



Cowethas Kernewek Loundres

London Cornish Association Newsletter



www.londoncornish.co.uk

Spring 2014

We are finally starting to emerge from a winter which will not soon be forgotten. We were warned we would have an incredibly cold winter but what we got was the wettest winter for decades. Every day, for the last two months, we have seen images of incredible storms and flooding – and poor Cornwall has been one of the worst hit areas. Not only has there been damage locally, but, with the washouts on the railway lines and roads, it will undoubtedly have an impact on tourism for some time. We are told the worst of the storms is behind us, but lots of hard work lies ahead for those who have to do the cleaning up.

On a recent visit to Kew, I noticed 'fields' of crocuses and the snowdrops are out in abundance everywhere. Blossoms are starting to open and some of the trees are getting that wonderful greenish hue that tells us spring is just around the corner. Let us hope that the bad winter weather will soon be behind us.

With this newsletter, you will receive two flyers. The first of these is a subscription reminder. Subscriptions are due on 1st April each year and I know our Membership Secretary, Graham Pearce, will be a very a very happy man if members send in their renewals promptly. Hopefully the enclosed form will make it easy for you to do this.

The other flyer is an invitation to nominate a person for the annual *Pewas map Tre-ve-than Award*. This award recognises what Cornish people outside Cornwall do to foster an appreciation of Cornish life, heritage and culture. Having had the honour of winning it in 2013, I know how much it means to receive such an award. Please make sure you send in your nominations, with supporting evidence, to our Hon Gen Sec by 15th April. The contact details are on the flyer.

You will note from the yellow 'cards' you received in Autumn, and in the 'Forthcoming Events' section of this newsletter that the AGM and the Trelawny Lecture are earlier than usual this year – May 14th. Please put it in your diaries. There will be pasty lunch beforehand. If you would like a pasty, please make sure you let the Hon Gen Sec know in advance so that one can be ordered for you. They are the 'genuine' article, specially imported from Cornwall!

In a couple of weeks, it will be St Piran's Day. It is great to see how much is now being done in Cornwall to mark this special day, and impressive to see how it is celebrated by Cornish cousins around the world – from picnics and pasty meals to flag raising at the Toronto Town Hall. When I was working at Slough Library, four of us on the staff had Cornish links and we used to provide a Cornish tea for our colleagues. I have not discovered any 'cousins' at the school where I now work and have decided that this year, I will introduce the staff to the delights of a Cornish tea on 5th March in the hopes that I will unearth some – although, judging by the many different accents in the staffroom, I doubt it! Please let us know what you are doing to celebrate.

Soon after you receive this newsletter, we will hold our 128th Annual Dinner. We expect it to be as wonderful an evening as in past years, and hope to see many of you there.

Space is rapidly running out, so I must end. I wish you all a good spring – and hope to see many of you at our events in the near future. Meanwhile, please keep those articles for the newsletter coming in.

Kernow bys vyken

Dates for your diary ...

128th Annual Dinner
15th March

Family History Day
5th April

AGM and Trelawny Lecture
14th May

Mid-Summer Lunch
12th July

Lunches
24th March
28th April - *note change of date*

19th May
16th June

Further details of these events can be found on page 2

Deadline for the Summer Newsletter is

5th May
Please send all contributions to The Editor at the address on the back page

Subscription Reminder

2014/2015 Subscriptions are due on 1st April 2014.

A renewal form is enclosed in this newsletter. It should be completed and sent to:

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

Forthcoming events

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

128th Annual Dinner

Saturday March 15th

The Thistle Hotel, Marble Arch
Bryanston Street
London W1H 7EH

Dinner will be served at 7pm.

Cash bar available in the Albert Room from 5.30 for a 'bit o' chat' before dinner.

.....
Menu

Starter

Poached Salmon and Asparagus Tart

Main Course

Corn Fed Chicken, Chive and Garlic Creamed Potato
Fine Green Beans
Honey Carrots
OR
Vegetarian Option

Dessert

Lemon Tart with Clotted Cream and Berry Jam

.....
Dress: Dinner jacket or lounge suit.

Chains of Office are usually worn

£ 37.50 per Person

NCP parking is available (at a discounted rate) next door to the hotel.

Contact: The Dinner Convenor, Mrs E Broughton
50 Grovelands Road, Palmers Green, London N13 4RH
Email: lcs.hgs@gmail.com
Tel: 020 8886 8214.

AGM and Trelawny Lecture

14th May

1pm - Pasty lunch
2pm - AGM
3pm - Trelawny Lecture
3pm - Tea and biscuits

The Trelawny Lecture will be given by a representative of the National Trust.

Venue: Bloomsbury Central Baptist Church,
235 Shaftesbury Avenue. London WC2H 8EP (*Nearest tube stations: Holborn or Tottenham Court Road*)

Booking essential if you want a pasty.
Vegetarian pasties are available if ordered in advance

Cost: £10

Contact: Lizzy Broughton Tel: 020 8886 8214.

Midsummer Lunch

12th July - 12 noon

Further details will appear in the Summer newsletter and on the website - www.londoncornish.co.uk

Contact: Tony Wakeham Tel: 020 77037378

Lunches

Time: 12 noon

Venue: Methodist Central Hall Westminster - 12 noon.
(*Nearest tube: St James's Park*)

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

24th March
28th April - **Please note this date has changed**
19th May
16th June

LONDON CORNISH ASSOCIATION

Family History Day

Saturday, 5th April 2014

Speakers:

Tom Doig

'Dating late-Victorian Photographs'

Great grand-mother's boxes of old photographs, particularly her *cartes d'visite*, were a source of fascination when we were children. She knew who the people were and so never wrote their names on the reverse. Using unusual techniques, in this talk we look for clues to their identification and suggest procedures for dating them. Participants are encouraged to bring photographs from their own collection to be used as examples

In addition, Tom has offered the opportunity for informal one-to-one sessions, so if you have a problematic photograph or two [not the family album please] that you'd like some help with, do bring them along.

