



Cowethas Kernewek Loundres

London Cornish Association Newsletter



www.londoncornish.co.uk

Summer 2013

Out with the old and in with the new...

After a rather feeble and late spring it seems that summer has finally arrived and for the first time in ages, we have been able to cast aside our jerseys and coats for at least part of some days. Let's hope it continues and that we have a more 'summery' summer than last year.

The arrival of summer marks the end of our current social programme. After a successful 'season' of events, we have only the Annual Picnic on 13th July left to go. The picnics provide a lovely way to end the year as they give members a chance to spend a relaxing time together in a pleasant part of London. This year we will be in Hyde Park – a special place for Londoners and so easy to get to. We are holding thumbs for good weather and look forward to seeing many members there.

Planning is now underway for the 2013-4 season. If you have ideas and suggestions for activities or visits you feel our members might enjoy, please do get in touch and let us know what they are. You can contact the editor at the addresses on the back page.

In this newsletter you will find a summary of the comments on the LCAs future which members have sent to Dick Richards. There was a disappointingly low response to Dick's plea for comments, with only 24 of

our members responding. What does this lack of response mean? Has the Association now passed its 'sell-by-date' or should it continue? If so, what should it be like and what should it do? If you still want to have your say, please send your comments to Dick. You will find his contact details on page 8. If you have already sent in your ideas but would like to add to them after reading Dick's summary, please feel free to do so. As before, all comments will be dealt with confidentially.

On a happy note, all Cornish people will be thrilled to see how many of our 'cousins' had their work recognised in the Queen's Birthday Honours. You will find the list on page 8.

Schools will soon be breaking up, signalling the beginning of the summer holidays. Whatever you have planned for the coming weeks, we wish you a happy (and hopefully warmer and drier) summer and hope that you come back refreshed and ready to join in the exciting events being planned for the Association's new social year. Travel well and take care.

Kernow bys vyken

Dates for your diary ...

Annual Picnic
Saturday 13th July

Further details of this event can be found on page 2

Kowethas Kernewek City Lit/ City Lit Cornish Society

Presents

The 24th Rosyer Lecture

St Ives: An International Cultural Centre

Speaker: Janet Axten

Date: Saturday 6th July 2013

Time: 2.30pm for 3pm

Venue: Room 114, The City Lit, Keeley Street, London WC2B 4BA

Admission: FREE

**Deadline for the
Autumn
Newsletter
is**

5th August

**Please send all
contributions to
The Editor at the ad-
dress on the back
page**

Do we have your correct email and mail addresses? Please let us know if you move home or change your internet provider

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

Forthcoming events

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

Annual Picnic - Saturday 13th July 2013 12 noon

Venue: The Rose Garden, Hyde Park

Meeting Place: Queen Elizabeth Gate (at the bottom of Park Lane)

Getting there:

Tube: Hyde Park on the Piccadilly Line

Buses: from Victoria to Knightsbridge or Marble Arch – 52, 16, 148, 38

OR from Piccadilly to Knightsbridge – 38, 14

Contact: Tony Wakeham - Tel: 020 7703 7378

formality and tensions, and I was pleased that I made a special effort to come



News of Past Events

127th Annual Dinner

The 127th Annual Dinner, held in March, was a great success in every way. An early start allowed plenty of time for chat and refreshment before the formal dinner in the very comfortable surroundings of the Thistle Hotel near Marble Arch. The first such dinner was in 1886 when Queen Victoria was on the throne. In our time we are still happy to toast our own long-reigning monarch and all members of the Royal Family. That year also saw the first country-wide distribution of Furniss Cornish Fairings and I am sure that all guests felt pleased to continue the traditions of spreading the news about Cornwall and eating well at the same time!

The presentation of the tables was much appreciated with a glorious display of daffodils from Tregothnan, Caerhays Castle and Tresillian Flower Farm and other blooms for diners to take home. Thanks are due to Lizzie Broughton and her band of helpers for this, the attractive dinner programmes and the smooth running of the whole event.

Sir David Brewer CMG, our President was in the chair; our new Chaplain the Rev. Michaela Youngson was on hand to say grace and we were privileged to hear from our Principal Guest, Councillor Stubbs, Mayor of Bodmin. It was a particular treat that Andrew George, MP for St Ives had specially made the journey from Cornwall to be our Principal Speaker. He is well-known not just as an advocate for his constituency but also as a writer and commentator and for us, an entertainer.

Amongst some 60 guests was our good friend Tony Wakeham. To his surprise a celebration of his eightieth birthday was included in the evening with everyone sharing a special birthday cake and joining in with congratulations. This personal touch reflected the companionship and friendship that the LCA can bring to its members and reminded us all both of the reason for its foundation and of its continuity over the years.

Ursula Jeffries

One member commented after the dinner that *it was the most enjoyable one I have attended, free from the usual*

Family History Day

Women in the 1800s

An ex-teacher with numerous qualifications and interests, Tom Doig was the first speaker at the Family History Day on Saturday, 13th April 2013. His subject was *Women in the 1800s*. Tom has travelled widely in the UK and abroad, lecturing and researching various aspects of rural life in the Victorian Era. He is particularly interested in the role of women from agricultural labouring communities in the early 1800s.

Firstly, he wanted to destroy myths of the 1800s by saying that the women had the same schooling as that of men. Education was much better than we might think and women could read and write and obtain jobs to assist the family purse. There were schools and most children could expect to attend for four years. They would be taught Reading, Writing and Arithmetic plus Household duties.

He has researched in particular, the wives of Agricultural Labourers (Ag Labs) in villages. The labourers were affected by bad harvests which in turn led to a change from arable to sheep farming. The consequence of this was a reduction in labour pay, unemployment and inflation and there was less wheat leading to a higher cost for bread. This was also the time of the Napoleonic wars and the possibility of invasion by France meant that men could be needed for defence. Consequently women were called upon to take on a greater role in the community.

Different roles were available to married women during that time in the villages, such as being a milkmaid - which was quite a trade and for which they received 5 shillings a

week (a labourer received 10 shillings a week). Other married women's occupations were:

- Taking in laundry and working as a team including running a crèche and keeping accounts. They would need to organise themselves to cover absences during and after childbirth among their number.
- Wet-nursing – earning 12 shillings per week
- Midwife – most villages had a number of these to assist with childbirth
- Female Barber with her clients– (perhaps the oldest profession!)
- Working in a large House – toting water upstairs
- Gleaning – picking up corn to be converted into bread. Women were allocated part of a field to collect any corn left over from the harvest. Children often helped to bring the corn home where wheat germ was threshed on cottage steps – hence the 'threshold' which became curved over time because of this activity.
- Picking up stones for 1d a bushel (mainly older women and sometimes children). The stones could often be sold to the highway overseer to maintain local roads.
- Running a smallholding
- Leech gatherer – Leeches were sold to Apothecaries for bloodletting and thinning.

Women in the 1800s also set up Societies to provide some financial protection when circumstances led to a loss of earnings. They would often meet in church porches - or in vestries for those with higher status. Each paid 6d per week into the Society which was then used to pay certain benefits:

- Childbirth - 16s
- Sickness - 3s There was a contract with the local doctor who wrote the sick note
- Funeral - £1.1s which was paid directly to the Undertaker if the wife died rather than given to the husband who might drink the money away.

