



Cowethas Kernewek Loundres

London Cornish Association Newsletter



www.londoncornish.co.uk

Autumn 2013

The LCA moves on...

Regular readers of this newsletter will be well aware of how, over the past two years, we have regularly asked you for your opinions on the LCA, what types of events it should organise, how often these should occur, what traditions we should keep and what should change. Basically, we wanted to know your vision for the LCA in the 21st century.

In the summer newsletter we included a report on the survey which was prepared by Dick Richards. What was most disappointing was the lack of responses – 10% of the membership sent in a response. Because the sample is so small it makes it difficult to know what the membership as a whole feels. However, Dick's analysis has enabled us to make some decisions.

One of the of the first changes you will see is the replacement of the Yellow Brochure with a new, more compact Membership Card. One of the reasons for the change is the amount of time which it used to take to update and prepare the yellow brochure each year, a process made more challenging by the fact that it coincided with the publication of the Autumn newsletter. With the shortage of people to help out, it becomes difficult to justify this time, which could be better spent planning events or doing other things for our members. In addition to this, in the years I have been doing the Yellow Brochure, I have had virtually no feedback on the usefulness of this publication, so one is left wondering if all the work is worth it. In deciding what to include in the new Membership Card, we looked at the information in the old Yellow Brochure and picked out what was most likely to be useful.

A copy of the new card is included with this newsletter. (Members who get the e-newsletter will have theirs sent to them.) We

hope you find it a convenient and helpful publication.

As already mentioned, there will be some changes in the coming months, but there is one thing which will not change – the newsletter will continue to be published four times a year and will be the primary means of communication for all our members, containing news of activities and items of news of Cornwall and Cornish things. Those who responded to the survey stressed that this is what they wanted.

While talking about the newsletter, could I please remind you that in order for the newsletter to be published, we need material for inclusion? You will note that this issue is thinner than normal – by 25%. Why? Because of a lack of material. You will also notice that much of what has come in this time, has come from two people – to whom I say a big 'thank you'. I want to appeal to other readers to send in material. I know many of you visit Cornwall regularly. How about writing about something you see – or send in a good resolution photo of a special scene. And, if you are doing historical research, let us know of interesting snippets you come across. This is not the place for family histories, but local histories would be wonderful. Is there a building or a village you know and which has an interesting story? If you trawl through old newspapers when doing family or local history, do you come across snippets of news which might be of interest to other Cornish folk (they are usually good fun). Do you know anyone who could write a feature article? This is your newsletter – please help to create it.

We are about to launch our social programme for 2014-2014 and it is looking good. The first big event is the Family History Day on 19th October. Don't forget to let the convenors know if you are coming so they can order pasties for you! We hope to see YOU there and at some of our other events.

Dates for your diary ...

Family History Day
Saturday 19th October

Annual Service
Wednesday
13th November

Visit to Messum's Gallery
Thursday
28th November

New Years Lunch
Saturday
11th January 2014

Informal lunches
16th Sept
14th Oct

Further details of these events can be found on page 2

Deadline for the Winter Newsletter is

5th November

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

Do we have your correct email and mailing addresses? Please let us know if you change any of your contact details.

You can send them to the Membership Secretary or the Editor (who will pass them on)

The Membership Secretary - 'Pengwyth', 17 Trellyn Close, Barming, Maidstone, Kent, ME16 9EF

OR

The Editor on editor@londoncornish.co.uk or at the address on the back page

Forthcoming events

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

Family History Day – Saturday 19th October 10am to 4.30pm

Details will be found in the box at the bottom of this page.

Annual Service – Wednesday 13th November 5pm

Preacher: The Rt Rev Tim Thornton
The Bishop of Truro

*The service will be led by LCA Chaplain,
Rev Michaela Youngson*

Venue: The Chapel, Methodist Central Hall,
Westminster. (*Nearest tube station – St James's Park*)

Light refreshments will be provided after the service.

Contact: Lizzy Broughton Tel: 020 8886 8214.

Visit to Messum's Art Gallery – 28th November 2.30pm

This gallery has specialised in Cornish art, mainly of the Newlyn School, for over 40 years and on this visit, we will have the opportunity to see some of the collection.

Tea will be available afterwards at the nearby Royal Institution (where Humphry Davy lectured).

Venue: 8 Cork St London, Greater London W1S 3LJ
(*Nearest tube station: Green Park*)

Contact: Carol Goodwin -
carolgoodwin951@btinternet.com Tel: 020 83039054

As numbers for this event are limited, booking is essential

New Year's Lunch - 11th January 2014 12 noon

Further details of this event will appear in the Winter newsletter and on the LCA website.

Contact: Tony Wakeham – Tel: 020 77037378

Informal lunches – 12 noon

Methodist Central Hall, Westminster
(*Nearest tube: St James's Park*)

16th Sept

14th Oct

Contact: Francis Dunstan - 01494 531703/
lca@francisdunstan.plus.com

FAMILY HISTORY DAY

Saturday, 19th October 2013

Speakers:

John Symons

'Have you anything to declare? Smuggling and the Revenue Men in South Cornwall c1800'

Given its extensive coastline, smuggling has played a significant part in the history of Cornwall and this talk examines the topic from the joint perspectives of smugglers and those whose role it was to prevent it

Gregory Toth

'Introduction to researching Family History using resources from the Caird Library at the National Maritime Museum'

Gregory is Librarian in Acquisitions and Cataloguing in the Caird Library and he will share his knowledge and experience to help us understand the nature of these maritime resources and to maximise our ability to use them effectively

Venue:

Bloomsbury Central Baptist Church
235 Shaftesbury Avenue
London WC2H 8EP

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

Time:

10am to 4.30pm

Cost:

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

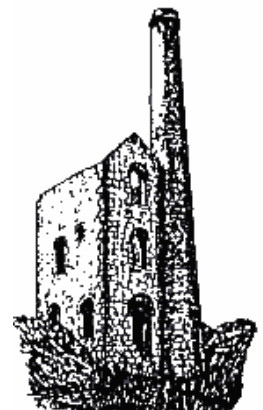
This includes coffee, pasty/saffron cake lunch and cream tea.

