



Cowethas Kernewek Loundres

London Cornish Association Newsletter



www.londoncornish.co.uk

Winter 2011

Nadelik Lowen Ha Blydhen Nowydh Da

We are constantly being reminded that Christmas is just around the corner – and that means that another year has almost passed. And quite a year it has been. The Association has held some very exciting events, and what has been particularly pleasing is that attendance at some of them increased. This was particularly true of the Family History Days and the Trelawny Lecture. This is encouraging for those involved in the planning and running of events and we hope that it continues into 2012.

We have some exciting events planned for the New Year. You will find details of them in your yellow brochure and in the newsletter. One of them is our Annual Dinner on 10th March 2012. This year, we have made some changes in response to your comments. You had two requests – to find a more central location, and to provide more time for chat. Your Dinner Committee has worked hard to try and give you what you want. They have managed to find a central venue – the Thistle Hotel, Marble Arch – which is near the tube and has a parking garage next door, and they have arranged with the hotel to provide somewhere for guests to meet beforehand and have a ‘catch-up’. It should be a good night and we hope many of our members and friends from other associations will be able to join for the evening.

There is a proverb which says: ‘*From small beginnings come great things*’. This is so true of Cuntelles Kernewek, those gatherings of members from Cornish Associations around the UK which have taken place every two years since 1966. What started as a simple idea, conceived by Dr Rupert Coles (a past chairman of the LCA) grew into an

important event on the Cornish social calendar. Sadly though, it is no longer sustainable and so is coming to an end. All those who have attended CK in the past have been invited to a celebratory lunch in Torquay. This will mark the final gathering and will be wonderful time for sharing memories. It will also be a time to say a very big thank you to those whose hard work made it possible for these weekends to continue for an amazing 45 years. Torbay Cornish Association bore the brunt of this, having organised and run the event in Torquay for many years. Without them, and in particular, Ena Hocking, this dream of Rupert Coles would never have lasted so long.

2012 is going to be a very special year for those of us in the UK. Not only will we be celebrating the Queen’s Diamond Jubilee, but we have the Olympic and Paralympic games to look forward to. Cornwall will be involved from the very early stages, with the Olympic torch starting its long journey at Land’s End. That is something for us to celebrate!

Before I end, I would like to thank everyone who has sent items into the newsletter during the year. You will notice though, that it often tends to be the same people who do this. I would urge others to submit items they think would interest our members. If you have a Cornish story to tell, please send it in.

Space has determined that the time has come for me to end. However, before doing so, I would like to wish *One and All*, wherever they are, a peaceful Christmas and a very happy new year.

Nadelek Lowen Ha Blethen Noweth Da!

Dates for your diary ...

17th December
Christmas Past at the Geffrye Museum

14th January
New Year’s Lunch

28th January
Rugby Match – LCRFC vs Gosport & Fareham

20th February
Visit to the Royal Institution

10th March
126th Annual Dinner

Informal Lunches
20th February
18th March

Further details of these events can be found on page 2

Deadline for the Spring Newsletter is

5th February 2012

*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.

'Christmas Past' at the Geffrye Museum

Saturday 17th December – 11am

Kingsland Road, Shoreditch EC2 8EA

Meet: 11am- just inside the entrance

There is a café on site which serves lunches and teas. We will book tables for about 12.30 so we can sit together. If you would like to join us for lunch, please let Liz know so enough tables can be booked.

Contact: Liz Broekmann
Email: editor@londoncornish.co.uk
Tel: 01753 856441

Transport:

Overground: Hoxton Station (right behind the museum)

Tube: Old Street (exit 2), then bus 243 or a 15 minute walk OR Liverpool Street, then bus 149 or 242

Buses: 67, 149, 242, 243, 394

New Year's Lunch

Saturday 14th January – 12 noon

The Knight's Templar

95 Chancery Lane (off Carey Street), Holborn, WC2A 1DT

Contact: Tony Wakeham
Tel: 020 77037378

London Cornish RFC vs Gosport & Fareham

Saturday 28th January – 2.00pm

This is a 'home' game which will be played at:

Richardson Evans Memorial Playing Fields
Roehampton Vale
London
SW15 3PQ

Dress warmly, wear your black and Yellow and come and support 'our' team.

Meet at the field or join us at the Telegraph Inn at about 12pm for a pre-match lunch. The Telegraph can be found at:

Telegraph Road, Putney Heath, London SW15 3TU
Tel: 020 8788 2011

You can find out more about the LCRFC on their website – www.pitchero.com/clubs/londoncornishrhc/

Visit to the Royal Institution

Monday 20th February – 2.15pm

The Royal Institution was founded in 1799 as an organisation devoted to scientific education and research. We will enjoy a tour of the RI and a talk on Humphry Davy.

Meet: 2.15pm at the front of the building - 21 Albemarle St Westminster, London W1S 4BS (5 minutes from Green Park tube station)

Cost: £10 (Includes tea and cake/scone)

Booking is essential. Tickets may be obtained from the Treasurer

Email: treasurer@londoncornish.co.uk

Tel: 020 77386795

126th Annual Dinner

Saturday 10th March – 7pm (meet from 5.30pm)

Venue: Thistle Hotel, Marble Arch, Bryanston Street, London W1H 7EH

Meet from 5.30pm in the Albert Room for drinks and a 'bit o' chat' before dinner.

Booking forms are included in this newsletter.

Marble Arch tube station is 200yards away while for those coming by car, an NCP garage is next door.

Informal Lunches – 12 noon

Methodist Central Hall, Westminster
(Nearest tube: St James Park, Circle and District Line)

Contact: Francis Dunstan Tel: 01494 531703

20th February

18th March

DON'T FORGET TO DIARISE:

Family History Day

Saturday 21st April 2012

Speakers:

Colin Chapman – *Pre-1841 censuses and Population Listings*

Sue Gibbons – *Shopkeeper Ancestors*

London Mystery Walk and Meat Pie with 'Sweeny Todd'

Tuesday 15th May 2012

Explore some of the sights of London and end with lunch at the Old Bank of England Pub in Fleet Street.

Do we have your correct email and mailing addresses? Please let us know if you change your address.

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

News of Past Events

ZSL London Zoo and Library Visit

There are many major London institutions that have Sir Humphry Davy FZS, FRS finger-prints all over them, and the Zoological Society of London is one of them!

It was founded in April 1826 by Davy, Raffles and a number of other members of the nobility to study zoology, which at the time was felt by some scientists to be a neglected area. In April 1828, the Zoological Gardens, now known to the world as London Zoo was opened for the first time exclusively for Fellows of the Society and their guests and it was at the main gate of 'the world's oldest scientific zoo' that members of the London Cornish Association met for a tour of the Zoo and library on the 21st September 2011.

Joined by John Edwards, Fellow and Council Member of the ZSL, we were led through to the Barclay Court, where the statue of Guy the Gorilla stands, while he pointed out some of the landmarks at the Zoo. These included the former Camel House, designed by Decimus Burton in 1828, the Reptile House that features in the first Harry Potter film and the former elephant house known as the Casson Pavilion.



It is lots of fun in England's largest penguin pool!

LCA members were then free to explore the Zoo including its newest attraction, England's largest Penguin pool which has another rare object as part of the exhibit; London's only K3 Telephone Box, a grade II listed building. The former Penguin Pool by Lubetkin, Grade I listed and now empty and displayed as a stunning example of 1930's architecture is also a 'must see' building. Hunting dogs, gorillas, a new children's zoo, an indoor rainforest and the insect house known as 'BUGS' are all notable attractions within the grounds.

However, the highlight for many was reserved for the afternoon. We regrouped in the Council Room of the ZSL Offices and Library which has just celebrated it's 100th Anniversary. The picture lined room features a reproduction of the Davy portrait from the National Portrait Gallery. John Edwards regaled us with tales of the Zoo's history, along with the Cornish connections.

We then moved into the main library, where staff went to special efforts to show us gems from the collection that had yet more connections with the South West. These

included the Royal Charter, presented to the ZSL in 1829 by King George IV, the former Duke of Cornwall, an illustration by Thomas Pennant of a Cornish Chough from *British Zoology* published in 1766 and numerous journals and publications from many Cornish scientific societies including The Royal Institution of Cornwall.



