



# Cowethas Kernewek Loundres

## London Cornish Association Newsletter



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

Summer 2014

### New beginnings...

It does not seem long ago that we were in the thick of a stormy, wet winter. The beauty of the spring which followed gave us hope that things would improve and the delightful displays of snowdrops, daffodils and bluebells seemed to herald better times ahead, especially for those in the West Country who were particularly badly hit.

In the London area, nature really came up trumps. The National Trust property, Osterley Park, where I am a volunteer was a particularly good example. The house has a wonderful garden and it was an absolute treat to be able to look out of the windows and see the extensive beds of daffodils. They were stunning. And, behind the house are woods which, in April, were thick with bluebells. The colour and perfume which accompanied them were really memorable.

The lovely spring displays and the arrival of the warmer weather are not the only new beginnings. Just as exciting as the beautiful spring and the warmer weather was the recent announcement that Cornwall has been granted minority status. In the foreword to his book *Cornish Characters* which was published in 1909, S Baring-Gould wrote *Cornwall, peopled mainly by Celts,*

*but with an infusion of English blood, stands and always has stood apart from the rest of England ... We have always known that Cornwall and the Cornish are different – and now, at last, Europe has acknowledged it. This is something to celebrate.*

By the time of our next newsletter, we will have gone through the excitement of the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow. I am sure we will all remember the thrill of the Olympics two years ago when Cornish athletes did so well. I am sure we will all be holding thumbs that they will be adding to the Cornish medal collection in 2014.

We are about to embark on the 'holiday season'. If you are going away, travel safely and come back invigorated and ready to join us for the start of our 2014-15 social programme. If you are going to remain in the London area, do join us for our Midsummer Lunch on 12th July. This will be held at Penderel's Oak in Holborn, one of our popular 'watering holes'. You will find details on page two of this newsletter.

All that remains for me to do now is to wish you all a good summer and express the hope that we will see you at some of our events in the coming year.

*Kernow bys Vyken*

### Dates for your diary...

**Mid-summer Lunch**  
12th July

**Informal Lunch**  
16th June

**And an early  
Reminder...**

**Family History Day**  
4th October

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

City Lit Cornish Society/Kowethas Kernewek City Lit

Presents

The 2014 Rosyer Lecture

***Celtic Cornwall: Nation, Tradition and Invention***

*Speaker: Alan Kent*

*Date: Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> July 2014*

*Time: 2.30pm*

*Venue: City Lit, Keeley Street, London WC2B 4BA*

Admission: FREE

*Why not make an afternoon of it - start with a midday lunch at Penderel's Oak in Holborn and then go on to the Rosyer Lecture, a short distance away.*

New Contact Address for the LCA

*Please note that the LCA now has a new email address:*

*[lca@londoncornish.co.uk](mailto:lca@londoncornish.co.uk)*

*Please use this address for all correspondence in future.*

**Deadline for the  
Autumn  
Newsletter  
is**

**5th August**

**Please send all  
contributions to  
The Editor at the ad-  
dress 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.***

### **Midsummer Lunch**

Saturday 12th July

*Time:* 12 noon

*Venue:* Penderel's Oak  
283-288 High Holborn, London

*Getting there:* Nearest tube: Holborn or Chancery Lane - on the Central Line

**Contact:** Tony Wakeham - Tel: 020 77037378

*The Rosyer Lecture will be held at 2.30pm on the same day. Why not join us for lunch and then go on to the lecture?*

*You will find more information on the lecture on the front page of this newsletter.*

### **Informal Lunch**

Monday 16th June

*Time:* 12 noon

*Venue:* Wesley's Cafe  
Central Hall, Westminster

*Getting there:* Nearest tube: St James Paark

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

Don't forget to diarise...

**Family History Day - Saturday 4th October**

*Further details will be included in the Autumn newsletter and on the website.*

## News of Past Events

### 128th Annual Dinner - 15th March

The London Cornish Association's 128th Anniversary Dinner, held at The Thistle Hotel in London, was a very relaxed and enjoyable occasion. Unfortunately a few members were missing for good reason I understand, but this did not detract from the Cornish atmosphere created by the tables being named after Cornish rivers, the bright yellow daffodils sent up from the Cornish flower growers, the delightful Cornish voice of the London Chairman Dr Frances Dunstan and the general banter.

In the Chair was Sir John Trelawny, President of the London Cornish Association. The Principal Guest was Councillor Mrs Gillian Parsons, Mayor of Lostwithiel who came with her husband. The Speaker was Reverend Michaela Youngson (LCA Chaplain) who spoke fondly of her time in Cornwall. What a talented lady she is. She brought with her some decorative glass she had made and we could immediately relate the beauty and colours of the hand crafted glass to the sea and landscapes of the Cornish coast.

Toastmaster for the evening was Mr Aubrey Lane from Bournemouth and Mrs Kath Slatter lead the singing of Trelawny.

Representing Torbay Cornish Association was Chairman Miss Mary Watters while Bournemouth Cornish Association was represented by Past President, Mrs Elizabeth Lane.

The gathering for a *'bit of chat'* prior to dinner in my opinion is a great idea, it gives those of us who do not often meet because of distance, an opportunity to get to know one another and share our Cornish identity.

*Elizabeth Lane (Bournemouth Cornish Association)*

*Thank you to Aubrey Lane for sending in these photographs*



**LCA Chairman Francis Dunstan's response to the toast proposed by our Speaker, Rev Michaela Youngson.**

Our President, Vice-presidents, Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen – Welcome.

The toast was to Cornwall and the LCA. We have drunk to wish the best of health of both. In the case of Cornwall we are continually reminded that it has two sides, the first being the happy tourist basking in glorious sunshine, eating pasties (made to whatever specification you like) and eating Cornish Cream teas and ice cream if the sea gulls allow. This winter, a different Cornwall is in the news. I'm thinking of the seas at Newlyn, Porthleven, Praa Sands and Keneggie Beach where there is now no sand. Last week, I was asked to trace a member of the Cornish Gorsedd who lived in New York and as a result discovered the best video coverage of Cornwall's winter storms to be on the website of the Cornish Heritage Society East! It showed a set of dramatic pictures of a Cornish winter.

On the other side, Cornwall's economy is among the lowest in the UK. However, a new Association has been launched in London called the 'Cornwall Club', a joint venture between 'Invest in Cornwall' and the 'Cornwall Community Foundation' Last week, our President, two Vice-Presidents, our Chairman, Treasurer, Editor and last year's Dinner speaker, Andrew George MP, attended the inaugural meeting at the Tate Britain. We were only slightly distracted from four worthy speeches, by all the naked ladies around us (as paintings on the walls!) We enjoyed mini Cornish pasties from Bodmin, and micro fish and chip on a stick! We look forward to a second meeting and to greater investment in Cornish projects.

Last year I mentioned the 'Wave hub' which is situated 10 miles off Hayle. It is an enormous project to test the generation of electricity by wave power.

Another interesting innovation is the Bloodhound Supersonic Car designed to break the land speed record, aiming for 1000 miles per hour. In Cornish terms the time taken to drive from Land's End to the England border at Launceston would be just over 5 minutes, definitely not to be attempted on the current A30! Hopefully we shall see similar, technological progress in the future.

In the case of the LCA we have drunk a toast to the future. What future? Dick Richards has reported on the survey carried out over the last two years on the future of the LCA. You may recall that in successive newsletters we have appealed for members to tell us what they think of the LCA, to join Council and to take a share in running the Association. We have had little response, and illness has weakened our Council and other key workers. It was suggested that the future of LCA would more and more rely on electronic communication.

It is with great pleasure that I announce that our new website will soon be launched. We do not yet have a presence on Facebook, or Twitter, or LinkedIn, but the virtual LCA as suggested by the late Sir John Trelawny may be a way forward.

Speaking personally, I am delighted that I have lost an official LCA hat i.e. that of Hon Gen Sec. after nine years. It is well worn by Elizabeth Broughton (who has also been responsible for organising this Annual Dinner for the third year. At 43 diners this is 10 below our average since 2003. and is rather a disappointment to us. Lizzy also organised

the 2013 Annual Service, and has plans for the AGM and Trelawny Lecture in May this year.

I'm also delighted that the role of LCA Family History Group Convener, has been so ably filled by Carol Goodwin and Gill Penny who have taken over from Lorna Leadbetter. We have had one successful Day conference already and the second is ready to go on April 5th. It will feature the Cornwall's War Dead project, led by Ann Hicks, Chairman of Cornwall Family History Society.