Vegetarian pasties can be provided if ordered in advance.

Contact:

Gill Penny (g.n.penny@btinternet.com; Tel: 01908 316317)

Carol Goodwin (carolgoodwin951@btinternet.com Tel: 020 83039054)



Remember to diarise

**128th Annual Dinner – 15th March 2014
7pm.**

A cash bar will be available in the Albert Room from 5.30pm for a 'bit o' chat before dinner'

Venue: Thistle Hotel, Marble Arch

Book forms will be included in the Winter newsletter

Dinners of other Cornish Associations

**Bournemouth Cornish Association
19th October - 6.30 for 7pm.**

Contact: Aubrey Lane - 15 Glebe Road, Lytchett Matravers, Poole Dorset BH16 6EJ
aubslizlane@btinternet.com

**Torbay Cornish Association
7th December - 6.15 for 6.45pm**

Contact: Ena Hocking - 2 Quantocks Road, Torquay, TQ2 6UH Tel: 01803 607600

News of Past Events

Annual picnic in Hyde Park

Last year we prayed for good weather but on the day there was very heavy rain and so we had our picnic in the café at the Regent's Park tennis courts. This year we had a very nice day. In fact, it was at times, a little too hot.

The rose garden [where we planned to picnic] had no shade but we found some under a large tree. There was also a smaller tree with a few seats and when these became vacant, I and a few others went to that.

There were 19 of us – a very good turnout.

Towards the end, we thought we would go to the café next to the Serpentine but it was too crowded. There were people everywhere so we walked back to a kiosk near the gates where we had teas, coffees and ice-creams before making our way home. Everyone thought it was a very good day.

Tony Wakeham



Rosemary Dean and Hilary Rundell relaxing at the picnic

24th Rosyer Lecture

St Ives: An International Cultural Centre

The Rosyer lecture at the City Lit on Saturday 6th July was well attended and the audience included at least five London Cornish members. We were treated to an evocation of St Ives both in its original state as a small coastal village and in its development into a world-famous centre for artists. So much of Cornish history is about people leaving to seek their fortune but this story is the reverse. Non-native artists were drawn to a place with magical light and landscape which continues to thrive. We were privileged to hear a talk by Janet Axten, a writer and art historian with an MA in Cornish Studies. A former studio assistant to Patrick Heron, she is the founder-creator and coordinator of the St Ives Archive Trust.

Janet began by explaining how change came to this fishing village which is almost surrounded by the sea and showed an early nineteenth century view - a relatively poor scene with few properties for a merchant or the professional class. Housing developments for the gentry in the 1840s, however, were followed in 1877 by the building of the railway with the links to London and the Grand Tour that this offered. St Ives might simply have become a holiday venue had it not been for a number of influential people who chose to spend their summers there and found it inspirational to artistic life.

Virginia Woolf spent many summer holidays there in the family's 'second home' of Talland House and the seascapes are reflected in her writing. Her father Leslie Stephen was a greatly respected critic, writer and figure in the culture of the late Victorian era and this was also a time when artistic colonies were developing across the world. International and inclusive, these groups would attract thinkers and artists who shared their vision. (The Arts Club which was an egalitarian forum for debate opened in St Ives in 1890.) Some, like the composer George Lloyd who founded the Zennor Wayside Museum, contributed to preserving the heritage of the area while others, in their works, showed Cornwall to the world as they transformed the fish cellars and lofts into artists' studios.

There were so many well-known names to illustrate including Bernard Leach, Mark Rothko, Barbara Hepworth and Ben Nicolson. Influential writings from Herbert Read the critic, Robert Morton Nance and Patrick Heron had also contributed to what has been called 'the St Ives effect' which allowed the avant garde to develop at a time when it was out of favour in London. It seems they were unaffected by the market until the pervading influence of Pop Art in the 1960s. Barbara Hepworth's garden, though, and the building of the Tate gallery (which Janet has written about) have surely ensured that this once modest place will continue to influence the international story of modern art as well as attracting its annual invasion of tourists.

Ursula Jeffries

Condolences

Mrs Millie Scutt, a long time member of the LCA passed away at the end of June. We offer our condolences to her family and friends.

Trelawny Plate Award 2013

On 4th July, Professor Alan Livingston was presented with the prestigious Trelawny Plate Award at St Nun's Church, Pelynt. When making the presentation, Colonel Edward Bolitho, Lord-Lieutenant of Cornwall said that Professor Livingston had '*laid the foundations of the Combined Universities of Cornwall and it was his vision, leadership and hard work over more than two decades that helped bring Falmouth University to Cornwall.*'

The Trelawny Plate Award is made every two years to someone who *has 'contributed most to the spirit of Cornwall'*. The first recipient was Bishop Bill Ind who was then Bishop of Truro. Recipients are given a pewter plate which is a copy of the original plate which belonged to Bishop Trelawny and which is now in the Royal Cornwall Museum.

After the presentation, the choir from Pelynt Primary School sang a few songs and the service ended with Pelynt Male Voice Choir leading the congregation in *Trelawny*.

St Piran's Oratory Update

The following articles are taken from the St Piran News. We thank Eileen Carter and Ian Saltern for permission to quote them

How To Excavate An Oratory-Chapel

Ian Saltern explains what the St Piran Trust has been up to...

Early in January 2013, the St Piran Trust secured funding from English Heritage which, with the remaining grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund, will enable an initial excavation of the Oratory to take place in late summer this year (provided all permissions and licenses are in place).

Before excavation can begin a lengthy process of focused monitoring of fauna and flora - the skylarks and the gentian - in and around the Oratory site, species surveys, water level monitoring and careful planning all needs to take place. We are currently preparing the brief for all this work. Only then can spades be put in: the sand.

Then, after the excavation, we will make a 'Stage 2' application to the Heritage Lottery Fund. If that's successful, in March 2014 we will finally start work on the consolidation and conservation of the Oratory.

There will be trial excavations near the Oratory to help us better understand the former 'Lanpiran' or monastery of St Piran that grew up around it.