Cornish Chough from British Zoology, Class I Quadrupeds II Birds by Thomas Pennant 1766. Courtesy © ZSL Library 2011

If that weren't enough, we were also shown correspondence from Charles Darwin FZS, given an insight into the work that ZSL now does around the world, and shown some of the earliest known photographs taken in 1864 of the Zoo's animals, a time when Abraham Lincoln was President of the USA!

All in all, a thoroughly insightful, colourful and interesting day out for anyone interested in all things zoological and thanks must go to Ann Sylph, the ZSL's head librarian and her team and to John Edwards for his incredible knowledge and insight into the history of ZSL.

For more information, visit www.zsl.org

Darren Tossell

Family History Day

On the Right Track by Ian Waller

As far as I am aware I have no ancestors who worked on the railways, whether in Cornwall or elsewhere, but after Ian Waller lifted the lid on just what records could be available for the family historian, I almost wish I did.

Railway companies were inveterate record keepers. With their roots in Victorian Britain that is probably not surprising. And whilst not all these records have survived, many have. Railway workers usually regarded their job as a job for life, often working, training and being promoted within the company so any records you can locate are likely to provide you with a lot of employment information helping you to understand your ancestor and their times better.

Cornwall of course had a significant railway history dating from 1801 when Richard Trevithick demonstrated a steam locomotive in Camborne. During the first half of the nineteenth century, railway building boomed and an extensive network of freight, mineral and passenger railways evolved which was finally connected up to England via the single track Royal Albert Bridge over the Tamar in 1859.

By 1923 there were about 988 different railway companies in the UK, many running small branch lines, and most were eventually swallowed up by larger companies. After 1923, the Big Four railway companies emerged: Southern, LMS, Great Western (incorporating the Cornwall railways) and LNER. Thankfully many of the records of the companies they took over were retained. Ian said that of those 988 railway companies, staff records still exist for about 150 of them and more are coming to light.

Many of the surviving records including those of the GWR, Bodmin and Wadebridge, Cornwall and West Cornwall Railways are held at the National Archives at Kew in class RAIL. Other records can be found at local records offices. For example the Cornwall Record Office holds archive material on the smaller Cornish mineral lines.

If you can identify your ancestor's railway company – and here old photographs in uniform can help – the next problem is to identify the company department they worked in. This too can determine where the records are held.

As well as the jobs you would normally expect of a railway company – engine driver, fireman, etc. – others jobs such as publicity, hotels and ferries are not so obvious. Chambermaids, merchant seaman, commercial travellers, telephonists, artists and graphic designers were just some of the examples of the less obvious railway jobs Ian quoted. He then illustrated his talk with examples of some of the records available – service history, pay records, railway accommodation and accident reports. '*Accidents were ten a penny*', he said '*and each one was investigated and recorded.*' A database of over 50000 railwaymen injured, killed or involved in accidents is now available online at www.blacksheepindex.com.

Despite the smell of pasties warming up in the kitchen, Ian's talk concluded with a most lively question time during which we discovered something about the London Necropolis Railway. This company was set up following the closure of London's graveyards in 1851 because they were full. A massive cemetery at Brookwood in Surrey was bought and developed as a place where London's dead could be laid to rest. Each evening, apparently, undertakers loaded coffins onto a company train at London Waterloo and it then steamed down to a dedicated station at Brookwood Cemetery for burial the following day.

Strange, but apparently true. I do love LCA Family History Days.

Dating Victorian photographs by Mari Alderman

I am probably not unusual amongst Family Historians in possessing several large Victorian photograph albums containing *cartes de visite* and *cabinet prints*. However I can only identify with any certainty about 10% of the people photographed, and of those that I can, I have little idea when or where the photographs were taken. So Mari's Family History Day talk was going to be a real help to me.

Dating old photos, Mari stressed, is probably as much about fashion as it is about photography. She described the development of the *daguerreotype* and *calotype* processes and how advances in technology then led to the *ambrotype* on glass plates.

Process developments were being driven by the need to make multiple prints and to reduce the exposure times

during which sitters had to hold a fixed expression. This could be several minutes and, according to Mari, is why our ancestors always look so glum in their photos. Apart from the sheer effort of holding a smile for that length of time, they would have also displayed mouthfuls of rotten teeth.

Photography really took off in the late 1850s when Disderi produced a camera which created eight identical images at once. These images were produced on paper and pasted onto card the size of visiting cards – the so-called *cartes de visite*. This brought photography within the reach of the masses. So my albums probably contain more photos of visiting friends and acquaintances than of family members. And just to make matters worse, some of my collection may be writers, politicians, minor royalty or music hall performers as photographers tapped into celebrity culture and the popular desire to own photographs.

Most early photographs were taken in studios, although some photographers travelled around the fairs or from town to town, carrying their developing equipment in a kind of wheelbarrow. They would also have a painted backdrop to suggest that the sitter was indoors. Clamps were used to keep the sitter's head still.

Studio backgrounds and props tended to vary from decade to decade and can give important clues about date e.g. in the 1870s the backdrop might be a rustic scene with a bridge or stile, or a bamboo or rustic wooden chair and painted foliage. Children often hold toys but these are also likely to have been studio props.

People usually wore their best clothes to be photographed and these provide valuable dating clues. Just as today younger folk follow fashion more closely than the older generation. So in a family group Mari suggested we look for the clues in the dress of the youngsters. Country folk would be less up-to-date than city dwellers. Many photographers provided fancy dress hire.

Women's fashions probably provide better information than men's because they changed so frequently – and rather subtly. Mari illustrated all this with a splendid series of photographs showing examples of dress shape, fabrics, hairstyles and hats in each of the decades. Men's fashions also changed but more slowly.

Children often copied adult styles but girls generally had shorter skirts. Boys were also dressed in skirts and petticoats until about four when they were put into breeches or 'breached'.

Mari stressed that once you have named and dated the subject in a photo, write on the back using a soft 2B pencil. Never use ink, ballpoint or felt-tip as these inks migrate through the paper. To preserve the original image, scan it or re-photograph in black and white. Store old photos in a dry place, away from heat and light.

Finally Mari offered a one-to-one session where she helped members date a photo they had brought along. Thanks to this session, from a badly-mutilated cabinet print of my Cornish grandfather Venning Burgess, I now know that in about 1890 he and his friends holidayed near Blairgowrie in Tayside. What a result. I just wish she could tell me whether it was my grandmother who chopped the photo in half – to remove any evidence of the 'other woman' – Grandpa's first wife!

Chris Burgess

Visit to Duchy of Cornwall Offices

Nineteen of us met outside the offices of the Duchy of Cornwall at 2:30pm, eagerly anticipating of our visit.

We were shown through to the Council Chamber where the Trustees meet and where we were introduced to Bertie Ross, the Chief Executive. We sat down at a large table where we were offered tea, water, Duchy biscuits, cheese, grapes and Gordon's Sloe Gin. There were pictures on the wall of the previous 23 Dukes of Cornwall and a family tree showing their coats of arms. There was also a large painting of the current Duke of Cornwall, HRH Princes Charles.

Bertie explained that a charter was set up in the 14th century which decreed that the first son of the monarch automatically became Duke of Cornwall. Charles would have become Duke of Cornwall when his mother, Queen Elizabeth II succeeded to the throne on 6th February 1952 although he did not take office until his 21st birthday in 1969. This was probably the date of the painting. Bertie also explained that there had been no Duke of Cornwall between 1936 (when Edward VIII abdicated and was succeeded by his brother George VI) and 1952, because George VI had no sons. It is odd that Elizabeth could become Queen but not Duchess of Cornwall. By comparison, Camilla, the current Duchess of Cornwall may or may not become Queen when Prince Charles becomes king. Two previous Dukes of Cornwall had held the title for 59 years, so on 6th February 2012, Charles will have been Duke of Cornwall for 60 years and would then hold the record.