Our Web master Ursula Jeffries has had to reduce her commitment to LCA due to ill-health and we wish her well in the coming months. We are grateful that Jackie Trembath and Elizabeth Broekmann are preparing the new website. Graham Pearce maintains our Membership records; Graham Gendal Norton has organised some visits, Kath Slatter sees to the catering and Tony Wakeham is convener for the Cornwall in London Project. Rosemary Dean continues as Hospital Visiting Convener. The problem remains of recruiting new Officers for Council. As it is, we organise Social events, and are supported by a loyal band of up to 50 of our now only 220 members. The number of new members just about balances those who leave.

A considerable burden has fallen on Elizabeth Broekmann this year. We are grateful for all she does in editing, writing and posting our Newsletter, with its flyers. It is the main contact with all our members: I thank her and all members and friends for their continuing support.

We are delighted that we have a number of Guests with us tonight. Firstly the Reverend Michaela Youngson, who is our Hon Chaplain, and our Principal Speaker. We are also pleased to welcome, once again, our Principal Guest, Councillor Mrs G.M. Parsons, Mayor of Lostwithiel, and Councillor D. Parsons. We are very grateful to them for coming up. When I go to Cornwall and visit my relatives, I say to them 'Why don't you come up to High Wycombe for a few days', they reply 'Tis some long way up there'. My reply is 'it's the same distance for me to come to you!'

The Deputy President of the Federation of Old Cornwall Societies, our former Chairman Miss Priscilla Oates, sends special greetings. There seems to be a problem with rail services in and out of Cornwall, and this is one of the reasons why she is not able to be with us. However we are delighted to welcome Miss Mary Watters from Torbay Cornish Association who could not be with us last year because of illness. She is the only President of the other UK Associations to be with us this evening, but some other Associations are represented by our own members, Mrs Kath Slatter and myself representing TVCA and Mrs Elizabeth Lane, Bournemouth CA. Mrs Anne Green has sent good wishes from Gloucester and District Cornish Association. And Norman Bunney has sent us good wishes on behalf of the Homecomers.

Sir David Brewer our Past President, sends his apologies from Windsor where he is engaged on learning how to be a Lord Lieutenant!

We are pleased to welcome our great friend Mr Aubrey Lane as our Toastmaster and MC. Aubrey is the organiser of the Bournemouth CA Dinner so this is a Busman's holiday for him.

A very welcome working guest is Mrs Abi Reynolds who is signer to Hilary Rundell and we also welcome some distinguished guests of member, Dr Barbara Hosking - Mrs Margaret Hyde, Mr Rober Palmer and Mr Maurice Libby.

## Family History Day

At the Family History Day which was held in April, members and friends had the pleasure of hearing two, most interesting speakers. In the morning, Tom Doig gave us some tips for dating old photographs and in the afternoon Ann Hicks, Chairman of the Cornwall Family History Society introduced us to a new database which is currently being compiled by the Society. Its aim is to build up a list of all the Cornish people who have served in recent wars. More information on this project will be reported in the newsletter as it becomes available.

Between the talks, we were treated to a delicious pasty and saffron cake lunch, kindly prepared by Kath Slatter and her team and there was some time to chat with old friends and meet new ones.

The day ended with the launch of the new London Cornish Association website.

### **Dating late-Victorian Photographs – Talk by Tom Doig**

We appreciated Tom coming along to the LCA Family History Day on Saturday 5th April 2014 to talk on the above. Tom is a social historian researching rural life in the 19th and 20th century. He has recently completed a series of five books of old photographs in a series on Hertfordshire and Cambridgeshire for the Francis Frith Collection.

Great grand-mother's boxes of old photographs, particularly her cartes d'visite, were a source of fascination when we were children. She knew who the people were and so never wrote their names on the reverse. Using unusual techniques, Tom looks for clues to their identification and suggests procedures for dating them

On the screen Tom showed examples of photographs and silhouettes, the silhouettes from about 1780.

Photography as we know it was started by Louis Deguerre – the Deguerrotype photo which he invented, had a long exposure time of around an hour and a half.

The type of frame in which a picture is placed is a key decider as to the age of the photograph. Early frames which were made of card or gilt metal had the same consistency as cigarette paper. From the 1850's the frames were leather, but with silver paint, and contained three-quarter or full length pictures. In 1858/1859, pictures had the same format but with a glass lid catch and oval pattern.

Samuel Peck of USA invented the union case in 1855 which was made of plastic (cold tar, sulphuric acid and milk).

The cartes d'visite were a likeness of yourself. They were made up of 4 pictures – 3 were kept or sent to relations. On the back of the copy kept by the photographer was a number which identified the photo if further copies were needed. The only copies in existence have spots on them. Tom produced an example from around 1862 which had white spots. The photo was of the printer's apprentice and marked the end of his apprenticeship. Behind his back he had a neck clamp positioned to hold his position upright. This must have been so uncomfortable. The curtains in the picture were there to hide the clamps.

In some instances, the clothes did not belong to the sitter but had been borrowed for the occasion. After the session,

the photographer would fold them and place them back in the box until they were needed for the next photo!

Pots of ferns were often used in pictures and were a useful clue – the closer the fern to the subject, the later the photo.

With travelling photographers, the backdrops were of different themes.

All in all a most interesting and completely absorbing amount of information from Tom.

*Carol Goodwin*

## LCA AGM and Trelawny Lecture

Another year has flown by. This year the AGM was held in May rather than at its traditional time of June, and this may have contributed to the rather poor attendance of only 23 members. They stood in memory of Millie Scutt (sadly no-one present could remember her.) Sir John Trelawny Bart, took the chair. The Hon Gen Sec Mrs Elizabeth Broughton, took the minutes. Some 42 members sent their apologies. (It was very disappointing that so few members, despite being contacted specially by email, did not respond to the AGM invitation.)

The minutes of the 2013 AGM were signed as a true record.

**The Annual Reports** - (previously circulated at the lunch and by email) were accepted from the Chairman, Hon Treasurer, Hon Membership Secretary, Hon Editor, the Hospital Visiting Convener. Rosemary Dean commented how the office had changed recently in that fewer Cornish patients were coming up to London hospitals and the need for visiting was more related to our own members. Some reports though written were not presented but will appear elsewhere in this Newsletter.

The financial report showed an unexpected profit of £323 this year. Unfortunately, because there were 8 unsold tickets for the Annual Dinner, this event did not cover its costs. Other events paid their way but did not bring income to the Association.

**Election of Officers** - The Officers were elected en bloc with the exception of our Publicity sec, Mrs Ursula Jeffries who stood down on health grounds. The current members of Council all start their second year, so an election was not needed. The Trustee, the Hospital visiting Convener, the Hon Solicitor and the Chaplain were all re-appointed.

The AGM was preceded by the customary Pasty Lunch. The catering officer, Kath Slatter, was appalled at the poor packaging of the food: several pasties were found broken (in Cornish 'scat abroad') and had to be eaten English fashion with a knife and fork!

The AGM was followed by the **Trelawny lecture, Cornwall and the National Trust**, given by Mr. Jeremy Pearson of that body. The trials of lecturing 'away' were confirmed by the lecturer, in that a lack of compatibility of Computers and data Projector was evident. All turned out well in the end, and the Association is grateful for his excellent lecture. I personally realised how little I knew of my Cornish architectural heritage.

*Francis E Dunstan, LCA Chairman*

# Annual General Meeting 2014

## Officers of the London Cornish Association

2014-15

<i>President</i>	Sir John Trelawny
<i>Chairman</i>	Dr Francis Dunstan
<i>Vice-Chairman</i>	Vacant
<i>Hon Gen Sec</i>	Mrs Elizabeth Broughton (Admin)
	Dr Francis Dunstan (Acting-Minutes Sec)
<i>Treasurer</i>	Ms Jackie Trembath
<i>Membership Secretary</i>	Mr Graham Pearce
<i>Publicity Secretary</i>	Mr Graham Norton

### **Members of Council**

Miss Carol Goodwin	Mrs Kath Slatter
Mr Tony Wakeham	Mr Tom Sims

<i>Auditor</i>	tbc
<i>Solicitor/Librarian</i>	Clare Bowden-Dan
<i>Hon Chaplain</i>	Rev Michaela Youngson
<i>Hospital Visitor</i>	Mrs Rosemary Dean
<i>Newsletter Editor</i>	Mrs Elizabeth Broekmann

### **Trustee**

Mr Charles Williams

assisting us particularly on our Family History days and Trelawny Lecture.

Much of the general administration of the Association has been done by 'Email committee', where the near-instant exchange of ideas has meant that certain matters could proceed very quickly. Graham Pearce has kept our membership data-base up-to-date. Overall, however, our active membership continues to fall, although the total membership is only one less than last year.

