



Cowethas Kernewek Loundres

London Cornish Association Newsletter



www.londoncornish.co.uk

Summer 2012

A busy time in London Town

What a time we are having in London. Our memories of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee celebrations – including that amazing flotilla, complete with St Piran's flags - has hardly had time to fade and now the country is fully engaged in preparations for the Olympic Games. For those of us with Cornish connections, this event has been made extra special because Cornwall is where the Olympic Torch began its long journey around the UK. When some of us were at the Royal Cornwall Show earlier this month we had the pleasure of meeting one young man who had carried the torch on the Newquay stretch. He talked about it so animatedly that it was impossible not to be affected by his enthusiasm. I am sure we have all been following the progress of the torch with greater interest since then. I know I have.

It has been a busy time for the LCA too. Since our last newsletter we have enjoyed a most successful dinner, learned about Population Listings and Shopkeepers at our Family History Day, been treated to a 'mystery' walk around parts of London where some fascinating things were discovered, and been inspired by our retiring Chaplain who gave the Trelawny Lecture this year. Malcolm's talk on the *Spirituality of Cornwall* so captivated the audience that you could have heard a pin drop.

During this same period, I have moved home. Although I was quite sad to leave the beauty of Windsor, I am really enjoying being closer to work, and of course to my little granddaughter. My new address – for those of you who plan to send items to the newsletter (hint!) – is on the back page. My email (when, if ever, my ISP transfers it) remains the same. Phone number unknown - until my ISP gets its act together.

This newsletter is bursting at the seams. Thank you to all those people who have given their support by sending in items, some of which will be held over to the next edition. Apologies to those who enjoy news from other associations. There was just no room to include it this time. Hopefully we will have lots to share in the Autumn issue.

I apologise that you have had to wait so long for this newsletter. Lack of technology and work issues, in addition to my move have been largely to blame, but I hope everything will be back on schedule for the Autumn issue – so keep those news items coming in.

All that is left for me to do now is to wish you a wonderful summer break. I hope you have a restful time, whatever you plan to do, and that you come back in the autumn refreshed and ready for a great year ahead.

Dates for your diary ...

Annual Picnic

Saturday 14th July

Visit to the Society of Genealogists

Saturday 1st September

Family History Day

Saturday 6th October

Further details of these events can be found on page 2

2012 Rosyer Lecture

Cornish Miners in Mexico

Speaker: Richard Williams MBE
UK representative of the Cornish Mexican Cultural Society

Date: Friday 13th July

Time: 6.30 for 7pm

Venue: Room 115, City Lit, Keeley Street, WC2B 4BA

Admission: FREE

All welcome

Please note the change of postal address for the Editor which is given on the back page..

The email address remains the same

Deadline for the Autumn Newsletter is

5th August

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

Forthcoming events

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

Annual Picnic - Saturday 14th July 12 noon

Venue: The Regent's Park Community Wildlife Garden

Meeting Place: In the garden which is on the south side of Regent's Park, next to York Bridge and tennis courts.

Nearest tube station: Baker Street

Contact: Tony Wakeham (Tel: 0207 7037378)

Visit to the Society of Genealogists - Saturday 1st September - 11am

Venue: 14 Charterhouse Buildings, Goswell Road, London EC1M 7BA

(Nearest Tube: Barbican on the Circle, Metropolitan and Hammersmith & City lines)

Meet: In the Common Room at 11am.

The group is limited to 15 people. Priority will be given to members of the London Cornish Association. If the number of people wishing to go on this visit exceeds the limit, we will try to arrange another visit later in the year.

In the morning, there will be a free tour of the Library starting at 11:15 am and finishing about 1 pm.

In the afternoon, there will be an opportunity for half hour, one-to-one advice sessions with experienced volunteers for those who have specific questions. These must be booked in advance. Please contact Mary if you would like to attend one of these sessions.

After the tour you may use the library to do your own research. Members of the SOG will not be charged. Other visitors will be charged the standard day search fees – currently £5 for 2 hours, £10 for 4 hours and £18 for a full day.

Groups of six or more people will get a discount of 20%. In order to get the special rates, Mary must submit a list of the non-members who will be attending and then pay the fee in advance.

If you are interested in attending this event, please send Mary the following information:

Name, Address, Telephone no, Email address.

Remember, booking is essential

Contact: Mary Timmins

(Email: mary.h.timmins@btinternet.com)

Tel.: 020 89978132)

Find out more about the SOG at – www.sog.org.uk

LONDON CORNISH ASSOCIATION FAMILY HISTORY DAY Saturday 6th October 2012

Speakers:

Dr Peter Forsaith – Tracing Methodist Ancestors

Dr Geoff Swinfield – Tracing Living Relatives and Missing People

Venue:

Bloomsbury Central Baptist Church
235 Shaftesbury Avenue
London WC2H 8EP

(nearest underground stations Holborn or Tottenham Court Road)

Time:

10am to 4.30pm

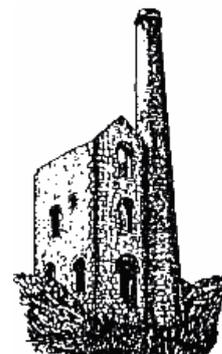
Fee: £15 for members (including LCA-affiliated societies and Cornwall Family History Society)/£20 for non-members.

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

Booking essential

Contact:

Francis Dunstan (01494 531703/cornish@francisdunstan.plus.com)
or Lorna Leadbetter (0208 989 7634/leadbetter@lineone.net)



News of Past Events

Annual Dinner

This year's Annual Dinner - the 126th – was held at the Thistle Hotel, Marble Arch. The move to a central venue was in response to requests from our guests and the feedback we received was overwhelmingly positive.

The evening was well attended and included, amongst the guests, representatives from the Bournemouth Cornish Association, Thames Valley Cornish Association, Torbay Cornish Association and the Bristol Cornish Association. Many guests took advantage of the opportunity to gather early in an adjacent room and enjoy a drink and some chat before dinner.

The guests responded enthusiastically to the décor in the dining room. The hotel had really come up trumps. Taking on board our request for a colour scheme of black and gold, they provided not only gold serviettes, but also black tablecloths which really showed off the daffodils which had been generously provided by the Cornish flower-growers at Tregothnan, Caerhays Castle and Tresillian Flower Farm. The profusion of yellow daffodils which greeted the guests as they entered the room, reminded *One and All* of spring in Cornwall. And there were enough blooms for everyone to take a bunch home after the dinner.

We were privileged to have as our Principal Guest, the Rt Rev Christopher Chessun, the Bishop of Southwark. In his address, he spoke of his great love of Cornwall. Although not Cornish himself, he has a deep affection for the county having spent regular holidays there since he was a child.

The Guest Speaker was Sian Greenway, a volunteer with the Prince's Trust. She gave an interesting overview of the many ways in which the Prince's Trust supports and develops disadvantaged young people and described the important role that she and other volunteers play in helping it to achieve this.

The evening was a great success and for this we thank Dinner Convenor, Lizzy Broughton and her Committee who did all the planning and hard work needed for an event such as this. We now look forward to 16th March 2013, when we will meet again at The Thistle to celebrate our 127th Annual Dinner.

Family History Day Conference

As supporting items for our pasties, saffron cake and splits, jam and cream we had first class lectures from two experts in the family history field and we were delighted that both speakers went out of their way to use Cornish examples to illustrate their talks.

Dr. Colin Chapman started the morning lecture '*Pre-1841 Censuses and Population Listings in the British Isle*' by reminding us of the originators of these lists, for what purpose they were composed and of what areas they covered. The listings were drawn up by five main groups:- the Monarch or the Government, the Established Church, Manorial Lords, Associations, and Individuals. The reasons for the lists were manifold and included raising revenue, identifying loyalties and those in need, assessing military availability, planning infrastructure, undertaking pastoral activities, extending influence, confirming tenancies, maintaining membership records, deriving financial

reward, and out of mere curiosity or academic interest. The areas or jurisdictions within which the lists were made depended on which group was involved, that group's administrative/organisational structure, and their reasons for producing the lists.

One of the earliest known censuses took place 3,500 years ago – that of the Israelites as they set out for the Promised Land (the Holy Bible – Book of Numbers, Chapter 1). 1,500 years later the Bible reminds us (Luke, Chapter 2) – '*There went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed*'. And this meant that everyone had to be counted. Another 1,000 years – William the Conqueror wanted a listing of all the property in his new Kingdom – hence the Domesday Book of 1086.

For the next 715 years there was no national count as such – all lists were made for a specific purpose and generally for a limited area – although some do include names, addresses, ages and relationships. In his lecture Dr Chapman gave us examples of many of these listings. But by 1801 it was becoming apparent that a national count was essential – to handle resources which could be used against a potential Napoleonic Invader. Hence the first of the national decennial censuses – however this and the next 3 basically only give numbers although more information was recorded for a few locations – but very little in Cornwall. It was not until 1841 that a full Census, listing names, addresses, relationships, ages, places of birth and occupations was produced. This has been repeated for England and Wales at intervals of 10 years (except for 1941) up to the present day.