The wives of 'Ag Labs' also did a variety of 'good works' such as visiting the sick and 'adopting' elderly people, giving them meals and cleaning their clothes. They would often collect 6d per person from the members to help financially with a Wake following a death.

These Societies subsequently became Clothing Clubs and Christmas Clubs. Sometime later Men's Societies came about – for example the Oddfellows and Foresters. Later, when the welfare state was founded, it reflected the benefits that these societies provided all those years ago in the 1800s when women were the instigators!

This was a very informative and entertaining talk and gave so much additional social history too.

The Cornish Wives 'left behind'

After a very good pasty and saffron cake lunch, we settled down to the afternoon talk – *The Cornish Wives 'left behind'* by Lesley Trotter. Lesley is a freelance writer and archivist. Having obtained an MA in Cornish Studies, she is continuing as a postgraduate student at the Institute of Cornish Studies, University of Exeter, working on her PhD thesis, which examines nineteenth-century emigration

from Cornwall as experienced by the wives who remained at home.

Lesley explained that women were the quiet folklore heroines while their husbands were away/abroad. On the census they were 'Head' of the household and subsequently actively in charge of their families in the absence of the husbands.

Lesley gave examples of wives – for instance, Jane, wife of Richard Trevithick. He had made provision for her whilst he was away in Peru but had not provided enough money as he was away longer than the six months he had planned! He also had a second family whilst in Peru! So then, no monies were sent through to Jane.

Generally, not too much is known about the wives. Between 8% and 35% of the husbands were away. Lesley said that for Gwennap, 1,000 wives were alone between the 1851 and 1891 census.

Money had to come from a husband's earnings abroad. A query is how the wives actually received the cash as they had no legal identity. How did they prove who they were? Some companies set up arrangements so that the wives could receive the monies on a monthly basis by passing to English banks for bankers drafts etc.

The wives also travelled across the ocean reasonably regularly. They also were accused of frivolous spending which they said was not frivolous but they needed the money to buy food, clothing for the children etc.

Lesley gave examples of families – one wife was given Power of Attorney whilst her husband was in South Africa.

Not all women could read. One wife in particular spent the money that was sent to her as she could not read the letter with the money which said that it was for the funeral as her husband had died! Therefore no more money was forthcoming.

By the 1860's and the introduction of Poor Law Reforms life was even tougher. Wives would do anything rather than go into the Workhouse. The Redruth Board of Guardians looked at options - naming and shaming the men who were no longer giving support to their wives, so putting them in the Workhouse.

Some men used their absence as a chance to start a new life with a second family abroad. Richard Trevithick was such an example. In Chicago USA for example, divorces could be obtained easily by citing desertion, and cost \$5, Others just abdicated any responsibility for their wives' debts.

Before 1870 a wife had no right to her earnings so her husband could return and squander all the money that she had saved. They might share accommodation with parents or other relatives to make things easier so that they could save for fares to meet up with husbands abroad. Taking in lodgers was another example of how to make some money but this sometimes led to divorce and marriages breaking down because of relationships with the lodgers.

The effect of separation on the families concerned was often profound. The stress of raising children with only one parent was often too great and some even committed suicide. Others found solace in extra marital affairs. Some women were so desperate to find their husbands that they would advertise in newspapers and elsewhere.

Mostly the fares needed to meet up with their husbands were taken from the wife's own monies, but parishes or even on one occasion Queen Victoria paid for a wife to meet up with her husband. Despite this most wives preferred to stay in Cornwall. A positive might be that there would be fewer child-bearing years if the husbands were away for some time etc. About 20% of husbands did in fact return to Cornwall.

As Lesley said hers is an ongoing project to get as much information as she can about the wives left behind. Her talk proved most interesting and provided an insight into a segment of society in Cornwall often neglected during the 1800s. Should anyone have any information on the *Wives Left Behind* which could assist Lesley, they should contact her on ljt210@exeter.ac.uk.

Carol Goodwin and John Symons

Tour of Chelsea Physic Garden

The tour was led by Diana Ward, an LCA member and an official guide at the garden. She greeted the ten LCA members who had come for the tour at the entrance gates where she was sheltering in a little cabin because it was showery.

Some members, who arrived early, had a quick cuppa before the tour started.

The tour started just after noon. One of the first things we saw was a statue of Sir Hans Sloane and then Diana gave us a brief history of the gardens.

We then set off to look at the various sections which were divided up according to plant family and medical use. We heard about the use of the plants in both old and modern medicine, and Diana gave us both the Latin and English names. Some looked pretty ordinary while some were of a poisonous nature.

As we walked around, we saw a yew tree which was some 200 years old and Diana told us why yew trees are in cemeteries.

We had to put our brollies up and down because of showers. After about an hour, it started to rain very heavily so we made our way to the various greenhouses to see some different plants. At one of them, she gave out a few leaves to taste. It was some sort of sugar plant which had no calories.

Diana told us how people in different countries use these and the other plants we saw for their own medicine. She mentioned the Society of Apothecaries and its Livery Hall near New Bridge Road and Ludgate Hill, London EC.

At the end of the tour, some members went straight to get their bus but some of us went to the café for a cup of tea or coffee, all agreeing it was a very interesting day and tour.

Tony Wakeham

Condolences

Lord St Levan

Lord St Levan was a Past President of the London Cornish Association. In this position, he always gave active support to the Association, its officers and committee. As President, from 1987 to 1997, he was a benign presence at many Association meetings and presided most happily over our Annual Dinners and the Annual General meeting. He also supported our Annual Church service, and thus was regularly present at the three major events in the life of the LCA. At the time of his death, he was one of our Honorary Vice-Presidents and a long-serving Trustee of the LCA.

In 1997 he joined the commemorative march, *Keskerdh Kernow (Cornish: Cornwall marches on!)* which retraced the original route of the Cornish from St. Keveverne to Blackheath in London, to celebrate the 500th anniversary of the Cornish Rebellion. With the then newly elected LCA President, the late Sir John Trelawny, he unveiled the commemorative plaque on Blackheath. I had just been elected as LCA Chairman, and with him, feared that we might have ended up in the Tower of London as involuntary guests, (like our celebrated predecessors) when we sang our national Anthem *Trelawny* in the Tower precincts after the Church service there on the following Sunday morning! That would not have been a fitting end to a distinguished Presidency or a suitable start for a new Chairman!

The LCA will miss Lord St Levan very much.

Francis Dunstan



Annual General Meeting 2013

Officers of the London Cornish Association

2013 - 14

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

Members of Council

Miss Carol Goodwin	Ms Ursula Jeffries
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

Trustee

Mr Charles Williams



Past President Sir David Brewer, President Sir John Trelawny and Chairman Dr Francis Dunstan

Report of Chairman and Hon Gen Sec

First of all a big Thank You to all Officers, members of Council, and of Committees for all they have achieved during this rather peculiar year. Council has met less than usual this year, sometimes in the quiet area of two London restaurants, mainly to discuss particular items, including the Annual Dinner and the Website. Elizabeth Broekmann has reported on the Brochure and the Newsletters, written for the most part by her personally, and who, as Past-Chairman, has given me much support. Ursula Jeffries, under considerable personal difficulties, has reported on the rather slow progress on updating the LCA Website, and has instigated the provision of some fine note cards with a Cornish Sea theme. Graham G Norton has chivvied us up in our relationship with Cornish newspapers. Carol Goodwin has agreed to take the emailing list in hand and encourage all members to let us have their up to date email addresses. The poor state of our current email listings was observed when a notice had to be sent out to all members advising of the urgent change of date of the Annual Service. Lorna Leadbetter, Graham Gendall Norton, Diana Dell Ward and Tony Wakeham have organised visits to interesting places. Under Lorna's skilful and dedicated guidance, the Family History Group continues to be one of the most active areas in the Association, with great assistance given on the day by Chris Burgess, Tom Sims, Dick Richards, Jackie Trembath and Kath Slatter. The Annual Dinner, organised most efficiently and effectively by Elizabeth Broughton, proved to be very successful and enjoyable. Numbers of diners was the highest since 2002. Jackie Trembath has continued to keep us in line with regard to our expenditure, assisting us particularly on our Family History days and Trelawny Lecture.

