



Cowethas Kernewek Loundres

London Cornish Association Newsletter



www.londoncornish.co.uk

Autumn 2014

Congratulations to two LCA members who are to be honoured at this year's Open Gorsedh



Liz Lane

It was with great excitement that we heard recently that two of our members, Elizabeth Lane and Kath Slatter were to be honoured at the Open Gorsedh in Torpoint.

Liz Lane is to be admitted as a Bard for 'her work for Cornwall across the Tamar'. She takes as her Bardic name, *Maghteth Bal Du* - Maid of Baldhu. Liz has always been a great advocate for Cornwall and is well known for her hard work in many spheres but, particularly with the Bournemouth Cornish Association.



Kath Slatter

Kath Slatter will receive the London Cornish Association Shield 'for outstanding services to Cornwall and Cornish people'. For many years she has been actively involved in both the LCA and the Thames Valley Cornish Association, holding several offices in both organisations during that time. At the LCA she is particularly remembered for the delicious food she prepares for many of our events!

These awards are a well-deserved recognition for the hard work and commitment of these two members. We are very proud of them both.

This year has got off to a really good start. We know that our members are passionate about Cornwall and we know that some of them have worked incredibly hard for a long time to promote its heritage and to serve Cornish people both in London and further afield. How wonderful to see that the contribution of two of them has been acknowledged in this year's Gorsedh awards. You can see who they are and why they have been given their well-deserved honours at the top of this page.

And the good news continues... Your Council has been working hard on the social programme for the coming year, and are happy to report that the speakers for both the Annual Dinner and the Trelawny

Lecture have been booked and a fascinating programme for the October Family History day organised. We hope that many of our members will join us at these and our other events.

Our website is proving to be a most useful communication tool and we are getting good feedback on it. We are pleased to report that Carol Goodwin, one of our Family History convenors has added 'Webmaster' to her portfolio and will not take responsibility for keeping it up to date. We will use the website to give updates on events and to make announcements from time to time, so please do keep an eye on it – www.londoncornish.co.uk

Dates for your diary ...

Annual Service
Date to be confirmed

Informal Lunches
5th September
13th October

New Year's Lunch
10th January 2015

Annual Dinner
14th March 2015

Family History Day
4th October

AGM and Trelawny Lecture
10th June 2015

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

Please help us!



We are trying to update the email addresses we have on file. - and we really need your help. If you are on email, please could you send a blank email to our webmaster, Carol Goodwin at carolgoodwin951@btinternet.com. Please put your name in the subject line. You do not need to write a message!

Thanks for your support



Forthcoming events

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

Annual Service

Date and time to be confirmed

*Preacher: Rev Stephen Wild
President Designate of the Methodist Conference*

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, Circle and District line.

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

Informal lunches

12 noon – Methodist Central Hall

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

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

15th September

13th October

Don't forget to diarise...

New years lunch – 10th January 2015

12 Noon at Penderel's Oak

129th Annual Dinner – 14th March

Thistle Hotel, Marble Arch

Guest speaker: Malcolm Bell - Head of Tourism at Visit Cornwall

Booking forms for this event will be included in the Winter newsletter.

Family History Day - 18th April 2015

AGM and Trelawny Lecture - 10th June 2015

Pasty lunch will be served at 1pm

Trelawny Lecturer: Ann Hicks - Chairman of Cornwall Family History Society

LONDON CORNISH ASSOCIATION

FAMILY HISTORY DAY

Saturday, 4th October 2014

Speakers:

Ian Waller

"Reading the Handwriting - Tips on reading older records"

Many documents used by family historians from 20th century letters, Victorian census returns to medieval manuscripts can be difficult to read because of handwriting styles, abbreviations etc. This talk provides pointers to help you interpret what you are looking at and how to decipher the various handwriting styles and terminology in use over the ages. This session is interactive in part

Jane King

'The Foundling Hospital'

This talk will recount the struggle of Thomas Coram at the beginning of the 18th Century to establish the Foundling Hospital, Britain's first and only home solely for illegitimate children and how the babies left there were brought up. It will describe the involvement of William Hogarth and his fellow artists and why the Hospital became Britain's first public art gallery. It will also explain the contribution of George Frederic Handel through his fund-raising concerts which established a rich musical tradition at the Hospital. Members may also be interested in the continuing work of Coram as a pioneering children's charity.

Venue:

Bloomsbury Central Baptist Church
235 Shaftesbury Avenue
London WC2H 8EP

(nearest underground stations Holborn or Tottenham Court Road)

Time:

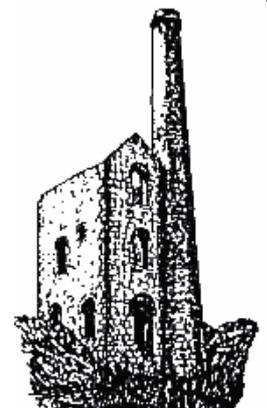
10am to 4.30pm

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

This includes coffee, pasty&safron 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)



Please let us know if you are coming so we can ensure a pasty is ordered for you!

News of a past event

Mid-summer lunch

The LCA has traditionally held its annual picnic in July. Planning an outdoor event in London always has its risks and over the years, we have experienced searing heat and rain – but fortunately also many beautiful summer days. This year, it was decided to have a pub lunch instead – so insuring against the weather and ensuring there was enough seating for those attending.

Twenty two people attended the lunch which was held at one of our favourite pubs, Penderel's Oak in Holborn. It was lovely to see such a good turnout including some members we have not seen for quite a while. Unfortunately, our convener, Tony Wakeham, was unwell and was not able to attend. He was greatly missed by *One and All*.

After lunch, several members walked down to the nearby City Lit to hear Alan Kent deliver the Rosyer Lecture.



*Good food and camaraderie make for a successful
Midsummer Lunch*

Trelawny Day Celebrations

30th Jun 2014 saw the annual Trelawny Day celebrations at Pelynt. This marked the 326th Anniversary of the release from the Tower of London of Bishop Jonathan Trelawny who, together with seven other bishops, had been imprisoned for refusing the demand of Catholic King James II to sign the '*Declaration of Indulgence*'.