A full account of pre-1841 censuses and population listings within the entire British Isles may be found in the well-referenced book of the same title by Dr Colin R Chapman, published by the Society of Genealogists, which will direct readers to original sources for further perusal.

In the afternoon Sue Gibbons took as her subject '*Our Shopkeeper Ancestors*'. If we accept that, '*Britain is a nation of shopkeepers*' as Napoleon is reputed to have said, it is likely that most of us have some among our ancestors. Sue declared her own interest in coming from a family of Butchers. Before addressing the many sources of information that identify these ancestors, she invited us to imagine the lives they may have led. They must for their generation have been exceptionally able people. Besides being literate and numerate they had initiative, could raise capital and run a business, organising and purchasing stock, communicating with customers and peers, and having the particular skills of their own trade or business, frequently acquired through apprenticeships. They needed to have good self motivation and energy. Often the whole family would be involved and long hours would be worked. Businesses were frequently handed down from father to son. The family may have lived over the shop.

Food shops had no refrigerators until late 19th century which determined the possible sources and varieties of fresh foods. Shopkeepers could be subject to the illnesses of their trade, such as back strain from lifting heavy goods, or '*mad as a hatter*' from handling mercury. Sue suggested that Victorian '*How to do it*' books for particular trades could give further insights, and such books as Charles Booth's '*Life and Labour of the People of London*'. The Early Closing Movement under Sir John Lubbock was highly relevant to our shopkeeper ancestors. For local colour, try listening online to BBC Radio Cornwall's inter-

views, which were part of the Millennium Memory Bank. (<http://explore.bl.uk>)

Given the premise that we are a nation of shopkeepers, and the multiplicity of possible businesses, the sources of information are equally numerous. Herewith a useful list, but for a complete list and much besides look out for the publication of Sue's book**

- Google – search for Trade and History
- Occupational Sources for Genealogists 2nd ed. by Stuart Raymond FFHS 1996
- Company and business Records for Family Historians by Eric Probert FFHS 1994
- ASLIB directories occupational museums and libraries
- SoG library catalogue at www.sog.org.uk/sogcat
- The National Archives new Discovery catalogue at www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/A2A/
- Copac at <http://copac.ac.uk>
- Cornwall Studies Library: catalogue and pictures at <http://cornwall.gov.uk/default.aspx?page=3743>
- Boyd's 'Inhabitants of London 14th to 19th centuries
- School, College and University registers (Shopkeepers educated their sons)
- Newspapers e.g. Palmer's Index to the Times
- Colindale's online catalogue at www.bcatalogue/l.uk/.
- The British Newspaper archive at www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/
- 5 million pages inc. The Royal Cornwall Gazette 1811-1900
- Apprentices of Great Britain 1710-1811
- Occupations: craft and trade guilds
- Publishers of old photographs of the locality for shop fronts etc.
- Photos and prints from local studies libraries
- The Frith collection of photos at www.francisfrith.com
- 1801-1911 censuses.
- Large scale maps and plans.
- Land Registry or local councils planning applications
- Trade newspapers
- Local History Magazines University of Leicester digitalised directory at www.historicaldirectories.org. (Search by county and keyword)
- Directories at the British Library, Guildhall Library, local libraries and archives
- Telephone directories on Ancestry (Businesses had telephones early on)
- Rate books and Government taxes e.g. Estate duty
- Charity lists, Churchwardens, Town Councillors etc (Shopkeepers were Pillars of the community.)
- Free Masons – see <http://freemasonry.london.museum>
- Wills e.g. see www.origins.net and the My SoG part of Society of Genealogists website www.sog.org.uk
- Glencross index of Cornish wills

***My Ancestor was a Shopkeeper* by Sue Gibbons, to be published by The Society of Genealogists

Sheila and David Henwood

West Briton & Cornwall Advertiser – 15th February 1856
(Thanks to Lorna Leadbetter for this item)

CONSCIENCE MONEY - Mr. Stephen Davey of Redruth requests us to state that on the 31st ult he received a letter with five shillings enclosed, stating that the money was "for apples stolen from your father's orchard many years since."

Mystery Tour with Sweeny Todd

'Meet at the Underground' Tony and Jackie said, so 13 of us did, along with a number of other guided tourees. 'Are you with the Walks Tour? No, we're with the London Cornish'.

First stop: Postman's Park with its 'Memorial to Heroic Self' by George Fred Watts. The last memorial plaque was added in 2009, the first addition for 78 years. Passing the Statue of Sir Roland Hill (on a granite plinth) outside the former General Post Office (King Edward Building), we arrived at Paternoster Square, observing the bronze *The Shepherd and the Sheep*, and the 23 m high Paternoster Square column.

We left the square by Temple Bar, a gateway designed by Wren, originally to mark the western boundary of the City in Fleet Street. Having been located in Theobalds Park in Herts. from 1878-2003, it only cost £1 to buy, but £3 million to re-erect, not far from its original location. St Paul's Cathedral (without protestors) was covered with scaffolding.

We then passed the Cockpit Inn. at St Andrews Hill, and the graveyard of St Ann Blackfriars. Just around the corner is St Bride's Church (Wren 1672) which we entered and viewed. I was very interested in the Organ by John Compton. The spire (second only in height to St Paul's) is said to be the model for three tiered modern wedding cakes. Samuel Pepys was baptised there.

The next stop was the Temple Church, of Da Vinci code fame. George Thalben Ball and Ernest Lough recorded 'O for the wings of a Dove' here in 1927.

Having attended to matters spiritual and temporal, it was time to enter the Old Bank of England Pub for other refreshment, lunching on an upper gallery, and being joined there by Lorna Leadbetter, Lizzy Broughton and Pat Richards, on one of her first outings since her illness. Altogether, a very good mystery tour, showing us rather obscure places as well as well known landmarks. Jackie provided us with all the information we could possibly need for our visit, and this report is based on her detailed notes. Thanks to Jackie and Tony for organising the tour. Where to next? Comin' arree?

Francis Dunstan

New Members

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

Johathan Hollow (Hayle) now living in London E1
Christopher Harris (Liskeard) now in Bromley, Kent
Roger Pearce, married to Pauline (Newquay) and now living in Loughton, Essex
Bridget Nash, living in Enfield, Middlesex

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

Annual General Meeting

13th June 2012

Officers of the London Cornish Association

2012 - 13

<i>President</i>	Sir David Brewer
<i>Chairman</i>	Dr Francis Dunstan
<i>Vice-Chairman</i>	Vacant
<i>Hon Gen Sec (Acting)</i>	Dr Francis Dunstan
<i>Treasurer</i>	Ms Jackie Trembath
<i>Membership Secretary</i>	Mr Graham Pearce
<i>Publicity Secretary</i>	Ms Ursula Jeffries
Members of Council	
Mrs Lorna Leadbetter	Mr Graham Gendall Norton
Mr Tom Sims	Mrs Kath Slatter
Mr Tony Wakeham	
<i>Auditor</i>	To be appointed
<i>Solicitor/Librarian</i>	Ms Claire Bowden-Dan
<i>Hon Chaplain</i>	Rev Michaela Youngson
<i>Hospital Visitor</i>	Mrs Rosemary Dean
<i>Newsletter Editor</i>	Mrs Elizabeth Broekmann
Trustees	
The Lord St Levan	Mr Charles Williams

Chairman's Report

I would like to begin my report by congratulating two of our members who were given awards at the Open Gorsedd in September. Our retiring Chaplain, Rev Dr Malcolm White received the London Cornish Association Shield and David Holman was made a Bard in recognition of his services to Cornish Family History. These awards recognise the contribution both men have made to Cornwall's heritage and we are tremendously proud to have them as members of the LCA.

2011-12 has been a challenging year for the Association. We have suffered, along with many other Cornish associations, from a shortage of people to do the many 'back-room' jobs which are vital to running an organisation such as the LCA. We are very grateful to the couple of people who have responded to our pleas for help but our priority now is to relieve our Hon Gen Sec of some of his many jobs. Our current Hon Gen Sec, Francis Dunstan, is due to take over as Chairman at the AGM and it will not be possible for him to continue doing all his Hon Gen Sec jobs as well. Francis will be able to provide more information for anyone who thinks they might be able to help.

We realise that there may be people who are willing to help the Association but who do not want to be on Council. There are other ways that members can show their support. For instance, they could join one of the working committees or help with catering at Family History Days. If anyone wants to discuss this further, they should contact a member of Council who will be able to give more details.

Our membership numbers remain fairly constant because we have managed to attract 12 new members this year. Sadly though, we have also lost some. It would be very helpful if those who are leaving could give us some feed-

back so that we can identify ways in which we might be able to improve.