Much of the general administration of the Association has been done by 'Email committee', where the near-instant

exchange of ideas has meant that certain matters could proceed very quickly. Graham Pearce has kept our membership data-base up-to-date. Overall, however, our active membership continues to fall, although the total membership is only one less than last year. We have lost two members by death: Michael Ball, who helped us in many ways in the FHG meetings and in providing his data-projector, and our former President Lord St Levan. He served from to 1987 to 1997. At his death he was a Vice President and a Trustee.

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

As for the future of LCA, we hope to hear at the AGM from Dick and Chris, who have correlated the disappointingly few responses to our request to know how our members see the future of the Association.

Changes at the top: Sir David Brewer steps down from the Presidency and will be replaced by Sir John Trelawny, following in the succession of his late father. Sir David has been an excellent President. He has not been the easiest of men to contact, as he spends much business time in China, when he is not looking after the Queen and the members of the Royal Family in his role as Lord Lieutenant of Greater London. We are grateful for all the support he and Lady Tessa have given us over the past eight years.

We continue to look for a new Vice-Chairman and a Hon Gen Secretary, and I would have liked to report that a successor for the latter is in post, but certain difficulties have to be resolved before this can happen. I am hopeful, however, for the future. We also invite members to join our Council: there are 7 member vacancies (out of twelve) and a Vice Chairman. By the end of the AGM I hope that a number of members will have joined some committees: this will certainly be the case for the Family History Committee, and I will thank them in due course. At this point, however, I can thank most sincerely Lorna Leadbetter for

all she has done, on Council, as my Minute correction agent, and as leader and financial profit-maker of the Family History Group. When the late Chris Barrett died we were advised that as there was no 'professional' person able to take over his role, the Group should disband. Now we can see how wrong that would have been. Ten years on, Lorna has been assiduous in running the FHG, and making a financial profit by the fees she has donated from her Cornish Masters and Mates look-up service (another thing that was said not to be possible). We shall miss Lorna's organisational skills on the Group and in Council, and wish her well as an 'extra' ordinary LCA member.

I have represented the LCA at the Midlands and Thames Valley Cornish Associations Annual Events. We look forward to the New Year 2013-14!

Francis Dunstan

Report of Membership Secretary

Changes since the AGM 2012:

Deaths - 2

Resignations - 3

Defaulted subs - 1

New members - 7

Total Membership 243

Graham Pearce

Report of Family History Group

After the last AGM we continued our practice of holding day conferences in October and April and these proved to be successful, well-attended and enjoyable events. I am tempted to report in almost the same words as last year! Total attendance at each was well over 50. As well as a good number of LCA members, these events are also attended by members of affiliated CAs, CFHS, OPCs and some non-members. We heard some excellent talks, and the events provide a good opportunity to both socialise in Cornish company (with a Cornish lunch and tea), and to exchange news and views about recent happenings in Cornwall and the family history world. Mainly because of the 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 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, that small profit could change to a big loss and we might have to increase the charge, or even discontinue family history days.

This will be the last report I draft for the AGM. My term on Council will end in June and I have decided not to stand for re-election, and will step down from the Family History Committee at the same time (but will remain as an ordinary member of LCA). I'm delighted to say that other members have offered to take on the organisation of family history days. You will hear more about this in due course (or even dreckly) and I hope you will continue to give them the same help and support as you have given me and the present Committee.

Lorna Leadbetter

Report of the Editor

Newsletters

Newsletters are published quarterly and report on Association activities as well as other items of Cornish interest. They aim to promote the LCA as an Association and to encourage members and visitors to participate in the interesting and varied social programme. To do this, we include a short report on each event in the newsletter, written by one of those attending. We would encourage more members to help us in this way. If you would like to volunteer, please let the event organiser know. Please also send in photos if you have any which are suitable.

The newsletter is sent to members, local and overseas Cornish Associations, the Cornish media, Cornish MPs and organisations such as the Cornish Gorsedd and the legal deposit libraries. It is available as both a hard copy and an emailed version. With the cost of both printing and postage on the rise, providing a hard copy is now becoming very expensive. It costs approximately £1.60 to provide a single hard copy to a member. In view of this, we encourage members to consider taking the e-newsletter instead. The big advantage of this is that the pictures are in colour! If you would like to change to the e-newsletter, please contact me at the address below.

There are a couple of members and organisations which regularly provide items to include in the newsletter and I would like to thank them for their support. At the same time, I would urge others to follow their lead and send in items for inclusion. I am also looking for new feature articles. If you have a particular Cornish passion, please do send in an article. Anyone with articles or queries can contact me at editor@londoncornish.co.uk.

Yellow Brochure

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

To assist with the ever-increasing production costs, we encourage Cornish companies to advertise in the booklet. Unfortunately, in the current economic climate this is becoming increasingly difficult. If any of our members have contacts who might be able to help, please let me know. I can be contacted at editor@londoncornish.co.uk.
Elizabeth Broekmann

Report of the Publicity Secretary

Website

For some time the LCA Council have agreed that the Association's website is no longer providing a good service. It is difficult to update and does not reflect the look or adaptability that visitors might expect these days. A sub-group have been asking members what they would like to see and seeking quotations for the work needed to create an attractive and user-friendly site. A first quotation has been received; this is within the budget suggested but is currently being scrutinised by those with more technical expertise to see if the transfer would be easy to make and if it answers all the criteria we need. Thoughts from LCA members on style and content are still welcome as this modernisation should lead to more active use of the site for publicity, merchandise and announcements.

Ursula Jeffries

Report of the Treasurer

Income and Expenditure Statement for the year ended 31st March 2013

	£	£
Bank Account Balance March 31st 2012		6484.33
<u>Income</u>		
Subscriptions	3200.00	
Donations	338.50	
Surplus on Annual Dinner, Family History and Social Events	225.22	
Sale of Advertising in Brochure	130.00	
Interest Received	<u>6.67</u>	
		3900.39
<u>Expenditure</u>		
Printing Newsletter and Brochure	1470.00	
Postage, Paper and Envelopes	892.15	
Expenses, Publicity and Special Events	386.81	
Insurance	692.70	
Website	60.00	
Meeting room – Council Meetings	<u>0.00</u>	
		3501.66
Surplus of Income over Expenditure		398.73
Bank Account Balance March 31st 2013		6883.06

Notes

At the end of the year our bank balance had increased compared to the previous year end and we had a surplus of income over expenditure however, we do not expect this trend to continue into the coming financial year.

Family History days, the Annual Dinner and other social events held during the year once again covered their costs and contributed to our income hopefully this will continue. Also we were able to hold all Council and Committee meetings in a pub or café so saving the cost of a meeting room.