We will need plenty of community involvement in 2014: volunteer assistance with the trial excavations, an exhibition, presentations of all the findings and, of course, a triumphal procession to the Oratory site on St Piran's Day 2015.

What Am I Treading On When I Walk The Dunes?

Eileen Carter takes you on a tour of the historic landscape...

Yes, a funny title, but when you walk out to the churches of St Piran you are in a lost land. Humps, bumps and hollows surround you. Ridges are all that remain of old medieval fields, all with their own historic names. Rushy field is my favourite. Near the old church, the contours indicate ploughing with oxen: they went right up to the cemetery walls. As you walk, you will note the hollows, spoil heaps, and mine shafts where mining in the area took place. The miners would plant elder trees to mark the run of the lode. Near the wooden bridge on the dunes could be seen, a wartime dummy airfield used to divert attention from the real thing and tanks.

While walking there one day, I stumbled on a tiny bit of pottery lying in the middle of the path, part of the lip of a jug. The texture was quite fine and there was a sparkle in the grain on the outer edges. I was intrigued and asked English Heritage if they could identify it for me. It was Liskeard-ware dating from the 14th century.

I treasured that piece; it must have come from a dwelling out there when pilgrimages to the church were at their height. I put it carefully away, in fact so carefully that at this moment I cannot locate it.

When you are walking here, keep a look out; we cannot dig, but little clues do surface. It makes you realise that people lived, worked, and died here in what is now a lonely and vast deserted dune system.

Royal Cornwall Show

Although, because of a shortage of volunteers, the LCA was unable to man its own stand at this year's Royal Cornwall Show, member Hilary Rundell, who regularly attends the show still went to have a look round. She was lucky to be 'in the right place at the right time' and managed to see the Princess Royal coming out of the farmer's pavilion. She kindly sent in this picture which shows a Princess who certainly looks as though she is having a good time.



Trelawny Day - Pelynt

On Sun 30th June, members of the Looe and Liskeard Old Cornwall Societies gathered at Pelynt for the annual 'Trelawny Day' ceremony. This event celebrates the life of Jonathan Trelawny who was ordained as a priest in 1676 and was one of the seven bishops imprisoned in the Tower of London by James II for refusing to allow freedom of worship to Catholics. He is buried in St Nun's Church in Pelynt.

The day began with a talk on *The Song of the Western Men* by Carol Vivian and was followed by a pasty tea. Everyone then adjourned to the church for a service of celebration. Bells were rung, as they were when Bishop Trelawny was released from the Tower in 1688. After the service, the congregation enjoyed a concert by Trelawny's Men and the Pelynt Male Voice Choir.

Sir John Trelawny, the 14th Baronet attended the day's proceedings with several of his family.

Based on information provided by Duncan Paul Matthews.

Kernewek Lowender from CASA newsletter

In May 2013, many Cornish cousins from around the world descended on Moonta in South Australia to participate in Kernewek Lowender. From all accounts, this festival, which took place from 21st to 26th, was a great success. The following report was taken from the newsletter of the Cornish Association of South Australia.

2013 was the 40th anniversary of the first Kernewek Lowender, and the contribution of the first organising committee was being acknowledged at various events during the festival. Ros Paterson is the only member of that original committee still serving.

Visitors to the Lowender included Maureen Fuller, the Grand Bard of the Gorsedh of Cornwall; Jim Wearne, Cornish-American folk singer from Chicago, and Marion Stephens-Cockroft, President of the Toronto Cornish Association, in addition to the many representatives of other Cornish Associations around Australia. Chris and Joy Dunkerley, from Sydney, were delighted to have all their family with them, including their granddaughter at her first Kernewek Lowender.

The changes to the programme (which were forced by the lack of finances after the 2011 Lowender) proved to be very successful, and 2013 saw much more community involvement and support, and a healthy financial balance. Congratulations and thanks to the Kernewek Lowender Committee on this achievement.

President Paul Thomas has indicated that he will not seek renomination as President at the KL AGM later this year; he richly deserves our thanks for a job well done.

Kernewek Lowender videos on the internet

Robyn Coates, newsletter editor for the Ballarat Branch of the Cornish Association of Victoria made videos of some of the events which took place at Kernewek Lowender in

May. She has put them on Youtube so that others can enjoy them too, and get a flavour of this great Cornish-Australian festival. You can see them at:

<http://youtu.be/8KAyRjGfhfA> - Parade - Cornish groups

<http://youtu.be/tOZsBLsIkIY> - Bardic Ceremony

<http://youtu.be/uDEfud0rHGw> - Furry Dance - adults at Kadina

http://youtu.be/17xUK3YF_zU - Chn's furry dance - at Moonta

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fp-30eGr_VA&feature=youtu.be - Moonta Grave dressing - a bit shaky and a bit skewed!

OCS Summer Festival

After holding their Summer Festival at Liskeard for two years, the Federation of Old Cornwall Societies moved this year's celebrations to Poole, between Redruth and Camborne. Hosts for the event were the Camborne Old Cornwall Society which was celebrating its 90th anniversary.

After a parade of banners and roll call of the 43 Societies, the Mayor of Camborne welcomed everyone. This was followed by opening addresses (partly in Cornish) by the Federation's President, Mr D P Matthews (Liskeard) and Maureen Fuller, Grand Bard of the Gorsedh Kernow.

Mr Matthews referred to that special quality of being Cornish, of belonging to a peoples that have occupied this peninsula for over 17 000 years, from the Neolithic period, and who later adopted the Celtic culture: a nation apart, not only with its own language and distinctive culture but with its own values which are very different to those east of the Tamar.

Mr Matthews emphasised the point that Cornwall is the only area of England where the people use the suffix : 'ish', to describe themselves - as in Finish, Danish, Polish, etc. He also said that wherever the Cornish have gone overseas, those Cousin Jacks and Jennies remain Cornish first and then take on the nationality of their adopted country. This is reflected in the number of Cornish Associations around the world.

He pointed out that the Cornish, were the only peoples who had free passage when they went to the countries of the New World: those hard-rock miners had to provide their own food when they travelled but the ships did provide them with water.