Bertie talked generally about the Duchy of Cornwall. It owns the base of the Tamar Bridge for which it receives £25 a year ground rent!

The Duchy had a project on the Scilly Isles and now one of the islands, which has a population of 78, has its own Post Office. Another proposed project was to build an abattoir on one of the Isles of Scilly. This would enable inhabitants to buy fresh meat from their local butchers rather than having to have the animals sent to the mainland to be slaughtered. The animals found the long journey by sea distressing.

Bertie also mentioned that the Duchy not only owned land in Cornwall but also in Devon, Bath, Herefordshire and London. In London it owns the Oval in Kennington and a strip of land next to the MI6 building. There are 9 offices around the country. In 1941 when Britain was on the verge of being invaded by the Germans, the Duchy was afraid that the Germans would acquire the money so they invested it by buying 6000 acres near Bath.

There was an opportunity for questions and comments and during this, we learnt that William the Conqueror's brother was the first Earl of Cornwall. This was before the Duchy was created.

We were invited up to the roof to admire the view. Initially the group were backward in trying the sloe gin but after visiting the roof most people were keen to try it. I have never had Gordon's Sloe Gin before and I was very impressed. I was even thinking that a bottle of Gordon's Sloe Gin and a packet of Duchy Biscuits would make a good Christmas present.

We talked about the Bill that is currently being discussed in Parliament about allowing the first born child of Prince William and Kate (the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge) to become heir to the throne, regardless of its gender. This could have implications for the 14th Century treaty about inheriting the title of Duke of Cornwall. If it is also amended, the first born child of the monarch might become either a Duke or a Duchess of Cornwall. We will have to wait and see.

It was a very enjoyable and informative visit. Thanks to Graham, Jackie and Bertie for organising this.

Mary Timmins

And from Council member, Tony Wakeham...

Some members had a light lunch at Central Hall then walked, via Bird Cage Walk, to the Duchy Offices where we met up with the rest of the group. There were some 20 of us. Francis and Kath were unable to come as they had heavy colds.

We were met by Bertie Ross, Prince Charles' secretary and his secretary. We went into the boardroom where we had tea, biscuits and sloe gin. Some said the gin was alright!

After a brief talk about the history of the Dukes of Cornwall, we went around the room looking at the prints and paintings. Then Mr Ross offered to take us to the roof garden. While we were there, Prince Charles left Buckingham Palace in his helicopter and flew overhead. I don't know if he waved at us!

At the end, Graham was thanked for organising this trip. Members thought this was a good day out.

Tony Wakeham

Annual Service

We warmly welcomed, as our guest preacher, the Rt Rev Timothy Thornton, Bishop of Truro. The service was led by our Hon Chaplain, the Rev Dr Malcolm White and the organist was Dr Francis Dunstan.

The Bishop spoke of his work around Cornwall and the Scilly Isles.

The service was well attended even though there were protest marches across London.

After the service we went for tea and cake. There was a Cornish cake, with the 15 bezants on top. There was also saffron cake, jam and cream and sandwiches, tea and coffee. We were certainly well looked after by the catering members of the LCA.

Tony Wakeham

And from our Hon Sec...

The LCA annual service was held in the chapel of Westminster Methodist Central Hall, London, starting at the earlier time of 5.00 pm, on Wednesday November 9th 2011

The Hon Chaplain of the LCA, Rev Dr Malcolm White, welcomed 35 members and friends, and the guest preacher, the Bishop of Truro, the Rt Rev Tim Thornton.

Four hymns were sung. The first two were chosen by the Bishop - *The church's one foundation*, (to the well known

tune 'Aurelia'), and a more modern hymn *Jesus is Lord! Creation's voice proclaims it*.

The other two Hymns were written by Canons of Truro Cathedral *The Cornish Saints* 'God who for the world's new framing Set his Son as corner-stone', a feature of many an LCA Service, by Rev Canon H Miles Brown to the tune 'Westminster Abbey' and *Father God, your love surrounds us, Cove and headland, sea and sand* by Canon Precentor Perran Gay.

The Old Testament lesson - Genesis Ch 12. v 1-9 - was read by Mr J B (Dick) Richards, Past-Chairman of the London Cornish Association and the New Testament lesson: - 1 Peter Ch 2. v 1-10 - was read by Mrs Kath M Slatter, a member of the Council of The London Cornish Association

The Chaplain, in his prayers, remembered four of our members and friends who were ill. An offering was taken, realising the sum of £80 which will be donated to charity.

The Bishop in his sermon giving news of life in Cornwall, emphasized his close working relationship with the Chair of the Cornwall Methodist District, The Rev Steve Wild (our preacher last year).

The Organist was Dr Francis Dunstan

After the Service, refreshments were served by convener Kath Slatter and her team. Kath provided splits and cream, Pauline Dyer made two cakes, sandwiches were provided by Valerie Harris and a fruit cake was made by Pat Richards and iced in the 15 bezants of *One and All* by Lizzy Broughton. (She has promised that a similar cake will be provided next year!)

We thank all those who participated in this Annual Service, and report that two of our Vice-Presidents were able to be present, in the absence of our President, Sir David Brewer.

Francis Dunstan

Minack Theatre: a very special experience

A spur of the moment decision turned out to be a very special experience for me when visiting Cornwall in the summer. I had gone down for work so had not really planned how to spend any spare time when, browsing through the brochures you find at tourist sites, I realised that this was 'theatre season' at the Minack. A quick check online (thank heaven for wireless laptops!) revealed that there were performances on one of the days I was there. I have visited that site several times over the years, but have never had the privilege of attending a production. This seemed like an opportunity not to be missed. I had to get a ticket. I phoned the day before only to be told the evening performance was booked out. Fortunately, on that day there was a matinee performance and I managed to get the ticket I so badly wanted.

My morning began with a cool, very windy walk along the coast path near Botallack and then, eating my lunch in the car, I raced over to Minack. I have never seen so many cars in the parking lot there, and so many people too. I collected my tickets and headed down the steep rows of 'seats' to my allocated spot. En route, I hired one of their 'seats' with back support - the best £1 I have spent in a long time!

The seats soon filled up with families and friends, complete with picnics. There was such a wonderful atmosphere and people chatted happily to those around them. The sun came out, and my seat was out of the wind, so I was very comfortable but I can imagine that in the evening, it could get very cold.

Before the performance started, I had time to take in the scenery, looking its best in the bright sunshine, and to watch members of the cast walking up and down 'behind the scenes'.

The play that afternoon was *Thieves' Carnival* by Jean Anouilh, an hilarious comedy of mixed up characters, which made it difficult to guess who the 'baddies' were - and which had a real twist in the end. Costumes and sets were fantastic and I was amazed at how good the sound was. You could hear every word - and every footstep too!

The afternoon was a real treat. If you ever have the chance to attend a performance, do - but remember, don't wait too long to book or you will miss out, and make sure you hire one of those wonderful 'seats'.

Liz Broekmann



Fun at the Minack Theatre

Cornish Carols

Thanks to Graham Gendall-Norton for sending in the following item from the letters column of the The Telegraph 22.12.09

Rupert Christiansen says that the Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols was invented for the chapel of Kings College, Cambridge to mark the end of the First World War.

The form of service actually predates the war, being initiated by Bishop Edward White Benson, first Bishop of Truro, on Christmas Eve 1880 in a temporary wooden 'cathedral' where diocesan services were held while the cathedral was being built.

The most south-westerly diocese ought to be credited with this first - it is a contribution to the Christian Christmas traditions of which Cornwall may be proud.

Len Michell (Scilly Isles)

Members will be interested to know that Sir David Willcocks, who has a long association with the Service of Nine Lessons and Carols at Kings College Cambridge, was born in Newquay and is a member of the LCA

My memories of Cornish Christmases

About two weeks before Christmas, we would go out into the fields to find a suitable branch to use as Christmas tree. We took the tree into the house and placed it in a small bucket which we then covered with coloured crepe paper. While we were all at work, mother would start to decorate it and when we came back, we would all help finish the job.