Ann & Mike Hicks

'Cornwall's War History Project'

Cornwall Family History Society is producing a new website to commemorate the beginning of the First World War. The aim is to produce a fully searchable index of anyone connected with Cornwall during both world wars and subsequent conflict, including not just service people but also civilians like fire-fighters and nurses. It is intended to include photographs of individuals, war graves and memorials, and also some information about what was happening in towns and villages around Cornwall during and after the war years. The talk will outline the nature and current status of this never-ending project, and there may be an opportunity for searches to be done about members of your own family

Venue:

Bloomsbury Central Baptist Church
235 Shaftesbury Avenue
London WC2H 8EP

(nearest underground stations Holborn or Tottenham Court Road)

Time:

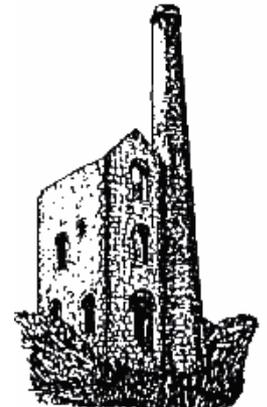
10am to 4.30pm

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

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

Contact:

Gill Penny [g.n.penny@btinternet.com; Tel: 01908 316317]
Carol Goodwin [carolgoodwin951@btinternet.com]



PEWAS MAP TREVETHAN AWARD 2014
Paul Smales Award: Call for nominations

The Paul Smales Award is given to a Cornish man or woman, not currently living in Cornwall, who has made an outstanding contribution to the enhancement of the people and heritage of Cornwall.

Nominations are being invited for the 2014 Award.

Nominations, with supporting evidence, should be sent in **by 15th April 2014**.

Please send them to:

The Hon Gen Sec
50 Grovelands Road
Palmer's Green
London N13 4RH.

Email: lca.hgs@gmail.com

News of Past Events

New Year's Lunch at Penderel's Oak

11th January

We had a very good turnout with 22 members at the lunch. Some were, sadly, unable to make it due to not being well.

How time flies. This was our 14th lunch, the first one being at the Harvester Pub in Boston Manor in 2000.

After lunch, everyone had a good chat. It was a good day and the weather was kind to us.

Tony Wakeham

Visit to Messum's Art Gallery

28th November 2013

Of the many Mayfair art galleries around Cork Street, one has long specialised in British Art, including that of Cornish artists. In 1974, Messums held the first exhibition by a private gallery of paintings by the Newlyn School. The exhibition was called, *A Breath of Fresh Air* and the paintings were for sale.

That enthusiasm for Cornish art has continued and they were happy to invite a group from the LCA to their latest Cornish exhibition. We were warmly welcomed by Mr Michael Child, who has been involved in their Newlyn interests since 1976.

We sat or stood in a room in which hung heart-stirring paintings of the Cornwall of a hundred or more years ago. There were works by Stanhope Forbes (one priced £185,000!), Dame Laura Knight, Harold Harvey, (the only Newlyn School painter who was Cornish, being born in Penzance) and Walter Langley (who could be classed as a founder of the Newlyn School). We also saw a Munnings which was painted in Lamorna. Michael Child's instructive talk referred to some of these paintings specifically, as well as putting the Newlyn School in its artistic and historical context. Their paintings are now in considerable demand with some priced at the upper range from £128,500 to £385,000.

Michael Child answered questions from members of the LCA, some quite specialised. At least one owned something from the Newlyn School—though not in that price range! We were then invited to take refreshments.

After our visit, most of us walked to the Royal Institution, a few minutes away, where Humphry Davy was a science lecturer, for tea and 'a bit of chat'.

Carol Goodwin and Graham Gendall Norton



Fishing off Pennance Point - Henry Scott Tuke RA NEAC RWS 1858 - 1929 c1885



The Slipway - Newlyn 1900 - Stanhope Alexander Forbes RA NEAC 1857-1947



Old Newlyn - 1935 - Harold Harvey
Harold Harvey was the only member of the Newlyn School who was actually Cornish!

All images courtesy of Messum's Fine Art Ltd.

Reminder!

The Hon Gen Sec's contact details have changed.

The LCA has a new Hon Gen Sec. Her name is Lizzy Broughton and her contact details are as follows:
Mrs E Broughton
50 Grovelands Road, Palmers Green, London N13 4RH.

Email: lca.hgs@gmail.com

Further reminder...

Please remember to let us know if YOU have changed any of your contact details. Please contact either the Membership Secretary at *Pengwyth', 17 Trellyn Close, Barming, MAIDSTONE, Kent, ME16 9EF* OR the Editor at the address on the back page who will make sure the information is passed on.

Cornish achievements acknowledged

Six Cornish people have been acknowledged in this year's Honours List. We take pride in their achievements and congratulate them on their awards.

Royal Victorian Order

LVO

Robin Simon Conibear – Development Manager, Poundbury

MVO

Gemma Catherine Teresa Kaza – Inventory Controller, Household of The Prince of Wales and the Duchess of Cornwall

Royal Victorian Medal - RVM

Miss Shona Kay Williams - Assistant Dresser to The Duchess of Cornwall.