On 30 Jun 1776, the day of Trelawny's release, church bells rang throughout Cornwall. The bells which ring at the annual Pelynt celebrations are the same as those which celebrated Trelawny's release.

As in every year, many members of the Trelawny family were there and this year they heard Carole Vivien's presentation on the many John and Jonathan Trelawnys who have lived from the sixteenth century at both Trelawne Manor, Pelynt and Menheniot, near Liskeard.

Afterwards, a wonderful pasty supper was served by the ladies of Pelynt village and the wives of members of the Pelynt Male Choir.

This was followed by a service in St Nun's Parish Church, Pelynt, led by Rev Marilyn Elliot who preached on Bishop Jonathan's commitment to his Church, Christian life, witness and conscience. Bishop Jonathan served as Bishop of Exeter, then Bristol and later Winchester and is buried in the Church.

The evening concluded with a most enjoyable concert by the Pelynt Male Choir, led by their director, John

Trethewey, accompanist, Mr Barry Jay, and soloist Liz Nichols.

Members of both the Liskeard and Looe OCSs attended the celebrations.

Duncan Paul Matthews

Cornish link to the Costa Concordia

Recent coverage of the re-floating of the cruise liner Costa Concordia which sank in January 2012 has been fascinating to watch but how many of us are aware of the Cornish connection?

Marine drilling experts from the Falmouth salvage company Fugro Seacore were responsible for stabilising the wreck which was resting on a steeply sloping rocky outcrop in the sea. Until it was stable, it could not be raised. To stabilise it they had to install an underwater table, which was bigger than three rugby pitches, under the ship. This involved drilling into the hard granite sea bed. Who could tackle this job better than Cornish engineers?

This is not the first time Cornish expertise has been used to float a wreck. In 1810, Richard Trevithick was contracted to raise a ship which had sunk off the coast at Margate. He had developed a flotation device which would facilitate the task of raising a ship. He brought two long, cylindrical tanks from Cornwall. These were filled with water, partially submerged and lashed to the hull of the boat. Once they were in place, the water was pumped out of the tanks. As the air replaced the water, the ship was raised.

Apparently, once Trevithick had raised the ship, he tried to hand it over to the owners. They, however, said that they wanted it taken to the harbour. Trevithick argued that that was not part of the contract and that if he did this for them, there would be additional costs. The owners refused to pay the extra and so Trevithick, in a fit of temper - because he realised he was not going to be paid - cut the ropes and let the ship sink again!

Penzance's Jubilee Pool gets repairs help

Few will forget the terrible storms which hit Cornwall in the winter and which wrought such damage on buildings and property. Since then, some repairs have been carried out. The work done on the railway line at Dawlish had good coverage in the news, but work in other areas is also being undertaken.

Cornwall Council, Penzance Town Council and the Friends of Jubilee Pool submitted an application for government funds to enable repairs to be made to the Penzance Jubilee pool and a recent announcement indicated that they had been successful to the tune of £1.95 million.

The grant will be used for essential structural work and repairs resulting from the storm damage. Some of it has also been ear-marked for finding ways to increase the number of visitors so that the future of the pool is more secure. This will include introducing a range of new aquatic activities.

The Penzance Jubilee Pool was opened in 1935 to commemorate the Silver Jubilee of George V. It is one of the few remaining Art Deco lidos left in the country and is the largest seawater lido.

Further ramblings from the Chairman

On a wet August Bank holiday evening...

I have sad news to report. Mrs Elizabeth Broughton has resigned from her posts of Hon Gen Sec (Admin) and Convener of the Annual Dinner Committee. We are grateful for all she has done for the Association in the past, and trust she will feel able to return in due course. I will resume the role of HGS (hopefully on an acting basis). The Annual Dinner will be organised by Council acting as the Dinner Committee. In this regard it's super to report that we have already appointed the Guest Speaker at the 2015 Dinner, namely Mr Malcolm Bell (Head of Tourism at Visit Cornwall) and the Trelawny Lecture 2015 will be given by Mrs Ann Hicks (Chairman of CFHS.) So in spite of some difficulties, there is a good start for the year.

All very serious so far, but let's lighten up a bit.

Did you know the French have a word for it? What's it, I hear you cry? A clue in my French crossword was 'recolter le miel' or the 'to harvest the honey'. The answer turns out to be 'butiner', to gather nectar and pollen'. I guess this shows the importance to the French of getting honey, for them to have coined a single word for it. I've mentioned this to the LCA apiarist and Deputy President of the Federation of Old Cornwall Societies, Miss Priscilla Oates, but I don't find the equivalent word in Kernewek or Breton.

We are approaching the Harvest season. Our July holiday was spent in Devon where we saw fields of corn (wheat, I think) in shocks (8 sheaves to a shock) just like when I was a boy. Instead of a Combine-harvester, this farmer uses an old binder, (but pulled by a tractor instead of three horses), cutting 350 acres in all, for thatching purposes. Before the use of the binder, the corn was cut with a scythe and the sheaves bound by hand, using a bind called a 'gooseneck', where the grain was retained and not lost. If you would like to know how this was done, it is very much easier to do than to describe, but even harder is to find the wheat stalks to do it with. Of course this reminds us of the ceremony of 'Crying the neck', a Cornish tradition, where the last sheaf bound was lifted high, in honour, three times by the reaper, with the words each time, 'what avee?' reply 'a neck!'. Priscilla performed the ceremony in the 'countryside' location of Lambeth at a meeting of the LCA Old Cornwall section of the LCA some years ago. ('Crying the neck' can be found using Google, with pictures full text etc.).