Without the active support of our members the Association could not continue. As it is, the LCA Stand will not be taken to the Royal Cornwall Show this year. The 'regulars' were unable to be present and no replacements could be found. We hope that the Cornwall Family History Society will be kind enough to present some of our literature and membership forms on their stand. The invitation to dance at the Mid-day Dance at the Helston Flora, was taken up by one of our former Chairmen, Priscilla Oates and her partner Mr Paul Blaber.

Sir John Trelawny, following his late father, took over the Presidency from Sir David Brewer. We are grateful for all the support he and Lady Laurian have given us over the past year.

We continue to look for a new Vice-Chairman. The office of Hon Gen Secretary has needed to be divided. This has not proved as satisfactory as I would have liked, and needs further adjustment. We invite members to join our Council: there are 10 member vacancies (out of twelve) and a Vice Chairman. By the end of this AGM I hope that a number of members will have joined some committees: particularly the Social committee, and I will thank them in due course.

I have represented the LCA at the Midlands and Thames Valley Cornish Assns Annual Events. We look forward to the New Year 2014-15

Kath Slatter and I and Jackie Trembath attended the Cornish Gorsedh in Penryn last September to congratulate our two awardees Liz Broekmann (Paul Smales Award) and Tony Wakeham (LCA Shield)

Unfortunately we could not attend the '*Men of Cornwall sing*' in the Royal Albert Hall, as I was on duty as CFHS Vice-President in Cornwall, chairing the AGM of Cornwall Family History Society. Many of our members did attend and some renewed acquaintances with old Cornish friends in the audience.

*Francis Dunstan*

## Report from Membership Secretary

Since last June we have been notified of the death of one member, Mrs Millie Scutt (Bodmin). There have been 6 resignations and 13 memberships ceased due to non-payment of Subs but we have 11 new members. Current membership stands at 231.

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

## Report from Chairman

First of all a big Thank You to all Officers, members of Council, and of Committees for all they have achieved during this rather peculiar year. Council has met less than usual this year, sometimes in the quiet area of two London restaurants, mainly to discuss particular items, including the Annual Dinner and the Website

Elizabeth Broekmann has reported on the Newsletter, written for the most part by her personally, and who, as Past-Chairman, has given me much support. The website is now up and running and I thank the team of Ursula, Nicola, Liz (Broekmann) and Jackie for all the time they have devoted to this. I hope it will yield very positive results. Graham G Norton has chivvied us up in our relationship with Cornish newspapers. Carol Goodwin has agreed to take the emailing list in hand and encourage all members to let us have their up to date email addresses. I apologise that I have not been able to progress this project this year, but I hope progress will be made as we prepare for this 2014 AGM. It is a disappointment that so few of our members respond to our emails.

Graham Gendall Norton, Tony Wakeham and Mary Timmins have organised visits to interesting places. The Family History Group's new team, led by Carol Goodwin and Gill Penny will ensure that the day conferences continue to be one of the most active areas in the Association, with great assistance on the day given by Chris Burgess, Tom Sims, Dick Richards, Jackie Trembath and Kath Slatter. The Annual Dinner organised most efficiently and effectively by Elizabeth Broughton proved to be very enjoyable. However, numbers of diners declined this year and were the lowest for some time. Jackie Trembath has continued to keep us in line with regard to our expenditure,

## Report from Treasurer

### Notes

At the end of the year our bank balance had increased compared to the previous year end and we had a surplus of income over expenditure however, with fewer members attending our events this may not continue.

Our main source of income is the annual membership subscription which remains unchanged at the current rate of £15. We are also grateful for donations we have received including a legacy of £200.

Family History days and other social events held during the year continued to cover their costs but did not contribute much to our income. Unfortunately the Annual Dinner was not able to cover its costs this year due to the decline in numbers attending.

Once again we managed to hold most of our Council and Committee meetings in a restaurant or café so saving the cost of a meeting room.

We recently launched our new website which involved extra costs this year for a web designer and upgrading our hosting package. We are thrilled with the result and think it worth the investment. The new site will have on going costs to run but the saving made in not printing the Brochure should cover this.

*Jacqueline Trembath*

<b>Income and Expenditure Statement for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2014</b>		
	£	£
Bank Account Balance March 31st 2013		6883.06
<b>Income</b>		
Subscriptions	3175.00	
Donations	573.50	
Interest Received	<u>6.68</u>	
		3755.18
<b>Expenditure</b>		
Printing Newsletter and Brochure	1187.50	
Insurance	719.49	
Website	682.00	
Postage, Paper and Envelopes	528.79	
Expenses, Publicity and Special Events	183.84	
Annual Dinner, Family History and Social Events	93.15	
Meeting room – Council Meetings	<u>37.50</u>	
		3432.27
Surplus of Income over Expenditure		322.91
Bank Account Balance March 31st 2014		<b>7205.97</b>

## Family History Report

When Lorna Leadbetter decided to stand down from her most successful tenure as organiser of the LCA Family History Group (FHG) doubt was raised as to whether the FHG would continue.

Gillian Penny and I decided that we would work together, taking over Lorna's role along with Chris Burgess and Tom Sims.

Our first FHG day was in October and we had a good group of attendees. The speaker in the morning session was our member, Mr John Symons, who spoke about Smuggling and the Revenue Men in South Cornwall in the early 19th Century. In the afternoon, Mr Gregory Toth from the Caird Library at the National Maritime Museum was most informative and helped us understand the nature of the maritime resources at the Library. Both speakers conveyed so much information and the feedback from the attendees was very good indeed.

In April 2014 about 38 people, including CFHS members, attended.

Tom Doig who has visited us in the past spoke about the Dating of late-Victorian photographs and some members brought photos in for Tom to date. Then in the afternoon session, Ann Hicks, assisted by her husband Mike, came from Cornwall to speak of their project Cornwall's 'War History'. CFHS is producing a new website to commemorate the beginning of the First World War. The aim is to produce a fully searchable index of anyone connected with Cornwall during both world wars and subsequent conflicts, including not just service people but also civilians

like fire-fighters and nurses. A most interesting and enjoyable day.

Our next FH Day will be on Saturday, 4<sup>th</sup> October 2014. Speakers are yet to be confirmed.

If any members have suggestions for topics for future Family History Days, we would be most appreciative. We try to promote the Days as much as possible but please help us by mentioning these Family History Group Days to friends and family, wherever possible.

*Carol Goodwin*

## Publications Report

### Newsletters

The LCA newsletter is published four times a year and reports on Association activities as well as other items of Cornish interest.

The newsletter aims to promote the LCA and to encourage members and visitors to participate in its interesting and varied social programme. One of the ways this is done is to include a short report, and sometimes a photo, on each event. These are written, as far as possible, by one of the members who was there. We would love it if more members were willing to help us in this way. Anyone who is inspired to help should speak to the event organiser. All offers will be greatly appreciated.

We rely on members to submit articles for the newsletter or to provide leads. While there has been great enthusiasm for this in the past, the number of items sent in recently has dropped substantially and the bulk of the material is coming from just a few people. Sadly, this has

meant that the last two issues have been reduced to 12 pages from the usual 16. I would urge others to send in items for inclusion. If you have a particular Cornish passion, please tell us about it. Your contributions can be sent to [lca@londoncornish.co.uk](mailto:lca@londoncornish.co.uk).

The newsletter is sent to members, local and overseas Cornish Associations, the Cornish media, Cornish MPs and organisations such as the Cornish Gorsedd as well as four Legal Deposit Libraries. It is available as both a hard copy and an emailed version. With the cost of both printing and postage on the rise, providing a hard copy is now becoming very expensive. It costs approximately £1.70 to provide a single hard copy to a member – and this will be going up following the recent increase in postage rates. We therefore encourage members with access to email to consider taking the e-newsletter instead. The big advantage of this is that the pictures are in colour! If you would like to change to the e-newsletter, please contact us at either [lca@londoncornish.co.uk](mailto:lca@londoncornish.co.uk) or mail me at the address on the back page of the newsletter.

### **Yellow Members 'Brochure'**

The LCA 'Brochure' is published at the beginning of September each year. In 2013, its format was changed to provide a slimmed down version which is less bulky in a pocket or handbag. The switch to the new format has made my job as editor substantially easier and, as it is small enough to include with the Autumn newsletter, the September postage bill has reduced by half. To date, there have been no comments on the new format from members

## Website report 2014

The LCA launched its new website at the Family History Day in April. Designed by Truroian, Nicola Bathe, it has been uploaded onto the internet, and is undergoing final tests and tweaks, but it is available to view and use.