Our main source of income is the annual membership subscriptions which remained unchanged at the current rate of £15. Many members also feel able to make a donation when paying their subscription for which we are grateful.

In the last financial year we insured the Chairman's Chain of Office and the Vice Chairman's and President's badges of office at a cost of £ 528.04. Although this is a large expense for us we feel it to be a necessary one as the Chairman's chain alone is of considerable value. Additionally in order to book and hold meetings in any hall we are required to hold public liability insurance currently at a cost £ 164.66.

We plan to update our Website in the coming year and anticipate a cost for the work needed but trust you will like the improvements.

Jacqueline Trembath

New Members

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

Paul Humphreys from St. Austell who is now living in London SE19

Mrs. Helen Fradd from St. Germans who is now at Reigate in Surrey

Malcolm Dyer from Camborne who is living at Worcester Park in Surrey

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



Don't miss out on your newsletters or other LCA correspondence...

Many of our emails are bouncing back and we are having difficulty mailing some of our members because addresses have changed so...

If you move, or change your email address, please make sure you let us know. Contact the Membership Secretary at: *Pengwyth', 17 Trellyn Close, Barming, MAIDSTONE, Kent, ME16 9EF* Tel:(01622) 727167

The LCA - Is There A Future?

Recently, there has been some debate on the future of the LCA. With so many Cornish Associations around the world closing down, it is imperative that we consider our future and so at the 2012 AGM, Past Chairman Dick Richards invited members to send him their views on our future. He agreed to summarise the results so that we can create an appropriate action plan based on your views.

Disappointingly, despite pleas at the AGM and in newsletters, only 24 responses were received. The findings have been summarised below. This summary is offered as a starting point for making decisions. We are keen to hear the views of those members who have not yet had their say. If you have not already sent in your comments – or if you would like to add some more - please do send them to Dick. He can be contacted at dickrichards10@hotmail.com or 25 Picklers Hill, Abingdon, on OX14 2BB. All replies will be dealt with confidentially.

London Cornish Association: The Future

Background

At both the 2011 and 2012 AGMs discussions took place about the future of the LCA. At the latter AGM it was agreed that we would benefit from a wider input from members. Consequently, requests have been made in all recent Newsletters and at all events urging members to give their written thoughts on the future of the Association.

Outcome

Only 24 members have responded to the repeated requests. This represents 10% of the total membership.

Analysis

Based on this small sample an analysis shows that:-

- There is no consensus on a clear way forward for the Association
- Just over half want the status quo with the remainder seeking change

Specific activities/events identified by those wanting the status quo-

- Family History Days (11 comments)
- LCA Newsletter (8)
- Visits (6)
- Informal social gatherings (5)

Specific needs identified by those supporting changes:-

- Greater electronic communication with Council Officers and between members (8 comments)
- An updated website (7)
- Increased publicity both with members and the media (6)
- Unification with other Associations (4)
- Present day activities in Cornwall; political; food; arts and crafts (4)

Other observations:-

Recognition that attempting to recruit younger members is unrealistic.

There were no comments about the Annual Service and Trelawny Lecture and only a few comments about the Annual Dinner.

The Years Ahead

Some 'experienced' members have expressed the view that we should continue to serve our aging membership with similar events to our current programme; but recognizing that this is likely to be terminal for the Association in say 5 to 10 years. Equally, if we do not embrace electronic communication and have a vibrant website as a portal for our administration then closure will be more imminent.

Birthday Honours for Cornwall

Congratulations to the following Cornish men and women who were recognised in the 2013 Birthday Honours List:

CBE

Professor John Peter Scott, FBA - Pro vice-Chancellor for Research and Professor in Sociology, University of Plymouth. For services to social science. (Lostwithiel).

OBE

Jill Stein - Director, The Seafood Restaurant. For services to the restaurant industry. (Padstow)

MBE

Dennis Charles Arbon - Philanthropist. For services to the arts and the community in Cornwall. (Nr Falmouth)

John Allen Buckley - Mining historian. For services to Cornish heritage and history. (Redruth)

Alan George Conquest - For voluntary service to the Royal British Legion and SSAFA Forces Help in Cornwall. (Hayle)

Allan Cottle - Paramedic. For voluntary service to Royal Navy Search and Rescue Training. (Falmouth)

Dr Michael Eric Henry Hersant - For services to the community in Penzance.

Michael William Pitkeathly - Restorer, HMS Courageous. For voluntary service to naval heritage. (Saltash)

Keith Stringer - Station manager, Helston Fire Station, Cornwall Fire and Rescue Service. For services to the community and to young people in Cornwall. (Helston)

Arthur Warren-Nicholls - For services to the communities in Lostwithiel, Tywardreath and St. Blazey.

Clive Williams - Station manager, St. Just Fire Station, Cornwall Fire and Rescue Service. For services to the Fire and Rescue Service and to the local community. (Penzance)

BEM

Mrs Margaret Elaine Elliott - For services to The Mission to Seamen charity and to the community in Fowey.

Mrs Enid Margaret Gaved - Fundraiser, Arthritis Research UK. For services to people with arthritis. (Torpoint)

Mrs Carole Margaret Halliday - For services to young people and the community of Mevagissey.

Mrs Dorothy Kirk - For services to the communities in Gunnislake, Cornwall and West Devon.

Read more: www.westbriton.co.uk

St Neot Oak Apple Day

Each year, the villagers of St Neot remember the 29th May, for that is the day in 1660 when the future King Charles II entered London, thus starting the process whereby the monarchy in England was restored. By coincidence, it is also the day of King Charles' birthday.

The celebrations begin with a parade through the village, led by the Vicar who is followed by the Tower Captain holding an oak bough. This is a reminder of the fact that King Charles I hid in an oak when trying to avoid capture by Cromwell's troops. After it is blessed, the bough is taken up the church tower where it remains until the next year's parade. A peal of Six Bells is rung by the St Neot Ringers.

On the day, many of the villagers wear a sprig of oak leaves and dress up in period costume.

After the parade, everyone goes to the vicarage for food, a fete, and this year, a performance by May Poll dancers.

Duncan Paul Matthews
President, Federation of Old Cornwall Societies

A reason to visit...

The Theatre Royal Haymarket

In 1754 the flamboyant Mr Foote, a celebrated mimic, took over the administration of a theatre in London's Haymarket. Following the incident which caused him to lose a leg he told his friends at Court that all he wanted from life was a Royal Warrant and Patent for his 'Little Theatre in the Hay'. A mixture of good connections and some guilt about his accident ensured he was granted a Royal Patent and so he went on to develop the building we can still visit today, and wrote several pieces suitable for his own appearance including *The Devil on Two Sticks*. It seems appropriate, considering his life and the farces he wrote, that the current production is *One Man Two Guvvors* which apparently has a combination of satire, slapstick and one-liners which he would surely have enjoyed.

[See the review on the book about Mr Foote on page 16]



http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/8/89/Theatre_Royal_Haymarket%2C_London.JPG

A Sad Update on Cornish Choughs

(Early June 2013)

The last week has been one of both tremendous highs and lows for us in Cornwall.

I'm very sad to have to report the loss of our wonderful male chough from Southerly Point on the Lizard. Just over a week ago a volunteer witnessed two choughs locked in combat for the most part of the day, and it appears that the new younger bird has ousted and probably killed the older male. I always joke 'they will live forever' when people ask me how long the pair at Southerly Point will be around, but sadly choughs are not invincible and nature in all its rawness has won the day. The end of an era, and the loss of a very special bird.