'Shocks' in a field

Of course all this thought of the harvest field reminds me, as ever, of food. This year my garden has produced plums (including two Cornish Kea plum trees and now the joy of jam-making to come) and apples and blackberries in profusion. The last two are well paired in the form of tart, topped with Cornish Cream and preferably consumed sitting on a corn sheaf, (carefully avoiding thistles cunningly concealed just below the surface). Crowst or crib is the name for this feast: the tart was supported by saffron cake, heavy cake, seedy cake, yeast cake, and a half of cold pasty and, in our case, tea. This makes our summer picnics in Battersea Park a poor substitute for Crowst in the Mowhay field. Although in other respects there are similarities, especially regarding water. Battersea provided it in the form of voluntary dousing in the fountain water jets, Cornwall in the form of various sorts of rain, showers, skiff, drizzle, mist, fog, hail, storm, no wonder one talked of 'saving the harvest', ... from death by drowning?. I remember one bad year where so much of the corn crop could not even be cut, at Harvest Festival the harvest Hymn was modified from 'All is safely gathered in' to 'All is mostly gathered in', and to emphasize the dire state was added, 'cept three acres in Penryn'. The modern British tradition of celebrating Harvest Festival in churches began in 1843, when the Reverend [Robert Hawker](#) invited parishioners to a special thanksgiving service at his church at [Morwenstow](#) in [Cornwall](#). I've not forgotten the Harvest Suppers in Church and pub and barn, who could? Cornwall means a lot to most of us: if these were not your experiences of a well spent youth, no doubt you have others, so why don't you tell us about them, by email to the Editor, perhaps?

I have bought a Smartphone. My old mobile phone was essentially programmed to send the message 'Please come and collect me from the station', or 'I'm on the train with the pasties: sorry, I'll be a bit late', and was used for little else. This new phone promises everything: it will probably take me forever to get the hang of it, but at last week's Council meeting Liz could find out the date of Royal Cornwall 2015, instantly on her phone, a boon to LCA programme planners, needing a date for the Midsummer Lunch. You know what I'm going to say next, viz: please send us an email with your current email address. We would like to send you quick updates to our programmes and details of some additional events, which may well be arranged at short notice.

After my last ramblings I was told off by a 'Liver Bird', one Hilary Thomas, formerly of Merseyside Cornish now returned to Camborne (or Cambren, as on Saxton's map of 1579,) still an LCA member. I have to apologise to Hilary because she says, 'As a long serving member of the Merseyside Cornish Association (1962-1965) then again (1972-1995),. I don't know who told you there were no dealings with Chester Cornish! We had an annual quiz, and always supported each other's dinners & had many joint meetings. I remember Joy Stevenson (Cornish dialect) & Gof Bullen (Cornish mining) visiting us at joint meetings. As for being two scats away, most Merseyside members lived on the outskirts of Liverpool & I lived in Ainsdale. It was a 82 mile round trip to Chester'. (So there, Francis! She says much more but I'll save that up for another time)

Well, that's it for now. We look forward to the new session. We need to make our usual plea for some additional officers, and committee members to offer assistance,

including a Hon Gen Sec, and a Vice Chairman. If you have ideas for events, visits, Monthly Lunch venues, newsletter articles, please let us know, and we may invite you to organise them, or write, as appropriate!.
Kernow Bys Vyken

Francis Dunstan

A royal encounter at the RCS

Member, Hilary Randell regularly attends the Royal Cornwall Show and this year, in addition to bumping into several LCA members, including past Chairman, Priscilla Oates, she had the excitement of a royal encounter.

While walking around the show, Hilary saw the Show's President, Her Royal Highness The Countess of Wessex. This was her first visit to the Show and it was as she came out of the Young Farmer's tent that Hilary bumped into her.



President of the Royal Cornwall Show, Countess of Wessex coming out of the Young Farmers' tent

Cornish Language Services in Truro Cathedral

From the Gorsedh Chaplain, Rev Jane Kneebone

The Bishop's Group is delighted to announce another significant step in the advancement of the Cornish language – by kind invitation of Truro Cathedral we are going to be celebrating the Eucharist in Cornish there for the first time ever. Although services in Cornish have been held in the Cathedral in the past, there has never been a Eucharist. This is a wonderful opportunity to demonstrate that Cornish is a vital part of our national identity and culture, for it's placing the language right at the heart of Christian worship in Cornwall. The Cathedral and we are very excited about this, and we hope that both of the planned services will be well supported.

Following the Cathedral's already established practice of celebrating the feasts of major Cornish saints, the first service is a said Eucharist for the Feast of St Samson, on Monday 28th July at 1 pm, in St Mary's Aisle; the second on Wednesday 1st October at 5.30 pm, a solemn sung Eucharist for the Feast of St German, with mass setting sung by the Cathedral Choir. They will be singing a Latin setting, and the rest of the service and the hymns will be in Cornish, so there will be no word at all of English

spoken! We thought that would be very fitting, as before the Reformation, when some Cornish was used in church services, all the rest would have been in Latin.

There will, however, be no excuse for non-Cornish speakers' not coming, because, as with all our services, the service books will be bilingual! So do come if you can, and prove that this new venture is one that will deserve to be continued.

<http://www.gorsethkernow.org.uk/english/welcome.htm>

Upgrade for Penzance-London sleeper train

In July, the government announced a £146.6 million package of rail improvements for Cornwall. Part of this money will be used to undertake a complete refurbishment of the interior of the Penzance-London sleeper train, including the addition of a brasserie-style bar. And, to ensure that the new-look trains are well maintained, the Long Rock maintenance site at Penzance will be expanded.

It is hoped that this deal will help to boost tourism and business in the county.

Did you know...

We are all familiar with the following poem which is a regular part of remembrance services around the world:

*They shall not grow old, as we that are left grow old;
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning
We will remember them*

But, did you know that the poem was written in Cornwall? Entitled *For the Fallen*, it was written by Robert Laurence Binyon while sitting on the cliffs of north Cornwall – although the actual location is uncertain. In 2003, a plaque was unveiled at Polzeath to mark what is thought to be the spot but there is also a small plaque in the East Cliff, north of Portreath suggesting it could be the site.

Condolences

It is with sadness that we have to report the recent passing of three of our members:

Percy Whitford - originally from Carn Brea and latterly living in Datchet.

Edgar Hosking from Newlyn.

Lorna Priddis from Troon, Camborne
Lorna was born in Camborne in 1919 and remained passionate about the county all her life, even though so much of it was spent over the Tamar. In the 1950s, she was living in Kingston and recorded in her diary that she was going off to a Cornish dance in London. She became a member of the London Cornish Association and regularly attended LCA events.