Oder of the British Empire - MBE

Mrs Jillian Gwendoline Carr - Human Resources director, Pendennis Shipyard, Falmouth. For services to Education.

British Empire Medal (Bem)

Robert Bulgin - Chairman, Port Isaac Fundraising Branch, Royal National Lifeboat Institution. For charitable services.

Kenneth George Radford - For services to People with Learning Disabilities through People and Gardens at the Eden Project in St. Austell, Cornwall.

Shelterbox raises its profile in Ealing!

At the school at which I work, encouraging pupils to develop a social conscience is an important part of the educational programme. To this end, each class adopts a charity to support, and holds special events to promote that charity and raise funds for it.

This year one of the classes has adopted Shelterbox – and, as this picture shows, a tent was recently pitched on the school grounds for the girls to visit during their breaks. It aroused a great deal of interest and many of them went to look at the equipment and chat to the representative who came the school.



The Shelterbox tent pitched on a lawn in the school grounds

A Cornish Quiz to Challenge You!

Thanks to member, Lorna Leadbetter, for putting together this quiz. How many can you answer?

All the answers to these cryptic clues are the names of places in Cornwall. Have a go and see how well you do. Good luck!

1. You won't see this holy man at night.
2. Coloured girl.
3. A condiment and a tree.
4. Walk through water before a river crossing.
5. This holy man sounds as if he's in a line
6. and this one removes chaff.
7. Indicative finger action.
8. Not an old mooring place.
9. A Cornish river in your face.
10. A word for depressed describing an item of equipment on a ship.
11. An animal before a shallow river crossing.
12. A coloured base.
13. Britain's *finisterre*.
14. Organisation for professional and business people.
15. Sounds like a sheltered Cornish place.
16. Another name for a label.
17. Having fun or gaming here.
18. Chief policeman.
19. A statement of belief.
20. Icy rain – sort of.
21. Happy Cornish girls.

Answers can be found on the back page.

Floral Dance and Trelawny CD raises funds for the RNLI

Helston Town Band recently joined forces with local tenor John Treleaven to create what is believed to be the first all-Cornish vocal recording of the 'Floral Dance'.

The lyrics for the Floral Dance were written by Kate Moss in 1911 after she heard the music played during Flora Day celebrations. The Australian baritone, Peter Dawson, was the first person to record those lyrics, which he did in 1912.

A CD, which also includes a recording of Trelawny, is available for sale, with all profits going to the RNLI. The cost is £3.50 + £1.50 p&p. If you would like to buy a copy, it can be obtained from several shops in Helston or the local RNLI or it can be ordered through the Floral Dance Project at enquiries@floraldanceproject.com.

New Members

We welcome the following new members to the LCA:

Mr. and Mrs. David Pender

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 at
'Pengwyth' 17 Trellyn Close, Barming, Maidstone, ME16 9EF

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

An unexpected find

While packing up my mother's effects recently, I came across an English essay book which had belonged to my grandmother, Marie Elise Oats (daughter of Francis Oats of St Just). In it was this essay on the Cornish coast. It is undated but would have been written when she was at Wycombe Abbey School between 1903 and 1905.

Liz Broekmann

Scenes on and off the Cornish Coast

On the North-West coast of Cornwall, there stretches out into the ocean a ripped headland rising high above the surface of the sea: this is in fact the only Cape in England and has been a landmark to passing ships for many a year.

To the North of this headland stretch some of the finest and most dangerous cliffs on the coast of Cornwall. To the South there lies – simply surrounded by protecting cliffs – the cove, known as Priest's Cove, from the fact that in ancient days there had been a monastery and Chapel near here. Round this beach there are a few scattered caves to which, rumour has it, smugglers and wreckers were not impartial in days gone by, when at times it was safer and wiser to remain unseen. Beyond this cove arise more cliffs, and in the distance appears a great stretch of yellow sand, where shells and quicksands abound. This is Whitsand Bay, a bay which, if it had a tongue could tell of many a deed and scene. Above these sands nestles a tiny fishing village, and beyond it arise the rugged cliffs of the Lands End.

Such are the views to be obtained North and South of this headland, but to gaze westwards towards the wide expansion of ocean is the finest of them all. A couple of miles from the shore arise two dark and dangerous rocks which have witnessed many a sad scene; these rocks and a lighthouse far to the South are the only objects which obstruct a clear line of ocean, but these add rather to the beauty of the scene than otherwise.

In such a place as this we understand the language of the sea; if it feels calm and restful it shows us its feelings in its clear and untroubled waters; if light and gay we see its billowing deposited upon the gay and joyous waters upon which the warm rays of the sun dance and sparkle – the light is sometimes too dazzling, and then it is that the eye seeks and finds repose in the purple cliffs which protect the coast of Cornwall – the county of all counties.

If the ocean feels sullen, it again shows us its mood, and oh how sorrowful the whole aspect of things then becomes: the sea dons its most gloomy dress of grey, the skies loom dark and threatening and all is wrapt in that stillness which forewarns a storm. But it is not until we have seen an Atlantic storm rage that we can realise the magnificence of a storm at sea. The waves dash awfully against the dark rocks and spray springs up and scatters

like snow. Huge waves roll majestically towards the beach where they finally break with a roar as of thunder; the angry coloured heavens are mirrored in the dark waters of the sea; the wind whistles and moans; the waves can be seen for a great distance; they come rushing along heaving with them mountains of snowy foam; it seems as if such a storm could never lull, but in the end comes that 'Calm after the Storm' which is so wonderful a contrast to the raging of the seas but a little while before.