A legacy from the Stannery Parliament, which was established in 1333 by the first Duke of Cornwall and has never been rescinded, is that even today, if a Cornishman is brought before the courts in England on a mining matter, he is entitled to an all-Cornish jury. If the case is a non-mining matter, he is entitled to a jury made up of 50 percent Cornishmen!

He reminded everyone of the importance of remaining Cornish, of holding onto those values which separate us from the Anglo Saxons to the east and gave the example of Billy Bray who, when working east of the Tamar used to address his mail home as 'Beyond England'!

The Grand bard, Maureen Fuller, emphasised the importance of holding onto every snippet of our culture and language, and not to give in to influences from outside. We should use our Cornish language in greetings and do what we can to educate others about our history and heritage. She pointed out that we have more ancient monuments than are in the whole of Europe.

After the speeches, the three hundred odd members were entertained by the Camborne Youth Band who are the National Champions – well deserved winners. A pasty lunch was served, and then members went on coach tours of the area. On their return, they were served tea and saffron buns while listening to the quintet, Proper Job.

The day concluded with a parade of banners.

Duncan Paul Matthews

A reason to visit...

The Langdon Down Centre Trust And Museum Photo

I recently read a fascinating article in the newsletter of my retirement association. This highlighted a Cornish connection in outer London which was new to me although for many years I had heard about Normansfield Hospital in Teddington.

John Langdon Haydon Down was born in Cornwall in 1828 and spent his childhood in Torpoint. His father was the village apothecary in Antony St Jacobs and initially John worked as his assistant. Although he returned at times to support his father and restore his own health, he was drawn to have a scientific career even at a time when such progress was difficult from modest beginnings. After early experience in London working for a surgeon and also winning a prize for chemistry he settled on medicine as his chosen path. Despite being seen as cut out for an outstanding career he chose to work in the neglected field of what was then known as 'idiocy'. His own family recalled an event that they believed had inspired him at the age of 18. A heavy summer shower had driven the family to take shelter in a cottage and he later told them: 'I was brought into contact with a feeble minded girl who waited on our party and for whom the question haunted me – could nothing for her be done...The remembrance of that hapless girl presented itself to me and I longed to do something for her kind.'

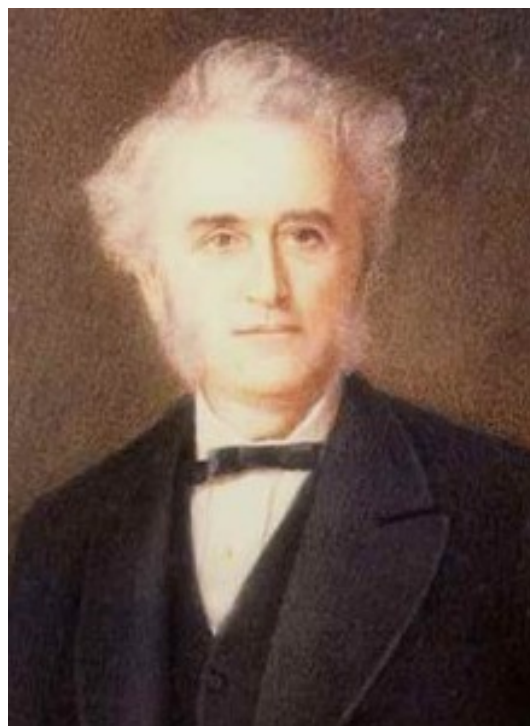
To this end he took the post of Medical Superintendent at the Earlswood Asylum in Surrey where he began to try out his own revolutionary and enlightened approach to the care of those with all forms of learning disabilities, beginning by banning punishment. Influenced by the Victorian belief that brain and head measurements were significant he brought together statistics which showed him that there was at least one specific syndrome. Following his early theories he named this Mongolism, although he later abandoned this misnomer, and it was not until the mid twentieth century that the causes were understood.

At Earlswood he became frustrated in his efforts to care for his patients and finally in 1868 he bought a house near Hampton Wick. With the support of his wife Mary (who also came from Torpoint) he set up a private hospital establishment which he named Normansfield. Here he

could follow through his advanced thinking on the benefits of diet, exercise, sensory stimulation and social activities. He hired his staff for their ability to sing and dance and included a large theatre in the establishment which could seat 300 and was also used for Sunday services. Normansfield Theatre is still in active use and is a Grade II listed Victorian Theatre; it shares the site with the Langdon Down Museum and the national office of the Down's syndrome Association.

Langdon Down risked his reputation and personal wealth for this cause and was ahead of his time in accepting the advancement of women in medicine, law and the church. The suffragettes used his Harley Street clinic as a fundraising base and he also pressed for funding to support low income families with health problems. After he died in 1896 his wife ran the hospital for 4 years, followed by his sons. After that it went through many changes but his work has left a long and beneficial legacy. The archives have been saved by the London Metropolitan Archive and visitors can now view the museum at specific visiting times or enjoy the magnificent theatre, now restored by conservators from Southampton University. The rest of his building has been adapted to housing in recent years but the spirit of his approach lives on in the support of those with the syndrome bearing his name.

Ursula Jeffries



John Langdon Haydon Down

New website address for the Federation of Old Cornwall Societies

Please note the change to the website address for the Federation of OCSs. In future you need to use the following URL:

www.oldcornwall.net

News from other Cornish Associations

United States

The biggest news coming out of Milwaukee is that planning for the 17th Gathering of Cornish Cousins, which takes place between August 13th and 17th 2014, is well under way. The theme of the event will be:

*'Mousehole Meets Milwaukee:
A Cornish Gathering On The Waters'*

This event provides a great opportunity to meet Cornish Cousins from around the world and to discover more about our Cornish culture, poetry, music, genealogy, language and folklore in a city which itself has a rich history and culture.

Speakers at this event, which is co-hosted by the **Cornish Society of Greater Milwaukee** and the **Cornish American Heritage Society**, will talk on various aspects of Cornish heritage.