Lorna dedicated much of her later life to charitable causes in Selsey, where she was living. This included setting up the Selsey Variety Club. In the 1990s, she was given a *Help the Aged Gold Award* by Princess Diana in recognition of her many years of service to others.

News from other Cornish Associations

CANADA

The 20th Anniversary Banquet of the Toronto Cornish Association which was held in April, was a most enjoyable evening. Caroline Wiley compiled special memento books for the occasion.

The June meeting of the Association was held at the Hamilton Museum of Steam and Technology where members enjoyed a picnic lunch under the trees.

The Association held its annual picnic in August. As the Association is celebrating its 20th anniversary this year, ladies were invited to wear a decorated fancy bonnet or hat and gentlemen were encouraged to wear a bowler, top hat or straw boater. Frank and Ruth Pellow led everyone in the Furry Dance.

The Kelly Library have agreed to allow the TCA to mount an exhibition in the foyer of the library. The title of the exhibition will be Cornish: the forgotten culture and it will run from the beginning of August to the end of October.

AUSTRALIA

The **Cornish Association of South Australia** is busy planning next year's Cornish History Seminar which will be held during Kernewek Lowender in May. It is currently calling for papers which should *focus on Australian contexts and events* although background context from Cornwall is acceptable if it serves to highlight aspects of Cornish lifestyles and/or achievements in Australia. Anyone wanting to submit abstracts should send them to the CASA secretary, Noel Carthew at ncarthew@hotmail.com.

Meanwhile, tickets for events at the 2015 Kernewek Lowender are available online from 1st November.

The new chain of office of the CASA President has now been completed and includes enameled badges depicting symbols of both Cornwall and South Australia. For the Cornish element, a chough and an engine house have been selected while a Murray magpie and a Sturt's Desert Pea were chosen to represent South Australia. Acquiring the chain was made possible because of a bequest from their past Patron, Lady Wilson.

The Association has had a busy couple of months, starting with a talk on Cornish holy wells by their Patron, Rev Matt Curnow in February, and shortly afterwards by a High Tea to celebrate St Piran's Day.

In April, Nick Smythe gave an informative and interesting talk on the Gallipoli campaign, and some of the personalities involved on both sides. Members were surprised to hear about the contribution aircraft and aerial photography made to the campaign. After the talk, Nick gave the Association a seedling from the original Lone Pine tree which was on the plateau where fighting took place. CASA is now deciding where to plant it.

The Cornish in the arts was the theme of the talks in May. There were four speakers whose topics included Cornish painters, Oswald Pryor (who is known for his cartoons of the Cornish miners in Moonta) and Cornish writers and Cornish themes in Cornish literature. On the musical side, Noel Carthew spoke about Moonta carols and bands.

The **Cornish Association of Queensland** will celebrate its 20th birthday at a Foundation Day Lunch on 27th September. Guest speaker at this event will be Chris Dunkerley, Secretary of the Cornish Association of New South Wales. This was an apt choice as Chris and his wife Joy were founding members of the Association when it was originally established as a Branch of the Cornish Association of New South Wales.

The Association's Pasty Picnic was held in June and was attended by eighteen members who braved the cool wind on the banks of the Brisbane River. Fortunately, the sun shone as they devoured their pasties.

In June, CAQ members joined members of the Queensland Celtic Council for a visit to the Queensland Parliament House. After their tour, they were taken to the 7th floor balcony where they enjoyed a barbecue overlooking the Brisbane River.

In October, the Association will have a Great Cornish Brunch in Boondall. Members will bring their bacon, sausages, eggs, tomatoes etc and there will be barbecues where these can be cooked.

The Association's website has recently undergone an upgrade. It can be seen at <http://www.cornishqld.com/index.html>

The **Ballarat Branch** of the **Cornish Association of Victoria** held their AGM in June. President John Mildren stepped down after an incredible 21 years in post. Other office bearers were re-elected. Guest speaker at the meeting was Robert Gribben who talked about the building of the Royal Albert railway bridge.

At the August meeting, Neil Thomas shared some of his experiences during a visit to Papua New Guinea, including meeting Dr Rowan Williams who was Archbishop of Canterbury at the time.

Committee members were recently invited to tea with the Dean at the Aquinas Campus of the Australian Catholic University. They were able to see the recently repaired bezants on the gates at Carn Brae, former home of Cyrus Bath Retallack. The land on which Carn Brae was built was purchased by Retallack, a successful Cornish miner and engineer in 1881. The house, which was built in 1882-3, is now part of the Campus and the Dean has extended an invitation to anyone with a Cornish connection to visit the campus and view Retallack's home and the restored gates.

Several members of the **Cornish Association of New South Wales** participated in the Australian Celtic Festival in May. Despite the freezing and windy weather, they soldiered on. Thirty five Cornish folk braved the wind and rain to carry flags during the street parade on the Saturday. Sadly, some of the events at the Standing Stones had to be cancelled because the 40km wind had *'cut a swath through the tents erected for various Societies, and for us to showcase Cornish and the Cornish...'*

In October, members will visit Experiment Farm and Hambleton Cottage in Paramatta. The cottage stands on the site of the first land grant in Australia. The grant was made to ex-convict Cornishman James Ruse who successfully farmed the site for 30 years and demonstrated that new settlers could be self sufficient.

They will hold their Christmas event at the end of November.

Accompanying the Association's latest newsletter is a two page flyer of Cornish recipes. Some look really tempting!

NEW ZEALAND

The exciting news to come from the **New Zealand Cornish Association** recently is the announcement of a Bardship for Jean Harry. We offer our congratulations on this well-deserved honour. She and her husband, Graham, will be attending the Open Gorsedd in Torpoint for her induction.

Members of the *Christchurch Branch* of the NZCA will be able to order pasties during the next few months and they will be brought to the Branch's meetings by Pastyman, Nigel Beale.

At their meeting in June, a member brought in the monthly menu for Cornish school dinners which were served in the 1950s and 60s. This led to discussion and reminiscences, amongst members who recalled how they paid 6d for those meals – but 5d if there were other children in the family.