There are some who call the sea monotonous and dull; a Frenchman has even said '*La mer, c'est l'immense misère*'. It is for such as these to view the sea off Cape Cornwall in all seasons, to watch it in every weather, and if it please them, then to depart, but first acknowledging the fathomless beauty of the Cornish sea.



'A couple of miles from the shore arise two dark and dangerous rocks which have witnessed many a sad scene' - The Brisons off Cape Cornwall



Marie Elise's Cornish home on Cape Cornwall. She used to watch the sea from the bay window at the centre of the house

Condolences

David Pelmeur

We were saddened to hear of the death of David Pelmeur at the end of December. David was a member of the West Country Association and was a regular visitor to Cuntelles Kernewek for many years.

We offer our condolences to David's family and friends.

A Memorable Musical Year

2013 was a mammoth year for the Cornish Federation of Male Voice Choirs, as, not only were members rehearsing for the Royal Albert Hall concert, but they were hosting the 6th Cornwall Male Voice Choral Festival in the Spring. Held biennially this has, for ten years, been the largest male choir festival in Europe.

Apart from the competitive aspect, depending on choir size etc, and over 60 choirs from all over the world participated, the 3000 singers were involved in 50 events at 40 locations across the county. The logistics were mind boggling – imagine, for instance, feeding an army of boys in 38 caravans for 5 days!

I admired, in particular, the immaculate presentation and behaviour of those young men from the Czech Republic, Finland, Lithuania and St Petersburg who had travelled hundreds of miles to entertain us. On the home front, I was transported by the performance of Truro Cathedral Choir while admittedly understanding little. Sublime is the only adjective that comes to mind! Incidentally, the Choir has produced a CD celebrating 125 years – it is a ‘must have’.

The more mature choristers from as far afield as Sydney were, as always, delightful and I wish that I could have attended more than three concerts so as to experience a greater international mixture. The Launceston Compere, Terry Bale, used the term ‘Building Bridges’ in his remarks and I hope that the choristers of whatever age will continue the tradition and return in 2015.

Mary Watters

Men of Cornwall [Continue to] Sing

Over 3000 people attended a memorable evening of singing by (mostly) Cornish male voice choirs at the Royal Albert Hall in November, many of them coming all the way from Cornwall for this amazing evening.

A CD of Cornish male voice choirs has now been produced as a celebration of the contemporary Cornish male voice choir repertoire. It contains 20 songs, each one nominated by the choir who sings it. The finale is the wonderful rendition of Trelawny which we enjoyed in November.

Copies of the CD can be bought from the Federation. A cheque for £12 (£10 + £2 p&p) should be made out to the Cornish Federation of Male Voice Choirs and sent to: Jim Christophers (Publicity Officer, CFMVC), 3 Kingsley Meade, Tren creek, Newquay TR8 4PY.

£1 from the sale of each CD will be donated to the RNLI.

Milwaukee: The Great Debate of 2014: Which is The Most Cornish Place in America?

California started it, and Wisconsin won't stand for it!

It began at the St. Piran's Day festival in Grass Valley where the town crier proclaims the town ‘*the most Cornish place in America*’. The Grass Valley website elaborates the theme, going so far as to identify a particular spot—the

corner of Auburn and Main streets—‘*the most Cornish spot*’ in the entire country.

Howls of protest arose in Mineral Point and echoed from the crags and caverns of the old mining districts across the American West. No spot, they claim, can be ‘*more Cornish*’ than Pendarvis, no town than Mineral Point, and no region than southwest Wisconsin.

The ensuing struggle between the badgers and the bears threatens the cherished harmony of the Cousin Jacks and Jennies, a people renowned for pacific virtues.

Trying to avert a ruckus that could tear the Cornish world asunder, the CAHS has stepped in to mediate. Following an executive session, the leadership has authorized a great debate in Milwaukee where the opposing sides will present their arguments.

Each place has chosen a champion to engage in single combat. Jim Jewell will speak on behalf of Wisconsin for the pride of the un-glaciated region. Gage McKinney will speak for California and its legendary Mother Lode.

Both contestants are Cornish bards who have written about their regions of the country. Both are fierce competitors who will give no quarter in the battle. No Cornish wrestling match, and not even the Fitzsimmons vs. Corbett bout, has ever offered such drama. As yet there are no odds on the outcome.

In your heart you know only one claimant can be right. Come to Milwaukee to lend support. Bring a banner or a flag. Witness the debate and take part in the following discussion and vote that will determine—for one and all—which is The Most Cornish Place in America.

(This article was submitted by a neutral party and approved by the officers of CAHS who are acting as mediators!)

Some ancient Cornish worthies...

Ancient Literary Characters of Cornwall

It is not to be expected that Cornwall, from the barbarous state of its ancient inhabitants, should furnish a soil congenial to literature, in the early periods of its history.

Amongst these, one of the most remarkable is Hugarius who flourished at St. Germans before the Norman Conquest AD 1040, in the time of Livgnus, Bishop of Kirton. Next, according to Carew and perhaps equal in fame, was John of Cornwall in about 1170. Such was his achievements that he was recommended to Pope Alexander III in about 1180.

At the beginning of the 12th century Simon Thurnay, a Cornishman, rendered himself so conspicuous that he surpassed all the scholars in Oxford.