On Christmas Day the village band would play through the village. Our uncle from another village and our next door neighbour were members of the band. We used to offer uncle a small glass of something to drink, but he usually admitted he had already had some!

Everyone would stand at their front door to listen to the music, enjoying the carols they played.

To me, this was Christmas.

Tony Wakeham

New Secretary for the New Zealand Cornish Association

The details for the NZCA which appear in the yellow brochure are incorrect. The Association now has a new secretary, Nick Bartle. His contact details are as follows: 88 Weka Street, Miramar, Wellington 6022
Email: nzcornish@slingshot.co.nz

Please could you update your yellow book?

Goff Richards tribute concert

Words fail to express the pleasure we had recently when attending a concert in Truro Cathedral to celebrate the music of the late Goff Richards.

Goff Richards was born in St. Minver in Cornwall and attended Bodmin Grammar School. The first band he formed was *The Syncopated Six*. He was accepted by the Royal College of Music in London to study trombone, after which he taught music in South-East Cornwall. His music was played by the choirs and bands of Cornwall and through this, his compositions and arrangements for brass bands have become well-known.

Brass bands taking part in the concert were Camborne Town Band, Mount Charles Band, St. Austell Town Band and St. Dennis Band. Male voice choirs included Four Lanes Male Voice Choir, Holman Climax Male Voice Choir and Nankersey Male Choir. The Massed Choir also included members of the Male Voice Choirs of Mevagissey and Newquay. Just imagine the sound in an almost full cathedral.

The proceeds from the evening concert went towards the Goff Richards Memorial Fund which aims to benefit young musicians. This annual award will provide financial assistance to enable young Cornish musicians to further their musical skills.

Liz Lane

Condolences

Esme Hawken

Miss Esme Hawken died on September 26th. She joined the LCA in 1964 and was Chairman in 1976-77. We offer our sincere condolences to her family and friends.

A tribute to Pat Snow

In our last issue, we reported the death of Pat Snow who was Chairman of the LCE in 1963-4. We have received the following tribute from Norman Bunney, Secretary of the Homecomers who knew her well.

Pat Snow Myrgh Essa 1923 – 2011

It was one of the evenings before Christmas 1949 when I had a chance meeting in Saltash with Pat Snow (then of the house and lineage of Boaden) in the doorway of Underhill's the chemist, and told her that she must join the London Cornish. She complied and soon became a 'regular', especially on the monthly rambles.

In the fifties we were often joined by non-Cornish walkers who had previously asked if they might link up with us, and who came along month by month. Among them was one Charles Snow, and there was much delight when in due course he and Pat married.

Being an active social worker, Pat in time became Chairman of the Benevolent and Homeland Fund, and held this significant office for several years.

She was made a bard when the Gorsedd made its first visit to Saltash in 1967. She again felt honoured when she was invited to join the long line of London Cornish Association chairmen. Not surprisingly, she did a 'proper job' and was well liked by our affiliated Cornish Associations when she and Charles were guests at their annual celebrations.

After the sad and unexpected death of Charles, Pat maintained her active interest in the LCA. Those of us who met at her house to sort out the table plan for the Annual Dinner savoured her hospitality and the memorable meal she put on when all was done.

When she retired from the headship of one of those 'special schools' (that most teachers avoid), Pat went back to Cornwall, to new ground (for her) in the far west, settling in Heamoor. She never missed a concert by Mousehole male Voice Choir and she was active in her support for the Penlee lifeboat. She was well known as an expert needlewoman and she also carried her steward's staff year by year at the Gorsedd. She made cakes for Madron Church and sold them in Causewayhead and she ran a weekly Keep Fit club in Penzance until her fatal illness left its visiting card.

She was forthright and brave to the end. On the morning when there was no doubt what lay before her she phoned me and asked me to play the organ at her funeral.

Madron church is huge. There were few empty seats on the afternoon of her funeral. Members of Penlee Lifeboat crew were the bearers.

Norman Bunney, Ludgvan

Going South with the Southern Sons of Cornwall

At the end of October, I had to undertake a short, unexpected trip to Sydney. I could not go without at least trying to contact the Cornish Association of New South Wales and the Southern Sons of Cornwall. Unfortunately, I did not manage to meet up with the NSWCA as time was so short and Sydney is so big (even though I grew up there, I had forgotten just how big it is!). I did, however, manage to join the Southern Sons on their outing to Goulburn, south of Sydney.

I set off, on a glorious sunny day (one of the few sunny days in my 10 days there) to drive to the Goulburn Brewery where I was to meet the group. I was one of the first to arrive, but it was not long before the rest of the group was there and we all enjoyed a very welcome cup of tea.

In all, there were 12 of us on the outing, including Julie Wheeler's very tiny great granddaughter. It was so lovely to meet them all. Many of the names I knew from emails and newsletters, but meeting them all in the flesh was really special.

After tea, we started our tour.



The group at Goulburn Brewery

The brewery, which is made up of very attractive old brick buildings, has been registered by the Australian Heritage Commission because of their significance: it is the only brewery in Australia, established before 1840, which still has all its original buildings.

Once we were in the brewery, several of the group took part in a beer tasting. During this time, we were told a bit about its history and its recent restoration – which revealed an unexpected Cornish link. Apparently, the original beer was steam brewed and when the new owners wanted to start producing beer again, they were keen to use the same techniques. The first step was to find a beer which was similar to the beers originally brewed in Goulburn Brewery and which could be copied. The search ended at Newquay Brewery, in Cornwall, where they found the perfect match!

It was very interesting to look around and we were able to imagine what it must have been like to work there – dark, smelly... There were displays about beer making, lovely pictures of old Goulburn and, surprisingly, something on the ways Egyptians measured things – digits, cubits etc.



A perfect match! Beer from Newquay Brewery in Cornwall

By now, everyone was feeling peckish so we headed off to The Bakery for a delicious lunch. Walking into the bakery was like walking into heaven for bread lovers! I can't remember when I ever saw so many different kinds of bread – and I couldn't resist the temptation to take a loaf home to share with my sisters.

We all ordered lunch and sat on the enclosed verandah from where we had a good view of the 15 meter high Big Merino which dominates the area.

Next stop was Riversdale homestead. This beautiful single story Colonial Georgian cottage has had an interesting and varied life, having been a coaching inn, a school and a residence since it was built in the 1840s. The wide verandah which surrounds it must have been a wonderful place to sit on hot summer days.

The inside of the house was most interesting, being furnished for the period. The house is renowned for its colonial furniture, which gave a lovely country feel. It felt very much as though the family had just stepped out for a while and gave good insight into what it must have been like to live there. As a (rather amateurish) lacemaker, I was particularly interested in the exhibition of bobbin lace in one of the display cases near the entrance. I wouldn't have minded living there in the 'olden days' and being able to make lace on the verandah, sheltered from the hot summer sun. Maybe more of my pieces would have got finished!

The house is surrounded by beautiful gardens, and on the day we visited, a musician was playing his harp under the trees and there were retail tents selling everything from wine to garden ornaments!



In full bloom: the magnificent gardens at Riversdale Homestead

At about 4 we said our goodbyes and I headed back to Sydney. I had had the most wonderful day with some very special friends, most of whom up until then had only been names on an email address. I was sorry to leave and hope one day to be back. A very big thank you to you all for making me so welcome and giving me such a lovely day out.

Cornish Homecomers visit St Austell Brewery

On the afternoon of Tue 18 Oct 11, The (Cornish) Homecomers, visited the St Austell Breweries which are next to the St Austell Grammar School. This school was once attended by actor John Nettle of *Midsummer Murders* fame.

Twenty four members attended the outing. They had a good tour of the brewery and were told about its history. They also heard about the Hicks family who were involved in brewing beer for 160 years.

The word 'water' was never used within the industry - but all liquor used in the brewery is obtained from their own spring! All the barley and wheat needed to make the beer was sourced locally in Cornwall, while the Hops came mainly from Oregon in the USA.

The barley extract, once finished with, is fed to dairy cows and the wheat to pigs, The yeast, which is grown in their own laboratory, is used to make ten different brews and is then sold to Marmite!