At the July meeting, Val's Cornish language lesson introduced further 'useful Cornish phrases' while the guest speakers, Janet and Dean Dickson talked about their trip to Canada and the USA, using a PowerPoint presentation to show some of their pictures.

UK

The members of the **Torbay Cornish Association** are to be congratulated on raising £500 for charity. The money was raised in a very Cornish way – by holding traditional cream teas! Beneficiaries from these events were Coast Watch, Friends of Rowcroft Hospice and the Torbay Holiday Helpers Network. The Association received good publicity in the Torbay Herald Express and on the newspaper's website. It can be seen on <http://www.torquayheraldexpress.co.uk/search/search.html?searchType=&searchPhrase=torbay+cornish+association&where=>

In between all those cream teas, the Association had the pleasure of hearing Norman Maudsley talk about Trekking in the Footsteps of Lawrence of Arabia 1888 to 1935. Further talks are planned in the coming months: in September, Harry Colclough will provide humorous Tales of a Copper's Lot and in October they will enjoy a talk on the Onion Johnnies. There will be a pasty lunch in October and Mrs Stacham and her Concorda Singers will entertain members in November, shortly before they hold their 42nd Annual Dinner in December.

At their AGM in April, all Committee members of the **West Somerset Cornish Association** were re-elected. As is the case with other associations, West Somerset is facing falling numbers with about 16 members on average attending meetings.

The Association has enjoyed talks on a variety of subjects in recent months. These have included *Woodland Management* and *Piracy on the High Seas* as well as the experiences of a volunteer medic and a driving instructor. They have also had a fish and chip supper, cream tea, pub lunch and coffee morning.

A small group of members of the **Thames Valley Cornish Association** met recently on the banks of the Thames at

Marlow for their annual picnic. For once, the weather obliged, producing a sunny, mild evening.



A group of TVCA members enjoying their annual picnic

This year the **Midlands Cornish Association** held its last Dinner Dance at the Harborne Golf Club. Thirty six guests attended including friends from the Bristol, Bournemouth, Torbay, London and Homecomers Associations as well as the Scottish & Norfolk Local Societies.

The Mayfair Trio entertained everyone during the evening, which ended with some dancing and a sing-song. It was a most enjoyable evening.

Guests who stayed overnight were taken on a visit to the new Library of Birmingham on the Sunday. The library has a unique style of architecture and on the top floor there is a room, reconstructed from the old library, which has been dedicated to Shakespeare. Everyone found it very interesting and the visit was much appreciated.

After the visit, there was a lunch at the Golf Club where Michael Evans, Daphne Stone and Alison Spencer had a special celebration – all three have been Presidents of the Midland Cornish Association, in succession, and all shared a special birthday. 1934 was a very good year!!! It was lovely for them to be able to share their cake with one and all.



Alison Spencer, Michael Evans and Daphne Stone celebrate their landmark birthdays

On 16th May 2015, the Association will hold an Annual Luncheon. If anyone is interested in joining them at this event or one of their monthly meetings, they should contact the Secretary, Daphne Stone, on 0121 784 5165.

We were saddened to hear that the **West Kent Cornish Association** has succumbed to the problem shared with so many associations – falling numbers – and, as a result, has closed down. Members will keep in touch and meet informally from time to time.

Books, Websites and apps

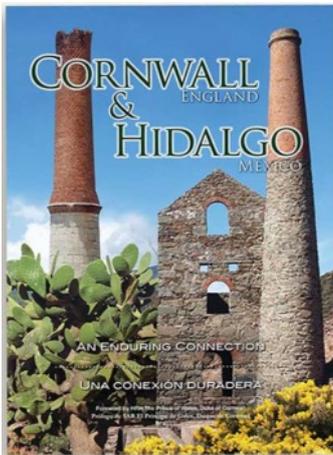
Books

Cornwall & Hidalgo, an Enduring Connection

A new book which highlights the links between Cornwall and Mexico will be launched at special events in Redruth and London in September.

In recent years the links between Cornwall and Mexico have become better understood. Extensive research and a growing public interest have led to a number of publications, exhibitions and several official and individual visits between both communities.

This gloriously illustrated book, with a section written by the late Richard Williams MBE, is a bilingual edition produced in Mexico by author Bridget Galsworthy Estavillo and photographer/publisher Diego Echeagaray. It sets out



to introduce the two communities to each other and celebrates both the historical as well as the present-day connections between them.

Bridget is sister of Cornwall's Deputy Lieutenant Michael Galsworthy of Trewithen and daughter of Sir John Galsworthy, Ambassador to Mexico 1972-1977.

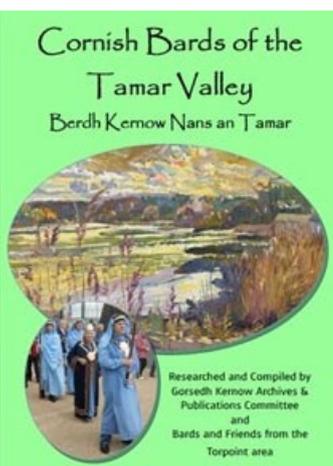
It is hoped that the launch of the book will help to revitalise the Cornish Mexico Cultural Society in

which Richard Williams was such a key figure. More information on the Society can be found on their website, www.cornish-mexico.org.uk

To find out more about the book or order a copy, contact Diego Echeagaray at cornwall.mex.book@gmail.com

Cornish Bards of the Tamar Valley

The Gorsedh Kernow has put together a publication which details the lives and work of 33 deceased bards who lived and worked – at least for part of their lives – on both sides of the Tamar. There are also details of 38 living bards and the work they are doing for Cornwall now. This is the fifth in a planned series covering the area in which the annual Gorsedh is held.



The Tamar Valley boasts a number of well-known bards. They include Kimberley Foster, whose numerous local government posts included chairman of Cornwall County Council, the Cornish antiquary and folklorist William Henry Paynter, James ('Jas') Palmer, Dennis Trevanion and Lawrence Maker, the journalist and chronicler of

Cornish chapels. Among both the deceased and living bards are Grand Bards, journalists, writers, Cornish language scholars, singers and musicians.