Canada

Members of the **Toronto Cornish Association** usually gather in members homes which provide welcoming and popular meeting venues. They are now in the (enviable?) position of having to find alternative rented accommodation which is large enough and central enough to accommodate everyone.

At their July meeting, John Webb gave a presentation entitled *'Why did my ancestors run away to sea?'* John's ancestors came from Tresco, considered to be the gem of the Isles of Scilly. In a very informative, and sometimes humorous, talk John recounted the life and times of his Scilly ancestors.

Early in August, the group held its annual picnic and bbq. In September, they will hear a talk by Tim Douglass on *'Cornish Lighthouses'*.

In 2014, the Association will celebrate its 20th anniversary and plans for events to mark this great achievement are under way. One of the planned events is a banquet, to be held in May, where the speaker will be Canadian Bard, Rosalie Armstrong. Entertainment on the evening will be provided by Heather Dale and Ben Deschamps. The venue for the dinner will be the Arts & Letters Club which is a beautiful, historic building with present and past members' literary works and paintings displayed, together with some historical artefacts.

A tour to Cornwall has also been suggested. This would, hopefully take in Helston Flora Day, Padstow's 'Obby 'Oss.

Australia

Two new Australian Bards are to be initiated at the Open Gorsedd at Penryn in September. We offer our congratulations to June Whiffin of the **Cornish Association of Victoria** and Carlene Woolcock from the **Cornish Association of South Australia**, both of whom received this

honour in recognition of their *'Services to Cornwall'* in their respective states.

Most of the latest newsletter of the **Cornish Association of South Australia** is taken up with reports on the recent Kernowek Lowender. This year was the 40th anniversary of the festival and, from all accounts, was most successful. You will find a summary report elsewhere in this newsletter.

The CASA's July meeting proved to be a pleasant evening during which a small group of friends shared stories of old books and unusual family names, discussing their meanings and derivations.

The Association has some interesting talks in the coming months. In September, Bill Phillips will pose the question, *'What is a Bard?'* while in October, members will hear from Andrew Peake, a genealogist who spent a year as a hostage in Iran in the 1970s and who transcribed headstones in cemeteries there.

Their AGM was held in August. Like all Associations, they were hoping for some 'new blood on the committee'. We look forward to hearing if they got their wish.

The **Cornish Association of Victoria** will hold a Special General Meeting in September to vote on the new rules for the Association which are needed to comply with the Consumer Affairs Victoria Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012.

Like many Cornish associations around the world, the CAV faces an ageing *'demographic'*, with eager people *shouldering more and more to keep us going*. They hope that the Eaglehawk Dahlia and Arts Festival in March will provide an opportunity for the Association to widen their reach. The Grand Bard will be their guest-of honour at this event.

The Association is considering options for a research project in the lead up to the centenary of the beginning of the First World War in 1914. In doing this, they hope to build on the work already done by Bill Phillips on Cornish involvement in that war.

The **Ballarat Branch** of the CAV recently celebrated its 25th anniversary. To mark this important occasion, Vice-President Joy Menhennet made a cake in the shape of Australia and decorated it with Cornish emblems.

The President of the Cornish Association of Victoria, Robert Gribben, attended the celebrations and congratulated the members on their great achievement after which everyone sang 'Happy Anniversary.

Robert Gribben was the speaker at this event and shared some fascinating stories about two of his wife's ancestors - Walter and Mary Croggon (nee Mullis) who as Wesleyan missionaries, travelled to some amazing places - including Paris and the Greek Island, Zante.

In May, a contingent of Ballarat members journeyed to South Australia to attend Kernowek Lowender,

The **Geelong Branch** held its AGM in May. After many years, Shirley Lindsay has stepped down as secretary and Ruth Taylor has now taken on this role.

The branch had a stall at the National Celtic Festival and had lots of colourful Cornish material on display.

It is good to hear that a new group has been accepted into the Cornish Association of Victoria – the **Cornish In Bendigo Special Interest Group**. It is now almost two years since the closure of the Cornish Association of Bendigo and District Inc and the start of this new group is welcome news. To get the group going, CAV members with an interest in Bendigo or Cornish history are being encouraged to register their interests with CAV Secretary, June Whiffin (jwhiffin@bigpond.com).

Members of the **Cornish Association of Queensland** will hold their 19th Foundation Lunch early in October. Their guest speaker on this occasion will be Australian author, Cheryl Hayden who has a Masters Degree in Cornish Studies and whose book 'A Christmas Game' centres around the Cornish Prayer Book Rebellion of 1549

Future events include a Christmas lunch and informal function in November and a Christmas get-together with the Manx in December.

At a recent function at the Yeronga Services Club, the guest speaker was Mavis Williams, President of the Celtic Council of Australia. She gave a brief outline of the aims and objectives of the organisation and encouraged the CAQ to get involved with the Celtic Council.

The Association held a special function to welcome Margaret Dawes from Falmouth. She agreed to entertain the members and after lunch, she led members through a number of well known and much loved Cornish songs, beginning with The White Rose and finishing with a rousing rendition of Trelawney

It was with sadness that members said farewell to Trish and Alistair George who are leaving to live in Victoria. During their time with the CAQ, Trish served as President for 4 years, and Alistair as newsletter editor for 7 years. Alistair will also be remembered for the many pieces of his art he donated for raffles.

One of the goals the committee of the **Southern Sons of Cornwall** has set itself for this year is to get greater participation in its social events. To achieve this, they are looking at new publicity strategies for keeping their members informed on what is happening. Their aim is to ensure their group goes forward as a friendly and social organisation which embraces all things Cornish.

The group's social programme for the next couple of months is appealing. In late August, they will attend the Kangaroo Valley Celtic Gala Day and in October, they will visit the Berry Treat Factory which is a gourmet food manufacturer. In November, there will be a Genealogy Day in Nowra.

In June, a small group of committee members manned the SSoC stand at the Shoalhaven Family History Fair in Nowra. There was interest from several people with Cornish connections and they hope that some might join the association.

The meeting in August was a social gathering and auction day. The auction was a low-key way of raising funds.