Before filling each barrel, a tablet of fish extract is dropped in to absorb any sediment - a process devised by Cornishman, William Murdoch, when he was working in London. The then London Brewers had a problem with cloudy beer, and so Murdoch, bought all the available fish from the market and hung them on his landlady's curtains to dry. The dried fish were then placed in the brewing vats. Murdoch, solved the brewers problems but it led to a problem for him as he was thrown out of his London accommodations by the landlady who had little patience with the activities of such men!

Drying fish to clear the beer was not the only thing William Murdoch did: he also devised one of the first working models of a steam locomotive and was the first person to have his house lit by gas. He was also responsible for installing gas lighting in the Houses of Parliament.

Following the visit, most of the Homecomers had a lovely pot of tea at the Brewery Cafe, whilst others sampled the brewer's fare!

*Duncan Paul Matthews
Liskeard and Looe OCS*

Magical Beings . . .

Piskies

Even if you've not yet read a Cornish story, nor ever even heard of Cornwall, you probably know about Piskies or Piskies. They are by far the most famous of all the Cornish elves. Piskies were funny little fellows (for they were always men), no bigger than hedgehogs, and each one was exactly like the other. Although Piskey himself was seldom seen, everyone knew how he looked.

Piskies wore wigs of grey moss that hung down to their shoulders, and atop each wiggly head was a peaked red cap. They buttoned up to their chins in trim brown coats, had brown breeches to match, and their stockings green as grass, were held up by garters just below their knees. They had round black eyes that seemed to be stuck into their rosy faces like cloves into a ham. Piskies had broad shoulders and big bellies, and always wore big smiles as well.

A Piskey was cheerful and good, even if he sometimes teased a little. He might step in a pie set out to cool, or borrow a pony for a midnight ride, but he'd often help farmers or other folk in need. Piskies most often worked alone, though they were friendly enough with others. But, friendly or no, it was best not to try to catch a Piskey - or even to catch a glimpse of one.

To Keep A Piskey:

1. Never shake all the apples from the tree. Leave the last and best unpicked for Piskey.
2. Every home should have a small hole, a bit bigger than a mousehole, in the outer wall, so that Piskey can go in and out at will.
3. Put special treats for Piskey on the hearth or outside the door at New Year and on other holidays.

Tales from the Droll-Teller. Retold by Shirley Climo

Thanks to the Southern Sons of Cornwall for this item from their newsletter.

Remembering St Piran's Day...

Our St. Piran celebrations started with a coffee morning at our home, this year's proceeds being given in the form of a cheque to be used towards the cost of the pasties enjoyed by the Bodmin school children who participated in the Annual St. Piran March through the town. Those of us attending the March were invited to the Mayor of Bodmin's Parlour for coffee. I always find the Pilgrimage to the Oratory Church and the St. Piran play en route a very moving experience - and I have participated over many years.

The 'St. Piran's Tide' evening at the Victory Hall, Roche is another memorable occasion where flags are paraded, entertainment is provided by local groups, there is dancing and a Pasty Supper. There is just great CORNISH community spirit throughout. The Annual St. Piran's Feast Dinner is something else. Until it is over you can't be sure what the evening is going to bring - but you know that it is a fun evening and a time for meeting or making friends.

Next year, 2012, the marches will take place throughout Cornwall on Monday March 5th. Timetables vary in different locations. Bodmin's will be in the morning, with participants meeting at around 10.00am. I suggest that, nearer the date, you check on the internet for details. This should also give you the programme of events for the weekend.

In addition to taking part in the St. Piran celebrations in Bodmin this year, Aubrey and I had the pleasure of attending the Trelawny's Army Supporters Club's 13th Birthday Dinner and Dance which was held at the Ponsmere Hotel, Perranporth. We greatly appreciated the welcome received by everyone. The bonus was being able to join in the singing in the bar afterwards.

Liz Lane

News from other Cornish Associations

United States

In September, members of the **Cornish Heritage Society East** gathered at Canal Park in Wharton for a pasty lunch, business meeting and, most importantly, to remember Cornish hero Rick Rescorla. He was responsible for saving many lives when the Twin Towers were attacked. Later, the group went to the Bridget Smith House in Mine Hill where they were met by members of the Ferromonte Society. This society has plans to restore the miner's cottage to its original condition. CHSE members plan to visit the house again in two years after it has been restored.

In December, the Society will have their Christmas meeting. For the 'Show and Tell', members are asked to bring an item that carries special meaning for their Cornish family.

Summer held on just long enough to give the members of the **California Cornish Cousins** a warm, sunny day for their Fall Pasty Luncheon in October. Unlike their June gathering in Placerville which was dogged by rain, this time there were no 'soggy oggies'!

The Association is very busy with plans for the Gathering in Bridgeport and Brodie in June next year. Among the Cornish immigrants to this area were the Moyle brothers who owned a general merchandise store. Later, George Moyle also operated a bottling plant. His brother, Thomas, owned a lime quarry by Mono Lake that supplied practically all the lime used in the cyanide plants of the surrounding country.

The **Cornish American Heritage Society** newsletter carries a warning that there will be no festival or gathering in 2013 unless one of the societies in that country volunteers to host it. These very popular gatherings, with their interesting programmes are held every two years. The Society is also looking for unique areas with Cornish links which could host visitors in 2013.

The **Illinois Cornish Association** are having a 'D'reckly Christmas this year. The newsletter explains that "*D'reckly*" means "as soon as I can get around to it". Thus we celebrate Christmas in January!

The celebration will take the form of a Christmas tea. There will be a choice of tea and lots of goodies to eat. Members are urged to put this date in their diaries now.

Canada

The **Vancouver Cornish Association** has informed us that past President and friend, Mary Brunst, died in Ontario at the beginning of this year. A previous Chairman of the LCA, Rhoda Riddette-Wynton had a most enjoyable visit to her several years ago and often spoke about it. Mary's hard work for the Cornish Associations with which she was linked was recognised in 2007 when she was awarded the Paul Smales Award by the Cornish Gorsedd.

The Association celebrated its 20th Anniversary in July with a pasty picnic in Sylvia Sinclair's garden. It was a beautiful day and the pasties were a hit, followed by Syl-

via's homemade saffron buns and a homemade Russian cream. The Cornish fare was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

The big event for the Association this year took place in September when The Trelawny Singers came over from Cornwall. They performed in a concert with the Vancouver Welsh Men's Choir and also in Victoria on Vancouver Island. The atmosphere in the concert halls was electric with Cornish flags being waved throughout, especially during, 'Trelawny,' when the Singers invited the Cornish people in the audience to sing along.

Heather Dale, a member of the **Toronto Cornish Association** (and their editor) who has done so much to promote Cornish music now has her first music video on Youtube. You can see it at www.youtube.com/heatherdalemusic.

The Association has had some interesting meetings recently. In September, Marion Stephens talked about the *St Piran's Oratory Excavation Project* and in October, Sher Leetooze spoke about the *Holy Wells of Cornwall*. In November, they looked at *Problems of Posterity* in which members considered the options available for safeguarding the family trees they have created. Their Christmas party will take place on 11th December.

Australia

Our congratulations go to the President of the **Cornish Association of Victoria**, Neil Thomas and President of the Moonta Branch of the **Cornish Association of South Australia**, Liz Coole who were both made Bards at the Gorsedd in Helston in September.

Neil contacted us before coming over and several members of the LCA had the pleasure of spending an evening with him when he passed through London. (See photo) It was great to meet him and to catch on CAV news.

At their September meeting, members of the CAV listened to a talk on cemeteries in Victoria. They were surprised to hear that some records of the Church of England in Victoria were sent to Lambeth Palace in London. This is good news for family historians who might have thought that the records they needed had been destroyed by fire or flood.

In October, Robyn Coates talked about a Cornish grave they came across at Beltana. The man had come from Bodmin. Follow up research revealed that his father had been Mayor of Bodmin. The other speaker at the meeting was patron Bill Phillips who spoke about the small central Victorian town of Timor. This became an important town when gold was discovered in 1854.