During 2012, we have provided a varied and interesting programme of social events for our members and attendance has, in general, been encouraging. We thank the Social Committee for the work they have put into the planning and running of the events.

The Trelawny Lecture, one of the prestigious events on the LCA calendar took place immediately after our AGM. Carole Vivian kindly stepped into the breach at very short notice when our programmed speaker, Rev. Dr Malcolm White was injured in an accident and was unable to attend. She gave a most interesting and informative talk on the Trelawny family. We are very pleased that Malcolm will be able to be with us this year.

At the Annual Service in November, our preacher was the Rt Rev Tim Thornton, Bishop of Truro. The Rev Dr Malcolm White officiated as our Chaplain for the last time.

In planning the social programme we have reduced the number of times for which we have to hire venues, in order to reduce costs. Instead, we arranged very successful visits to the library at the Zoological Society, the Duchy Office, the Royal Institution and the Geffrye Museum. Our annual picnic was held in Holland Park and our ever-popular New Year's lunch was held, once again, at *The Knight's Templar* in Chancery Lane. Still to come before the year ends are a 'Mystery Tour' of London and a picnic in Regent's Park. Details of these can be found in the latest newsletter.

Our Family History Days have been tremendously successful and have more than justified the cost of renting the venue in Bloomsbury. These days, organised and run by the Family History Group are by far the most popular events on the calendar, attracting delegates from near and far – and being responsible for the recruitment of several new members – including yours truly in 2004!

Another highlight of our calendar is the Annual Dinner which this year was held in a central London hotel. The event was well attended and the feedback from guests has been overwhelmingly positive. Our speaker, Sian Greenway, talked about the work of the Princes Trust while our Principal Guest, the Bishop of Southwark, told us of his great love of Cornwall and his many holidays in the county. Our sincere thanks go to the Dinner Convenor Lizzy Broughton and her Committee for all they did to make the evening such a success.

The monthly Monday lunches have been attended by a regular corps of members. Other members are encouraged to join in these informal gatherings at Central Hall, Westminster. Dates and details can be found in the yellow brochure.

LCA events are advertised in the yellow brochure, the newsletters and on the website. In each case, you will find a named contact. It would be very helpful if members could let the organiser know if they plan to attend events.

Shortly after the AGM in June 2011, a group of members went to the Royal Cornwall Show to promote the Association and make contacts. They will attend again this year

from 7th - 9th June. The LCA stand will be found in the Heritage tent. If any of our members are going to the Show, please do pop in – and any help with manning the stand would be greatly appreciated.

Keeping contact with other Cornish Associations is one of our key objectives. We promote this by attending the dinners of other Associations where possible. This year, members have attended the dinners of Bournemouth, Gloucester, Midland, Torbay, Tunbridge Wells and West Kent Cornish Associations.

We also do what we can to keep in contact with our Cornish cousins around the world. You will know from newsletters that we encourage members of other associations to let us know if they are coming to London and if possible, we arrange a get together, usually over a pub meal. During this past year, we had the privilege of meeting up with Neil Thomas, President of the Cornish Association of Victoria and Fay and David Binns from the Southern Sons of Cornwall. This friendship works both ways and when I had to go to Sydney in November, I shared a very special day with members of the SSOC. Sadly, time constraints meant that I was not able to meet up with the members of the Cornish Association of NSW.

At the end of May, Liz Eagan, Editor of the Cornish Association of Victoria, and her husband will be in the UK. We hope to meet up with them after the AGM. Members who are available, would be welcome to join us. Anyone who is interested in coming to future get-togethers, should contact me at editor@londoncornish.co.uk and I will put them on my mailing list.

One of our priorities at the moment is to update our website and make it easier to navigate. Our Publicity Officer, Darren Tossell started work on this last year and we thank him for what he has done. It is still a 'work in progress' which we hope will be completed this year.

A key concern at present is the Association's financial situation. Although our membership has remained fairly constant, we are facing big increases in our expenses. Council is reluctant to increase subscriptions at this point and so has been looking for creative ways in which to save money. One of the most successful is arranging a social programme which makes minimum use of rented venues. Apart from venue hire, our most expensive item is the newsletter. The cost of printing and mailing a single hard copy is currently about £1.55.

Although this has been a pretty successful year for us as an association, there have inevitably been some sad moments. We think especially of those who are ill, particularly our members Ann Dawe and Bishop Bill. Our thoughts and prayers are with them and their families at this testing time. We also remember the families and friends of the eight members who have died during the year.

No association can run effectively without a good team who work hard in the background. I have been fortunate in having a most supportive team to help me this past year and, on your behalf, I would like to thank them for all they have done and, in many cases, continue to do

Council members Pat Yates and Darren Tossell will step down at the AGM and we will also say good bye to our Chaplain, Rev Dr Malcom White. We are very grateful for everything they have done for the LCA and thank them most sincerely.

Although not an Officer of the Association, another person who has been a tremendous support to me as Editor of the Newsletter has been Dickon Moon, the coach of the London Cornish Rugby Football Club. Since Summer 2005, he has contributed an informative and entertaining rugby report to our newsletter. His final report, which will appear in the June newsletter, will be his 29th! On behalf of all our members who have so enjoyed reading about the LCRFC, I would like to thank Dickon for his hard work and commitment. We are now looking for someone to take over the job of writing reports on Cornish rugby/sport. Any offers?

I will step down as Chairman of the LCA at the AGM. In some ways, this is a sad moment as I have thoroughly enjoyed my time at the helm. It has given me so many wonderful opportunities and experiences and I have been so proud to be part of this great organisation. I have particularly enjoyed representing the LCA at the dinners of several other Cornish Associations and of course, dancing in the Midday Dance on Flora Day. This year, because of work commitments, I was unable to go to Helston for Flora Day and want to thank member and past Chairman Hilary Borkett and her husband Chris for kindly agreeing to represent the LCA.

I know that, in stepping down, I am handing the Association over to a very experienced and capable person. Dr Francis Dunstan has been a most supportive Vice-Chairman over the past three years and I thank him for all he has done to help me with my job and for guiding me through the constitutional maze which governs our organisation. I am however concerned about the workload which he has and am hopeful that someone will come forward to help with some of the tasks he is doing.

I cannot go without saying a big thank you to the Officers of Council who have provided me with incredible support during my three years as Chairman. Without them, I could not have done the job, and I certainly would not have enjoyed it as much! A very big thank you to:

Francis Dunstan – who works incredibly hard and willingly shares his knowledge and his wisdom. I also thank him for his patience and good humour.

Jackie Trembath – for keeping our finances under control and who, with her regular reports to Council, helps us to focus on the bottom line. I also thank her for being such a good listener!

Lorna Leadbetter – whose ability to find so many interesting speakers for Family History Days never ceases to amaze me. I also thank her for everything she does to ensure the success of Family History Days, particularly the reminder calls and emails to members and friends.

Kath Slatter – for all the food she produces at our events. No Cornish event would be complete without food so she is a very important part of the team! Thanks too for helping me on many occasions with appropriate words of wisdom.

Tony Wakeham – for his hard work in organising events, particularly the New Year's lunch and the annual picnic. I also thank him for his tremendous enthusiasm and willingness to help with anything which needs to be done.

Graham Norton – for joining the Social Committee and organising some interesting events. I also thank him for the enthusiastic way in which he promotes the LCA.

Graham Pearce – for keeping the membership records in a way which enables him to identify not only the number of members at any time, but also their history. Thanks too for printing the newsletter labels for me every quarter.

Darren Tossell – for the work he has done so far on the LCA website. Thanks also for arranging the very successful visit to the Zoological Society library.

Tom Sims – for his hard work, particularly on the Family History Committee. I also thank him for his valuable contribution to Council discussions.

Pat Yates – for her support, even though she has not been able to be as active as she was in the past. Thanks also for coming to rugby matches, no matter how cold and miserable it is, and for bringing her daughters to swell our band of supporters!

I would also like to thank our Hospital Visiting Convener, *Rosemary Dean* who, by showing friendship and compassion, has made a difference to the lives of members who have been unable to attend LCA events because of disability or illness.

Thanks must also go to our Solicitor, *Claire Bowden-Dan* who has been there for us when we needed advice.

Thanks go to Dick Richards for his support, particularly in representing the LCA at the Royal Cornwall Show each year, and for his work in preparing the displays for this event.

Finally, I would like to thank our President, *Sir David Brewer* for his support to me personally and to the LCA. It is reassuring to know that he is always there for us and is so supportive of the London Cornish Association.

Elizabeth Broekmann, Chairman

Report Of The Hon Gen Sec

Administration

Overall, this year 2011 -12 has proved to be a very busy year for me as acting Hon Gen Sec: in addition, I have filled the very light position of Vice-Chairman.