Michael, the Cornish poet, according to Carew, lived in the reign of Henry III and was admired for his Latin rhymes. His praise of Cornwall is expressed in the following Triplet:

*We need not number up her wealthy store,
Where with this helpful land relieves the poor,
No sea so full of fish, of tin no shore.*

About 1310, one Godfrey – surnamed Cornwall, acquired a great celebrity as an astute schoolman and a divinity reader in Paris.

In the reign of Richard II, John Trevisaa acquired great repute by the translation of several valuable books, the

most remarkable of which were the Old and New Testaments. He also wrote a description of Britain and died in 1399 aged 90 years.

Ancient Cornish Master Tradesmen

Amongst all the most popular and well-known figures in Cornwall's industrial history there is a little known Cornishman John Tresillian.

On 19th February 1473 King Edward IV instructed Richard Beauchamp, Bishop of Salisbury to select master tradesmen for the construction of St. George's Chapel, in Windsor Castle and in 1475 work was commenced.

John Tresillian with the help of his smiths made the iron gates which are judged to be one of the finest pieces of ironwork in the country surviving from the middle ages and

which were designed to form a part of the enclosure of the tomb of Edward IV.

Tresillian's attention was next directed to the lock plates on the doors of the chapel, which he made with such skill that today the originals, still in place, are as fine as when they were first fixed to the doors.

Also nearby stands the splendid pilgrims' moneybox, which was made by John Tresillian in the 1480s, engraved with the letter H, his mark.

These extracts are taken from: Begent, P *The romance of St George's Chapel, Windsor Castle*: Friends of St. George's, 1992

John Carbis

News from other Cornish Associations

United States

The **California Cornish Cousins** will hold their Gathering in Paso Robles at the end of May. During the weekend Cat Nielsen will run a genealogy session for family historians. This hands-on session will guide those members doing their family history and will provide ideas to help those who have hit a brick wall. This will be followed by a traditional pasty lunch.

Before the Gathering, the Cousins will join in the annual St Piran's celebrations in Grass Valley. The celebrations, which will be held on Saturday 8th March, include the very popular, Pasty Olympics. The Olympics comprise a series of games involving Cornish pasties! One of the highlights is the Pasty Toss, a competition between the mayors of Nevada City and Grass Valley. Last year Nevada City won the contest.

Visitors to the games are encouraged to bring their dogs who will be able to share in the excitement (as well as the clean-up!) by consuming the scraps left after the games.

The **Southwest Wisconsin Cornish Society** will hold its St Piran's Day celebration on 2nd March. This will take the form of a pasty dinner.

After the dinner, photographic Historian, Nancy Pfothner will show photos of some of the old buildings of Mineral Point, taken from the collection of the Mineral Point Historical Society.

The latest issue of the Society's newsletter reports that, over the past year, there has been an increase in the number of people in southwest Wisconsin wanting to learn Kernewek. Eighteen students of all ages travelled from as far as Milwaukee and northern Illinois. The course was sponsored by the Society and organised by Dick Baker of the SWCS and Tamara Funk, of Pendarvis Historic Site's Education Center. The course was given by the well known instructor, Dr Benjamin Bruch.

The **Cornwall American Heritage Society's** main focus at present is the 17th Gathering in Milwaukee which will be held from 13th to 17th August. The theme of the Gathering is 'Mousehole meets Milwaukee: A Cornish Gathering on the Waters'. They are putting together what looks like a most interesting programme. Several well-known Cornish names will be participating, including Lesley Trotter who

will talk on her project 'The Cornish wives who were left behind' and David Holman who will share his expertise on using British medals and military records in family research. Bert Biscoe, who is known for his poetry and singing will provide some of the entertainment.

Canada

Kathryn Herman of the *Cornish Society of Greater Milwaukee* spoke at the November meeting of the **Toronto Cornish Association**. She is the Chairman of the committee organising the 17th Cornish Gathering and some members of the LCA will remember meeting her and her husband Vern when they were in London in May last year.

At their February meeting, members watched an episode of the BBC programme 'Who do you think you are?' which featured Nigel Havers. His great great grandparents were millers near Liskeard. At their March meeting, Sue Cox will talk about Robert Hawker, the vicar of Morwenstow and composer of 'Trelawny'

The TCA marks its 20th anniversary in 2014. Over this time, there have been 'many changes and challenges as well as achievements. We have been on trips and outings of Cornish significance, hosted a pasty making workshop, and joined an international knitting project that was a Cornish initiative. We have also produced two books - 'Cornish Emigrants to Ontario', volumes one and two.

Planned celebrations include a gala dinner on 25th April and a special commemorative booklet of 'memories'.

Australia

In February, members of the **Cornish Association of Victoria** enjoyed a talk on *Walking the sandunes of Perranporth in celebration of St Piran*, which was given by Ted and Beryl Curnow. In March, they will be going to the Eaglehawk Festival and in May, they will hear a talk on *Unravelling the Code: the Coads and Coodes of Cornwall and Devon*.

Forty eight Cornish people gathered for the Christmas meeting of the *Ballarat Branch* of the **Cornish Association of Victoria**. Celebrations began with a 'spirited rendition of Trelawney' after which the President paid tribute to

the many members who had done so much for the Branch during the 25 years of its existence. Everyone then joined in some carol singing, accompanied by Joy Menhennet on the piano, and listened to Librarian Wendy Benoit reading about old Cornish Christmas customs and activities. The event concluded with a festive feast.

At their February meeting, they heard a talk by a Ballarat resident with Cornish ancestry. In March, some members will participate in the Eaglehawk Dahlia and Arts Festival.