The old website was due for retirement as we have had it since 2006. Although it did the job back then, it had become outdated and limited in what it could offer. The new website makes use of some of the new technology, allowing us to introduce several innovative and attractive features that will make it a more interesting and useful site. There is now a more prominent diary which also provides maps of venues and there is a scrolling ticker line where important announcements can be made. (It currently carries a reminder that LCA subs were due on 1<sup>st</sup> April!) Another important improvement is the ability to contact the LCA directly from the website, a feature found on most modern websites but hitherto denied our 'visitors'.

One of the most exciting new features is the inclusion of information on sites in London which have a Cornish connection. The *Cornwall in London* project, coordinated by Tony Wakeham, has been going for some time, but this is the first chance we have had to share the information which has been gathered. The information will be uploaded from time to time.

We hope that members, friends and 'visitors' will enjoy, make use of and take pride in our new website - [www.londoncornish.co.uk](http://www.londoncornish.co.uk)

*Jackie Trembath, Ursula Jeffries, Liz Broekmann*

## Some thoughts from a rambling LCA Chairman

Recently we were asked by the Cornish Gorsedd if we had details on three bards to assist Ann Trevenen Jenkin who is editing a book on Cornish bards. One was our old friend Pat Snow who held various offices in LCA, particularly Chairman (When was that? It used to be given in our little yellow booklet. [Brochure] How I miss that!). However, Graham Pearce, LCA Membership Sec, came up with Pat's details straightaway.

The other bards were more difficult to trace. All we knew was that Rosina Avis from St Dominick, had been Secretary of the New York Cornish Association, some time back. This Association's area is now covered by the Cornish Cousins of the South East whose Secretary, Nancy Heydt, lives in Florida. There is a matter of 1000 miles of coast to cover, (NY to FL) so it is difficult to have meetings. Nancy, however, lives very close to a cousin of mine, so with her descendents, maybe there is a little Florida Cornish Association in the making. Chris O'Brien, Vice-President of the Cornish Heritage Society East quoted an article supplied by Nancy all about Rosina Avis in their newsletter, the Cornish Crier ([http://cornishcrier.org/nwsltrs/cc\\_vol15\\_no4.doc](http://cornishcrier.org/nwsltrs/cc_vol15_no4.doc)) republished in 2009, originally from 1962. Chris is the CHSE editor of their Facebook page, too. What made this so interesting is the wonderful collection of photographs of the English and Cornish (Cornwall – a special minority country, now?) terrible storm weather this year. <https://www.google.co.uk/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=1&cad=rja&uact=8&ved=0CCoQFjAA&url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.facebook.com%2FCHSEast&ei=UaEbU-2iFMWr4ASp2YGQDg&usq=AFQjCNFqqnmkzlysqm33n2h09GZTF-Z-Jw>

The third Bard enquired of is Richard Crossley of the former Liverpool (Merseyside) Cornish Association, and so far I have not found anything about him. I did contact a former member of the Chester Cornish Association, but just as the Jews had no dealings with the Samaritans, so there was apparently little contact between Liverpool and Chester CAs, even though they were only two 'scats' away from each other.

Talking of former Cornish Associations we recently had another enquiry from Ann Jenkin enquiring about Peggy Hodges of the former Cardiff CA. Peggy was its secretary for some years up to 1971. She handed over to Mrs Joyce Davidson now aged 90. The CCA disbanded in 2010 and I happen to be the guardian of the Cardiff CA Chain of Office.

These ramblings show how close we Cornish are together - past and present. But what of the future? Of course 'Mousehole meets Milwaukee' is scheduled for August 2014, when the 17th Gathering of Cornish Cousins meets in Wisconsin.

Lest anyone should feel moved to make any enquiry from the LCA Archive I have to say it is largely un-indexed and is contained in fifteen Large Plastic Boxes.

I've just returned from a monthly lunch at Westminster Central Hall. When I arrived, the foyer was full of German speaking students, but they were on the way out and so there was plenty of space and no queue. Next to arrive was John Carbis, escaping from the Chelsea Flower

Show, followed by Hilary Rundell. We had a very good chat and a very good lunch in a redecorated Cafe with air conditioning. Last month we were also only four diners. I know many of our regulars have been struck down with illness, but where are the remaining 200 plus members, and why do so few attend? These lunches have been going since 1997 and provide a pleasant way to renew acquaintances at minimal cost. No booking is needed. Just turn up from noon, and stay till we get thrown out by 4.30p.m. Main meal hot dishes cost about £8.50.

Because of room hire charges, it is difficult to resume our social meetings with talks. Does anyone know of a suitable venue? It might be noted that the room discounted hire charge for our Family History Day conference is £450 and we need at least 45 to attend at £15 to break even. We are glad that this event is so successful. We shall soon be planning our next year's social Programme of events. If you feel you could organise a visit to a stately home or another attraction, library, anything, please let us know. In recent years a number of members have done this very successfully. I still remember the painting of those lovely horses pulling a plough at Messum's Art Gallery. Unfortunately I did not wish to pay the asking price of £25,000 or so. So please volunteer to lead a visit!

I have written elsewhere about our email address list and the lack of response of members to emails sent out. Carol Goodwin is revising the emailing list. It would help us to know if this is a good way to contact you. I only use my mobile phone to call out and never monitor it for incoming messages. Are you using email in this way? Please let us know if this is the case.

Attendance at our AGM and Trelawny Lecture was the lowest for some time. It has been suggested that an alternative time or day might be tried. Wednesday was selected for historical reasons and, combining with the Trelawny Lecture aimed to reduce the number of visits to central London. May be a Saturday afternoon? Without lunch?

The picnic this year will be held as a midsummer Lunch. The venue was hoped to be at a Riverside pub, but this has proved difficult to arrange this year. A number of regulars have mobility problems and getting up and down from grass was proving difficult as was finding suitable venues with toilets and shade, hence the change.

There are a number of other topics I will leave for another time, but your Council would be grateful for any help you can offer the Association, in any way. You will note that I have started my third year as Chairman. I would like a successor! Any takers?

*Francis Dunstan, Chairman*

## Please help us put an end to 'bouncing' emails



When trying to email some of our members recently we realised that many of the email addresses we have are incorrect and the emails came bouncing back. We are keen to compile an accurate and up to date list but we need your help to do this.

The member of Council who is working on this project is Carol Goodwin. The most accurate way for her to update her list is for you to send her an email so your address can be entered directly into the address book. We are therefore asking if you would email Carol at [carolgoodwin951@btinternet.com](mailto:carolgoodwin951@btinternet.com) Please put the following note in the subject line – *Email update*.

Please remember to let us know if you change your email address in the future. We undertake not to bombard you with emails, but it would be helpful to be able to contact you if we need to.

## It is true – Cornwall is not England!

Cornwall has, at last, been recognised as a separate entity with Cornish people being granted minority status within the UK. This means Cornwall will now become the UK's fifth 'home nation' and will have the same status as the other Celtic communities – the Scots, Welsh and Irish. In responding to the announcement, the Grand Bard, Maureen Fuller said that *Cornish people have a proud and distinct identity and a genuinely democratic society which respects the ethnic, cultural and linguistic identity of people belonging to a national minority.*

*We are proud of our history and our unique language and look forward to the day when these feature as regular subjects on school timetables and are spoken of by Cornish people as a way of life.*

### But what will this mean to the Cornish?

- The Cornish will be afforded the same protection as the Welsh, Scottish and the Irish. This means is that government departments and public bodies have to take Cornwall's views into account when making decisions.
- It ensures that the rights of national minorities are respected by combating discrimination, promoting equality and preserving and developing the culture and identity of national minorities.

## Condolences

We were sorry to hear recently of the death of **Mrs Millie Scutt** of Bodmin and offer our condolences to her family and friends.

We were also saddened to hear of the death of **Fawzi Keer**, husband of member and past Publicity Secretary, Brenda Keer. Some of us got to know him when he joined us for tea at his house or for a beer at the pub. Our thoughts are with Brenda and her family at this time.

# The LCA has an exciting new presence in cyberspace!



It was with great pride that we launched the new London Cornish Association website at the Family History Day on 4th April. The website committee – Jackie Trembath, Ursula Jeffries and Liz Broekmann - worked hard for several months to plan and prepare the material for the site so that it would be able to go live in time.

Our website developer, Nicola Bathe, has been tremendously supportive and helpful, working with our hosts and answering our queries. Throughout it all, she has shown tremendous patience as she has waited for us to provide her with what she needed to continue, and she has worked like a Trojan to get it to where it is today. She will continue a bit longer doing final tweaks and checks before finally handing the reins over to us. Nicola hails from Truro, so this site can truly be said to be a 'Cornish' website.

There is a website report amongst the AGM reports but the purpose of this article is to introduce you to some of the exciting new features which are now available because technology has moved so far forward since our last website was launched in 2005/6.