What a legacy that chough and his mate have left Cornwall with though. Since they returned in 2001 they have brought so much joy to those lucky enough to spend time with them and a real sense of Cornish pride enveloped them. The pair together raised 44 chicks and many of those birds have gone on to breed themselves, securing a future for choughs in Cornwall. Proper job!

But, there is a happier twist to this tale. The new male, a bird often seen in the company of the Lizard pair, has adopted the old male's chicks – extraordinary as normally a bird would try to kill any chicks that were not his. This is new behaviour, possibly not previously recorded for choughs. The female, having invested so much time and energy in her new brood, has accepted this new male and together they are feeding her two chicks, which are around two weeks old. Here's hoping the female and her new mate will live for many a year.

Talking of chicks, there are already chough fledglings. Five youngsters took to the skies last week in Penwith. The crazy weather has really affected the breeding season with six weeks between first and last broods, the last chicks will not fledge until early July. The total number of young for this season is 16, two broods of five, and three broods of two. There are a further three pairs of choughs that have shown signs of breeding but they are too young this year.

Claire Mucklow
Cornwall Projects Manager
www.cornishchoughs.org.uk

Re-dedication of Cornish Celtic Cross

In early June, people gathered in Great Fersnewth in south-east Cornwall for the re-dedication of an old granite Celtic Cross. This cross had been removed to a garden in Liskeard during the 1930s and was being returned to its original location. The cross was recorded in the Domesday Book as being part of St Petroc's Monastery in Bodmin.

The event began with a pasty lunch, after which there was a service of dedication led by the Rev Keith Lanyon Jones of St Cleer. After the service, everyone adjourned to St Cleer Church for more refreshments and a slide presentation on Cornish Crosses by Andrew Langdon.

Duncan Paul Matthews
President, Federation of Old Cornwall Societies.

150 Years of the Falmouth-Truro Branch Line

This year, the Falmouth-Truro Branch Line (which runs between Truro, Penmere and Falmouth) will be 150 years old and many celebrations have been planned to mark this achievement. Among them is a commemorative train journey, a chance to see an original steam engine and an exhibition.

Most of the celebrations will take place over the August Bank Holiday. They include:

- 19 Aug - 7th Sept – photographic and railwayana exhibition
- 24th Aug – The Moor – ‘engine in steam’ day. Valerie Harris, LCA member and daughter of Leonard Grose, a former station porter at Penmere, will be present at this event.
- 25th Aug – Special Anniversary train leaving Truro at about 9am to go to Falmouth.
- 29th Aug – Talk on the GWR in general and the branch line in particular.

The Friends of Penmere who, for 20 years, have done so much to preserve Penmere Station, will hold their own open day as part of the festivities.

And, more ‘railway’ news...

The May 2013 issue of the Hornby Magazine carries an article on the Helford Valley Railway. The article, written by Steve Howe, provides history and information on the long-lost narrow gauge line. Accompanying the article are many photos from a model of the line which has been created by the Falmouth and District Model Railway Club.

Kresen Kernow: A New Home For The Stories Of Cornwall

On 9th May news was received of the successful outcome to the application to the Heritage Lottery Fund for Round 1 funding for the Kresen Kernow project. This project will bring together the collections of Cornwall Record Office, the Cornish Studies Library and Cornwall & Isles of Scilly Historic Environment Record, creating the world’s largest single body of material for the study of all aspects of Cornish history, archaeology, culture and identity. It will provide bigger and better storage areas, increase the standards of collections care and allow improved access.

The new archive centre will be on the site of the old Redruth Brewery and will also conserve the historic brewery buildings. It is envisaged that the now derelict eyesore will be converted into a vibrant cultural hub, attracting more people to Redruth from across the world. It will include new exhibition spaces, a learning studio for schools and community groups, and bespoke preservation and digitisation facilities.

Meetings will begin shortly to agree on how the project will be managed and on aspects of the development stage. Subject to changes made in the coming months, the timetable for the project is:

June 2013-December 2014: HLF Stage 1 project development

Early 2015: Stage II funding decision

2015-2016: Kresen Kernow construction
Autumn 2015: Phased closure of CRO and CSL for moving
Spring 2016: Opening of new centre

To keep up to date with developments, visit www.cornwall.gov.uk/kresenkernow

Two Cornish gatherings

‘Mousehole Meets Milwaukee: A Cornish Gathering On The Waters’

*7th Gathering of the Cornish Cousins
Milwaukee, Wisconsin
August 13-17, 2014*

When the great traditions of Cornwall which is surrounded by the waters of the Channel and the Atlantic meet those of Milwaukee on the beautiful waters of Lake Michigan, exciting things are going to happen. To be held at the lovely Zelazo Center on the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee campus, our Gathering promises the opportunity for Cousin Jacks and Jennies to come together from around the world.

Time for appreciation, study, and stories of Cornish culture, poetry, music, genealogy, language, folklore and more will be featured at the 4 day event. Speakers will come from many places to share their expertise with us.

Save the dates of August 13-17, 2014 for a trip to the exciting city of Milwaukee, a city with a rich history and culture of its own.

Watch for registration details which will be available in late summer.

The Gathering will be co-hosted by the Cornish Society of Greater Milwaukee and the Cornish American Heritage Society, with support from the Celtic Studies Center of the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.

Tommi O’Hagan

Cornish Miners Remembered at Irish Event



Readers of this newsletter will remember that the Winter issue, carried a report on my visit to Allihies Village on the beautiful Beara Peninsula in Ireland.

Allihies has strong connections with Cornwall as skilled Cornish miners moved there in the 1800’s to work in the Copper Mines. When the mines closed most of the miners went on to the mining fields of Butte in Montana, as well as Australia, Wales and Cornwall.

The Irish Government has now initiated a project called ‘The Gathering 2013’ which aims to bring people who have an Irish connection back to Ireland in 2013. In Allihies, a special ‘Gathering’ event will take place from the 12th to 15th of September 2013. It will include performances by *The Cape Cornwall Singers* and *The 7-Kevins* and, in addition, there will be fire theatrics, copper smelting demonstrations, genealogy research, storytelling, guided tours and a harvest market.

An invitation has been extended to anyone from the diaspora to attend this event. If you would like to go, it is

suggested that you contact the organisers so that you can be kept up to date on the programme and given accommodation suggestions.

More information can be found at www.allihiesconnects.com and www.allihiescopperminemuseum.com or on their Facebook page. You can also email Pema Beshoff at Pema.beshoff@acmm.ie

Subscription Reminder

Has your subscription for 2013-4 been paid? If it has slipped your mind, please do send a cheque, made out to the London Cornish Association, to the Membership Secretary at:

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



Twins!



Calumet



Camborne

Call it a birth announcement if you will.

Calumet, Michigan and **Camborne, Cornwall** are now twin towns. Calumet will celebrate with a new sign, donated by Keweenaw Kernewek, the Cornish Connection of the Copper Country on Saturday, May 25, 2013.

The gestational period for this birth has been spectacularly long! Even an elephant would be dismayed at the length. Conception occurred in 2001 when the Holman-Climax Male Voice Choir visited the Keweenaw and performed at the Calumet Theatre. David Oates, one of the Choir members, is also a member of the Camborne Twinning Committee. Inspired by the similarities between the two towns, he suggested that they become linked.