Each year, the Southern Sons holds an art competition. In 2014, the subject will be 'photography with a Cornish connection'

New Zealand

For the **Cornish Interest Group of the New Zealand Society of Genealogists**, the past year has been quiet in respect of group activities. And, as with many other associations, they have experienced a drop in membership this past year. This is partly attributed to the growing reliance on the internet as the primary source of information for genealogists.

The group had a booth at the Family History Fair in Auckland in August. For this event they prepared an 8 metre wall display which had, as one of its themes, Cornish engineering. This idea had been inspired by a visit to the Crofton Pumping Station in Wiltshire, one of the large engineering feats that were created in the workshops of Harvey of Hayle's in the 1840s.

The biennial general meeting of the **New Zealand Cornish Association** was held in May and was hosted by the **Christchurch branch**. They provided a lunch of home-made pasties which were served by waitresses at tables decorated with St Piran flags and yellow chrysanthemums. At the conclusion of the business, afternoon tea was served and more entertainment provided.

Guest speaker at the April meeting of the Christchurch Branch was Nina Mogridge who talked about growing up as the child of German parents in East Africa. At 10, while she was at a convent school in Nairobi, the school was attacked by the Mau-Mau, but after much shooting, they were eventually driven off by British soldiers. .

At their quarterly meeting in May, members of the **Taranaki branch** decided to update the register of member's Cornish collections and members were invited to submit a written resume to be included in a club booklet.

The guest speaker at their June meeting was Nigel Beal, the Pasty Man from Ashburton and formerly from Liskeard in Cornwall. Nigel and his wife started to make pasties to sell at a local farmers market after Nigel had been made redundant. It was not long before they sold enough to justify building a commercial kitchen and they now sell their pasties at markets all round Canterbury and some even go to Auckland.

Nigel said that the original pastry was made with barley flour which made the crust of the pasty as hard as rock and would have needed a hammer to open them - just the thing for carrying down a mine!

At the July meeting, the speakers were Tony and Pauline Hocking. They now live in Tunisia and their talk was on its well preserved ancient Roman architecture.

In August, members of the **Cornish Association of New South Wales** went on, what looked like an interesting trip to Dangar Island where they would be able to find out about a bit of Cornish-Australian history. The island, in the Hawkesbury River, was purchased in 1864 by Henry Carey Dangar, the son of Cornishman Henry Dangar, a surveyor, pastoralist and parliamentarian. The Dangar family lived for many centuries around the northern and western edge of Bodmin.

In May, some of the members of CANSW attended the 21st Australian Celtic Festival. Although it had a Scottish theme this year, the Cornish were well represented and 25 took part in the street parade on the Saturday.

The Association's Pasty Day will be held in October and a pre-Christmas party will be held in November.

UK

Members of the **Thames Valley Cornish Association** held their annual picnic on the banks of the Thames at Marlow in July. Unlike so many picnics in the past, which will be remembered for the rain and cold, this was a perfect evening. While enjoying their food and chat, a boatman gave the news that the names for the new royal prince had just been announced – Prince George.

For the first time, the Association is looking to achieve a cyber presence. A new website is currently under construction and will hopefully soon be available to view.

A group of Cornish friends from the **LCA** regularly meet for a couple of hours of chat at a restaurant in Wanstead. Their recent get-together was attended by nine friends and reports are of a very happy time.

Members of the **West Somerset Cornish Association** recently heard talks on 'Riding Shot-Gun' and 'Nursing in Iraq'. In the coming few months, they will hear talks on a variety of topics which include 'My memories of the Penlee lifeboat disaster' and 'UK to Antarctica'.

When you read the 'Mem Sec's Memories', you will note that one of the members of this Association, Gerald Toghill, was spotted on TV leading a choir on a cruise ship!

Another happy meeting of Cornish Cousins

Although we had short notice, three members of the LCA managed to get to a central London pub to share a meal with Cornish Cousins Ron and Sharon Carbis from the Cornish American Heritage Society. Also joining us were their daughter Susan and granddaughter Katie.

We had a most enjoyable time together and hope that it won't be long before we see them again or meet up with other 'cousins' who are passing through London.

If you, or other members of your Association are passing through London, please do let us know. We would love to meet you for a meal if at all possible.

Contact: Liz Broekmann
Email: editor@londoncornish.co.uk

A warm welcome awaits you at the London Cornish Association



A gathering of cousins – L to R: Susan, LCA member John Carbis, Katie, Sharon, Ron and LCA member Tony Wakeham. Taking the photo was the other LCA member, who attended, Liz Broekmann

Why no Brochure? A message from the Chairman

Change is afoot at the LCA. With the autumn edition of the Newsletter, you will, for many years, have received a little yellow booklet known as 'The Brochure', which contained details of the History of the LCA, and lists those members of the Association who made that history. It contained addresses and telephone numbers of the Cornish Associations affiliated to LCA and a list of Members names and locations.

It has become increasingly difficult to maintain this booklet, in particular its accuracy and cost of its production. In the light of the recent Survey on the Future of the LCA conducted by Dick Richards and Chris Burgess, Council agreed by a majority decision to replace the Brochure with a Membership Card. The first edition, which is enclosed with this Newsletter, contains the Aims of the Association, contact details for the Officers, and some of the key events in next year's Social Programme. We hope you will find this Membership card useful in organising your life within the LCA.

It has become clear that for many, the way forward in the 21st century will lie in electronic communication between the officers and the membership, and between the members themselves. The Newsletter will, however, continue to be the primary method of Communication in the Association for all members.

THE LONDON CORNISH ASSOCIATION



Founded 1898
Dinner Committee 1885

Patron:
HRH The Prince of Wales
Duke of Cornwall

President:
Sir John Trelawny

Chairman:
Dr Francis Dunstan

Trustee:
Mr Charles H Williams

SEASON 2013-2014

Member:

Membership no:

Mem Sec's Meanderings...

Summer arrived suddenly and the increase in temperature was, on occasions for me, rather hot. We moaned about the winter weather and moaned about the snow and now we moan about heat! Well, I hope you didn't find it too hot when things changed in early July and continued into August.

