



Cowethas Kernewek Loundres

London Cornish Association Newsletter

www.londoncornish.co.uk



Winter 2013

Nadelik Lowen ha Blydhen Nowydh Da

It is incredible to think that another year has almost past. It seems just yesterday that I was writing to wish you all a happy Christmas – and here we are again.

The LCA has trundled along pretty happily during 2013, providing members with an attractive social programme, seeing reasonable attendance at most events and even attracting a few new members. Administratively, there have been some changes, which we are sure will help us keep moving forwards. Undoubtedly, the most important of these is having Lizzy Broughton step into the shoes of Hon Gen Sec, thus removing a tremendous load from the shoulders of our Chairman, Dr Francis Dunstan who was trying to juggle two heavy jobs.

Another big change is one you will have noticed when you got your Autumn newsletter in September. Council decided to replace the traditional 'yellow book' with a fold-up card as the 'old' book was very labour intensive and the new format removed much of the pressure and expense. Our major concern, in making the decision to change was what would happen to all the 'useful stuff' which appeared in the yellow book. Reassuringly, much of it will be included on our new website.

Our new website is currently being developed and we hope it will shortly be up and running. We are really looking forward to its launch as it will look and feel much more modern and user-friendly, and with the changes to technology since the last website was constructed – about seven or eight years ago – it will be easier to update and add new features.

We are always keen to provide our members with a programme of events which they will both enjoy and support. To this end, the Social Committee is constantly on the lookout for interesting things to do or places to go. If you have any suggestions, please do contact The Editor who will take it to the Social Committee

for consideration. In planning events, we do try to organise outings etc which do not involve high costs as this means they are more accessible to our members.

Not everyone can attend our outings and events, so it is very important that reports on them get included in the newsletter. This means we are constantly on the lookout for people to write reports. Please consider volunteering to do this. It would be lovely to get articles from different people. Don't underestimate your ability to do this task. You do not have to be a Shakespeare. What we are looking for are reports which give the facts and convey the enjoyment you felt. And it doesn't have to be long. If you are willing to help, please let the organiser of the event know.

While on the subject of the newsletter, I think that now is the time to put out a plea for people to submit articles. You will have noticed that the Autumn newsletter was four pages shorter than normal and there is a blank area in this newsletter. In fact, without the support of some of the overseas Cornish newsletters, the gap would have been bigger! There are a couple of people who regularly submit items – and to them we say a big thank you – but it would be nice to have material from a wider range of members. Tell us about something you saw or somewhere you went in Cornwall. Or special experiences when you were growing up in Cornwall. Or a Cornish person you admire. It is ages since we had anything on sport. Is there someone who could put together something on gig racing (for instance)? We try to avoid specific family histories or political issues, but that still leaves a very wide range of possibilities. Please give it serious thought, and get those articles rolling in.

Well, space has now run out so I will end off, but not before wishing *One and All* a blessed Christmas and a happy new year. We hope to see many of you at the Penderel's Oak in Holborn on 11th January where we will kick off our 2014 calendar with our New Year's Lunch.

Dates for your diary ...

New Year's Lunch
11th January
2014

128th Annual Dinner
15th March 2014

Family History Day
5th April 2014

Informal Lunches
17th February
24th March

Further details of these events can be found on page 2

Deadline for the Spring Newsletter is

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

Please note! **Change to Hon Gen Sec contact details**

The LCA has a new Hon Gen Sec. Her name is Lizzy Broughton and her contact details are as follows:

Mrs E Broughton
50 Grovelands Road, Palmers Green, London N13 4RH
Email: lca.hgs@gmail.com

Please direct all (non-newsletter) correspondence to her.

Forthcoming events

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

New Year's Lunch – 11th January 2014

Time: 12 noon

Venue: The Penderel's Oak, 283-288 High Holborn, London WC1V 8HP

(Nearest tube: Holborn or Chancery Lane on the Central Line)

Contact: Tony Wakeham Tel: 020 77037378

128th Annual Dinner – 15th March 2014

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

Cash bar available from 5.30pm. Dinner served at 7pm.

NCP Parking is available (at a discounted rate) next door.

A booking form is included in this newsletter (or in the case of the e-newsletter, will be emailed)

Family History Day – 5th April 2014

An interesting programme is being put together by the convenors. Details will appear in the Spring newsletter and on the LCA website.

Contact: Gill Penny - g.n.penny@btinternet.com

Tel: 01908 316317 OR

Carol Goodwin – carolgoodwin951@btinternet.com

Tel: 020 83039054

Informal Lunches – 12 noon

Methodist Central Hall, Westminster
(Nearest tube: St James's Park)

February 17th

March 24th

Contact: Francis Dunstan –

LCA@francisdunstan.plus.com Tel: 01494 531703

News of Past Events

Family History Day

The cool, damp weather did not deter the forty five members and friends who descended on Bloomsbury Baptist Church for the Family History Day on 19th October. They anticipated another enjoyable and informative day – the first to be arranged by Gill Penny and Carol Goodwin - and feedback showed that they were not disappointed.

The day began with a talk on smuggling by member John Symons, after which we were served a delicious lunch of pasties and saffron cake, ably prepared by Kath Slatter and her team.

After the second talk, on the resources at the Caird library, everyone enjoyed some delicious Cornish splits and tea and a last chance for chat before heading for home.

The dates for the 2014 Family History Days are 5th April and 4th October. Put them in your diary NOW.

Have You Anything To Declare?