The first thing you will notice is the striking header with its beautiful photographs which clearly show that we are the *London Cornish Association* – the Tower of London (with its strong link to Bishop Trelawny) represents London while the iconic St Michael's Mount represents Cornwall.

As you enter the website, you will notice a 'ticker' which scrolls continuously across the screen carrying a message, rather like those news tickers which you see on TV news channels. Its current message is a reminder that membership subscriptions are due, but in future it will be a most useful communication tool, enabling us to remind you of a forthcoming event or tell you the latest news.

The 'Diary' tab is one of the most innovative parts of the new site. It is visible from every page, so is far more accessible than it was before and, best of all, it includes maps which show where an event is to take place. We have added a 'News' section which will provide a record of past events and will, we hope, include some photos.

There is so much interesting and useful information relating to the LCA, but where to put it? Our solution has been to add a 'Crowdy Crawn' section in which you will find various 'odds and sods' which don't fit in elsewhere. Many of our members may not know that the Association has its own special prayer or why the London Cornish Association sings a different version of Trelawny! All is revealed in *Crowdy Crawn*.

One of the things we are most excited about is having somewhere to share the information which has been collected for the ongoing *Cornwall in London* project. This project was started several years ago by Past Chairman, 'Cilla Oates and current member of Council, Tony Wakeham, who is now the Convener. Quite a lot of information has been gathered but up until now, we have not had any way to share it, other than the odd note in the newsletter. We hope that by making this information available, Londoners and visitors to the capital will be encouraged to go to some of the sites in London which have a Cornish connection. It is amazing how many there are.

The website is in the final stages of development, and when it is complete, you will be able to use PayPal to make payments to the LCA. We are sure that this secure and easy method of making payments will be of interest to members wanting to renew their subscriptions, pay for dinner tickets or make any other payments to the Association.

This website is a wonderful complement to the new-format 'yellow brochure' which was launched in September 2013. Most of the extra information which made the 'old' book so bulky, is now available on the website, including contact details for associations around the world, lists of past office bearers and winners of the Paul Smales and the LCA Shield awards.

The new website is very different to the one we had before and we encourage you to visit it and have a look around – [www.londoncornish.co.uk](http://www.londoncornish.co.uk). We hope you will think that this is a 'proper job'.

## New Members

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

Miss Sally Watson, originally from Penzance

Miss Jenny Bray, a member by descent

*If you know anyone who has Cornish connections – whether by birth, descent or marriage, 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)

## Pasties – how traditional are they?

Horse and carriage, love and marriage – and Pasty and Cornwall. This iconic Cornish food, so perfectly designed for underground ‘picnics’ when hands are dirty, has traditionally been made in a specific way. In the 21st century, things are very different, and it is possible to find pasties in a variety of flavours. They are no longer just meat, potato, onion and swede. You can now get a ‘vegetarian’ pasty, one with bacon and cheese, curry, fish, chicken...and of course those wonderful spicy versions we hear about from Mexico. It seems that the only limitation is one’s imagination!

As the traditional home for pasties is Cornwall, it is no surprise that the World Championships are held there. This year, for the third time, the championships were held at the Eden Project and on 1st March, about 150 keen bakers took up the challenge.

The most hotly contested categories every year are, without doubt, those where contestants have to bake ‘genuine’ pasties. To be ‘genuine’, they not only had to be made with the right ingredients, but also had to be made in Cornwall. This year’s champion, Terry O’Connor now lives in Watford but stayed in Lostwithiel the previous night to make sure his pasty qualified.

The winner in the commercial Cornish pasty category was the West Cornwall Pasty Co, whose pasties are made by W C Rowe of Falmouth.

Winner of the Junior category, Simon Cornish(!) helped his family achieve a hat trick – both his father and brother achieved wins in previous years.

One of the most interesting awards is the special Pasty Ambassador Trophy. This year it was won by Elaine Ead of the Chough Bakery in Padstow who also happens to be the Chair of the Cornish Pasty Association and is therefore in the perfect position to be a Pasty Ambassador!

### **Some Cornish Pasty Facts**

The *Cornish Pasty Association* has provided some interesting facts about pasties:

- By the 18th century, the pasty was firmly established as a Cornish food eaten by poorer working families who could only afford cheap ingredients such as potatoes, swede and onion. Meat was added later.
- In the 1860s records show that children employed in mines also took pasties with them as part of their crib or croust.
- By the end of the 18th century it was the staple diet of working men across Cornwall. Miners and farm workers took this portable and easy to eat convenience food with them to work because it was so well suited to the purpose. Its size and shape made it easy to carry; its pasty case insulated the contents and was durable enough to survive, while its wholesome ingredients provided enough sustenance to see the workers through their long and arduous working days.
- By the early 20th century the Cornish Pasty was produced on a large scale throughout the county as a basic food for farm workers and miners.
- A genuine Cornish pasty has a distinctive ‘D’ shape and is crimped on one side.
- The texture of the filling for the pasty is chunky, made up of uncooked minced or roughly cut chunks of beef

(not less than 12.5 per cent), swede, potato and onion and a light peppery seasoning.

- The pasty casing is golden in colour, savoury, glazed with milk or egg and robust enough to retain its shape throughout the cooking and cooling process without splitting or cracking.
- The whole pasty is slow-baked to ensure that flavours from the raw ingredients are maximised.
- No flavourings or additives must be used.
- And, perhaps most importantly, it must also be made in Cornwall.

The pasty now has protected status meaning that only Cornish pasties made in Cornwall following the traditional recipe can be called ‘Cornish Pasties’. Pasties which are baked elsewhere in the country can still be designated ‘Cornish Pasties’ as long as they are actually prepared in Cornwall. A pasty which complies with these conditions is entitled to carry a special logo indicating that it is a ‘Genuine Cornish Pasty’.



### **A Poem about a pasty,**

*written by Walter F Gries of Marquette:*

*I dearly lov a pasty,  
A 'hot 'n leaky wun  
Weth taties, mayt 'n turmit  
Purs'ly 'n honyun  
Us crus be made with su't  
N' shaped like 'alf a moon,  
Weth crinkly h'edges, freshed  
baked  
E' always gone to soon!*

### **Liskeard OCS are told 'The Great Pasty Story'**

The Liskeard Old Cornwall Society were privileged to have as their speaker in April, Mrs Di Lawer, who told them 'The Great Pasty Story'. She traced the history of this Cornish food to its earliest references in the 13th century. Apparently, it was a favourite food of Jane Seymour, wife of King Henry VIII. and, it also featured in the *Canterbury Tales*!

She talked about the ingredients which were used and mentioned crimping styles. She also talked about some of the words linked to the pasty tradition including oggie, croust and knockers. The Patron Saint of pasties is St Carantoc.

*Based on an item sent in by Duncan Paul Matthews*

# News from other Cornish Associations

## UNITED STATES

The **Cornish Society of Greater Milwaukee** is busy with the final preparations for the 17th Gathering of the Cornish Cousins which takes place from 13 to 17 August. They hope to welcome representatives from all over the world *to learn new things, make new contacts, and rejuvenate our direction as a society and our relationships with other organizations.*

Speakers at the Gathering will include Bert Biscoe, David Holman, Howard Curnow, Mike Kiernan, Lesley Trotter, and Jason Semmens from Cornwall while people from California, Illinois, Wisconsin, Michigan, Nevada, Kentucky, Texas, and Ontario will be involved in workshops on a variety of subjects.

The opening ceremony of the Gathering will comprise a traditional parade of flags and banners, accompanied by an ensemble of Milwaukee Festival Brass. Following the opening ceremony, Benjamin Luxon and Bert Biscoe will present *A Celebration of Cornish Poetry, Story and Song*. The following night will see one of the highlights of the Gathering – a pasty dinner followed by a performance by the Milwaukee Festival Brass of a concert called *Impressions of Cornwall*. The conductor will be Mark Taylor who will also be presenting a workshop on *Brass Bands in Cornwall*.

During the Gathering, the Officers of the Cornish American Heritage Society will be elected. They will serve until the next Gathering.

In April, the Cornish Society of Greater Milwaukee held a special pasty lunch, after which they heard reports about and previews of the 17th Gathering in August.

The annual meeting of **Southwest Wisconsin Cornish Society** was held in early May. The evening began with a meal, after which the Annual Meeting was held and the Officers elected. Once the meeting was over, Richard Hoskin, originally from Liskeard, gave a talk about the research he did for his book, *The Miner and the Viscount* and the amazing facts and people he discovered en route.

The Society marked St Piran's Day with a trip, in sub-zero temperatures, to the historic Walker House Inn, the oldest inn in Wisconsin still being used for its original purpose. After the traditional pasty meal, Nancy Pfothenauer of the Mineral Point Historical Society showed a number of old photographs of Cornish built or Cornish related buildings in the area after which Dan Vaillan conducted everyone on a tour of Walker House.