We still have no formal Social Sec. This year our Publicity Secretary Darren Tossell will stand down from his duties as Webmaster. Ursula Jeffries will take over as Publicity Sec. Ordinary members of Council start their second year period, except for Pat Yates (who will stand down). This will leave seven member vacancies on Council (out of 12 available). I am grateful for all the support Officers and members of Council have given me and the Association again this year, but there is a desperate need for more members to serve on Council. There are usually only five Council Meetings per year.

In the coming year, and again at this AGM, our difficulties in appointing Officers of the Association are compounded by the fact that we still have no-one offering to replace me as Hon Gen Sec. I anticipate being elected, in addition, as your Chairman. We thank Elizabeth Broekmann for fulfilling this role for a three year period. Elizabeth has agreed to continue as Editor of the Newsletter and take over pro tem the post of Webmaster, replacing Darren, but her duties in her new employment will restrict the amount of time she can offer to LCA. We are grateful for all she has done and continues to do for the Association. The other officers continue - Treasurer, Membership Sec, Solicitor and Librarian, and the Hospital Visiting Convener.

The convener of the Dinner Committee, Elizabeth Broughton, coordinated a very successful Dinner this year held in a new Venue, reported on elsewhere.

In attendance terms, at our meetings there is a loyal core of members who give their constant support and we thank them. Our membership maintains its current level, but we are not always aware of why some of our new members join. and we would encourage them to join us in our various activities.

I am very grateful to those who are kind enough to phone or email me to say they will attend (or cannot attend) each particular function. Graham Gendall Norton, Jackie Trembath and Tony Wakeham have looked after many of our Social events, for which we thank them. My responsibilities have included the Trelawny Lecture, the AGM, the Annual Service, and the Monthly Lunches, and nominally as Convener of the Family H. In the latter regard, I would like to thank in particular Lorna Leadbetter for providing much of the drive on the Family History Committee, and also Dick Richards, Toms Sims and Kath Slatter, and newly co-opted committee members, Chris Burgess and Mary Timmins. The Group's very successful activities are covered separately.

Last year Miss Carole Vivian stood in for Rev Dr Malcolm White as our Trelawny Lecturer. We look forward to hearing him this year. Malcolm stands down as our Hon Chaplain at this AGM. We anticipate that the Rev Michaela Youngson, recently appointed as Chair of the Methodist London District (and having an office in Central Hall) will replace Malcolm. We thank him for all he has done for the Association since 2003 and are glad that he received recognition of this by his being awarded the London Cornish Association Shield 2011 from the Cornish Gorseth.

Old Cornwall Journal subscription

I have been arranging the collection and distribution of the OCJ for a number of years. It has become more difficult to collect the Journals twice a year and I cannot continue in this role. It may be that some LCA members would find it more convenient to become subscribers. This they can do either by contacting Mrs Ann Knight directly (Wingfield, 5 British Road, St Agnes, Cornwall TR5 0TX. Telephone 01872 55292. Email: publications@oldcornwall.org)- or by purchasing via the FOCS online shop (see <http://shop.oldcornwall.org/journal.htm>). The subscription includes direct mailing to your address - currently offered within the UK at £10.00 for 4 issues - although the rising postal costs may affect the future duration of that bargain offer before long!

I hope you will continue to support the Journal as previously. I have the Spring 2012 OCJ and will distribute copies at the forthcoming AGM. Some back numbers will be available at a reduced price.

This year's AGM will be preceded by a hot Cornish pasty lunch. We hope this will prove to be a successful addition to the AGM/Trelawny Lecture Day: So far 33 members (out of a membership of approx 220 members) have registered to attend. I hope that we shall have a fruitful and enjoyable event.

Kernow bys Vycken!

Francis E Dunstan, Hon Gen Sec

Report of the Hospital Visiting Convener

Rosemary Dean reports that she with Catherine Foster and Helen Thomas has visited one of our members this year at his home, and their visit was very much appreciated.

Treasurer's Report

Income and Expenditure Statement for the year ended 31st March 2012

	£	£
Bank Account Balance - March 31st 2011		5540.41
<u>Income</u>		
Subscriptions	3459.00	
Donations	827.50	
Sale of shares		
Surplus on Annual Dinner, Family History and Social events	193.95	
Sale of Advertising in Brochure	180.00	
Cornish Masters and Mates enquiry service	36.58	
Dividends and Interest received	<u>34.62</u>	
		5107.54
<u>Expenditure</u>		
Printing newsletter and brochure	1505.00	
Expenses, Publicity and Special Events	902.68	
Postage, paper and envelopes	839.26	
Insurance	722.18	
Meeting room - Council meetings	122.50	
Website	<u>72.00</u>	
		4163.62
Surplus of Income over Expenditure		943.92
Bank account Balance March 31st 2012		6484.33

Notes

At the end of the year our bank balance had increased compared to the previous year end; however, two exceptional items are included in this total, namely the proceeds of the sale of our holding of Santander (previously Alliance & Leicester) shares for £375.89, and a very generous single donation of £500.

Other minor income came from the Cornish Masters & Mates enquiry service (£36.58) but, as anticipated, this was less than in recent years and we do not expect that income from this source will continue.

Our main source of income is the annual membership subscription which has remained unchanged for a decade. Council feels able to maintain the current rate of £15 for the coming year but will have to keep this under review in the future.

Unfortunately the recent rise in the price of second class postage to 50p will add considerably to the cost of our mailings. We always try to post information about events with the Newsletter and use email whenever possible. **If you have not already advised us of your email ad-**

dress, could you please let us have it if you agree to being contacted in this way.

Family history days, the Annual Dinner and other social events held during the year have all covered their costs, a trend we hope will continue next year. Also, we have held some of our Council and Committee meetings in a pub or café, thus saving the cost of a meeting room.

Jacqueline Trembath, Treasurer

Family History Group Report

The Family History Committee was delighted when, following our appeal at the last AGM, two members volunteered to join us; Chris Burgess and Mary Timmins were duly co-opted to the Committee pending appointment following this year's AGM, and they are already making a contribution to the running of the Group.

Since the last AGM we have held two day conferences, one in October 2011 and one this April. Total attendance at each (including speakers and helpers) was between 50 and 60. As well as a good number of LCA members, these events are also attended by members of affiliated CAs, CFHS, OPCs and a few non-members. We have heard some excellent talks, and the events are enjoyed by all who attend as they provide a good opportunity to socialise in Cornish company, with a Cornish lunch and tea. Mainly because of these good attendance figures and the special concessionary rate we are currently allowed for the use of a meeting room at Bloomsbury Central Baptist Church, each event has resulted in a very small profit so we have been able to hold the entry fee at £15 for members and £20 for non-members. However, if attendance falls or the room hire charge is increased, we will have to consider raising the entry fee.

Spin-off enquiries from the Cornish Masters & Mates Project brought in the small but useful net sum of £36.58 to LCA during the financial year, plus an additional £18 to CFHS who accepted two payments from overseas which we were not able to handle direct. We also receive the occasional family history related enquiry, and do our best to provide a helpful reply.

The Committee appreciates the support and help it receives from members but, if you wish us to continue holding family history days, please keep on coming. Ideas for speakers or other activities will be welcome, as will offers of help with catering.

Family History Committee (Francis Dunstan, Lorna Leadbetter, Dick Richards, Tom Sims and co-opted members Chris Burgess, Mary Timmins)

Membership report

Changes since AGM June 2011

Deaths - 10:

New members - 12:

Ceased membership due to default on subs - 11

Present membership as of May 2012 - 243

There are 111 members who have an email address

Graham Pearce, Membership Secretary

Publications and Publicity Report

Newsletters

The LCA publishes four newsletters a year which report on Association activities and other items of Cornish interest. Its aim is to promote the LCA and encourage both members and visitors to take part in the Association's activities. To this end, we try to include a report on each event in the newsletter. These are usually written by one of the group attending and we would like to encourage more members to help us in this way.

The newsletter is sent to members, local and overseas Cornish Associations, the Cornish media, Cornish MPs and organisations such as the Cornish Gorsedd and legal deposit libraries. It is available as both a hard copy and an emailed version. With both printing - and particularly postage - costs increasing, providing a hard copy is becoming very expensive. It now costs approximately £1.55 per member for each issue. In view of this, we encourage members to consider getting the newsletter by email. The big advantage of this is that the pictures are in colour! If you would like to change to the e-newsletter, please contact me at the address below.

There are a few members and organisations which regularly provide items to include in the newsletter and I would like to thank them publicly for their support. At the same time, I would urge others to follow their lead and submit items for inclusion. I am also very keen to get new feature articles. If you have a particular Cornish passion, please consider putting together a short item. If you want to know more, contact me at editor@londoncornish.co.uk.

Yellow Brochure

This is published at the beginning of September and is sent to members and Cornish associations locally and overseas. It contains information about the Association, details of our social programme and contact details for Cornish Associations around the world.

We try to cover some of the production costs with advertising, but in the current economic climate, this is becoming increasingly difficult. If any members have leads to potential sponsors, please could you let me know? I can be contacted at editor@londoncornish.co.uk.