Now onto my subject as Membership Secretary. As you know the Annual Subscription payments were due at the beginning of April. I am grateful to those who paid by Standing Order. It makes things so much easier for everybody. Once again, a big thank you to all who paid up promptly - and an added thank you to those who also included donations to the Association. These are really very much appreciated. For those who pay annually by cheque, postal order or cash please make a note in your diary, or on your calendar, to remind you that London Cornish Association Annual Subscriptions are due each year at the beginning of April.

Regarding our membership, we have had one further resignation and so far I have had to cancel the membership of three people who I have not been able to contact. There are still, at the middle of August, about 15 who have not paid their subs. even after reminders. This is very sad as, with no response or reason as to why they do not wish to continue as a member, their membership will have to be cancelled. This will reduce our membership to between 220 and 230. If, for any reason, you wish to leave the LCA please, please, please let me know why you want to cancel your membership, or what the Association could do to retain your interest? **To those of you who haven't paid your £15 subscription, which was due at the beginning of April, this will be your last Newsletter. If you are not renewing your membership please do let me know and, if possible, why.** I can then pass your comments to Dick Richards who has been reviewing member's suggestions for the future of the London Cornish Association.

Over the years our Membership has reduced, but we still hope to recruit some new members. I repeat what I always say - 'please do what you can to encourage other people to join the Association'. Cornish people are very proud of being Cornish or having Cornish connections, be it by birth, marriage or descent. Please encourage them to come along to functions where they will be able to meet and hopefully enjoy personal contact with other Cornish people. If they join the London Cornish Association and come to meetings, they might meet someone from their schooldays or maybe from the town or village where they lived; it has been known! Life can be interesting.

Age does not matter; it is about our pride in either being born in Cornwall or having Cornish connections. Even on the TV or radio, if a person is from Cornwall, or has Cornish connections, they often proudly make a remark.

In August it was reported in the newspapers that many places throughout the country are charging high car-parking fees and are reaping enormous profits from them. Of the 359 councils Cornwall was the 8th dearest, taking in nearly £8million a year. This makes you wonder if Cornwall wants visitors and holidaymakers. I do wonder if the Council supports this as it is their car parking fees that put the county so high on the list. I do accept that people cannot expect to park on somebody's land for nothing, but

charges should be reasonable. Oh dear, is this really going to encourage holidaymakers to return for further holidays? Cornwall needs visitors to come for a holiday, so is it rather greedy to penalise and discourage them by grabbing more and more from car parking charges?

You may remember that in the last Newsletter I tried to give a quick hint on watching the world's weather in the newspaper and then basing our weather predictions on the previous day in the three cities of New York, Toronto and Montreal. This was a reasonable guideline in the winter and early spring, but now that the Gulf Stream has moved north it is not, at this time of year, a reliable guide to our weather! Anybody got any ideas?

I have previously referred to 'looking back in time' where we can learn from history and then look forward to the future. We are trying to do this with the London Cornish Association which we, and I am sure all members, want to continue in the years to come. It is sad that some Cornish Associations have folded due to lack of membership. This could happen to the LCA if we are unable to encourage new members to join. As I said earlier, our membership has further reduced, but we need to remember that not all our members live in London - they are spread across the country and some are even living abroad.

Let's see if we can recruit some more members and find out what it is that they want from a Cornish Association?

Looking through a book recently on 'Unknown Cornwall' I was amused by the following events from the past that involved 'Pirates of Penzance' in Mounts Bay about a quarter of a millennium ago:

The good folk of Penzance were alarmed by the rumour of a raid in 1760 when an Algerine corsair (a Pirate ship) ran aground close to the town. They had heard gun fire in the night (September 29-30), and the next morning, beheld, a strange vessel high and dry, and a crowd of outlandish men, with pistols and long curly swords, on the beach. The Algerine captain, poor man, thought he was 'somewhere in the latitude of Cadiz'. Eventually, the panic having subsided, a volunteer company marched gallantly to the beach, took charge of the visitors and their weapons, and impounded them in a large empty building. There was a second panic when it was suggested that the pirates might have brought the plague with them. These poor men were at length taken home in a man-of-war.

In 1779, the batteries on St. Michael's Mount opened fire on a pirate ship in Mounts Bay. This was the last occasion on which powder was burnt in the face of a foreigner.

It is surprising who you see on TV these days. In July there was a programme which showed a choir on a cruise ship singing 'The Pirates of Penzance'. And, who was leading them? It was Gerald Toghill, a Cornishman and member of West Somerset Cornish Association, whom a number of you will know. Well done Gerald it was a proper job.

Again I hope you have enjoyed these 'Meanderings' and it helps to encourage you to continue your membership and perhaps recruit new members. I'll find some more little snippets for my next 'Meanderings'.

Kernow bys vyken

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

Publications and Websites

Cornish Bards Of The Penryn And Falmouth Area/ Berdh Kernow Ranndir Pennrynn Hag Aberfala

To commemorate the 2013 Gorsedh taking place in Penryn, Gorsedh Kernow has put together a publication which details the lives and works of 46 deceased bards who lived and worked, at least for part of their lives, in the Penryn and Falmouth area. There are also details of 49 living bards and the work they are doing for Cornwall now. This is the fourth in a planned series covering the area in which the annual Gorsedh is held.

The Penryn and Falmouth area boasts many famous bards, some of them from the early days of Gorsedh Kernow. They include William Tregoning Hooper, who was made a bard at the very first Gorsedh in 1928, the artist William Martin, Sir Edward Nicholl, Rita Tregellas Pope and Tom Salmon the broadcaster. Among both the deceased and living bards are a number of Grand Bards and Deputy Grand Bards, archivists, writers, Cornish Linguists, singers and musicians.

Cornish Bards of the Penryn and Falmouth area/Berhd Kernow Ranndir Pennrynn hag Aberfala, which features many photographs, some in colour, has been researched and compiled by the Penryn and Falmouth Book Committee along with Ann Trevenen Jenkin (Bryallen) of the Gorsedh Kernow Archive Committee, with help from various other kind individuals. The book contains an introduction by Grand Bard, Maureen Fuller and has been financially sponsored by Penryn and Falmouth Town Councils, Sarah Newton MP, Penryn Town Fair, Pendenis Shipyard, Hine Downing Solicitors and various private individuals.