In 2006, the Twinning Committee hosted the Ellis family at a dinner in Camborne. Later that week, Mayor Charles Bickford gave Jean Ellis a plaque to present to President Tony Bausano and the Calumet Village Council on her return.

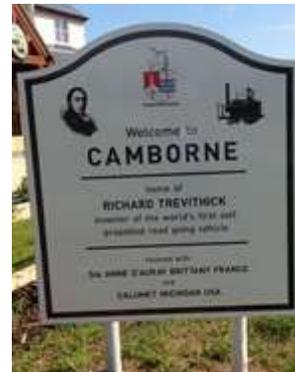


When the Choir returned to Calumet for the 14th Gathering of Cornish Cousins in 2007, progress continued. The Village of Calumet hosted a reception for the members of the Twinning Committee, including Jean Charman, deputy mayor of Camborne at the time. Jean's enthusiasm about the friendliness of Calumet people carried over into her term as Camborne's next mayor.

In 2008, Joyce Oates showed Camborne's commitment to furthering the relationship. Calumet folk showed their sup-

port for Camborne's concerns in the spring of 2012 with petitions asking for a repeal of the 20% tax on pasties. They were pleased to think they had helped when the repeal was announced.

In 2012, Camborne's Twinning Committee revealed their sign. Calumet's sign is similar, highlighting its copper mining history. Many of its early settlers had been born in Camborne. Of course, they brought pasties and saffron, still familiar items in Calumet.



Jean Ellis

(Extract from Tam Kernewek, Summer 2013, newsletter of the Cornish American Heritage Society)

Is Cornwall the Centre of the Universe?

A beach near Bude in North Cornwall, is a very special place. Locals and tourists know it as a surfing beach but it has another role - as a key to ensuring that London retains its position as a leading European financial centre. This is because it is one of the main landing points for undersea cables which link Britain with New York. And, because Britain lies further west than its European neighbours, data from New York reaches London milliseconds before it arrives in Frankfurt or Paris, giving London financiers a brief advantage.

Cornwall first became an important international communications centre in the nineteenth century when Porthcurno became the landing point for undersea cables linking Britain with other countries of the Empire. Today, there are several landing points in Cornwall making the county an important player in international communications.

Have you moved recently? Or changed your ISP?
Have your details been updated at the LCA?

Granite Mountain – Speculator Fire Memorial

The world was at war and the Butte mines were in War Production Mode. It was said that 20% of the nation's copper and 50 % of the high quality zinc needed for the military was being produced in the Butte Underground Mines. From August 1914 to November 1918 four hundred thirty-seven men lost their lives in the Butte mines due to pressure to produce more and more ore per shift.

Safety was often put on the back burner; it is, however, ironic that while trying to install a fire suppression system, a fire was started in the Granite Mountain-Speculator Mine. Half-an-hour before mid-night on the 8th of June in 1917 a small group of men were lowering electrical cable down the shaft of the North Butte Mining Company's Granite Mountain Mine. This line was to power the fire sprinkler system. It slipped and in the process ripped the lead coating which exposed the fiber insulation. The assistant foreman tried to get to the line and his carbide lamp ignited the fibrous insulation which started the chemically treated timbers burning and the "Worst Hardrock Mining Disaster" began. When the numbers came in 167 men were reported dead, but at the time many thought the numbers were not honestly reported.

As with the Kenyon Connell Fire, the community wanted to have a memorial erected for those who lost their lives

so tragically, but it did not immediately materialise. A VISTA Volunteer with a love of history and a soft heart vowed in 1991 that these men should not have died in vain. After much study Gerry Walter began an organisational campaign to erect a suitable memorial for those who valiantly lost their lives.

Seventy-nine years after the infamous night, on June 6, 1996 Gerry saw her dedication and her committee's hard work come to fruition. A dedication was held for the Granite Mountain-Speculator Memorial which was to honour those who lost their lives. A rededication ceremony on June 6, 2010 was to focus on the improvements and new features at the Memorial.

The Memorial is maintained and enhanced with the sale of engraved bricks that are placed in the floor of the Memorial. The cost is minimal. The bricks are placed in the Spring and an honour ceremony is held near June 8th.

From newsletter of the Butte Chapter, Montana Cornish Cousins - courtesy of Tomi O'Hagan



News from other Cornish Associations

A message for Association Secretaries...

We are currently preparing the LCA's Annual Brochure. Those of you familiar with this publication know that it includes contact details for Cornish associations around the world. If this list is to be of any value, it needs to be up to date! Could I please ask you, therefore, to confirm your association's details by emailing them to me at editor@londoncornish.co.uk?

UNITED STATES

Big news from the US is the Gathering in Grass Valley which was organised by the **California Cornish Cousins** and took place from 31st May to 2nd June at the historic Holbrooke Hotel. This hotel is near to the intersection of Main and Auburn which is reputed to be the 'most Cornish spot in America'. The weekend included a pub sing-long with the Grass Valley Male Voice Choir and a pasty lunch at the Malakoff Diggins State Historic Park. We look forward to hearing news and impressions in the coming weeks.

The committee of the **Cornish Society of Greater Milwaukee** is busy with the planning of the 2014 Gathering. They want that Gathering to be a familiar yet unique experience: a great opportunity to share family history and Cornish culture, a bit from the Celtic Studies Center of the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee to see how our Cornishness relates to the other Celtic nations, and Milwaukee with its European roots and nearby Cornish roots. The event will take place from 13-17 August.

About 40 cousin jacks and jenny's from the **Southwest Wisconsin Cornish Society** joined together to celebrate

St Piran's Day with a pasty and figgy hobbin lunch. After lunch, the winners of the 2012-2013 Mary E Benson Writing Contest read their entries.

The Society is very busy putting the final touches to plans for *Cornish Fest 2013* which takes place in September. There will be a pub night, a music show and a variety of other events and activities

CANADA

A number of members and friends of the **Toronto Cornish Association** gathered for the Association's annual St Piran's Day flag-raising ceremony at the Toronto City Hall. The ceremony began next to the rooftop flag pole with Ann Crichton-Harris reading a poem written by Bert Biscoe. David Hutcheon brought the flag and Heather Dale led the singing of Trelawny.



The Cornish flag flying in front of the Old City Hall in Toronto.

Photo: Bournemouth Cornish Association

The Chairman's report for the TCA which was presented at the AGM in May reveals what an interesting and varied social programme the Association had last year. The events included talks covering many Cornish subjects, a picnic, a Christmas party and the annual St Piran's flag-raising ceremony. In November, they will celebrate their 20th anniversary with a banquet.

AUSTRALIA

The news highlight from Australia is the recent, very successful Kernow Lowender. The 2013 KL marks the 40th anniversary of the first event and the contribution of the first organising committee was acknowledged during the Festival. Ros Paterson, who is still actively involved is the only member of the original committee who is still serving.



Photo CAV Blessing of the Graves Moonta during Kernewek Lowender
Photo: Liz Egan

The five Australian recipients of the Paul Smales Medallian were at this year's Kernewek Lowender. All are Bards of Gorsedh Kernow. This photo shows them in their Bardic robes together with the Grand Bard, Maureen Fuller.