## CANADA

Members of the **Toronto Cornish Association** celebrated St Piran's Day in their traditional way with a flag raising ceremony on the roof at Toronto City Hall. Twelve members attended the ceremony on a slightly sunny, cold day. John White started with a few appropriate remarks after which Ann read the *Proper Job* poem. The ceremony ended with the singing of Trelawny.

2014 is a special year for the TCA as it marks its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The Association celebrated with a banquet in April. Bunting with the words Tre, Pol and Pen strung up

around the room helped give the venue a Cornish theme, and the long, solid oak tables had pieces of driftwood and fresh spring flowers – all bringing fond memories of Cornwall. Each person was given a souvenir 20th anniversary booklet which contained members thoughts and notes on what membership of the Association has meant to them.

President, Marion Stephens-Cockroft welcomed everyone to the dinner and read greetings from the Grand Bard, Maureen Fuller. The Guest Speaker was Bard Rosalie Armstrong. Afterwards a film of TCA memories spanning 20 years was shown.

The Association's library is to be housed at the Kelly Library. Books are currently being added to Kelly's catalogue and it will then be possible to access information about them online.

In addition to housing the books at Kelly's, the TCA will create a display in show cases in the library. The theme will be *Cornwall – the forgotten Celts* and it will include information covering industry, culture, history and the TCA.

Forthcoming meetings include a picnic and visit to the Steam and Technology Museum and a talk on Lanhydrock.

## AUSTRALIA

The library of the **Cornish Association of Victoria** has a list of Cornish migrants into Australia which has been compiled with the help of members. There are over 1000 entries which give not only arrival information, but also family details. These include the settler's name, where they were from, which ship they came on and when they arrived as well as the name of their spouse.

Members of the Association attended the *Dahlia and Arts Festival* in Eaglehawk in March. The CAV had arranged its own activities within the *Festival* and was delighted that the Grand Bard, Maureen Fuller, was able to join in them.

During the weekend, there were people on hand to help with research. On the Friday a coach tour of Bendigo enabled people to see buildings which had a Cornish connection and were told some of their history. In the evening, they enjoyed a *Meet the Cornish* concert which included some community singing and some items by the Cornish Language Group.

The Bardic Ceremony was led by the Grand Bard, who was also the guest speaker at the *St Piran's Dinner*.

Members of the **Ballarat Branch of the CAV** have had a couple of very busy months. In February Beryl Pearse spoke about a trip to Cornwall and Wendy Benoit spoke about a Ballarat resident with Cornish ancestry. In March, some members went to the Eaglehawk Dahlia and Arts Festival, and shortly after, the Grand Bard spent a couple of days in the town.

There were two speakers at the April meeting. Dennis Sielvogel spoke about his great grandfather who was born in Ballarat and eventually became a teacher there. He was the author of the Spielvogel Papers which give an insight into the early history of Ballarat. The other speaker at this meeting was Les George who talked about his Bawden family.

The Branch was well represented at the Heritage Weekend in May.

For many years the Branch has been concerned about the condition of the Cornish Shields on the gates of the Australian Catholic University in Mair Street. This was the former home of Cyrus Bath Retallack who was a blacksmith in the town in the 1800s. The shields are now to be restored.



*Photo by Ian Jennings from Ballarat*

Forty five people attended the Annual Dinner of the **Geelong Branch of the CAV** which was held in November. The speaker on the evening was Elizabeth Kraus who, dressed in period costume, told the story of Ann Pearce who arrived in South Australia in 1838 on the *Royal Admiral*.

Members of the **Cornish Association of Queensland** attended the 22nd Australian Celtic Festival in Glen Innes at the beginning of May. Although the weather is usually mild and sunny for the Festival, this year was the exception. This did not dampen spirits although it did mean some events had to be held indoors. Fortunately the rain did stop long enough for their march, but it started again as they made their way to the Standing Stones.

The Association will hold its annual pasty picnic on 15th June. On 20th June, they will join members of the Celtic Council of Australia for a tour of Parliament House with MP Ian Kaye after which they will enjoy a BBQ dinner overlooking the Brisbane River.

Members of the **Southern Sons of Cornwall** attended the Glen Innes Festival. They joined with the NSW Cornish Association to host an information tent during the festival. The theme was *The Year of Cornwall*

At their AGM in February, Julie Wheeler was declared winner of the arts competition. The task for next year's competition is to write a poem with a 'Cornish connection'. The winner will be announced at the 2015 AGM,

The Association has had a busy couple of weeks with a visit to Shoalhaven Zoo, a visit to the Family and Local History Expo where they had an information marquee and a *'luncheon and library book culling party'*.

The April/May newsletter of the **Cornish Association of NSW** carries reports submitted at their AGM. The President's report carries a plea – echoed in so many associations – for people to step up and help with the running of the organisation. In their case, this is a matter of great urgency as both the President and the Secretary will be moving away from Sydney in June.

In March, they had a double celebration when they combined their St Piran's Day celebrations with the start of their 39<sup>th</sup> year. Forty three members were able to attend. The Raggeder Band gave their first live performance at this event.

The Association joined with the Southern Sons of Cornwall to man an information tent at the Australian Celtic Festival at Glen Innes in May.

In June, they will have a social gathering, and a Pasty Day will be held in August. In October they will visit the Experiment Farm and Hambledon Cottage in Rosehill/Parramatta and their Christmas party will be held in November.

## **NEW ZEALAND**

The **Cornish Interest Group of the New Zealand Society of Genealogists** attended the Thames Family History Expo in May. All interest Groups, including the Cornish Interest Group, were represented at the Expo, as were local museums. The CIG took their Cornish Immigration Register and made it available to visitors.

The Group was involved in the Conference and Annual General Meeting of the New Zealand Society of Genealogists at the end of May. There was a special meeting for members of the Cornish Interest Group during the weekend.

The Annual General Meeting of the Society will be held in conjunction with the Combined English Interest Groups' Research Day early in June.

The Autumn newsletter of the CIG contains the second part of an article on Bodmin Goal and some of its interesting inmates. The article was written by Jessie Evans, OPC for St Dennis, who has been involved in transcribing the prison records. Some of the details which were recorded make fascinating reading. For instance, between 1830 and 1838, about 50 per cent of the inmates had grey eyes! The next most common colour was 'dark' or 'hazel' while only 30 (out of 636) had blue eyes. One can't help wondering if eye colour predisposes you to a life of crime!

## **UK**

Members of **Bournemouth Cornish Association** continue with a busy social programme. In May, they enjoyed fish and chips and a game of skittles. In June they will gather for afternoon tea, in July a cream tea and in August, a pub lunch.

**Thames Valley Cornish Association** did something different for their AGM this year, combining it with a lunch get together in a local restaurant.

In May, the **Torbay Cornish Association** enjoyed a talk given by Duncan Paul Matthews, President of the Federation of Old Cornwall Societies. The title of his talk was *Cornwall and the Cornish*.

# Publications

It has been a busy time in the publishing world and we have been notified of the following new books which all have a Cornish interest.

## ***Who Decides***

By Paul Tyler\*

Publisher: Arthur H Stockwell

ISBN 9780722343746

If you are one of the hundreds of thousands of people in Britain who regularly take collective decisions - in a club, in business, in local or central government, or indeed in any other organisation - this book offers essential advice. The combination of Dr Edgar Anstey's professional expertise, as a former government Chief Psychologist, and Paul Tyler's practical experiences provides invaluable, topical guidance. Along the way we discover how the winner of the Man Booker Prize is chosen, how bishops (men only, but for how long?) are selected and how Margaret Thatcher plumped for the Channel Tunnel option. By what process did Tony Blair translate from a lost deposit to a safe Labour seat? How could the Liberal Democrats get into the coalition bed with David Cameron after the failure to do a deal with Edward Heath in 1974? And while politicians look on the House of Lords as a very comfortable and rewarding retirement home will there ever be a decision on its reform?

*\*Lord Tyler is a member of the London Cornish Association*

## ***The Jews of Cornwall – A History – Tradition and Settlement to 1913***

By Keith Pearce

Publisher: Halsgrove

ISBN: 978-0857042224

In the first part of the book, which has been sponsored by the Cornish Jewish Community, the author takes a critical look at Cornish Traditions and Folklore which promote the notions that Jews worked the Cornish mines as slaves in Roman times, and that they controlled and exploited the revenues of the Stannaries in Medieval times. Traditions linking Phoenicians, Saracens and other peoples of the Levant and Spain are also examined, as well as the "Knocker" and saffron traditions. The author draws the conclusion that many of these erroneous traditions arise from the linguistic confusion which resulted from the early death of Cornish and its gradual replacement by English. The author distinguishes the Cornish families with adopted Hebrew names, but who were not of Jewish descent, from the Jews who settled in Mid and South Cornwall from the mid-18th century onwards.