Website

In his Publicity report last year, Darren Tossell, our Publicity Office, mentioned that he was looking at ways in which we could improve the website, making it easier to navigate and to update. This has been an ongoing and somewhat challenging task, and one which is still underway. We hope to make more progress with the website in the coming year. In the meantime, the 'old' website continues to report on the LCA and give details of events and activities.

Liz Broekmann, Editor

*West Briton & Cornwall Advertiser – 15th February 1856
(Thanks to Lorna Leadbetter for sending in this item)*

STATE OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH - 426,242 deaths were registered in the year 1855, or less in number by nearly twelve thousand than the deaths in the previous year. The number of deaths registered in Cornwall during the quarter ending December 31st, 1855, was 1,701; in the same quarter of 1854 the number was 1,642. The number of births during the same period of 1855 was 2,664; in the corresponding quarter of 1854, 2,917.

The future of the London Cornish Association

This has been a specific agenda item at our last two AGMs and the following trends make it clear as to why it is imperative that we are agreed on a way forward:

- Our membership continues to decline and for the first time now stands at below 250.
- Our financial resources have reduced by over 40% in the last 5 years.
- Several fellow Cornish Associations in the UK have either ceased to function or now manage a reduced programme.
- The bi-annual CK gathering will no longer take place.
- This year LCA does not have a Vice Chairman raising concerns about our future leadership.
- In addition the LCA Chairman, Francis Dunstan, is also acting General Secretary. Arduous on a personal level and unhealthy for LCA with reduced segregation of duties.

Although the debates at the AGMs have been wide-ranging and lively it was agreed that all members should be invited to make their views known about the future organisation.

Please let us know what LCA should retain in its annual activities; what you would change; how we could attract and retain more members; how we could be better organised or what in your view would make the future of LCA secure.

Your unattributed views will be summarised in a future Newsletter and will form the basis of an action plan to be presented to the next AGM.

So that your views are unambiguous and could be shared with others, please write or send an email (subject: LCA Future) to the address at the bottom of this message.

It would be easy to leave this debate to others but a 'no' response could be taken as a sign of apathy! Please prove us wrong!

If you want LCA to have a vibrant future that meets your needs as a member then please write and let us know!

*Dick Richards, 25 Picklers Hill, Abingdon, Oxon
OX14 2BB dickrichards10@hotmail.com*

St Piran's Oratory

The Oratory of St Piran at Perranporth, which is the oldest surviving four-walled Christian edifice on the British mainland, was intentionally buried in 1980, ostensibly to protect it. It is now listed as an 'at risk' Scheduled Monument.

Twelve years ago, the St Piran Trust, was formed specifically to excavate the site and preserve the Oratory. Plans for the excavation have, however been faced with big challenges because the dune area surrounding the site is some of the most protected land in Britain. The dunes have unique characteristics, including wet 'dune slacks' (marshy hollows between the dunes) and they are home to three rare plant species and some rare insects. These have made it very difficult to get the go-ahead to carry out the excavations. Now however, things are looking up. Following a comprehensive analysis of the site and suggestions as to how the Oratory could safely be excavated, it is now looking as though it is going to be possible to carry out the dig.

Find out more about the work of the Trust at www.st-piran.com

Royal Cornwall Show 2012

'Royal Cornwall' comes with all weather varieties: it can be very hot, very cold or very wet, but I don't think I've ever known those three days at the beginning of June to be as very windy as they were this year. It was reported even on national television that the marquee housing the sheep exhibits was wrecked and the sheep judging had to be abandoned on the first day. Fortunately the crowds were not deterred and the Heritage Marquee, where LCA had its usual stand, survived the extreme buffeting despite my fears. When we were asked to close early on the first day, I didn't believe the marquee would still be standing the next morning, but to my relief it was and our display was just as intact and eye-catching as at the start.

It is to Dick Richards that we owe thanks for designing and assembling our exhibit. Every year he comes up with a new idea and an imaginative display to illustrate the London/Cornwall connection: this time the theme was the Olympic Games. London has been the Olympics venue three times, and Cornwall has been well represented on each occasion. In 1908 the Cornwall Rugby Football team, as the county champions at the time, was chosen to represent GB. Legends surround their story but they played a final against the Australians and as runners-up were awarded the Silver Medal. In 1948 Cornishmen David Bond won a Gold Medal in the Swallow sailing class and is believed to be the only surviving Gold Medallist from that year's games. This year's Olympic Torch Relay started at Land's End and Dick found some lovely photos of the first few minutes of its long journey through Britain to its final destination in London for the start of the 2012 Games.

In LCA's 'team' this year were Dick, Hilary Rundell and myself, and we were joined from day two by Liz Broekmann for her first visit to Royal Cornwall. It was a heart-warming experience to meet up again with fellow exhibitors and friends from the Federation of Old Cornwall Societies, the Cornish Gorsedd, Cornwall Family History Society, and the County Record Office, to name but a few. We may not have had quite as many visitors as in previous years but, when it comes to conversation and impressions, quality can be more important than quantity!

What was particularly notable this year was the reaction from the younger generation, who were obviously attracted to the stand by the Olympics display. A boy told us he had been a torch-bearer in Newquay; a girl pointed herself out in the photo of the school children with the torch against the background of St Michael's Mount; another girl said she had just returned from a school visit to London; and another boy was very excited because he had just spoken to the Duchess of Cornwall. Others came and asked about the photos on display; and what's even better is that they listened to and appeared interested in the answers! Among the callers at our stand were visitors from Canada, France, Spain, Germany and Israel, all surprised and interested to learn that a 'London/Cornish' association exists.

As well as the many people who did not know about LCA, we saw members past and present, and family and friends of members past and present, and spent a lot of time exchanging news and messages. Among the past members were former Chairman Priscilla Oates, and Treasurer John Jenkin. One of the most memorable of our visitors was a lady who had worked in London and been a member of LCA for a few years in the early 1950s. She was so

delighted to see us that she returned on the following day, bringing photos taken on LCA rambles around the Home Counties almost 60 years ago; these photos have some names written on the back. If any of our older members is interested in seeing these photos (might you be in them?), please let me know.

So was it worth the effort of going to Royal Cornwall and being exposed to that wind and rain? Of course it was and in any case I went well prepared with thermal vest, woolly sweaters, waterproofs and wellies, and wore them all! Now I'm wondering what the weather will be like and who we'll meet next year.

Lorna Leadbetter



*LCA stand at the Royal Cornwall Show.
From L to R: Lorna Leadbetter, Dick Richards, Hilary Rundell, Liz Broekmann*

St Cleer Annual Holy Well Dressing.

On Fri 25 May, 268 children from St Cleer Primary School and Pre-School and the Darite School took part in well dressing at the St Cleer Holy Well. The St Cleer school pupils, led by their school orchestra, danced the 'Furry' to the well carrying posies of flowers. The Darite School children walked to the ceremony across the fields. The Children's posies were given to the Cleerly Ladies, and the ladies of the St Cleer Gardening Club who put them a display frame.

The ceremony began with a medley of Cornish songs performed by the St Cleer Primary School and some Cornish music played on the handbells by children from the Darite Primary School.

Mr Mike Smith read the lesson in Cornish and the Rev Keith Lanyon-Jones, Vicar of St Cleer talked about our dependence on water. The Lord's Prayer was said in Cornish and English.

Before the posies wilted in the bright sunshine, they were taken to the residents of the Manor Residential Home, at Darite.

Duncan Paul Matthews

Condolences

Two of our members, **Ann Dawe** and **Lance Walton** died recently. They will be greatly missed by their LCA friends. We offer our condolences to their families and friends.

St Piran's Day 2012

Bodmin celebrates

The festivities for St Piran's Day in the town of Bodmin have gathered momentum during the 13 years in which the celebrations have been held. The procession through the town centre, featuring flag waving children from local schools, was led by a piper, drums and accordions. In the parade this year were the new Lord-Lieutenant of Cornwall, Colonel Edward Bolitho, the Grand Bard, Mike Paynter and his deputy, local MP Dan Rogerson, the town Mayor and Alister Quinnell, one of the founders of the town's Piran celebrations. Members of Bournemouth, London and Torbay Cornish Associations also joined in.

Locals and visitors were welcomed at the town's Mount Folly by the mayor Ralph Soloman and other speakers. The Bodmin event closed with Keith and Clarinda Truscott leading the crowd in singing Bro Goth Agan Tasow (Old Land Of Our Fathers) and Hail to the Homeland, as well as a dance involving all of the children who were present.

St. Piran's Day 2012 saw more events than ever before. From Lands End to Launceston, Morwenstow to Marazion, people of Cornwall celebrated their special day with processions, music, feasts and fun. Truro, Falmouth and Penzance organised rallies involving dignitaries and musicians.

