful sort of team. Full-back Mosney was always sound under pressure and their pack played well in the loose with Scraze frequently prominent. In all-round skill however, Truro were much the superior team and the London Cornish had to rely almost wholly on spoiling tactics to keep the score down to reasonable proportions, particularly in view of the fact that Truro hooker Bill Bishop won the ball no fewer than 14 times against the loose head!

The highlight of the match was a try by the most prolific try-scorer in Cornish Rugby – West German international wing-forward Fritz Dreyer. Receiving the ball 30 yards out, the young German left his opponents flat-footed with a top-speed dash in which he grounded the ball between the posts.

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## **Mem Sec's Meanderings...**

Our membership at the end of August is 238.

We are pleased to be able to welcome the following new member:

Mr Michael Tiplady from Wadebridge who lives at Woking in Surrey.

Let us hope that we can recruit some more new members. Cornwall and our Cornish connection is something of which we are all very proud. Don't just disappear into the electronic world that engulfs so many people today - consider meeting, mixing and enjoying personal face to face friendships. Please do what you can to encourage other people to join.

Sadly, one of our longer standing members, Mrs Audrey Vinicombe, who joined in 1978 and was living at Blackheath, London, died at the end of June. We offer our condolences to all her family.\*

Unfortunately there are 11 members who have not paid their subscriptions for the current year and so their memberships have not been renewed. In my reminder letter, I asked why they were not renewing their membership and whether there was something they felt we were not offering, but have not yet had a response.

As I said in my last *Meanderings*, we have 22 people who have been members of the London Cornish Association for 50 years. Another member will be reaching this target towards the end of the year – details will be in the next newsletter. I hope this is not making new members think that we are an 'elderly bunch'. In fact, these members are in the minority.

Could I again please ask that if your telephone number changes, you let me know as members with changes of address do. Also, if you are on email, don't forget to inform me of any changes or updates to your email address.

In the last *Meanderings* I mentioned that I had heard that a Cornishman had opened a Cornish Pasty House in Copenhagen and I wondered if the pasties were actually made in Cornwall. Well, recently I met a friend who had just returned from a holiday in the far south west of Cornwall and he commented that he found a pasty firm who actually exported pasties to Denmark.

It appears that pasties are not only popular in Denmark but also in parts of Mexico where Cornish miners emigrated, taking with them their mining skills and, of course, their skills at pasty making. I understand there is an annual Cornish pasty festival there. Can the Cornish Mexican Cultural Society enlighten us on this and provide us with any information?

Did you hear of the Cornish tsunami that occurred at the end of June? It was only a mini-tsunami and the wave was not a great height but it was large enough to drag the sea out for about 150 feet. It then surged back and in one case, soaked the visitors who were on the causeway to St Michael's Mount. The wave went up estuaries from Lands End and along the coast of Devon. This would have been an interesting event to witness, but definitely not from the causeway to St Michael's Mount!

This was nothing like the devastating storm that hit South West Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly in early March 1962. On looking through some old newspapers, I came across a report plus numerous pictures from *The Cornishman* and *Western Morning News* of 8<sup>th</sup> March 1962. The damage that was done was devastating, particularly along the sea front at Penzance. One would not associate a storm like this hitting anywhere in this country, let alone Cornwall.

The force of the water burst open the front doors of two shops on the Promenade. At one of the shops, the door was ripped off and found floating in about 3 feet (nearly 1 metre in modern terminology) of water with much of the stock floating around it. In another of the shops the force of the water had been so great that a large ice-cream fridge in the shop had been pushed over on its back and it took six men to right it.

The Mayor of Penzance attended the London Cornish Association Annual Dinner shortly after the storm; he was attending with the permission of the Penzance Disaster Committee and he said he wished to make it quite clear that he hadn't wanted to leave Penzance but at the moment everything appeared quiet and the committee thought it would be the right thing for him to attend the dinner and make an appeal on behalf of the fund. £140 was collected at the dinner as a contribution to the disaster

fund over and above a donation from the LCA. I don't expect many of our members remember this storm; it was only that I found the report in the old newspapers.