The **Ballarat Branch** of the CAV had a display at the Central Highlands Historical Association's Annual Display in October. They were able to help people with their family research queries. They also prepared special activity sheets for the children visiting the event.

During History Week, several Cornish Association members joined the Ballarat U3A group to hear a talk on *The Cornish in Ballarat* which was given by Dr Charles Fahey.

At their October meeting, members of the **Cornish Association of New South Wales** heard an interesting talk on the *Origins of the Cornish* and in November, they had a

In October, they went to the historic Goulburn Brewery and to Riversdale Homestead. I had the good fortune to join them on this outing. You can see a report elsewhere in the newsletter.

The Association holds an annual art competition which is judged at the AGM in February. This year's theme is a painting or drawing with a hint of something Cornish. The winner gets to hold the Celtic Cross for a year.

The Association is very busy planning the Cornish Cultural Celebration which will take place at the end of October 2012. The three day event will feature speakers from Cornwall and Australia and some sightseeing will be built into the itinerary.

New Zealand

At the August meeting of the *Christchurch Branch* of the **New Zealand Cornish Association**, members had their fourteenth Cornish lesson from Val. This lesson was entitled 'Home and Garden' Sue and Mac Reynolds then gave an illustrated talk on their tour of Canada and the US. After this there was a competition to guess how many miles they covered on the tour.

In September, the Branch celebrated its 44th anniversary.

Seventeen members and three guests attended the quarterly meeting of the **Taranaki Branch** of the NZCA in August. At that meeting, President Gary Wellington reported on the meeting of the Taranaki Multi Ethnic Association where the future of the Ethnic Parade and festival was discussed. It was decided to go ahead with the parade in 2012 – good news for the Branch as they usually win a prize!

The Branch plans to place adverts in a local newspaper and on community notice boards to promote their organisation.

The *Combined Interest Groups* of the **New Zealand Society of Genealogists** will hold a research day on 3rd December. Members will have access to a variety of family history resources and they will be able to get advice to help them with their investigations.

At the end of August, members of the **Cornish Interest Group** participated in the Family History Fair in Hamilton. They were able to help many visitors. One particularly exciting find was that of a lady who was looking for an ancestor from St Anthony in Roseland. She was directed to the Cornwall Online Parish Clerk. The first hit was a headstone transcription to her ancestor – but there was more. It transpired that seven of her family were buried in that one grave! Gives a whole new meaning to the saying about unearthing hidden treasures!

United Kingdom

The summer activities of the **West Somerset Cornish Association** have now passed and the winter programme has begun. The group started the season by moving to a new hall which is much larger than their previous one – but costs the same to rent!

Their September speaker talked about 'A *Gamekeeper's Year*' and in October, members were treated to a spectacular show on Switzerland. A pasty supper is planned for later in the year and they will have an 'After Christmas Dinner' in January.

In October, members of the **Thames Valley Cornish Association** and some friends enjoyed a meal in a local restaurant in place of their usual annual dinner. At the end of November, they held their Christmas warm-up.



Members and friends of the Thames Valley Cornish Association enjoy lunch together

The annual dinner of the **Gloucester and District Cornish Association** marked the Association's 60th anniversary. Celebrations included the cutting of a special cake by the President and Vice-President. The dinner was attended by 80 people, including representatives from Cornish associations in the south and southwest. The Bishop of St Germans (Rev Roy Screech) said the grace.



President Brenda Scoble and Vice-President Sheila Spargo cut a special cake to celebrate the 60th Anniversary of the Gloucester and District Cornish Association

The **Bournemouth Cornish Association's** annual dinner, which was held in November was attended by fifty four members and guests from other Associations.

The President, Mrs Barbara Hancock welcomed the guests and then she and her Vice-President, Mrs Anne Parsons cut a birthday cake to celebrate the 90th anniversary of the inaugural meeting of the Association which took place in 1921.

Mr Gerald Toghill from the West Somerset Cornish Association, gave a very interesting and well researched talk on the true character of fellow Cornishman, William Bligh of 'Mutiny on the Bounty' fame.

Among those attending were five recipients of the Paul Smales Award which is given annually by the Cornish Gorsedd:- Elizabeth Lane (Bournemouth), Mary Watters and Ena Hocking (Torbay) Dr Francis Dunstan (London

and Thames Valley), Mary Sherry (Bournemouth) wore the medal presented to her late husband, Gordon.

Also present were Alison Bastard (Chairman of Torbay) and Trevor Ash (President of the Westcountry Association in Hampshire)



Bournemouth Vice-President Anne Parsons and President Barbara Hancock cut the cake to celebrate the Association's 90th Anniversary

Federation Of Old Cornwall Societies Winter Festival

On Sat 12 Nov 11, the Federation of Old Cornwall Societies, held their Winter Festival at Liskeard's Public Hall, from 10.00am until 5.00pm.

All 43 Member Societies were represented along with some of the Torbay Cornish Association and a scattering of members from the London Cornish Association now resident 'back home' in Cornwall.

There were twenty exhibitors with displays and there were workshops organised by local Volunteer and Charitable Groups to highlight Liskeard, and East Cornwall's, past, present and future. These included the Liskeard Lions, wool spinning, embroiderers, wood turners, the Liskeard Branch of the Federation of Women's Institutes, the

Liskeard Chamber of Commerce, myCornwall, the RNLI, the Upton Cross Primary School, the Liskeard Grammar School as well as several others. There were also Cornish Language workshops, bookstalls and 100 celebratory banners. A display of particular interest was that showing the new Holy Bible which has been translated into Cornish.

At 2.00pm, the arrival of His Worship the Mayor of Liskeard, Cllr Nick Mallard, accompanied by his wife, and the Town's Burgess, the Grand Bard of the Cornish Gorseth, and the President of the Federation of Old Cornwall Societies, was announced by Roger Bennett, Town Crier and Member of the Looe OCS.

There was then a Parade of all the OCS Banners, a Roll Call of all Societies and an afternoon of entertainment.

The entertainment included Cornish/Celtic Dance by Hevva, Monologues by Mrs Hilary Keam of Probus, Celtic Music by Mike O'Connor and Barbara Griggs and the St Cleer Belles – a group of Handbell Ringers from St Cleer who range in age from 7 yrs to 75 yrs. The bell ringers concluded their entertainment by leading the singing of 'Land of Our Fathers'. Other entertainment included poetry by Eileen Crouch of Liskeard, and Cornish Folk music by Roger and Viv Bennett of the Looe OCS.

For lunch, over 200 Pastys were consumed and in the mid-afternoon the ladies of the Liskeard Old Cornwall Society, served over 300 cups of tea and saffron buns. To help them cope, they organised an army of washers-up and driers!

The afternoon concluded with everyone singing 'Trelawny', (Trelawny was born at nearby Trelawne Manor, in the village of Pelynt). This song is attributed to the nineteenth century vicar of Morwenstow, Rev Stephen Hawker, who went to school in Liskeard.

This was a very full day for 'One and All'. Everyone there would have left feeling very satisfied, having had the chance to enjoy the entertainment, to do some singing and to share some good Cornish fellowship.

*Duncan Paul Matthews
Liskeard and Looe OCS*

Are you planning to visit London?

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

Contact the Editor on Editor@londoncornish.co.uk

A warm welcome awaits you at the London Cornish Association

A call to LCA members. If you would like to join us when we meet visitors from overseas, please let the editor know. We are hoping to see more Aussies in April/May.



Tony Wakeham, Val and Ed Harris and Liz Broekmann enjoy an evening with CAV President, Neil Thomas

Rugby

Hello all!

With the season now approaching the half way point, I can report a steady improvement in all our teams' results following a difficult start, when the injury hit London Cornish RFC found both its 1s and 2s bottom of their respective leagues after 2 matches! Fortunately, things have turned around since then; the 1s sit 5th out of 12 (we always seem to end up there!!) in London 2 South-West, the 2s 4th of 12 in RugbyTech Shield Div 3, whilst both the Choughs and Dukes top their respective leagues, Middlesex Merit Table Div 4 and Surrey Combination Div 1. This season has seen us being able to field all 4 sides every weekend we have wanted to, which is the first time we have been able to do that for 3 years and demonstrates that we must be doing something right. The Choughs actually won one of their matches by 129-0, which we believe to be a club record score!