The previous evening we attended the Pirantide Entertainment Evening at Roche, all local talent, with everyone taking part when requested by the artist. The Feast Night Dinner arranged by Beatrice Curnow on the Saturday was held at the Victoria Hotel Newquay, another great occasion. As if this was not enough, on the Sunday Aubrey and I walked across Gear Sands flying our Cornish flags with hundreds of other people along the route of the annual community play, and finally placing our Cornish Chuckle daffodils - donated by Fentongollen Farm - at St. Piran's Cross or Christel Mael. Having attended four functions we declined an invitation to a Cornish Music session at the Masons Arms in Bodmin which was organized by Mike Jenkin.

Liz Lane

Liskeard's St Piran's Celebrations

On Mon 5 March 2012, over 150 folk were welcomed to St Martin's Parish Church, Liskeard. The church tower was flood lit, illuminating the St Piran's flag. The tower's eight bells, captained by Mr Oswald Griffin, called 'All' to worship in celebrator of St Piran, who brought Christianity to Cornwall in 450AD.

Amongst those present were members of the Liskeard, Looe and Lostwithiel Old Cornwall Societies, the Torbay Cornish Association, representatives of the Liskeard Chamber of Commerce and the District Commissioner of Guiding with over thirty of Liskeard's Girl Guides and Brownies.

The celebration was led by Rev (Canon) Tony Ingleby. The lesson from Hebrews, was read in Cornish by Mr Mike Smith of St Cleer, and in English by Mrs Jennifer Matthews, of the Looe OCS. The theme of Rev Tony's message was having and living the Christian faith.

The Pelynt Male Voice Choir, (Trelawny's Men), entertained us for the second year with songs about Cornwall and the Cornish, led by their conductor Mr Arther Kinver.

They ended with Bro Goth Agan Tasow (Land of our Fathers in Cornish), and everyone stood and joined in Trelawny.

Mr Barry Jay of St Cleer was the organist and had the three manual, nineteenth century Smith's Church Organ in good voice with a number of classical pieces which showed off the beauty, versatility and excellence of the monstrous instrument.

The Liskeard Silver Band, did a wonderful job with a selection of music appropriate to the occasion and led by their Director of Music, Mr Adrian Letts. (The Liskeard Silver Band recently won 1st Prize at the National Brass Band Competition at Bugle, bringing great credit to the town of Liskeard).

The Ladies of St Martin's, provided a sumptuous buffet in the Old School/Church Rooms, bringing Liskeard's St Piran's Celebration to a very successful conclusion.

*Duncan Paul Matthews
Liskeard OCS*

Cornish Male Voice singing remains high on the agenda for many *Sons of Cornwall*.

In every corner of the land, on a weekday evening, groups of men gather for their regular practice. Whether that be with the oldest Choir, 108 year-old *Marazion Apollo* or one of the newest, smallest groups, the six-man *Thraw'd Together*, the enthusiasm of yesteryear still burns brightly within their breasts.

Nowhere is this more evident than in practising for upcoming events. Perhaps that will be a little, unofficial Summer Evening Concert on the harbour wall, or a major Festival involving many Choirs and many, many men.

2013 promises to be a special year with two such major events in the calendar.

The ever-popular Cornwall International Male Voice Festival will be held on 2 - 6 May 2013. This brings Male Voice Choirs to Cornwall from many different countries.

The first weekend in November 2013 sees a return of the Massed Cornish Choirs to the Royal Albert Hall in London. On our previous visits these Cornish voices have been received in the City with great acclaim - pity there aren't many seats available for the English!

Congratulations

Two of our members, Derek Trethewey and Brian Reed celebrated their 90th birthdays in June. We congratulate them both on this wonderful achievement and send them our best wishes.

Another gem from Lorna...

West Briton & Cornwall Advertiser - 28th December 1855.

LONGEVITY - There is living in Tresowas, in the parish of Germoe, a family of four persons of the name of DUNN, two brothers and two sisters, of the respective ages of 81, 79, 77, and 75; their united ages making 312 years. They have lived together in the same house ever since they were born, and have not been more than seven miles from home.

Flora Day 2012

Chris and I have been privileged to 'take part in the Ancient Furry Dance' (as the invitation says) three times at Helston. First we deputised for our then Chairman, Joe Tregenza, then we danced twice when I was Chairman and Chris was treasurer, way back in 1994-5. What a surprise to be asked again by Liz Broekmann who was unable to be in Cornwall.

On May 7th, we drove to Helston where it was cold, wet and windy. Shops, even the empty ones, and houses were being decorated with the traditional greenery, bluebells and gorse. That evening we had a dance rehearsal where we were introduced as representing the London Cornish Association.

The instructions decreed that *'It is the desire of the Dance Stewards that all those who have accepted invitations shall make it convenient to attend this rehearsal'*. The four leading couples demonstrated the dance, then we were called out in groups to practice. We were to be just behind the second band, dancing with Graham and Trish.

The morning of 8th May dawned calm and warm. We had breakfast at Porthleven where we were staying, dressed in our finery and drove back to Helston. We enjoyed coffee at the Guildhall by kind invitation of the Helston Mayor, John Boase. We all crowded onto the fire escape to watch the end of the Children's Dance. Then it was our turn and we headed downstairs to the Coin Exchange where we were coiled up like a spring.

Twelve noon. Bang went the drum. Off we went, round and round the room until it was our turn to emerge into the sunshine, dance over the road, in and out of houses and shops, up and down steps and along the streets of the town. What a thrill! A welcome break was taken at Lismore Gardens, then off again, through Lismore house this time and the care home, round the bowling green and finally up Coinagehall Street back to the Coin Exchange where we sang the National Anthem and gave three cheers. Two hours of dancing! We were glad of the sit down at the lovely lunch in the Guildhall, to which we had been invited, finally emerging at 4.30pm to have a quick look at the stalls lining the street and to watch the start of the 5pm dance. Then it was back to the car and the drive home.

What a brilliant day.

Hilary Borkett

Our very sincere thanks go to Hilary and Chris who agreed to be the LCA representatives at Helston this year. We are glad it was such a happy experience for them.

An unexpected find in Germany

We are just back from a holiday in the Harz Mountains of Germany (on the borders between the former East and Western Sectors). When we were deep in the forests between Hanenkles and Lutenthals, my wife and I stumbled across a full-sized working 'Man Engine' of the type used in Cornwall in the nineteenth century. The Man Engine was powered by a water wheel several hundred feet down in the valley below. The Germans had fast-flowing rivers and giant-sized water wheels to do the work rather than steam engines which were used in Cornwall.

We then trekked, (foot blistering), on to Lutenthal Mining Museum, where we found another full sized Man Engine operating at the entrance to the Visitor Centre. Inside the

museum, there were models of the Man Engine and some pumping systems.

On the tours of Goslar Town and the Rammelburg, (East German Mining Systems), mention was made of the purchase, dependence and reliance upon tin from Cornwall.

We did go underground and found all most interesting, (that which we could understand!), although their systems of extracting the minerals from the ores were somewhat different and more complicated than that used in Cornwall.

Unlike here in Cornwall, as the German Mines closed, the sites had to be cleared and returned to their natural state, so although all former mines are marked with signposts, little evidence remains outside of their working museums.

While Cornish miners suffered poverty, the German miners were housed in barrack like hostels and were issued the most elaborate dress uniforms for parades etc. German mines also had underground chapels!

*Duncan Paul Matthews
Liskeard & Looe OCS*

Cornish Crown In London

Today I saw a very special crown. I did not have to pay for the privilege of viewing it, and it was not protected by state-of-the-art security devices. Low railings are all that separate it from the general public and it can be found in St James's Park, London, with Buckingham Palace only a stone's throw away. Its precious metals and jewels consist of varieties of alternanthera, echeveria, helichrysum, sedum and sempervivum. The gardeners among you will have realised by now that this crown cannot be worn, not even by The Queen, and that it is a floral one.

Constructed to celebrate the Diamond Jubilee, this horticultural feature represents the St Edward's Crown which was used at the Coronation in Westminster Abbey on 2nd June 1953. It is supported by a steel framework that took four weeks to construct and weighs approximately 5 tonnes. It took a further week to put the plants in place: 13,500 in the crown, and another 7,200 in the 4-metre square 'cushion' on which it rests. Comparing the floral crown with the historical one, the latter is made of gold and decorated with precious and semi-precious stones including sapphires, tourmalines, amethysts, topazes and citrines, and it weighs 2.23kg. Unlike the floral one, it does not need to be kept healthy with water.

The crown in St James's Park is an eye-catching and attractive feature and well worth a visit, but what is really special about it is that the plants were grown in Cornwall, at Kernock Park near Saltash.

Lorna Leadbetter



*The Floral Crown
in St James Park*

Can you help?