This next question may be a stupid one, but have you any idea why the Devil never entered Cornwall? Anybody got any ideas? Perhaps you may be thinking that he has already 'moved in'. This question was highlighted when I was looking through an old book and came across an article entitled 'Why the Devil never entered Cornwall'. It is said that when he was sitting on the summit of a hill in Devon looking out over Cornwall, he watched the people and was struck by the fact that they made everything into pies such as rooky pie, herby pie and conger pie (whatever each of these were) and also made some tasty pasties. He was half afraid of risking being among people possessed by this strange mania. What if they took a fancy to 'devil pie'? He found this alarming and also wondered what the world would do without him? So, he shook his head, turned away and in a single stride, left Devon as night was falling. He never came back to Cornwall. I don't know what date this was but sometimes I do wonder if he ever changed his mind!

As I have previously said, Cornish Associations are continuing to suffer from reduced membership and are subsequently struggling to continue as it seems difficult to attract new members, particularly some who would be willing and able to help in the organisation of functions. Repeating my previous comments, we don't like seeing declining memberships and hope that Cornish Associations, particularly ours, will continue into the future. So, again I ask that if you know of any Cornish people or descendants living near you, you give them details of the LCA or of your local Cornish Association. We can hope that they may be interested in joining and becoming one of our new members. Tell them to contact me at the address below or, alternatively you can let me have their names and addresses so that I can send them a Membership Application Form.

Again, I hope you have read and enjoyed these *Meanderings*. If you have any comments, please contact me. I hope you continue your membership. Don't forget that subs are due each year on 1<sup>st</sup> April. I do hate having to write reminders in June!

Well, I hope you have all had a nice and enjoyable summer. But doesn't time fly with autumn now rapidly approaching!

*Kernow bys vyken.*

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

\* Since this article was written, we have lost three other long standing members – Pat Snow, Gwithian Guy and William Truran. Our condolences go to their families as well.

### Events at Truro Cathedral

The Cathedral holds a wide range of both religious and secular events. Everyone is welcome. If you would like to go on their events database and receive events information, visit their website to register -

[www.trurocathedral.org.uk](http://www.trurocathedral.org.uk)

## Crowdy Crawn

### Recognition of Cornwall as a National Minority Petition on direct.gov.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/libertycentral/2009/sep/08/cornwall-national-minority-race>

This article in the Guardian newspaper outlines the current position of the Government in respect to the minority status of Cornwall. There has been a policy for hundreds of years, of 'sweeping under the carpet' the Cornish Issue. This petition calls for signatures to raise the issue of the "Cornish Identity" in Parliament and aims to have Cornwall recognised as a National Minority.  
Closing date: 09/08/2012

### Olympic torch relay starts in Cornwall

The London Organising Committee of the Olympic and Paralympic Games has announced that the Olympic torch relay will start at Land's End. It will begin its 8000 mile journey on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> May 2012, the day after it arrives in the UK from Greece. After Cornwall, it will be taken to various locations around the British Isles and will arrive at the Olympic Stadium on 27<sup>th</sup> July, in time to light the cauldron at the opening ceremony.

### Cyprus Well restoration

The Charles Causley Trust has purchased Cyprus Well, Causley's home in Launceston, and has plans to make it a base for literature in the south west. It has been refurbishing the house focusing initially on the rear extension which was in a bad condition and needed to be rebuilt. This has been completed and now attention is being given to the interior. The aim is to preserve the main rooms as they were when Causley lived and wrote there.

The Trust is looking for funds to continue its work. Donations can be sent to The Charles Causley Trust, No 2 Cyprus Well, Ridgegrove Hill, Launceston, Cornwall, PL15 8BT.

### A Disobedient Pauper

*From West Briton - 20 November 1873*

On Thursday, Hannah Cannicott, the wife of a Marine on board H.M.S. Ganges, and who has been an inmate of the Falmouth Union Workhouse, was brought before Captain Norway, R.N. and charged with refusing to be bathed. The pauper persisted in her refusal and was sentenced to 14 days imprisonment with hard labour.

*(From the newsletter of the Cornish Association of Western Australia)*

**The deadline for the next issue of the  
LCA Newsletter is  
5th November**

*Please send all contributions to:*

*Liz Broekmann  
The Editor  
1 Stephenson Drive  
Windsor  
SL4 5LG*

*Or email to [editor@londoncornish.co.uk](mailto:editor@londoncornish.co.uk)*