The Grand Bard, Maureen Fuller, with the five Australian recipients of the Paul Smales Medallian. From L to R: Tom Luke, Ros Paterson, Grand Bard Maureen Fuller, Lillian James, Julie Wheeler and Chris Dunkerley
Photo: Tom and Libby Luke

The newsletter of the **Cornish Association of South Australia** begins with the sad news that their Patron, Hon. Ian Wilson AM, died in April. He became patron of the Association on the death of his mother, Lady Wilson. Although he was only Patron for a short time, his interest

in the Association's activities and suggestions for the future were valued by its members.

CASA members celebrated St Piran's Day at the home of Ros and Neil Paterson where they enjoyed a meal of freshly caught crabs and some King George whiting before listening to a talk on St Piran which was both informative and entertaining.

At the end of May, there was a morning tea to enable members to meet Jim Wearne who had come to Kernewek Lowender from Chicago. Their next meeting, in June, will be a 'Kernewek Lowender retrospective'.

Greg Drew has proposed a Cornish Miner Seminar in November. The proposal is for a full day seminar made of short talks by members who have a Cornish ancestor with a mining connection. Talks should include details of where they came from in Cornwall, what led them to get involved in mining in Cornwall, when and why they emigrated to South Australia and their early experiences there. The aim of the talks would be to see how our Cornish mining ancestors fit the general transnational migration patterns and experiences outlined by scholars such as Philip Payton.

The Association has a choir of 30 who have been ably led, for the last 17 years, by Daphne Magrin but she is now retiring and they are now looking for a new conductor.

The **Cornish Association of Victoria** has a good library and is in the fortunate position of having on site access. The library is open regularly for members to use.

The talk at their May meeting was *An armchair visit to the Kernewek Lowender* which was given by Robyn Coates. At their AGM in June, they will hear a report back on the festival. In July, the title of a talk by Neil Thomas will be *You meet fellow bards in the strangest of places. - An odyssey in Papua New Guinea*

At each meeting of the **Ballarat Branch of the Cornish Association of Victoria**, there is a 'Cornish segment'. In February, this was a talk by Helen Helston on her Rickard and Kent families. Also at that meeting, Cornish born John Hosking, who went to Ballarat to work in the English China Clay Plant at Pittong, shared photos and stories of Cornwall.

Several members braved the blustery weather conditions on Saturday March 2, for a flag raising ceremony at Victoria Square followed by a wreath laying ceremony at the Gold Monument. They were joined at the ceremony by Councillor Joshua Morris, and also the President of the Geelong CAV, Neil Thomas and Secretary of the CAV, June Whiffin.

The **Cornish Association of New South Wales** celebrated St Piran's Day with a lunch, which was attended by 42 members, friends and Celtic guests. Nick Lock entertained the group with his singing.

At the end of March, six members visited Cockatoo Island. One of the highlights included Fitzroy Dock which was built for the Royal Navy from 1847-1857 mostly by convicts in leg irons who used their bare hands and were often standing waist deep in water. They also visited Biloela House, which was built in 1841 for the island's superintendent, and a tunnel built in 1915.

On one afternoon in June, members met to share news, interest items, videos etc. Some also made use of the Association's library.

In August they will visit Dangar Island and find out about its Cornish connections.

Members of the **Cornish Association of Queensland** held their Annual Pasty Picnic in April. Although the weather was good, numbers attending were below what had been expected. Those who did attend had a good time.

The meeting in July will be a musical function and in October, the Association will hold its Foundation Day Luncheon.

Recently, the Brisbane Town Hall underwent a \$215 restoration. 62,000 ratepayers contributed to the City Hall Building Fund, and on 2nd April 2013, twenty ratepayers including David and Diane Rex of the CAQ were chosen to represent Brisbane ratepayers at the unveiling of a special plaque. They both wore Cornish tartan at the event.

In April, a Time Capsule containing messages was placed inside the City Hall's Main Auditorium. Among the messages was one from the Cornish Association of Queensland. The Capsule will be re-opened in 2059.

The CAQ message can be seen at <http://www.brisbane.qld.gov.au/facilities-recreation/parks-and-venues/city-hall/brisbane-2012-time-capsule/index.htm>

After three years, Fae and Paul Folkes have stepped down as editors of the newsletter of the **Southern Sons of Cornwall** and John Smith has bravely taken up the reins. We wish him well in his new job.

The SSOC's April newsletter expresses concern for the future of the association. Like so many associations around the world, the SSOC is faced with an aging and declining membership and a lack of offers to join the committee. A major concern is the fact that they currently do not have a President.

In April, an outing to Bundanon was arranged. This was the home of artist Arthur Boyd. Unfortunately the weather on the day was unkind, making driving to and from the house a challenge, as was the slipping and sliding involved in going along the track to the site.

Rain also threatened the Berry Celtic Festival at which the SSOC had a stall. The wind and rain on the preceding days led to a degree of foreboding but the day dawned bright and sunny. This year there were no pasties for sale but there was still a steady stream of visitors to the stand where there was other Cornish related merchandise for sale leading one member to comment ...*it was a good day - one of the best, I think.*

In early May, Past President Julie Wheeler and her family represented the Association at the Australian Celtic Festival.

UK

The **Bournemouth Cornish Association** has a very active social programme, with many events being food-based! They will enjoy the President's barbecue in July and in early August, a cream tea. Will the scones at that event, we wonder, meet the criteria listed on page 16 for the perfect cream tea?

The Association now has an attractive new website which outlines the social programme and contains a collection of photographs. You will find it at <http://www.bournemouthcornish.me.uk/>.

In March, the **Torbay Cornish Association** heard Claire Mucklow, Cornwall Projects Manager for the RSPB, talking about the Choughs and in May, they heard about the Cinnamon Trust. This is a charity which helps with the care of pets belonging to people who are elderly or terminally ill. In June, Alan Salisbury will talk about *Fields of Red*.

In April, the **West Somerset Cornish Association** celebrated St Piran's Day with a dinner. In recent months, members have had the opportunity to hear a variety of talks, ranging from *The Wonderful World Of Glass* to *Sounds of the 20th Century*.

Are you planning to visit London?

Don't forget to contact the London Cornish Association and let us know your dates. We would love to meet you if at all possible.

In May, several members of the LCA spent a most enjoyable meal with the Hermans, Cornish cousins from the US and we would love to do the same with you.

If you are coming over, please contact Liz Broekmann - editor@londoncornish.co.uk.

A warm welcome awaits you at the London Cornish Association



Cornish cousins, the Hermans in the foreground with LCA member, Val Harris

Mem Sec's Meanderings...

Time flies, summer is coming, I hope you didn't suffer too much from the snow earlier in the year. A sudden snow flurry and transport is disrupted!

As you know Annual Subscriptions payment time was 1st April. Thank you to everybody who paid by Standing Order. This makes things so much easier for both you and me. Also, a very big thank you to those members who paid up promptly, particularly to those who paid before the end of March. A very special thank you to those who also sent donations to the Association. These are really very much appreciated. To those who pay annually by cheque, postal order or cash, please ensure you have a note in your diary, or on your calendar, that reminds you that London Cornish Association Annual Subscriptions are due each year at the beginning of April. To those who have not yet paid please, please, please send your subscription to the address at the end of these *Meanderings*, I do hate having to chase members with further reminders and then, if I get no response, having to cancel their membership.

Regarding our membership, although we have had one resignation we are able to welcome three new members - Paul Humphreys from St. Austell who is now living in London SE19, Mrs. Helen Fradd from St. Germans who is now at Reigate in Surrey and Malcolm Dyer from Camborne who is living at Worcester Park also in Surrey. Sadly, Lord St. Levan, a Past President and an Honorary Vice-President of the Association, died at the beginning of April. This means that our membership has now returned to 242.