The Dukes (4th XV) recently returned from a tour of Barcelona in Spain, where they were surprised to find that their match against a local side was being covered on both local radio and television! Though understandably well beaten by what turned out to be a regional side, the Barcelona club turned out to be hugely generous and the Dukes were delighted to be followed home by a huge crate of 500 bottles of beer shipped over from Spain by the Catalans sponsor!! I can promise that these will be well looked after at the clubs Christmas Party on December 17th!

I promised to report back on the ins and outs at the club, in particular in relation to our Cornish players. No sooner had Adrian Montague joined us than he was posted back to Sheffield by work, disappointing for both him and us. We have been fortunate to land Stefan Duda, a winger from the Bude club who has already been nicknamed 'The Bude Flyer' due to the fact that he is rapid! I am told that Duda is a very common Cornish name and would be interested to know if any of you, readers, have any information on where the name originates from and just how common it is?

I mentioned in the last edition that my wife and I are heading down south for Christmas and New Year. We will be in Melbourne in the week around Christmas, in Adelaide for the week around New Year, and then head to Te Awamutu in the north island of New Zealand for the first week of 2012. There are a number of reasons we are heading to the Antipodes; my wife's father and grandparents live in Melbourne and the latter were unable to travel for our wedding, so we are taking them a video; my brother Tom is getting married in Adelaide to his Australian fiancé Irene on New

Year's eve; and one of my longest and best friends lives in Te Awamutu and I had long promised to bring Davina to NZ to meet him and his family. He and I actually met in 1988 when we worked together in the mid west USA, near a town called Lafayette in Indiana; we became firm friends and have remained in touch ever since. I was lucky enough to stay with him and his family when I followed the British Lions rugby team to New Zealand in 2005. Davina and I are calling it our second honeymoon as we were only able to have a short break post the wedding in August, but I may also be required to attend a work meeting in Auz while there so it will be a very busy time. We don't need to tell my wife or work that I also see it as a huge London Cornish RFC recruitment opportunity, as we have dwindling representation from the Anzacs and I would like to reverse that trend.

Every season one or more areas of the club require my additional attention; this season it has been our coaching and physio support. We lost both a coach and a physio in the close season and it takes time to replace such valuable members of the club, especially as they are volunteers giving up their time free for the most part. We have been successful in recruiting a couple of new physios who have only just joined, and we should be back to capacity in that area by the time you read this. Ekta Dhillon and Primrose Philips have joined us, adding their wonderful names to our list of members and supporting our Head Physio Rachel Figg. We often recruit trainees or recent grads in the physio slots because they are almost always looking for practical experience and tend to be well looked after by rugby clubs, sometimes a little too well!! The coaching conundrum is a more challenging one and may require a change in club policy in the future; we tend not to pay our coaches, but the commitment required is huge and in an economy such as this one, we may well need to revisit this approach to attract the best talent we can; my job is increasingly taking me away during the week, so the pressure is great on our remaining 2 coaches, Andrew Joint and Andrew Cook, one of whom is a lawyer and the other the MD of a recruitment firm. I am going to see if I can begin discussions with a couple of potential additions to this team in the next month or so and will report back on progress in the next edition.

Anyway, that's enough flannel from me for now. All that remains for me to say is I hope to see you on the sidelines sometime soon, and if not you can keep up to date with all the news at www.lcrfc.co.uk

Nadelek Lowen Ha Blethen Noweth Da!

Dickon Moon
Coach

We plan to go and watch the 'Home' match on 28th January. See elsewhere in the newsletter for details.

Remaining Fixtures:

Sat 7 th January	League	London Cornish	v	Tottonians
Sat 14 th January	League	Teddington	v	London Cornish
Sat 28 th January	League	London Cornish	v	Gosport & Fareham
Sat 4 th February	League	Old Reigatian	v	London Cornish
Sat 18 th February	League	London Cornish	v	Chobham
Sat 3 rd March	League	Guildford	v	London Cornish
Sat 10 th March	League	London Cornish	v	Effingham & L'head
Sat 24 th March	League	Bognor	v	London Cornish
Sat 31 st March	League	London Cornish	v	Twickenham
Sat 14 th April	League	London Cornish	v	Camberley

Mem Sec's Meanderings...

Our membership at the end of November is 240. We are pleased to be able to welcome the following new members:

Ms Linda Davidson who is a member by descent and is now living in London SW5.

Roger Smith, also a member by descent and now at Leedstown, Hayle.

Charles Meade-King, yet another member by descent and living at Smalford in Surrey.

Let us hope we can recruit even more new members. Cornwall and our Cornish connection is something of which we are all proud. We need to make sure we don't just disappear into the electronic world that engulfs so many people today but get out and meet people, mix with them and enjoy face to face contact. Please do what you can to encourage other people to join.

Sadly, one of our longer standing members, Miss Esme Hawken, died at the end of September. She joined in 1964 and was Chairman of the LCA in 1976-77. We offer our sincere condolences to all her family.

We have another member reaching their 50th year of London Cornish Association membership. She is Mrs Margaret Bennett, who joined in November 1961. That brings the total qualifying members to 25. There is nobody else reaching this target until 2013. More details nearer the time. I certainly hope this is not making any of our newer members think that we are an 'elderly' bunch! In fact, these people are a minority of the overall membership.

In my last *Meanderings* I referred to what I called a 'stupid question' asking if you had any idea why the Devil never entered Cornwall. Now I have another question which, in actual fact, I saw in a daily newspaper in October – 'In which Cornish resort have researchers from Plymouth

University set up equipment to count the grains of sand on the beach?' I know – do you? You will see the answer later.

I am sure that the majority of you watch television. For some of you this probably includes those showing the sports you are interested in. But what about the multitude of cookery programmes that are being broadcast? If you are interested in programmes such as *Celebrity MasterChef*, you might have noticed that in October, the MasterChef winner was the rugby player Phil Vickery, a proud Cornishman from Bude. Who said Cornishmen cannot cook? We watched the programme and were very impressed with Phil's winning meal.

Did you know that Cornwall is getting bilingual road signs? This was seen in a London newspaper quite a while back. The article had the headline *Signs of the times for an yeth Kernewek*. They did comment on the fact that only about 300 people speak fluent Cornish while about 3 000 know some words. Council premises will now get new signs and councillors are ready to use Cornish in all publications, promotional literature and official websites. It went on to say that 'From now on, when an old street or place sign needs replacing, the new one will have both languages on it.' This was published 2 years ago and I wonder how it is progressing. I have actually seen some signs in Cornish and I think this should make Cornishmen feel proud, even if they can speak only a few words. The newspaper did compare the use of other 'minority languages' in Britain with Welsh being spoken by 25% of the population, Northern Irish by 10% and Scottish by 2%.

Looking at my *Kelly's Directory of 1897*, I see numerous historical facts which make you realise how times have changed. For instance:

Tin Ore - Cornwall and Devon

Year	Number of mines	Tin Ore (tons)	Price per ton £ s	Total value £
1872	162	14 266	152 15	1 459 900
1873	215	14 885	133 7	1 329 766
1874	230	14 039	108 8	1 077 712
1875	183	13 995	90 2	866 266
1876	135	13 668	79 10	675 750
1877	98	14 142	73 3	695 162

It is interesting to see that the number of mines increased from 1872 for a couple of years and then began to decrease. Now we are down to no tin or copper mines. As I said above, 'times have changed'.

Other statistics were from *The Agricultural Returns of 1896*:

<i>Horses for agriculture</i>	34,400
<i>Cows in milk or calf</i>	68,262
<i>Other cattle</i>	131,565
<i>Sheep, 1 year old</i>	246,579
<i>Sheep, under 1 year</i>	181,087
<i>Pigs</i>	100,074

How many of these are there today? Would somebody nip out and count them?!!