Cornish Bards of the Tamar Valley/Berdh Kernow Nans an Tamar, A4 format; price £6.50 + postage. (Costs with postage: UK £8.25; Europe £11.50; Rest of World £14.00 Airmail, £11.50 Surface). Available from 4th September 2014.

To order a copy, please contact Jerry Rogers, Gorsedh Treasurer, 17, Chiltern Road, Sandhurst, GU47 8NB, Berkshire, UK. Cheques, in pounds sterling, should be made payable to 'Gorsedh Kernow'

Websites and an app

Cornwall is calling

Invest in Cornwall recently launched its website - *Cornwall Calling* - <http://www.cornwall-calling.co.uk/> which provides travel and tourist information about Cornwall. Its target audience is those people who have a Cornish connection – they grew up there, have visited or have family links

In addition to celebrating Cornish culture, the site subtly reinforces Cornwall's business pedigree, showcasing Cornwall as a modern and thriving location for work and life.

The website is live and ready to explore. Some of the links worth looking at are:

- Pretty Swell: How 50 Years of Surfing Transformed Cornish Culture <http://bit.ly/1dAoIBj>
- 10 Fascinating Facts About the Cornish Diaspora <http://bit.ly/1iHdjyh>
- Falmouth's Marine History <http://bit.ly/1i1fxa0>
- Cornish Pasties: The Definitive Guide <http://bit.ly/O4rTVv>
- Richard Trevithick <http://bit.ly/1maybeZt>

Invest in Cornwall can also be found on Twitter (Cornwall_calls) and Facebook (Cornwall Calling).

A bird's eye view of West Cornwall

The Official Tourist Board online visitor guide to Cornwall can be found at <http://www.visitcornwall.com/>

This site contains a wealth of information on what's going on in Cornwall, what there is to do, accommodation guides etc. One of its special features is an aerial tour of West Cornwall which shows stunning views of the coast and places like Lands End, Minack Theatre, St Michael's Mount and St Ives.

Malcolm Bell, who is Head of Tourism at Visit Cornwall will be the guest speaker at the LCAs 129th Annual Dinner on 14th March.

Penlee app

During the past year, the staff and volunteers at Penlee House Gallery and Museum have been working with a local media company to create a cultural heritage app which can be used on smart phones and tablets and which has been funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund.

Known as *Walkabout West Cornwall*, the app is the sec-

end of a series of heritage based apps. The first one was *Walkabout St Ives*.

The app uses photographic, fine art and archaeological items from the collections at Penlee as well as archive film from South WestFilm and TV to tell the story of 5000 years of local history.

Find out more at <http://www.walkaboutapp.co.uk/>

Carwynnen Quoit stands proud again

On the summer solstice in June, the capstone was put onto the Carwynnen Quoit, a 5,000-year-old burial chamber near Troon, which collapsed in 1967. Putting on the capstone marked the climax of the work undertaken by The Cornwall Sustainable Trust which bought the site in 2009.

Prior to the work being undertaken on the site, The Cornwall Sustainable Trust and Cornwall Heritage Trust employed professional archaeologists to research the monument and oversee its rebuilding.

The first stage required two of the support stones to be put into their original footings, but adjustments had to be made to the third – to ensure compliance with health and safety regulations! A crane was used to place the large capstone, which measures 3.3m in length, 2.5m in width and is 30cm thick, on top of the support stones.

The Carwynnen Quoit is thought to date back to the Neolithic period.

Zactly's better than not quoit!



The placing of the capstone marks the end of a great undertaking.

Source: Cornwall Sustainable Trust

Do we have your correct email address?

Please remember to let us know if you change your email address - or your snail mail address.

Charity is alive and well in Cornwall!

From the newsletter of the Ballarat Branch of the Cornish Association of Victoria

A touch of humour

A group in St Austell has 'hatched' a plan to help keep ex-battery hens warm.

The Knit and Natter group was knitting for the Penguin Trust, a group which rescued oil covered penguins, but have now turned their skills to making warm coats for hens.

The British Hen Welfare Trust re-homes thousands of hens that are still productive enough to provide enough fresh eggs for a family for a number of years. Up to 10-20 per cent of ex-battery hens can have partial feather loss due to various causes such as stressful housing conditions. The feathers grow back within a few months, but in the meantime the hens are building up their body and limb strength with their warm coats, which help to keep them warm whilst they recover and get used to their new environment



<http://www.holidaysincornwall.com/st-austell-knitters-will-provide-re-homed-hens-with-jumpers/>

A group of ladies looking very smart in their new jerseys.

New Members

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

Mrs. Gabrielle Harding
Mrs. Gillian Parsons from Lostwithiel

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

The Membership Secretary
17 Trellyn Close
Barming
Maidstone
ME16 9EF

or on the website: www.londoncornish.co.uk

Rugby

London Cornish R.F.C. Bask In Glory Of Historic Season!

London Cornish RFC have just completed the most successful season in the club's history. Ben Gilby (Publicity Officer) tells all...

London Cornish Rugby Club's 51st season will live long in the memory of all connected to the Roehampton based club as all four of the club's sides have just enjoyed the best league placings in their history.

The 1st XV play in London Two South-West, the seventh tier of English rugby, and have had a sensational season, which saw them claim a highest ever league position of third place. Prior to this season, Cornish had never won more than three straight games in this division, but a sensational run of form from the beginning of December until the end of the season saw tens wins from their last twelve games, which included seven successive wins, each with bonus points for scoring four or more tries. All of this was achieved after the injury ravaged travails of the previous campaign which saw Cornish fighting an ultimately successful and heroic rearguard action to avoid relegation. With the top two sides in the division, Guildford and Gosport & Fareham having gained promotion, Cornish will be focused on improving even further next season.