These immigrant Jews from the Continent, mainly from Germany, Prussia and the Holland, established communities in the flourishing and cosmopolitan ports of Cornwall, helped by the general tolerance of the Hanoverian monarchy towards Jewish settlement. In Cornwall, the Jews were welcomed and positively encouraged to settle at a time when the local economy was thriving. Many of the great Cornish landed families helped the Jews to acquire land for their burial grounds and the two synagogues. The book contains a wealth of detail on these Jewish families, with many individual biographies, original colour illustrations and portraits, numerous family trees and complete headstone translations from the Falmouth (Penryn) and

Penzance Jewish cemeteries. The latter burial ground is English Heritage Grade II listed and it is the finest Georgian Jewish cemetery of the 25 from the early 18th century outside of London. The Rabbis who served the Cornish congregations are given a chapter of their own, and there are detailed chapters on the commercial activities and trades of Jews in Falmouth, Penzance, Truro and Redruth, and the religious life of the Hebrew Congregations. There is also a chapter on Jewish membership of Cornish Freemasonry.

Falmouth had the largest and most prosperous Jewish community, established by Alexander Moses around 1840. Other Jewish families soon settled there, many being multilingual, drawn from Holland, Germany and Alsace, including the Solomon, Levy, Joseph and Jacob families. The Jacob family came to develop widespread business interests beyond Falmouth and across southern Cornwall including Penzance and Redruth. They traded not only as Jewellers and Clockmakers, but also as specialist mineralogists (such as Moses Jacob and Joseph Joseph in Redruth), money exchange merchants, marine store dealers, clothiers and household goods suppliers. They also invested in Cornish mines, railways and the Falmouth Docks development. Lyon Joseph was a shipping merchant with the Iberian peninsula and the Mediterranean. In Penzance, Abraham, Lazarus and Lemon Hart developed a successful business importing rum from the West Indies and eventually supplying rum to the Navy, and the Oppenheim family ran a household super-store in the town. Henry Levin, from Stockholm, was a successful pawnbroker in Penzance, as was Henry Joseph, and in Truro, the Harris family were Jewellers by Royal Warrant, alongside other Jewish Traders, Samuel Simons, Israel Levy and others. A few Jews also lived in St. Austell, St. Ives, Bodmin and Liskeard. With the downturn in the Cornish economy from the mid 19th century, mining went into decline. The ending of the Packet Boats had a massive effect on the ports, and the arrival of better road and rail communication led to an exodus from the County. For the Jews, there were insufficient numbers of incomers to allow for marriage to fellow Jews, and migration to the larger centres of population and emigration to Australasia, America and South Africa led to the demise of the Jewish communities by the end of the 19th century."

*This book is available on Amazon*

## ***The Natural Beauty of Cornwall***

By Peter Maxted

Publisher: Robert Hale

ISBN 9780709095859

This book is the ideal companion for anyone wanting to explore the Cornish landscape. From the wild northern coast to the peaceful estuaries of the south and from the high windswept moors and heaths to the hidden wooded valleys, this book captures the very essence of Cornwall. Author Peter Maxted has lived in the area for some thirty years during which time he has keenly explored the length and breadth of it on foot, by bike and by boat. Concentrating mainly on the third of the country that is an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty as well as the 'gateway' towns, *The Natural Beauty of Cornwall* delves into geology, history, the rich industrial heritage and, of course, the astonishing scenery of one of the most beautiful counties in the British Isles.

## **Cornwall & Hidalgo – An Enduring Connection**

Publisher: San Angel Ediciones, Mexico

This book celebrates the connection between Cornwall and Mexico.

Cornish miners and their families emigrated to Hidalgo from the 1820s and their legacy extends from food to football. This book, which is illustrated with photographs, tells the story of the Cornish in Mexico, relating personal stories and family histories.

For more information, contact Gabriela Garciadiego, Cultural Affairs, 16 Saint George Street, London W1S 1FD.

Tel: 020 7907 9460

Email: [ggarciad@sre.gob.mx](mailto:ggarciad@sre.gob.mx)

## **Percy Pengelly and the Wibble-Wobble**

By Jenny Scolding

Publisher: Serpentine Design

ISBN-13: 978-0957285118

This book has been written for 4-7 year olds. The story, which is set in Cornwall, includes circus thrills, giddy rooftop adventures and an exciting rescue at sea.

The book is available on Amazon and at bookshops in Cornwall.

## **New Book on Illogan**

A new, 64 page book on Illogan and its rectors has recently been published..

The main character in this booklet is the Reverend Doctor John Collins, who came from a long line of Cornish rectors. After his education at Oxford he came back to Cornwall but due to his loyalty to the Bassett family and the King, he was ejected from his living during the Civil War. He was forced to practice medicine in Falmouth and was imprisoned for a short while. After the Restoration he made a lot of money from tin mining, married Ann Bray from neighbouring Camborne and had two daughters. His nephew, John Collins of Treworgan in St Erme, appears to have inherited most of his uncle's wealth.

This volume contains a wealth of new information from painstaking research into genealogy, heraldry, Illogan, Camborne, Treworgan in St Erme, Collins families from Launceston and elsewhere in Cornwall, church life, and the Civil Wars in Cornwall. The contents include:

- The origin of the arms
- Some Collins family of Illogan
- The Revd Dr John Collins
- The Civil War
- Losses during the Civil Wars
- Restoration and Church duties
- Family connections
- Archdeaconry business
- His final years at Illogan
- Descendants of the Collins family of Illogan

The booklet can be obtained from the Church at £5. It can also be bought from Dr A Webb, 19 Kirke Grove, Taunton, Somerset, TA2 8SB £7 (£5+UK postage. For overseas postage, please email Dr Webb.) Please make cheques payable to A Webb. If you would prefer to by Paypal - please email Dr Webb at [aj.webb@virgin.net](mailto:aj.webb@virgin.net) for more information.

**All profits will be donated to the Church of St Illogan**

## **Cornish Emigrants to Ontario Vol II**

The second volume of the book Cornish Emigrants to Ontario has recently been published by the Toronto Cornish Association. The blurb on the back of the books reads: *The 'little land' of Cornwall generates images of the sea, pirates, fishing, lighthouses, mystery and madness. As difficulties arose at home, many Cornish, hoping for a better life, chose Ontario, Canada as their destination.*

*This second collection of stories by our members reaches from the Cornish archers of the 14th century to the acumen and innovativeness of a recent brewer of ale.*

The book costs \$28. Enquiries should be sent to the Association via their website

<http://www.torontocornishassociation.org/>

## **What Makes You Cornish ?**

*Taken from Southern Sons of Cornwall newsletter– March 2014...*

Something has to be said about the enthusiasm shown by the Cornish for Cornwall and everything 'Cornish'! This is always evident at gatherings of the Cornish be they social or cultural events or indeed just friends getting together.

This had me looking for something which adequately described what makes the Cornish, Cornish. I found an article written by Cornwall Branch Celtic Leagues' Convenor, Mike Chappell whose family history in Cornwall goes back 500 years. I'm quoting, in part, from that article published in Cornwall Community News website.

*'.....I always knew in my heart where my roots were and deep roots they are too. I say that having travelled the world and lived all over.....Home is where the heart lays and identity arises from knowing where your home is.*

*If you feel something, then that is what you are. This is far deeper than a genetic test or a family tree, this is far older, something which cannot be measured.*

*When you have that special feeling crossing the Tamar, when you hear that heartbeat of Cornwall, when you are able to scrape off the surface of what can be seen today and to view things as they were, as they should be now, then you know who and what you are. You know that you are home and in my case, my homeland is Cornwall and I am Cornish'.*

I feel I understand a little better now.

*Geoff Wells*

## **Annual Subscription Reminder!**

Twenty nine members seem to have forgotten that their membership subscriptions were due on 1st April. This note is to remind them to send their fee to the membership secretary as soon as possible to ensure they continue to receive their newsletters.

Please send your fee to the Membership Secretary, "Pengwyth", 17 Trelyn Close, Barming, MAIDSTONE, Kent, ME16 9EF  
Telephone (01622) 727167

## Mem Sec's Meanderings...

Spring has now arrived, some people may think it is early compared to last year, but what does it matter - it is now here. Let us be happy, enjoy it and hope for a good summer.

As Membership Secretary I must now go onto my regular subject and report on the membership status. Over the winter our membership has increased and I am pleased to report that it has now risen to 231 (as you know our members are spread over London and the Home Counties, and there are nearly 100 living farther afield, with some abroad).