There are other snippets which also show how things have changed:

Cornwall had 45 'Basket Makers', at least 680 'Boot and Shoe Makers', about 800 'Grocers & Tea Dealers' and in order of 1300 'Shopkeepers'. What a change from today's car population, shopping done via websites on the internet.

Further trades in Cornwall included three 'Gun Makers' and five 'Gunpowder Manufacturers'. Also, there were thirty six 'Photographers' in Cornwall with a number of these having branches around the county.

Interestingly, there were twenty six 'Gas Companies & Works' but only one 'Gas Engineer' who was based in Padstow. There were five 'Gasfitters'.

That is enough of the past. Let us return to today. As we are aware, all Cornish Associations are suffering from reduced membership and are struggling to survive because of the difficulty of attracting new members, particularly those who are willing and able to help with the organisation of functions. Repeating my previous comments, we don't like seeing declining memberships and hope that Cornish Associations, particularly ours, will continue into the future. So, once more I ask if you know of any Cornish people or descendants living near you, you give them information about the LCA or your local Cornish Association. We hope that they will be interested in joining and become one of our new members. Tell them to contact me at the address below or, alternatively, you can let me have their names and addresses so that I can send them a membership application form.

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

By the way, the Cornish resort where Plymouth University are counting the grains of sand is Perranporth.

Well, I hope you have all had an enjoyable summer. But doesn't time fly – winter and Christmas are almost on us! I therefore take this opportunity to wish you all a very merry Christmas.

Kernow bys vyken.

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

New Members

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

Ms Linda Davidson
Mr Roger Smith
Mr Charles Meade-King

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

Publications

The Seafarers of Port Isaac

By Geoff Provis

Published by Trefreock Publications, 2011

ISBN 978-0-9562998-1-9

£9.99

In our Summer 2011 Newsletter I reviewed Geoff Provis's earlier book, *The Fishermen of Port Isaac*. Following on from his first volume Geoff has now written a companion piece dealing with the other sea-going activities of the men of Port Isaac, Port Gaverne and Port Quin, and their families. Although I have no connection with that area of Cornwall, I find it an equally interesting, readable and well-researched book.

Geoff makes the point that as well as being fishermen, many of the men had sailed on trading vessels to all parts of the world and in all winds and weathers. They (and their wives) knew that wrecks and mishaps at sea were common with traditional sailing ships, but the trade of the country depended on such vessels plying the dangerous seas, so they put their fate into God's hands. The setting up of the National Institution for the Preservation of Life from Shipwreck in 1824, and of the Royal National Lifeboat Institution in 1854, gave them reason to hope. The first lifeboat was stationed at Port Isaac in 1869, and many villagers manned the lifeboats on a voluntary basis. Some seamen were part-time coastguards, and yet others served on racing yachts and the pleasure craft of the rich and famous, or got involved in smuggling and piracy.

I particularly like the photos that illustrate almost every page; they show people, places, ships, artefacts and memorials, all with a detailed explanatory caption and acknowledgement. There are also reproductions of letters and documents, and many extracts from newspapers and publications referring, for example, to losses of lives and vessels, and incidents and events relating to the three ports and their inhabitants. A whole chapter is devoted to the fascinating stories surrounding the mysterious disappearance of the community of Port Quin, and Geoff's family's belief that it provided the story behind a picture now in the Tate Gallery, although the Gallery maintains that it is not attributable to any particular disaster.

The 'glossary of basic terms' is a very useful practical inclusion for land people like me, while a selection of poems will appeal to our imaginations. Geoff also includes a full listing of Port Isaac-born masters and mates extracted from the index compiled by LCA in association with CFHS and NMMC, and other material in that CD, accompanied by a generous acknowledgement.

I recommend both Geoff's books to anyone interested in the Port Isaac area of the North Cornish coast. He understands and describes the true and genuine place and its inhabitants, and pays them due tribute. He has kindly sent us a copy of his new book for the LCA Library. If anyone would like to borrow it, please let me know, and could the person who borrowed the first book please return it to me.

Lorna Leadbetter

We have also heard of the following two books which may be of interest to our readers:

Sparkle Puss

By Stella-Rose Benson

Penzance based artist and writer, Stella-Rose Benson, is launching a new illustrated book based in and around Penzance. It has a low-key environmental message and includes some Cornish language and Latin plant names.

Sparkle Puss is a magical cat whose quest is to save Chapel Street's treasured chocolate shop. The Chocolate Apothecary is under threat of closure and the clever cat enlists the help of Myrrh, the Abbey cat, plus local fishermen and craft-makers to discover a very special crop being grown by the monks at the Abbey...

The illustrations show many well-loved local landmarks.

For more information please see www.sparklepuss.co.uk or contact the author at stella.benson@btinternet.com.

The Oblivion of Trevithick

By Phil Hosken

Tor Mark Press Ltd

ISBN 978-0-90-404089-0

The greatest error in engineering history has been the lack of recognition for the man who invented the steam engine we all recognise and love, the engine that drove most of the Industrial and all the Transport Revolutions; the engine that has come down to us today and whose boiler is found in nuclear submarines and power stations. This book reveals why Trevithick did not receive credit for his achievement. The story is not concealed in technical jargon but explores the lives of Trevithick, his family, friends and the other engineers who surrounded him during the crucial years of steam engine development.

The book is available in bookshops throughout the UK or POST FREE direct from the Trevithick Society/Oblivion, PO Box 62, Camborne TR14 7ZN. Cheques should be made payable to The Trevithick Society.

Crowdy Crawn

Beachy Head lighthouse has Cornish links

Trinity house has announced that the lighthouse at Beachy Head near Eastbourne is to be left to fade because it costs too much to repaint. Every ten years, it needs a £45 000 facelift to repair the damage done by wind and waves.

The 148 ft tower, which was designed by Thomas Matthews and which has been in operation since 1902, is built from 3 660 tons of Cornish granite.

Did you know that the Cornish Pasty has its own patron saint?

According to the Saltash Old Cornwall Society (and supported by Crantock Bakery), St Carantoc is the patron saint of the pasty.

St Carantoc was a confessor and abbot in the early 6th century and during his life, lived in Wales, Ireland and Cornwall. The Cornish village of Crantock near Newquay is named after him and the church in the village has a series of stained glass windows telling the story of his life.

His feast day is 16th May. Presumably, pasties feature in the celebrations!

And, while on the subject of pasties, did you know that it is considered unlucky to take a pasty aboard a fishing boat unless its ends are broken off so any bad spirits can escape?

Duncan Paul Matthews (Liskeard OCS)

A Cornish Christmas

The Cornish Studies Library, Alma Place, Redruth has planned many Christmas events in during December. One of these is an exhibition of photographs and books which highlight Cornish Christmas traditions.

The exhibition opens on 5th December and continues until 30th December. It can be viewed on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday 10am – 5pm and Saturday 10am – 1pm

A new opera tells the story of a Cornish hero

Rick Rescorla, a Cornishman from Hayle will be remembered as one of the heroes of 9/11. He was the head of security for a brokerage firm based in the World Trade Centre and was responsible for leading almost 3000 people to safety, but he died in the process.

Rick's story was told in a book entitled *Heart of a Soldier* which was written in 2002 by James B Steward. This has now been turned into an opera, and was premiered in San Francisco on the 10th anniversary of the attacks.

Kernewek Lowender declared 'the best ever'

This year's festival has been a great success – and the success was not limited to the heritage aspects of this bi-annual festival. The statistics tell a good story too:

- Of the Australian visitors, 85% stayed over two days, 8% were day trippers and 5% stayed overnight.
- The visitors spent \$5,000,000 on Yorke Peninsula and another \$3,000,000 in South Australia.
- Events were well attended and many, such as the pasty making workshop, were sold out.
- Over 140 people attended the CASA History Seminar.
- President Paul Thomas's Presidential Dinner was a sell-out. Guest speakers at this event were with Prof. Philip Payton of Tremough Campus, Exeter University and Mrs. Tommi O'Hagan President of the Cornish American Heritage Society.

The dates for the 2013 event will be announced shortly.

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

5th February 2012

Please send all contributions to:

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