The Grand Bard will go to Ballarat after the Eaglehawk Festival, spending several days in the area and arrangements are being made to enable members to meet her.

In April, Dennis Spielvogel will speak about his great grandfather who was born in Ballarat and trained as a teacher. He wrote the Spielvogel Papers which give an insight to the early history of Ballarat.

The *Geelong Branch* of the **Cornish Association of Victoria** held its Annual Dinner in November, with forty five members and guests attending. One of the speakers at this event was Elizabeth Kraus who, dressed in traditional costume, told the story of Anne Pearce who arrived in South Australia in 1838.

In early December, the **Cornish Association of South Australia** held its annual Christmas concert, presented by the Association Choir. The President then read a brief Christmas message on behalf of Patron Rev Matt Curnow, after which an *enjoyable and sumptuous* supper was served.

In February, their Patron gave a talk on Cornish holy wells.

The Association will celebrate St Piran's Day on 2nd March with a 'high tea' at President Carlene Woolcock's house. Members will attend the Cornish Gathering in Eaglehawk in the middle of March and in early May they will attend the Australian Celtic Festival in Glen Innes. 2014 is the *Year of the Cornish* at the Standing Stones in Glen Innes.

In November, fifteen members of the **Cornish Association of Queensland** held an informal gathering where they were able to have a good chat over a meal.

Their first function of the New Year will be the AGM and St Piran's Day celebration on 8th March which will comprise a lunch after the meeting.

CAQ members will attend the Australian Celtic Festival at Glen Innis early in May. They have arranged to join the **Cornish Association of New South Wales** for a pub meal and singalong on the Friday of the Festival.

A new webpage for the *Australian Celtic Festival – Year of the Cornish* is now online. You can follow it at <http://www.australiantcelticfestival.com/>

The **Cornish Association of New South Wales** had a treat in November when Cousin Jacks Pasty Co invited them to the launch of their Cornish Cream Teas in Bondi Junction. Sixteen members managed to attend *and enjoyed it very much*. In December, CANSW President, Joy Dunkerley presented the company with a certificate of thanks.

CANSW will celebrate St Piran's Day on 8th March. The day will begin with their AGM and be followed by a special lunch. To mark this occasion, members are encouraged to attend in Cornish colours – black and white, black and gold, tartan or Celtic dress.

The latest newsletter of the CANSW carries a story and photo of a Sydney-Cornish newcomer – Dick Plumb's Cornish Pasty Co. Dick grew up in East Cornwall and brought his love of pasties to Sydney. He sells them from stalls at markets. The advice is to *Be early!* You can find out more on Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/DickPlumbs>

New Zealand

The Christmas meeting of the *Christchurch Branch* of the **New Zealand Cornish Association** started with a rendition of the 'Floral Dance' by Heather Gladstone and a group of guest musicians, after which the President welcomed the members and guests. Then, the entertainment began. One of the items on the programme was a production of *The Emperor's New Clothes* with committee members playing various roles - resulting in much laughter and comment from the audience. The rest of the varied programme included other acting interludes, some music, jokes and community carol singing. A visit from Father and Mother Christmas followed and the afternoon ended with a festive tea.

The past year has been fairly quiet for the *Cornish Interest Group* of the **New Zealand Society of Genealogists** but several events are on the horizon. The first of these is the Thames Family History Expo in May. At the end of May, they will join the other Interest Groups at the NZSG Conference and AGM and will hold their own Interest Group AGM in June. A research day will be held in June.

UK

Members of **Torbay Cornish Association** started the year with two interesting talks – '*The Cornish Saints*' by Mary Watters and the *National Coast Watch* by Colin Small. In March they will celebrate St Piran's Day and will enjoy a demonstration and talk on flower arranging.

The **Bournemouth Cornish Association** held their regular Tregonwell Day flag raising and church service in February. In the next couple of months, they will be holding a pub lunch, pasty supper, and coffee morning.

After a successful New Year's lunch at a local pub in January, members of the **Thames Valley Cornish Association** will hold another pub lunch in March. Their AGM will take place in May, followed by a talk.

Are you planning to visit London?

Don't forget to contact the London Cornish Association and let us know when you are coming. If possible, we would love to meet you.

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

A warm welcome awaits you at the London Cornish Association

Rugby

Positive Season in the Offing for London Cornish

By Ben Gilby (Press Officer, LCRFC)

With the rugby union season at its half way stage, London Cornish RFC head coach Tom Sincok is enjoying a far brighter season in London Two South-West than his charges endured in 2012/13.

Sincok spent his playing career at Redruth, Clifton, and Civil Service. He also represented Cornwall at colts, U21 and senior level, so is well experienced to develop the present playing squad. At the time of writing, London Cornish were in fourth place in the division, with a reputation of one of the toughest teams to beat.

On the club, Sincok reveals: 'Our main strength is our ability to attract very talented players albeit without the incentive of money. South West London is very competitive with many National League teams a stones throw away spending vast sums of money.' Indeed it is, and this group of talented players were pushed to their limits at times last season as Cornish were hit by a raft of injuries, some rather freakish in nature. 'It was very tough. Due to injuries and absentees we used 66 players in the first team alone, which did not help continuity. Alongside this, we had massive issues with the availability of training facilities. As we only trained once a week last season, when our training facility is unavailable or bad weather stops training, missing one session puts you a fortnight behind your competitors. In the end, our attitude was if we can get through this we can get through anything and these problems in the end really brought the team and club together which was a massive positive.'