It is not just the first team that have had plenty to celebrate, three promotions in seven seasons saw the 2s play in the regional level Zoo Sports Shield Division 3, where they finished 6th. In 2012-13 The 3rd XV, known as The Choughs completed back to back Championship seasons and will be contested the Middlesex Merit Table Division 1 after rising 3 leagues in 2 seasons. Cornish's social side, 'The Dukes' took part Middlesex Merit Table Division Two for the first time this season having been awarded a double promotion following the unbeaten run to the Division Four Championship in 2012/13.

London Cornish's Director of Rugby, Dickon Moon's renowned coaching reputation has been recognised by his county as new Cornwall coach Graham Dawe has continued Dickon's tenure with the Cornish coaching set-up this season – which is a massive honour for all connected with the club. All eyes for Cornish rugby supporters now turn to the County Championship – London Cornish supporters will be heading up to Hertford on 17th May to support the black and gold in the big match against Hertfordshire – all are hoping for another appearance in a Twickenham final – but with a more pleasing result this year!

Trelawny's Army Marches On Twickenham Once More!

The day started with a 10am meet at The Cabbage Patch pub in Twickenham, which had a St. Pirans Flag flying above the Cross of St. George, on the same pole (they clearly know where their loyalties lie), and, with Cornish bunting, Cornish cider and fresh pasties on sale, it was a fine welcome. Not surprisingly, it wasn't long before the first choral 'warm up' with 'Trelawny' and 'Goin' Up Cambridge Hill' given a lusty rendition.

In the stadium at around 11:30, just in time for the eagerly awaited arrival of the Falmouth Marine Band and a giant 'oggy'. Kick-off rapidly approached and it was time to strap ourselves in for what was sure to be a heck of a ride.

It was Lancashire who got the first points of the afternoon when Fylde & Lancashire captain Chris Johnson kicked a penalty. The throaty roar of the black and gold supporters (some of whom had boarded coaches at 3am) gained volume as Lancashire struggled with the onslaught of the mighty Cornish pack, conceding a penalty, which Launceston full back Kieron Lewitt kicked for 3-3. However, this only served to spur on Lancashire, and from a penalty, they kicked to the corner. The resulting play saw hooker Mark Rylance over the line. Johnson added the extras and Cornwall were 10-3 adrift.

However, Cornwall are made of stern stuff in 2014, and they hit back quickly. Lewitt's penalty reduced the gap to four points. It was game on, and with the roars of the Cornish echoing around Twickenham, the black and gold were soon in front. Truro winger Lewis Vinnicombe played a lovely chip over the advancing Lancashire defence, he ran on and collected his own kick and plunged over the line. Lewitt's conversion saw Cornwall 13-10 up. Shortly afterwards, Lancashire were down to 14 as Fylde's Paul Arnold was binned for a rather silly slap on Tom Rawlings. Lewitt kicked the resulting penalty for 16-10.

Things got even better, and to scenes of utter delirium, Cornwall went thirteen points ahead. Cambridge's Jamal Ford-Robinson performed a 'one man wrecking ball' routine by totally demolishing two attempted tackles to barge through and score. Lewitt's conversion was good, and Cornwall led 23-10 at the break.

A big start to the second half was needed as Lancashire were always going to use their experience and build the pressure in the second half. Things looked good once more as Lewitt's penalty made it 26-10. Lancashire grabbed a reply through Evan Stewart's try and Johnson's conversion. The momentum now swung in the northerners favour, and three more tries were added in quick succession from Johnson, Lamprey and Burtonwood. Despite mounting a heroic driving maul on the Lancashire line in the closing moments, Cornwall could not regain the momentum, and the dream was over for another year. But how proud the Black and Gold supporters can be of Cornwall's rugby team.

With the game over, all roads led to the Lineout Bar for an outstanding Cornish singsong, accompanied by the Falmouth Marine Band. 'Trelawny', 'South Australia', 'Sloop John B' and many more were sung loud and lustily in a superb atmosphere. Many England supporters on the periphery looked on in shock. One of whom pointed to the giant pasty displayed behind the band and asked 'Why have they brought a big pineapple?' Oh dear!

Cornwall have done a magnificent job this season - yes they may have come up short in the final, but the three wins to get to Twickenham and the superb performance in the first half and determination throughout is a source of immense pride.

*Ben Gilby
Publicity Officer, LCRFC*

Mem Sec's Meanderings...

In my last 'Meanderings' I commented on our spring weather and said 'enjoy it' and hope for a good summer. Well I hope this summer has not been too hot for you! I will not moan apart from saying the humidity is rather uncomfortable. In a few months winter will be here when we will be able to 'enjoy' the ice and snow and then complain that it is too cold and begin looking forward to the summer next year, hoping that it will be as warm and pleasant as this year.

Now, as Membership Secretary I must go on to my regular subject and report on the membership.

Sadly three members have died. They were:

Percy Whitford from Carn Brea who lived in Datchet, Berkshire

Edgar Hosking from Newlyn

Mrs. Lorna Priddis from Troon, Camborne

But, we have two new members and I am pleased to welcome:

Mrs. Gabrielle Harding who is a member by descent and now living in Newmarket, Suffolk

Mrs. Gillian Parsons from Lostwithiel

As you can see, our membership has decreased by one and I am able to report that it is now 230 (as you know this is spread over London and the Home Counties, with nearly 100 living farther afield including some abroad).

In the last Newsletter I reminded you that Annual Subscriptions were due on 1st April. We are now up to August and there are still some subscriptions outstanding. Some reminders have been sent by e-mail and others by post but several have still not been paid. Please ensure that your e-mail details are correct as some emails were rejected, which meant letters had to be sent. You can of course pay by Standing Order. If you would like to do this, please contact me for a form.

A reminder: if you can help by encouraging new members this will be greatly appreciated. I now repeat what I always ask, 'please do what you can to encourage other people to join the Association'.

In my last Meanderings I said that I would look for some more snippets about Cornwall in various books and newspapers. I decided this time not to look too deeply into the past and have, instead, found the following items in recent newspapers:

Are you, your children or grand children fans of Lego? In 1997 a cargo ship going to the United States was rocked by a huge wave about 20 miles off the Cornish coast and about five million Lego pieces were swept overboard including packs containing nautical items such as pirates, policemen, deep sea divers, dragons and some plastic flowers. These have been washed up on Cornish beaches over the years; so if any of your family are Lego fans, go searching the beaches and see what you can find!