Cornish flags in Jubilee flotilla

Jane Howells from St Hilary is looking for good quality photos of the Jubilee flotilla which show the Cornish flag being flown on the Gloriana. If you have any, please contact Jane at janehowells@fastmail.co.uk

Research on wives 'left behind' by 19th century emigrant Cornishmen

Many Cornish family histories include passed down memories of wives who remained in Cornwall while their husbands emigrated in search of work opportunities around the world throughout the 19th century. However, as yet, these women have largely been neglected when the story of Cornish Emigration is told.

Through the Institute of Cornish Studies, University of Exeter, I am carrying out postgraduate research that explores the experiences of these wives: were they reunited with their husbands either in Cornwall or abroad? How did they cope financially, practically and emotionally in their absence? What were the long-term consequences for the family?

Can you help with this research? I would very much like to hear from anyone who has such a story in their family and/or has surviving letters between the husband and wife, or other correspondence or documents that contain information about couples separated by emigration from Cornwall in the period 1800 to 1914. Does anyone know of a diary kept by a wife who found herself in this situation? Any information would be gratefully received, and full acknowledgement given in the resulting PhD thesis and intended book.

If you think you can help please contact me via email or at the address below. If you are able to share copies of letters or documents to aid this research, digital images or photocopies would be most welcome, but please do not risk sending original documents by post.

Many thanks,
Lesley Trotter
PhD Researcher, Institute of Cornish Studies.
Email: ljt210@exeter.ac.uk
Postal address: Lesley Trotter, The Institute of Cornish Studies, Peter Lanyon Building,
The University of Exeter - Cornwall Campus,
Penryn, Cornwall TR10 9EZ, United Kingdom.

Cornish Cultural Celebration 2012

The 2012 Cornish Cultural Celebration, which is organised by the Southern Sons of Cornwall, will take place between 26th and 28th October. It will be held in the Shoalhaven, south of Sydney, Australia.

Past Cornish Cultural Celebrations have been very popular, having exciting programmes of speakers and outings. This year there will be a Bardic Ceremony and a whale watching tour. More details on the programme for 2012 can be found at <http://tinyurl.com/7n8exxz> contact President, Julie Wheeler at jngwheeler@bigpond.com

Aussie cousins visit the LCA

At our AGM this year, we had the pleasure of welcoming John and Liz Egan from the Cornish Association of Victoria. After the meeting, several LCA members joined them for a pub dinner and some chat. It was wonderful to meet them and to catch up on news of our 'cousins' down under.

We would like to remind other travellers that if they are passing through London, they should get in touch with the LCA as we enjoy meeting members of Cornish associations from all over the world. Please contact the Editor at the address on the back page of this newsletter.



From L to R:

Kath Slatter, Francis Dunstan, Val Harris, John Egan, Ed Harris, Tony Wakeham, Liz Broekmann, Liz Egan

Another farewell to CK

My name is Shirley White and I have been a member of Bournemouth Cornish Association since 1974. My husband and I have memories of many events which we have attended during that time and where we have enjoyed Cornish Comradeship. Among these memories are our visits to Cuntelles Kernewek which was affectionately known as CK.

Very early on, CK was held at the agricultural college at Cirencester. However, but the time we attended, CK had moved to the Livermead Hotel, Torquay, set in a lovely position at the water's edge.

Every two years, members of the various Cornish Associations would meet for friendship and join in some friendly competitions, ranging from cookery, needlework, photography, woodwork and pottery to name but a few.

In 1990, John Probert presented a Challenge Cup in memory of his wife Lella. This cup was to be given to the person who had entered the best item in the competition, judged by an independent person. I was very proud to be selected as the first winner of this cup with my entry of a circular 6' diameter crochet tablecloth, consisting of many thousand stitches and taking two and half years to complete. I believe that Lella used to crochet too, so perhaps it was a fitting gesture that I should be a winner of the cup. During the ensuing years, many other members were lucky enough to win this cup, namely Pat Rowe, S Mann, Tom Knight, P Maynard, C Spencer, T Thompson and C Parsons.

In 2011, CK was wound up and many members from various associations, attended the Livermead Hotel for a last get together. At that event, it was decided that as I was the first person to win the Lella Cup, it was fitting for me to keep it. I was so pleased, not because of the monetary value but for the personal pleasure it gives me to be reminded of happy times spent at these two yearly get-togethers. I am indeed very happy to have it in my possession.

Rugby

It seems the seasons never end! Shortly after I wrote my last piece, I received a call from the Cornwall Rugby Football Union to ask if I would mind helping the coaching team for the County during the County Championship. *'Mind? I'd be honoured!'* was my reply! So it was that I was despatched on a spying mission to Hertford to watch the county's much vaunted opponents, Hertfordshire, play their opening game. I reported back to the Cornish Head Coach Dave 'Benji' Thomas, a legend in the game having taken Cornwall to the title on that fateful Twickenham day in 1991, and happily restored to his post for another crack. Herts count a series of professional and International players amongst their number and rather than select predominantly county born players as Cornwall do, select the best side they can get their hands on irrespective of birth. As Saracens are based in the county, this ensures a steady stream of over qualified players for the event, but that doesn't deter us Cornishmen! Cornwall headed to Herts the following week aware that defeat would all but end hopes of a return to Twickenham. A superb match followed, and buoyed by that doggedness which being associated with the Duchy gives us, the county took the game to last season's beaten finalists. Cornwall lead entering the final quarter, but two quick tries put Herts 29-27 ahead until, on virtually the last play, Cornwall won a penalty on the home try line after a scrummage offence that some ref's may have given as a penalty try. Agonisingly, the kick slammed into the uprights and fell the wrong side, and the home side wriggled free to win the game by the narrowest of margins. Though Cornwall won their remaining match, Herts had done enough to reach Twickenham and went on to lift the crown in the final. Though gutted, I thoroughly enjoyed my experience and hope to be involved again next season, the county presenting me with a full Cornwall County Coaching kit at the Herts game as a token of their appreciation.

I am writing this missive during the Queen's Diamond Jubilee celebration weekend (I hope you, like me, were counting the myriad St Piran's flags on show throughout the weekend!) but with another Jubilee very much in mind! The forthcoming season will see London Cornish RFC celebrate our very own Golden Jubilee (and my Tin Anniversary as it's my 10th season as Director of Rugby) and with many events off the pitch being covered by a separate sub-Committee, it has been the on-field events that have focused my mind since the season closed. I am delighted to report that we have appointed former Redruth and Cornwall county player Tom Sincock as our new Head Coach (see photo of Tom being welcomed by me). Tom has spent the past few seasons as Assistant Coach at the Civil Service RFC here in London, so was a natural choice for us. He has already begun the task of taking the squads up a notch in their commitment, and this is exactly what we required as his post has really been borne out of how successful we have become, but also because in growing so fast the demands of juggling both Director of Rugby and Head Coach roles along with work had become too much for me. I will continue to be involved in recruiting and retaining players, in setting the agenda for the club on the playing side, and in leading the side off the pitch where appropriate on matchdays, but the weekly training sessions are no longer something I can facilitate anymore, so this was a decision I had to make or else the club may

have slipped backward. I was delighted that the Cornish Pirates picked up the news of our new appointment and impending Jubilee, and ran an excellent article in their Championship Final Matchday Programme for the game v London Welsh. It has always been the intention of all those associated with LCRFC for the club to be one of which the whole county is proud, and it gladdens me when I see us being embraced by one and all!

I mentioned in my last piece that this would be my last LCRFC update for the newsletter, and I wanted to explain why. (Incidentally, the editor actually reminded me that it was Summer 2005 that I began writing these and this is my 29th, which demonstrates just how time flies!) I work for a company called Arise Virtual Solutions, who are huge in the US and growing fast in Canada. The company has a model that enables work to be brought to people in urban and rural communities, and my role involves bringing that work to people in the UK and across Europe as we grow. This entails huge amounts of travel to the far flung corners of the country, which though no hardship, gives me far less time on the ground. Coupled with regular trips to our Florida HQ, I have had to make some sacrifices both in terms of rugby commitments and elsewhere. As you know, I also have a wife now and she demands some attention from time to time too! A huge area of focus for me is to bring work back to Cornwall, and I have spent many hours in the last few years working with all of the Cornish MP's in establishing contacts with organisations in the county to enable me to run events during the autumn this year, which I hope will help out those who need it most. This work has also seen me introduced to the Deputy Prime Minister Nick Clegg on a recent visit to Bodmin thanks to Dan Rogerson MP for North Cornwall, and to be able to host an event at the House of Commons thanks to Sarah Newton, MP for Truro & St Austell. The company is growing fast in the UK, so I am determined to exploit this fact to bring some of the success home to God's Country! I hope that you'll understand my reasoning a little better now – I am still out there flying the flag!