The book will be launched by the Grand Bard on Thursday 5th September 2013 at the Penryn Town Hall at 12 noon

The book costs £6.50 (or £8.25 with postage). Copies can be purchased from the Gorsedh Treasurer - Jerry Rogers, 17 Chiltern Road, Sandhurst, Berkshire, GU47 8NB. Payment can be made by cheque (made out to Gorsedh Kernow) or by PayPal to jerryrogers@sgrconsultancy.co.uk

The Celtic World

Anyone who is interested in the Celtic world, should take a look at the following website –

<http://www.transceltic.com/>. It carries news of Celtic events and festivals around the world, myths and legends, recipes, places to visit and articles on a variety of topics such as the Cornish language revival. Although I spotted a couple of things which need updating (we are an Association, not a Society), these can be corrected and the site has the potential to be both interesting and useful.

Two Cornish Maids at the Lizard

On a recent holiday to Cornwall, members Don and Catherine Foster met up with LCA member and past Chairman, Cilla Oates. This picture shows the 'Two Cornish Maids at the Lizard' – Cilla on the left and Catherine on the right.



Midsummer's Eve bonfire

On the afternoon of Sun 23 June, the Old Cornwall Societies from Launceston, Liskeard and Looe, gathered, in gale force winds, at the Siblyback Lake for the annual Midsummer's Eve Bonfire. An international flavour was provided by the presence of a Guide Guide from Oklahoma and a Zambian member of the Launceston OCS.

Readings and Prayers were read in Cornish by Mike Smith and in English by Joan Tippet. The fire was lit by Rev Keith Lanyon Jones, Vicar of St Cleer. Grand Bard, Maureen Fuller, then led the ceremony in both Cornish and English while Launceston OCS provided the 'Maid of Flowers', to cast the wreath onto the pyre.

Duncan Paul Matthews

LCA Website Update

The project to set up a new website is well underway and we are seeking to provide something which is easy to find, easy to read and easy to update. As is so often the case with modern technology, the set-up has to be just right to create an attractive and 'user-friendly' product. We have taken into consideration the results of the opinion survey which showed that at least half of respondents thought this job needed to be done urgently and was essential to the Association. We have also been following up a number of technical considerations so that our brief to the designer is as accurate as possible. She lives in Truro having adopted Cornwall as her home and is happy to advise on the sharing of local news and current images so we are optimistic we will soon have the right blend

Ursula Jeffries

Crowdy Crawn

Did you know ...

...the first Bishop of Truro, Edward Benson went on to become Archbishop of Canterbury in 1883. Benson, who was born in Birmingham, was appointed Bishop of Truro in 1877.

The Diocese of Truro was established by an Act of Parliament in 1876 when the Diocese of Exeter was divided (roughly along the Devon-Cornwall border).

Thanks to the Toronto Cornwall Association for bringing this to our attention.

Girl Power in Cornwall

School boys at Fowey Community College took part in a six month etiquette course after the girls at the school complained about their dress, language and manners. Based on feedback from the girls, a course was especially designed where the boys learned about grooming, choosing clothes, public speaking, a bit of DIY and how to make a good impression! Some of the boys saw it as a welcome break from GCSEs while one young man admitted he had learnt how to treat a lady and how to talk to her properly while on the course.

The girls were able to see what progress the boys had made when they attended the school's ball recently.

Cornwall dubbed 'best ever' UK holiday Destination

A survey undertaken by CarbisBayHolidays.co.uk showed that most people who take their holidays in Cornwall feel positive about their experience.

Virtually all first-time holiday visitors to Cornwall say that the county has given them their best UK holiday. Furthermore, three-quarters of holidaymakers say their Cornish break has been the best holiday they've had anywhere in the world, and almost all said they would recommend a Duchy holiday to friends. Visitors cited Cornwall's unique welcome and amazing tourist facilities for the surge in satisfaction. Other factors were the lack of a language barrier, fantastic blue flag beaches, warmer climate, and family-friendly resorts. Tourists particularly mentioned some of Cornwall's unique attractions, like the Eden Project, St Michael's Mount and Land's End for their enjoyment.

New film set in Cornwall

A new film about the lives of some members of the Newlyn School of artists just before the first world war was released in June. Titled *Summer in February*, the story focuses on the love triangle between the artist Alfred Munnings, an aspiring artist, Florence Cater-Wood and Gilbert Evans who was a land agent in Lamorna Valley.

Filming took place at Prussia Cove, Holywell and Porthcurno.

We want to keep contact...

So please remember to let the Membership Secretary know if you change your home or email address.

MP Stephen Gilbert becomes a brewery apprentice for a day

MP for St Austell & Newquay, Stephen Gilbert, spent the day as an apprentice for St Austell Brewery. Apart from being a novel way of launching his campaign for more apprenticeships in Cornwall the experience also gave him a better understanding of an apprentice's life.

Reflecting on the work done by the new 'apprentice', the Brewery's Managing Director, James Staughton, said, *He did a grand job and you'll be please to know all the beer got to the right pubs on time!*

Over 13000 apprenticeships have been created in Cornwall since 2010



Not To Be Missed

A massed choir will be returning to the Royal Albert Hall for the first time since 2000 to present a charity concert in aid of the RNLI, Cornish Hospice Care and the BBC Radio Cornwall Appeal.

A choir of 650 voices, drawn from the 25 member choirs of the Cornish Federation of Male Voice Choirs as well as associate member choirs, will present a programme of music chosen to reflect the traditions and heritage of male choral singing in the Duchy, mixing popular and well known choir favourites with more modern pieces.

Tickets can be purchased from the Box Office at The Royal Albert Hall - www.royalalberthall.com, Tel: 0845 401 5045.

The deadline for the next issue of the LCA Newsletter is

5th November

Please send all contributions to:

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London
W7 3AZ*

Or email to editor@londoncornish.co.uk