**As you were reminded in the last Newsletter, Annual Subscriptions were due on 1st April. It is now May and there are still 29 subscriptions unpaid! You can of course pay by Standing Order. If you would like to, please contact me for a form. A big thank you to those of you who have paid your subs. But, I must make a plea to everyone to please pay their subs on time; it is costly and time consuming sending out reminders.**

Happily we are able to welcome the following two new members, Miss Sally Watson from Penzance, now living in London and Miss Jenny Bray who is a member by descent and now living in Farnham, Surrey. Our overall membership has gradually reduced over the years but I am very pleased that I have been able to report these two new additions. If you can help by recruiting new members this will be greatly appreciated. Please do what you can to encourage other people to join the Association.

So Cornwall has been granted 'Minority Status' and is now recognised as the 'UK's fifth home nation'. This made the headlines on TV and radio and also in the newspapers. Do you understand it and what benefits will it give to Cornwall? Will the Cornish flag now be incorporated in the Union Jack?!! Being a member of the London Cornish Association or in fact any Cornish Association, I hope we are all proud of our national recognition. I do realise that throughout the UK there are many people who are envious and would like their county to be similarly recognised, but they do not have the same background as Cornwall. Be proud of your Cornishness, be it by birth, descent or marriage.

Regarding items seen in the newspapers, there was one that referred to car parking meters and the fact that they did not give change, so drivers have no choice but to pay for parking that they do not need. Cornwall was particularly mentioned as making approx 2.7 per cent from overpayments. It would be too costly to keep machines stocked with cash and I can see this as being a hazard and an attraction for burglary. Cornwall is, as we know, a holiday venue and relies on its holidaymakers who, of course, it wants to come back. My suggestion is that if you are visiting a place anywhere, not only in Cornwall, you ensure that you have a separate purse or wallet where you can keep a selection of £1, 50p, 10p and 5p coins for use at car parking machines.

Did you know that 'laughing gas' was discovered in the early 1800s by Penzance-born Humphry Davy who noticed that when ammonium nitrate crystals were heated gently they made a vapour that not only made him feel giddy but relieved his toothache. It was about 40 years later that dentists started to use it to relax patients. So, Humphry Davy did not only invent the miner's lamp, but

also discovered 'laughing gas'. Do I hear comments that this is funny?

In my last Meanderings, I said that I would look for some more snippets about Cornwall in various books and newspapers. The following is a sequel to my last Meanderings where I referred to the crossing of the Hayle estuary and the problems which led to the building of Hayle Causeway in 1825. This was built in response to the town's growing importance as a port and industrial centre. Before then, as I said before, the journey across the sandy estuary could be dangerous and several died as they misjudged the tides. Before the causeway was built the narrow and very old St. Erth bridge was used to get to Penzance. However, some carts still went across the sand at low tides which was hazardous and dangerous.

The cost of building the causeway and two bridges needed to cross the estuary was £5,000, rather a lot of money in the early 19th century. A toll charge brought some contribution towards this investment. Walkers were charged halfpenny to cross, horses 1 penny, carts two pence and coaches sixpence. The income from these toll charges was estimated to be about £580 a year.

The ancient St. Erth bridge had been in use for centuries before the causeway was constructed, but even a hundred years before the motor car became the 'king of the road' the bridge was proving inadequate for the task. The actual date when the bridge was built is unknown, but it is thought to have existed from the early 14th century. Its general condition created many debates even as far back as the English Civil War and the need for repairs was often discussed. By the late 18th century, however, its condition was causing urgent concern. Until then the Hayle estuary was considered an obstacle for those wanting to get to the west peninsular of Penwith. In fact to cross over Hayle was considered an expedition into unknown territory at a time when Penzance was seen as a remote outpost of Cornwall. How things have changed. Fortunately, the connection to Penzance was via the causeway when I was young and travelled by bus from my home in Hayle to Penzance Grammar School. Past history tells of the diabolical daily journeys across the tidal estuary but at least I was spared that in the 20th century.

Things change over the years and we often hear the comment *things were better in my childhood days*. It does not matter how old or young we are today our thoughts are still the same. But, as we can see from the above this is not always true!

Time goes by and often we say that *'time flies'*. We are now rapidly approaching summer when we hope the weather will be favourable. If you have arranged any holidays, enjoy them.

Once more I hope these 'Meanderings' have been interesting for you and have brought back memories and that they encourage you to continue your membership. If you could also help the Association to recruit new members, this would be greatly appreciated.

*Kernow bys vyken*

*Graham Pearce,*

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

# Crowdy Crawn

## **Penzance celebrates 400 years as a Borough**

At its Annual General Meeting on May 14th, members of the London Cornish Association voted unanimously to send greetings to Penzance as it celebrates the 400th anniversary of becoming a Borough: its Royal Charter was granted by King James I in 1614.

King James's Charter defined the boundary of the town with a half mile circle measured from the market cross in the Greenmarket. After several moves, that cross is now outside Penlee House. There were originally four stones marking the Borough's boundary and on 9th May, one of them was re-dedicated at St Clare.

The granting of Borough status made the town independent of the County Courts, a situation which continued until County councils came into existence in 1888. It also gave the town the right to own land and impose fines for breaking bylaws. The harbour rights laid down in 1512 were confirmed and the town was granted permission to have two markets a week instead of the original one.

In return for all this, the Crown was paid a perpetual rent of five marks until 1832 – but there was no Parliamentary representation.

The original Charter document still survives and will be on display at Penlee House until early June.

## **A Cornish first**

Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> April saw the launch, at the Tintin Bookshop in Covent Garden, of *Ynys Dhu*, the translation into Cornish of Herge's *Adventures of Tintin* book. The translation was undertaken by Mark Trevethan from the City Lit Cornish class.

The Tintin books have been translated into 49 languages (including Irish, Scots Gaelic and Welsh. More Celtic translations are planned for the autumn.

*Thank you to Hilary Paddon for sending in this item.*

## **A new home for the stories of Cornwall - Kresen Kernow**

From: <http://www.cornwall.gov.uk/kresenkernow>

### ***Kresen Kernow project consultation***

We're building a new archive and local studies centre for Cornwall. Funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund and Cornwall Council, the new centre will be on the old brewery site at Redruth.

The building will bring together the collections of Cornwall Record Office, the Cornish Studies Library and Cornwall and Scilly Historic Environment Record, to form the biggest collection of information for studying Cornwall's people, places, history and culture. The collections contain documents, books, records, maps, photographs and databases, and date from 1150 to the present day.

The new centre that we are building is for everyone: the people of Cornwall, anyone with an interest in Cornish history, people that visit us from around the world and people that only ever use our online services. Your views count and you can have a say about what the new building and service looks like. Our consultation

programme has now started and you can fill in our [consultation questionnaire](#) online survey. The questionnaire will be available until early June 2014.

For more information about the whole consultation programme, including dates and locations for our roadshow events and details of the focus groups planned for later in 2014, see our [Kresen Kernow Consultation](#) page.

## **A special event at the Eden Project in July**

On Saturday 5 July there will be a special performance of 'Pixar in Concert' in front of the Biomes at the Eden Project. This will be the first performance of the show since its debut at the Royal Albert Hall in February. It will also be the first outdoor performance in the UK.

The show will include scores from 13 Disney Pixar films played by the Disney Concert Orchestra. This orchestra, which is made up of some of the finest orchestral musicians in the UK, played to over 60 000 people at The Magic of Disney In Concert which was part of the Queen's Jubilee Festival in Hyde Park.

Behind the orchestra will be a giant screen on which clips of the movies will be shown. These include Toy Story, Finding Nemo and The Incredibles.

Tickets can be booked online at a discount. All tickets include entry to the Eden Project on the day from 9.30am with the show starting at 7.30pm and finishing at 10pm. All tickets also include entry to the Eden Project on the day after (6 July), if you fancy coming back to explore more of the site.

## **Can you fill in the gaps?**

In March 2014, member Duncan Paul Matthews heard a talk on BBC Radio Cornwall about an archaeological dig at St German's Priory. The purpose of this dig is apparently to try and identify the burial place of the tenth century King Hywell.

King Hywell was king of the West Welsh. He might also have been a king of Cornwall, although there is some debate about this. What has led to the speculation is that in the 10<sup>th</sup> century, 'West Wales' was one of the names for Cornwall - but it was also the name given to an area in West Wales.

Did anyone else hear the talk on BBC? It would be interesting to find out more. If you have more information, please contact me on [lca@londoncornish.co.uk](mailto:lca@londoncornish.co.uk).

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

**5th August**

*Please send all contributions to:*

*The Editor*

*55 Brownell Place*

*London*

*W7 3AZ*

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