What of the season ahead? Well we have arranged two matches in Cornwall to top and tail this special season, opening with Camborne on 18th August and finishing with Wadebridge Camels on April 17th, both matches being played for the Arthur Hunt Memorial Cup. All of our fixtures will be detailed on our website shortly at www.lcrfc.co.uk, but in the meanwhile here are our opening ones other than that listed above:-

Sat 15 th Sept	Portsmouth Away – League
Sat 22 nd Sept	Tottonians Away – League
Sat 29 th Sept	Teddington Home – League
Sat 6 th Oct	Old Reigatian Away – League
Sat 20 th Oct	Effingham & Leatherhead Home – League
Sat 27 th Oct	Guildford Away – League
Sat 3 rd Nov	Camberley Home – League
Sat 10 th Nov	TBC Home or Away – Cup
Sat 17 th Nov	Chobham Away – League
Sat 24 th Nov	Sutton & Epsom Home – League
Sat 1 st Dec	TBC Home or Away – Cup
Sat 8 th Dec	KCS Old Boys Away – League
Sat 15 th Dec	Old Alleynians Home – League

All that remains is for me to say is farewell for now – I hope to pen the occasional piece when time permits in the future and if the editor has available space. *[There will always be space! – Ed.]* I hope you have enjoyed reading the newsletters as much as I have enjoyed writing them.

Dha welez arta!

Dickon.

Once again, we thank Dickon for his most interesting reports over the past 7+ years. Through his column, we have been able to share in the triumphs and challenges faced by the LCRFC and have gained some insight into a few of their off-field antics as well! We wish Dickon all the best for his very important work and look forward to hearing more about it, particularly as regards Cornwall.



Dickon (L), welcomes new Head Coach, Tom Sincock to the LCRFC

Mem Sec's Meanderings...

Thank you to all of you who have paid your Annual Subscriptions on time – and particular thanks to those who have also made generous donations. Unfortunately, there are still nearly 30 members who have not yet responded to the reminders that were in the last newsletter.

I can report that our membership at the end of April has risen to 244. We are very pleased to be able to welcome the following four new members:

Jothan Hollow from Hayle who now lives in London E1
Christopher Harris from Liskeard and now at Bromley in Kent

Roger Pearce who is married to Pauline from Newquay and is now living in Loughton, Essex

Bridget Nash who lives in Enfield, Middlesex

Don't forget that if you are married, your spouse is also eligible to become a member of the LCA.

Let us hope that we can continue to recruit more new members. As I always say, please do what you can to encourage other people to join the Association. We know Cornish people are very proud of Cornwall and their Cornish connection. Encourage them to consider meeting, mixing and enjoying friendships with other Cornish people. Don't let them disappear into the electronic world that engulfs so many people today.

Sadly, Mrs Anita Walton has told me that her husband, Lance, died earlier this year. Lance had been a member for 25 years, having joined the LCA in June 1986. Our deepest sympathies go to his wife Anita.

Regretfully, a number of Cornish Associations are collapsing due to lack of interest and support, even though Cornish people are proud of their heritage. Sadly, another Cornish association has recently collapsed: at their AGM in April, the Tunbridge Wells Cornish Association made the decision to close due to lack of numbers, age and ill health. This is a great shame as the Association was formed 35 years ago, in 1977 and they have always had an Annual Dinner/Lunch on St Piran's Day, the 25th March. The few remaining members will still meet infor-

mally and hopefully will be able to continue meeting for a St Piran's Day lunch.

With the Olympic Games being held in London this summer, the Olympic Flame was flown from Athens to RNAS Culdrose at Helston, arriving on May 18th. Naturally, it was not transported as a naked flame in the aircraft, but was actually carried in a Miner's Lamp – also known as a Davy Lamp. These lamps were invented in 1816 and named after their inventor, Sir Humphry Davy, a Cornishman who was born in Penzance in 1778. After landing at Culdrose, the Flame was transferred to the Torch. The next day, it was carried from Lands End, up through Cornwall and into Plymouth. Between towns and villages, the Flame was carried on a bus where again it was in a Davy Lamp. Very appropriate, don't you think, to use a Davy Lamp, particularly as the long journey around the country to London started in Sir Humphry Davy's home territory.

How do you like the term 'Pasty Tax'? Do we really want good food to be taxed? It does bring Cornwall more to the limelight, but not in the best way. The expression was apparently created from what appeared to be the interest that our Prime Minister has in eating a good Cornish pasty. How ridiculous that a tax will depend on the temperature of the food; how are you going to tell the temperature of a pasty when you go to buy one. Imagine going into the shop and saying, 'I'll hang on until the pasty is a bit cooler!' At the end of April, about 600 people held a protest march in Falmouth, campaigning against the Government's plan to implement this 'pasty tax'. Also, there has been a campaign in the USA at the town of Calumet in Michigan, home of Keweenaw Kernewek (Cornish Connection of Copper Country), where they raised 500 signatures against the 'pasty tax'. I saw this on the BBC teletext where it is said that 'in Calumet people are so proud of their Cornish connections.' It reported that they 'presented it to Mayor of their twinned town, Camborne' in the hopes that he will be able to forward this to the Government. Well done Keweenaw Kernewek and keep up the good work.

Next question. Have you been enjoying the weather this spring? We have a couple of dry years and then panic and bring in 'hosepipe bans' only to have this followed shortly afterwards with plenty of rain which brings in 'flood alerts'. Didn't the same thing happen in the mid 1970s when we had hot and dry weather that resulted in the introduction of hosepipe bans, which a little time later was followed by rain and subsequent flooding? I wonder, if a hosepipe ban had been brought in last year, would we have had a wet winter?!!

Regarding weather, it amuses me when we hear reports on the TV and radio and also in the newspapers that this is the hottest, the coldest or the wettest weather we have had since records began. They don't often say when the records began but occasionally it is mentioned as 'since the beginning of the last century', or sometimes, it may be 'a couple of hundred years ago'. This is miniscule to the cycle of the world's climate. If only we had records going back a few thousand years we may then be able to more accurately predict or comment on what is happening. We are now being told in the media that this April 'has been the wettest since records began' and they have actually stated 'since 1910'. How long has the world and our weather been in existence?

Whatever the weather, we always complain that it is too hot, too cold, too wet or too dry. The other comment one hears is that 'the weather was better than this when I was a youngster'. Whatever the weather, Cornwall is, and always will be, the place to go.

Again, I have to ask if you know of any Cornish people or descendents who you think would be interested in joining a Cornish association, please give them details of the LCA or of your local Cornish Association. We hope that they will be interested in becoming one of our new members. Tell them to contact me at the address below, or send me their names and addresses and I will send them an application form. Fingers crossed, we could see an increase in membership. As you have seen earlier in these Meanderings, we have recruited four new members who, I hope, will encourage more people to join.

I hope you have read and enjoyed these Meanderings. If you have any comments, please contact me.

Thank you again to those of you who have paid their annual subscription and an additional thank you to those of you who have generously included a donation. There are still quite a number of members I am still waiting to hear from, so please, if you have not yet paid, get your cheque book out and send me a cheque for your subs – currently £15 per member.

I hope you all have a good summer.

Kernow bys vyken

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

Publications

We have been made aware of the following publication:

The Helston Railway
By Chris Heaps
9781858952772

The book costs £20 and, at this stage, is available from the railway shop at Trevarno and Amazon.

Carwynnen quoit

The Sustainable Trust, a small Registered Charity based on Clowance at Praze an Beeble, has received £42,707 from the Heritage Lottery Fund to carry out archaeological investigations at Carwynnen Quoit. Funding towards the project has also come from the Cornwall Heritage Trust, Cornwall Archaeological Society and the Tanner Trust.

Heritage Environment will be running two archaeological digs and training members of the public in methods of excavation and recording. The initial archaeological evaluation will take place between Thursday 5th July - Monday 9th July. A series of test pits will be dug around the collapsed stones to establish preservation of buried archaeology and to establish the key areas of archaeological potential as well as the edges of the monument.

The monument consists of a 'portal dolmen', known locally as 'The Giant's Quoit' or 'The Giant's Frying Pan'. Only about 20 portal dolmens are known nationally, and are mainly concentrated in West Penwith.

Despite having collapsed and suffered from some disturbance through cultivation, the Giant's Quoit at Carwynnen is still one of an extremely ancient and rare group of monuments.

LCA donation helps flood victims

Following the Japanese Tsunami last year, the decision was made to donate some of the funds from our Annual Dinner raffle to ShelterBox. We have recently received a letter to let us know that our donation provided help for people who were made homeless by floods in Pakistan giving, as the letter says, *shelter, warmth and dignity*.

Cornwall well represented in Birthday Honours List

Many Cornish people were honoured in the Queen's Birthday list this year. The following awards were given:

Royal Victorian Order

1 CVO
1 LVO
2 MVO

Order Of The British Empire

8 MBE

British Empire Medal

6 BEM

Our congratulations go to all these people.

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

5th August

Please send all contributions to:

*Liz Broekmann
55 Brownell Place
Hanwell
London
W7 3AZ*

Or email to editor@londoncornish.co.uk