Another item recently seen said:

In 'Old English' pygg was a type of clay used to make jars that held money. Later they became known as 'Piggy Banks'.

Whether this clay had any connection with Cornwall was not stated; if you have any ideas please let me know How about this one?

'Nice shelter, pity there's no bus.'

A village has unveiled its new bus shelter – despite having no bus service there for six years. The concrete shelter was built for free by a local construction firm for the residents of Bissoe, Cornwall. But if you use it you will have a long wait as the last bus in the village was in 2008.

There has been campaigning for buses to be diverted so they stop in Bissoe, but so far without success. But it is now hoped that the new shelter might encourage them to come back!

How about commuting to work in London? When I used to travel from Kent this was basically far enough, but in an article I read it stated that between 260 and 290 people commute to work in London from Cornwall. Not only that, the article also stated that a small number actually commute from Cornwall to the Shetland Islands which is about 900 miles by the shortest route! I feel out of breath just writing this!!

When I was looking through some books I thought 'people don't always want to look at the past' the younger people now-a-days tend to live in the present and don't want to be told or reminded of historic events. This is a shame because as one gets older we tend to look back on the past, even our schooldays. We all remember our days at school and reflect on how things have and are continually changing. So why not look back and learn why 'life is as it is today'. Discover Cornish history - how Cornwall developed its mining, steam engines for mine pumps and railways, fishing and ship manufacturing - and spread their skills around the World. There are many countries around the world that have towns with Cornish names including Canada, America, Australia, South America and also numerous places across Europe. If you do not believe this grab a World Atlas and take a look at the index: Truro, Falmouth and Launceston are three names that leap to mind; you no doubt have other names you remember from holiday visits or friend's comments. Many of these names were introduced by Cornish people who travelled around the world to work in mines.

Another recent newspaper article listed some home foods that holidaymakers take abroad, this included: tea bags, instant coffee, biscuits, Marmite, brown sugar and tomato ketchup, to name a few. What do you take on holiday? Personally, together with my wife Jenny, we like sampling foods associated with the country we are visiting. How about you?

If you have had your summer holidays I hope you enjoyed them but if they are still to come, look forward to them and enjoy them. Do not forget to look out for Cornish names when abroad!

As I usually say, I hope you have found the snippets in these 'Meanderings' interesting and, I hope they have given you some 'food for thought'.

If you know of any possible members who may be living near you, please don't hesitate to pass on a copy of this

Newsletter particularly if you think it may encourage them to join the London Cornish Association and become a new member. This would be greatly appreciated and they would be very welcome to our Association.

Kernow bys vyken

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

Crowdy Crawn

'Wrecker's Wednesday' Cornish Gatherings in London

The first Wednesday of the month is when Cornish expats and lovers of Cornwall gather at The Sun & 13 Cantons in Soho to enjoy 'proper Cornish pasties, Cornish beer, live music and more.' The evenings start at 7pm and are held downstairs at The Sun & 13 Cantons, 21 Great Pulteney St, W1F 9NG.

Dates for the rest of the year are: September 3rd, October 1st, November 5th and December 3rd

Find out more on their facebook page - <https://www.facebook.com/wreckerswednesday>



Will Cornwall reach the stars?

In July it was announced that Newquay airport has been included in a shortlist of possible locations for the UK's first commercial spaceport. The consultation process is underway at present and formal bids are due to be presented in the autumn. An announcement will be made in April and it is hoped that the spaceport, wherever it is, will be completed by 2018.

Some of the things in Newquay's favour are its long runway, coastal location and uncongested air space, as well as the fact that it is the home of Aerohub, England's only aerospace-focused Enterprise Zone.

Seven other possible sites in Britain have also been identified.

West Cornish Pasty Company rescued

Cornish folk on this side of the Tamar who have eaten pasties from the West Cornwall Pasty Company will have been shocked to hear earlier this year that the company had gone into administration. Its collapse was blamed on

its ambitious expansion programme and the implementation of the 'pasty tax'.

But, there is some good news - the Company has been rescued by a new investment group, Enact. One of the partners of Enact is former rugby player, Danny Mills who reached the final of the 2012 series of Masterchef.

Project Gutenberg e-books with Cornish Interest

Project Gutenberg provides free access to a variety of digitised books which are out of copyright and which can be downloaded onto a computer, iPad, tablet or Kindle. Amongst the many titles available are some with a Cornish interest, two of which are mentioned here.

A recent Ballarat Cornish Association newsletter highlighted the e-book of *Cornish Characters and Strange Events* by Sabine Baring Gould which was published in 1908. This well-illustrated book is a fascinating collection of Cornish biographies and landmarks. It can be downloaded, from <http://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/41775>

Sabine Baring Gould was born in Exeter in 1834. He was an Anglican priest, a landowner and prolific writer. During his lifetime he wrote novels, biographies, ghost stories... and many hymns including *Onward Christian Soldiers* and *Now the Day is Over*.

Another book of Cornish interest, which was only recently uploaded, would be of particular interest to those with an interest in the engineering history of Cornwall. The *Life of Richard Trevithick, with an account of his inventions*, was written by his son Francis Trevithick and published in 1872. The book includes many of his letters and drawings. It can be downloaded from <http://www.gutenberg.org/files/46634/46634-h/46634-h.htm>

Cornish bubbly is a winner

Camel Valley Wines are no strangers to awards but 2014 was a particularly good year with two of their sparkling wines winning gold medals at the International Wine Challenge 2014 – the 2012 Pinot Noir Rose Brut and 2009 Chardonnay Brut. The Pinot Noir was also awarded a trophy. These results make the Camel Valley vineyard the most successful of all the English vineyards this year.

Sam Lindo from Camel Valley became the first English winemaker to be shortlisted for the International Sparkling Winemaker of the Year in 2014, but was pipped to the post by French winemaker Thierry Roset.

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

Please send all contributions to:

*The Editor
55 Brownell Place
London
W7 3AZ*

Or email to lizbroek@tiscali.co.uk