Membership has declined over the years, but we still hope to recruit new members. Repeating what I always ask, 'please do what you can to encourage other people to join the Association'. Cornish people are very proud of being Cornish or having Cornish connections, be it by birth, marriage or descent. So please do not hesitate to encourage them to come along to functions where they will be able to meet and hopefully, enjoy personal face to face friendships with other Cornish people. Age does not matter; it is about our pride in either being born in Cornwall or having Cornish connections. Try to encourage them to join the London Cornish Association where they can come along to a meeting and perhaps meet someone from their schooldays or maybe from the town or village where they lived. It has been known to happen! Life can be interesting.

You may remember that in the last Newsletter I said 'we have another winter approaching: Will it be wet? Will it be dry? Will it be very cold? Will we have any snow?' When you receive this Newsletter you will have decided on the answer. I wonder how many got it right. Were your speculations correct?

A quick hint: watch the world's weather in the newspaper. Often, if snow is reported on the previous day in the three cities of New York, Toronto and Montreal, we get snow three to four days later. Keep your eyes on it next winter.

Browsing an 1854 book on Cornwall, I noticed that it said:

The air of Cornwall is moist, especially on the coast. Flushing, near Falmouth, and Marazion, near Penzance, have the fame of being the most sheltered and healthy spots in the county.

The wet months of Cornwall are October, November, December, January, and rain falls in great abundance. The average number of fine days in the year is 114, of rainy 164, of cloudy and changeable 87. Cornwall possesses one of the most equable climates in Europe.

That was written in 1854. It did not say the number of years over which this average was taken, but how does it compare to the recent years?

Now another question: do you fancy eating seaweed!? Perhaps you already do! This question was generated by an article in a newspaper a few months ago where it stated that a seaweed called dulse was an edible species of seaweed, with bright red deep fronds. It also reported that there is a person who harvests and sells seaweed, which has been dried and smoked over oak chips, at food markets around the country. I haven't seen any yet but it does sound interesting. It implies that he wants to encourage people in Cornwall to harvest seaweed and turn Cornwall into the 'seaweed capital of the world'. Of course in Japan, seaweed has been used in sushi for many years and Welsh laver bread also contains seaweed. The question in the paper was 'Do you fancy a cheese and seaweed sandwich?' Personally I would not mind giving it a try.

Previously, I have referred to 'looking back in time' where it is accepted that we should learn from history and we should continue looking forward to generate the future which will in the future, become history. We are trying to do this with for the London Cornish Association which we want to continue into the future. Sadly some Cornish Associations have closed due to lack of membership. We don't want this to happen to the LCA. As I said earlier, our membership is 242, but look in the Brochure (the Yellow Book) and you will see that the membership is spread across the country and some also live abroad.

Regarding numbers, I was glancing through an 1895 book on Cornwall and found under a section for the Scilly Islands that the population of St. Mary's was 1200 and Tresco, 315. I wonder what the population is today. This was 3 years before the foundation of the London Cornish Association. As the Association grew and brought in new members the membership rose to over twice the population of Tresco and the majority of members were in the London area. Let's see if we can recruit some more members and offer them what they want from a Cornish Association.

I hope you have enjoyed these *Meanderings* and they help to encourage you to continue your membership.

Kernow bys vyken

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

Publications

A Cornishman of talent who left home and made both good and bad

Mr Foote's Other Leg: comedy, tragedy and murder in Georgian London

By Ian Kelly

Picador, 2012 - ISBN 978-0-330-51783-6 £18.99

This book was recommended to me by several people: some because of its theatrical theme, some for its place in London history and some because the eponymous hero was born in Truro. It has to be said that the relevance to Cornish history and culture is scanty and I am not certain how proud we should be of Mr Foote's origins. That being said, this is an extraordinary story of a young lawyer who made his name by writing a book about a murder in the family and went on to become a stand-up comedian, playwright, actor and scandalous man about town in Georgian London. The book races along packed with incidents and famous names and it would be hard to believe that this is a true story if it were not for the illustrations, portraits and the considerable bibliography. Dr Johnson and David Garrick are just two of the names frequently putting in an appearance. Apparently, although he has been a figure well-remembered in theatrical circles, Samuel Foote was written out of popular history owing to the scandal in his latter years which would still cause a sensation. Readers should be warned that the author has had access to contemporary reports and details of both the amputation of a leg and a court case which shook London; he is happy to quote them in full. What it meant for his family left behind in the West Country is hard to imagine but his place in the development of popular drama and entertainment cannot be doubted. Stranger and more outrageous than fiction, I have to admit I read it cover to cover.

Ursula Jeffries

We have had news of the following publication:

Little Book of Cornwall

By John van Der Kiste

Published by The History Press

The book provides a compendium of fascinating information about Cornwall past and present and contains a plethora of entertaining facts about the county's famous and occasionally infamous men and women, its towns and countryside, history, natural history, literary, artistic and sporting achievements, agriculture, transport, industry and royal visits.

If you would like to know more, contact Jamie Wolfendale at:

The History Press,

The Mill, Brimscombe Port, Stroud, Glos, GL5 2QG

Tel: +44 (0)1453 732513 www.thehistorypress.co.uk

Announcement from Susan Soyinka about *A Silence That Speaks*

As many of you know, my book *A Silence That Speaks, A Family Story Through and Beyond the Holocaust*, was published by DB Publishing in November 2012. Sadly,

only two months later, this company went into liquidation, rendering my book out of print, other than a few remaining copies still in circulation. I also discovered, to my horror that the binding on the DB Books edition was very poor, causing the pages to fall out. To those of you who have already obtained a copy, I can only apologise profusely.

Given the 18 years I had devoted to bringing my family's story to light, all of this was a devastating blow. I could not allow the voice of my ancestors to be silenced yet again, and so took the decision to republish the book myself.

My mother (on whom the story is centred) died in 2003, and was given the Hebrew name *Ora*, meaning *light*, at her funeral. Later that year, my grand-daughter Faith was born, and in honour of my mother was also given the name Eliora. It seemed natural, therefore, to adopt the publishing name Eliora Books, and to use as the logo a delightful piece of artwork designed by Faith Eliora when she was just eight years old.

I am happy to say that the Eliora Books edition of *A Silence That Speaks* has now been launched, and is available at online bookstores in print and kindle, as well as some book shops. If you wish to purchase a copy, make sure it is the Eliora Books edition (ISBN: 978-0957561403).

Susan Soyinka

Crowdy Crawn

Cornwall vs Devon: who makes the best cream tea?

Rodda's, a name synonymous with delicious Cornish clotted cream, recently commissioned a mathematician to help solve the riddle of the perfect cream scone. The investigation focused on the ratio of cream to jam and also helped determine whether the jam or cream should be put on first. The conclusions?

- Clotted cream is better than whipped cream, mainly because of the excessive volume of whipped cream which would be required
- The thickness of the cream should not be greater than the thickness of the scone otherwise the scone might go off balance when it is being eaten.
- Jam, because of its consistency, needs to be spread on the scone first. If the cream is put on first, the jam may slide off – leading to sticky fingers
- The total thickness of the scone, cream and jam should be about 2.8cm

The deadline for the next issue of the LCA Newsletter is

5th August

Please send all contributions to:

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