The outcome of the run of losses around the turn of the year left the club facing the danger of relegation. It all came down to the final two matches of the campaign – away at Old Alleynians and home to Portsmouth. To guarantee safety, two victories with bonus points for scoring four tries were needed – and that was exactly what Cornish achieved. Sincok points to the importance of these games for the club's immediate future: 'The last two results of the season were defining for us as a team. We played the game plan and patterns we had been working on all season and executed them superbly. It was an eye opener for many on just how well we could play with the right attitude and application.'

London Cornish were keen to build on their superb ending to the previous campaign and brought the positivity over into the pre-season preparations. 'Recruitment went well,' Sincok explains, 'but more importantly we have retained a very talented and loyal core of players who I see as the individuals who will move this club forward. Pre-season saw a huge emphasis on fitness and improving basic skill levels. We have moved from training once a week to twice and the lads are reaping the benefits. We've added Marc Sweeney (ex Redruth, Launceston, Henley and Rosslyn Park) as our assistant head coach and backs specialist. He brings with him a wealth of knowledge and experience from many years in the National Leagues. Ed Taylor has also come in to work with the forwards.'

The club started the season well. Faced with tough opening fixtures against Guildford, Tottonians and Gosport &

Fareham, who pundits expect to be challenging for promotion, Cornish gave a succession of excellent performances, showing more than enough in each match to worry each of the opponents. Despite going down to heroic defeats in these matches, the team have responded with thumping wins over Teddington, Portsmouth and the Eastleigh based Trojans. In addition, 'The Exiles' also made the last sixteen of the RFU Intermediate Cup and were handed a tie in deepest Essex against Rochford Hundred, in a match covered on BBC Radio Cornwall.

Tom Sincok sees his team pushing further up the league table as the season develops: 'My hope for this season is a top 4 finish. Long term I'd like to see the club competing in London One. I think like any other coach, committee member, player or supporter I'd like to see the club financially self sustaining.'

London Cornish RFC welcome the support of Exiled Cornish rugby lovers at all their games. The side play at The Richardson Evans Memorial Playing Fields at Roehampton Vale in South-West London. Admission is free, and the club also produce a superb programme which is also free. Pre-Match lunches are also bookable for all games. Contact club press officer Ben Gilby on bgilby@blueyonder.co.uk

Remaining home fixtures:

1st Mar v Effingham and Leatherhead

22nd Mar v Winchester

12th Apr v Guildford

We are keen to show our support for the Team, who have kindly offered us the chance to join them for lunch before the match. If you would like take up this offer, please contact Ben or The Editor.



Mem Sec's Meanderings...

We are now approaching spring (not really long to go!). This is the first Newsletter of 2014 and I take this opportunity to wish you all a Happy New Year.

Now onto my regular subject as Membership Secretary. Our membership remained static at 227 over the winter but I am pleased to report that it has now risen to 229. Of these, 66 are in London and 79 in the Home Counties. The rest are living either farther afield or, in some cases, abroad. Happily we are now pleased welcome as members, Mr. and Mrs. David Pender, who are living in London.

As I have reported before, our Membership has gradually reduced over the years and we must continue to try and recruit new members. Repeating 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. Well, I came across an article titled 'Fascinating facts about Hayle'. As that was my home town, where I grew up, I was particularly interested. It said that Jane Harvey a daughter of John Harvey, the Hayle Foundry pioneer, married Richard Trevithick in 1797. Harvey's ventured into ship building in the late 18th century and their first vessel was built, in what is now Foundry Square, in 1795. But it was not until the 1830s that they built their first major ship, a schooner named 'John Harvey'. Sailing vessels were built at Hayle until the 1860s. For the next 20 years the yard specialised in iron hull construction and then graduated to steel in the late 1880s.

Launching ceremonies became major occasions in Hayle, with crowds lining the wharves as a succession of sloops and schooners slid into the sea. During the 1860s the yard built two steam vessels for the Hayle-Bristol service, one of which was beached in a storm at Lelant and the nine crew had to be rescued by the St. Ives lifeboat. The ship, called 'Bessie', was finally wrecked in ferocious gales at Carbis Bay nearly 30 years later. Among other Harvey vessels to come to grief was a steamship built specially for the Scilly Isles run from Penzance. Called 'Lady of the Isles', she did sterling service for many years before being lost during the Great War.

Now thinking of the weather, high tides and floods, in early January and February, not only in Cornwall, I thought the next snippet to be appropriate:

'Misjudging the tide can have serious consequences on the sands fronting Hayle estuary, as a party of gingerbread bakers found to their cost one dark morning in 1815. They were crossing the sands towards Hayle, after attending a fair at St. Ives, when their wagon became stuck fast. Six people leapt out and ran for shore, trying to escape the fast rising tide. All survived, except a pregnant woman who lost her life as the sea engulfed her. Seven years later, two men driving a cart from St. Ives were caught by the tide and drowned, their bodies and those of their horses were found later. The preacher John Wesley also nearly became a victim of the tide at this point when being conveyed by cart by a local lad. The water rose so fast that the boy hesitated midstream, but was told by the unperturbed preacher to drive on, as the Lord would

spare them. Incredibly, he did, but the poor horses were swimming frantically to make the shore, their noses snorting wildly. Wesley's faith paid off, but his driver was shaken by the tussle with fate.'

This reminded me of something that happened some years ago when I was with our family overlooking Hayle beach and estuary where we saw parties of people with their children sitting close to the sea on their deckchairs. What they didn't notice was that as the tide was coming in it was going around the area in which they were sitting with the children playing. When they did realise the tide was coming in they started to gather their chairs, picnic baskets and other accessories and started to move back towards the steps up from the beach. It was only then that they discovered that the speed of the incoming tide had left them on a 'small island'. They started to walk back and we couldn't help laughing as they were not only walking but were wading through the water, up to waist level in places, with their chairs and baskets held in the air. It wasn't dangerous, but it was hilariously funny and we were very amused. I am sure they will remember in future not to picnic on a beach beside a river estuary without being aware of the tidal flow.

How about our recent weather, I hope none of you have suffered the flooding that has hit so many areas around the country from December through January and into February. For many people it must have been horrendous with over double the average rainfall for the time of year combined with the high winds and gales that have demolished trees all over the place. Climate does go in cycles and over the years does seem to balance itself. Hopefully we can now look forward to a sunny and very pleasant summer.

That is enough about bad weather and tidal flooding. I'll now look for something more cheerful.

Well here is one item: The Eden Project is holding the Cornish Pasty Competition again this year, I am not sure about the date, but they will be *Cornish* pasties.

Regarding pasties, did you see the small report on the making of a Cornish Pasty which was on TV in January? One pasty was made just over the border in Devon with all ingredients coming from Cornwall. However, under regulations it could not be called a 'Cornish Pasty' while a pasty made on the other side of the border in Cornwall and using *non-Cornish* ingredients was legally called a 'Cornish Pasty'. I know which one I would have preferred to eat.

Again 'time flies' and spring is rapidly approaching, Once more I hope these 'Meanderings' have been enjoyable for you and perhaps bring back memories (I am not referring to the dates!!) and that you will continue your membership. If you can help the Association by recruiting new members this will be greatly appreciated.

Kernow bys vyken

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

Crowdy Crawn

Cairo Cornish Association

On 24th January this year, a photograph showing about fifty members of the *Cairo Cornish Association* appeared in the *Cornish Times*. It was published in the hopes that someone will be able to provide information on this organisation.

An internet search reveals that two reports on this Association's events appeared in the *Western Morning News* in the 1940s. The first item appeared on the 10th October 1944 and refers to the fact that there was a very successful pasty supper in the church hall adjoining St Andrew's Church in Cairo. The second item, which appeared on 2nd January 1946, reported on a New Year's dinner at which 'many parts of Cornwall were represented'.

Anyone who has a subscription to *Find My Past* will be able to access the original newspaper articles. If they find any information, we would be interested to hear about it.

Thanks to Duncan Paul Matthews for this lead.

Fancy a good night's sleep?

The following is the wording found on an old Cornish signboard.

RULES OF THIS LODGING HOUSE

Fourpence a night for bed
Sixpence with Supper
No more than three to sleep in one bed
No beer allowed in the kitchen
No smoking when in bed
No Clothes to be washed on Sunday
No boots to be worn in bed
No dogs allowed upstairs
No Gambling or Fighting here
No extra charge for Luggage
No Razor Grinders taken in
Organ Grinders to sleep in the attick

By
EZIKIAH O'DONIVIAN
Donkeys, Chaises, Handcarts and
Durries Let on Hire.
MANGLING DONE HERE

Thanks to Tony Wakeham for sending in this item.

Infamous train robber had Cornish connections

Ronnie Biggs, the infamous train robber who died recently, had Cornish connections! As a youngster in 1940, he was evacuated to Delabole from London. While there, he attended Delabole Primary School.

According to the *thisiscornwall* website, he made another visit in about 1948 and then a final one in 1963 when he

came to steal gelignite from the Old Delabole Slate Company shortly before the train robbery.

Another of the robbers, John Daly, who was the only member of the gang to be found not guilty allegedly hid his share of the robbery proceeds in the garden of a house in Boscastle, but one of the others is thought to have 'grassed' on him. This led to his arrest at his flat in London. After the trial he went back to the house in Cornwall to collect the money and found it missing.

Daly moved to Launceston after his trial.

Thanks to Duncan Paul Matthews for this lead.

Exhibition with Cornish interest at the Tate Modern

An exhibition of art and poetry will be held at the Tate Modern in London from Friday 21st March to Sunday 6th April in the McAulay Gallery.

The Exhibition, *Edges and Extremes: Shetland and Cornwall People, Places, Industry* will showcase the work of English artist, Sally Booth and Scottish poet Evlynn Sharp and celebrates the people, places and industries of Cornwall and the Shetlands.

The exhibition will be launched on the 21st March. BBC Radio Cornwall will be present as will the Pendeen Silver Band.

More information can be found at

<http://www.tate.org.uk/whats-on/tate-modern/exhibition/edges-and-extremes-shetland-and-cornwall-people-places-industry>

Answers to the Cornwall Quiz: on page 5

- | | |
|-----------------|-------------------|
| 1. St Day | 11. Camelford |
| 2. Redruth | 12. Green Bottom |
| 3. Saltash | 13. Land's End |
| 4. Wadebridge | 14. Probus |
| 5. St Kew | 15. Looe |
| 6. St Winnow | 16. Sticker |
| 7. Point | 17. Playing Place |
| 8. Newquay | 18. Boscoppa |
| 9. Falmouth | 19. Creed |
| 10. Blue Anchor | 20. Hayle |
| | 21. Merry Maidens |

How did you do?

The deadline for the next issue of the LCA Newsletter is

5th May

Please send all contributions to:

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London
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Or email to editor@londoncornish.co.uk