By John Symons

On Boxing Day 1798 under cover of darkness, one of the most notorious incidents involving smugglers from Polperro started to unfold when Ambrose Bowden, skipper of the Cawsand Customs boat, spotted the smuggler cutter **Lottery** about half a mile from Penlee Point. She was unloading her cargo into small boats which were lying alongside.

As the Customs boat approached, a crew member of the **Lottery** warned the revenue men to keep off, or shots would be fired. Ambrose Bowden continued his approach, daring the smugglers to fire. Three shots were then fired and Humphry Glinn one of the oarsmen on the revenue boat was struck. A later examination by a naval surgeon would show that 'the fore part of his skull was shot away, and that he was quite dead.'

Although the **Lottery** was able to escape, the smuggler had been recognised and a reward of two hundred pounds was offered for her crew's capture.

The **Lottery** incident and its aftermath was the centrepiece of LCA member John Symons' talk on Smuggling and the Revenue Men in Cornwall. Unusually, because this incident is so well documented in the Polperro Museum, he has been able to trace his ancestors on both sides of the smuggling divide - both as smugglers taking advantage of the fact that Polperro had no Customs point, and as Revenue-men, using their skills on the Customs boats.

The **Lottery** shooting incident galvanised the Government into pursuit of the offenders. The revenue cutter **Hind**, under the command of Gabriel Bray and First Mate Hugh Pearce (John Symons' 4xgreatgrandfather), was instructed to apprehend the **Lottery** by any means possible.

The **Lottery's** crew were hunted men, not daring to sleep in their own homes. Back on board their ship they were spotted making for the shore near Start Point. Realising that they had been spotted the **Lottery** escaped westwards along the South Cornwall Coast pursued through the night by the **Hind**.

Later both vessels were becalmed off the Lizard. Bray sent two of the **Hind's** boats, under the command of mate Hugh Pearce, to take possession of the **Lottery**. Pearce took his boats close up to the smuggler who was warned that if the boats did not keep off they would be fired upon and sunk. Guns on the **Lottery** were rotated to take aim at him.

Suddenly, a slight breeze sprang up. The **Lottery** was able to escape westward. The **Hind** had to follow in pursuit until, off Land's End, the crew of the **Lottery** realising that they could escape no longer, threw over some of their cargo and dropped their sails. This time John's ancestor,

Hugh Pearce, succeeded in boarding and capturing the Lottery's crew. The hold contained 716 casks, mostly of gin.

The trial of five of the crew of the **Lottery** for firearms offences and obstructing Customs officers took place at the Old Bailey in London. There was no point in a prosecution in Cornwall as no Cornish jury would convict. They were found guilty and sentenced to two years hard labour upon the River Thames.

In the murder case though, one of the **Lottery's** crew Roger Toms turned King's evidence and informed that a Tom Potter had actually fired the shot killing Humphry Glinn. As you can imagine, this did not make Tom the most popular man in Cornwall.

A plot was hatched to kidnap Toms so that he would be prevented from giving evidence. He could only help to convict Tom Potter if he was present at the Old Bailey to give his word. So the murder case could not progress. Tom was moved from place to place, before being taken to Guernsey prior to shipping out to America. However the vessel taking him to a new life in America was spotted and taken by Government officers.

And so in December 1800, two years after the original shooting incident, the trial of Tom Potter and two others at the Old Bailey was able to start. The jury convicted Potter and he was sentenced to be hanged at low tide at Wapping - the usual punishment for crimes committed at sea - 'and his body given to be anatomised'.

John Symons' ancestor Hugh Pearce fared considerably better out of the incident though. He was rewarded for his role in bringing the **Lottery** smugglers to justice by his promotion to Commander of the Revenue Cruiser **Hart**. He was stationed in Guernsey where he seized much contraband.

Another of John's 4xgreatgrandfathers, gentleman smuggler Charles Rean of Fowey, managed to escape proven involvement in the Lottery plot but his smuggling business dried up when a permanent Customs station was set up on Guernsey. Five years after the **Lottery** incident however, Pearce's and Rean's families would unite by marriage - and the rest, as they say, is Family History. It certainly is for John Symons.

As a descendant of Illogan publican, farmer and smuggler William Burgess, I found it novel to consider smuggling from the Revenue Men's viewpoint. So thank you John for giving us a most entertaining and informative talk.

Chris Burgess



*The Chairman and guest speakers at the Family History Day
L to R: Gregory Toth, Francis Dunstan, John Symons*

Researching Family History At The Caird Library And Archive

by Gregory Toth

For family historians with sea-faring ancestors, Gregory Toth's talk was an excellent introduction to relevant resources at Caird Library in the National Maritime Museum. Gregory is the Cataloguing and Acquisitions Librarian there, with responsibilities for developing and promoting access to family history resources.

He began his talk with an overview of the library which provides public access to the largest maritime collection in the world. It is based in the Sammy Ofer Wing, which opened in 2011 and houses 95% of the museum's collections of manuscripts, books, maps and charts going back to the 15th century. Open six days a week, its reading room caters for both the individual user and small groups. One-day or three year readers' tickets are available and registration is done online, although two types of ID are required on your first visit. Items for viewing can be ordered online in advance.

Gregory then described how the library supports family history research. It provides 60 research guides, organised by topic and available online. The library team and the archive team can be emailed; they respond to about 250 enquiries a month from people 'just like us' seeking information about sea-faring ancestors. There are two online catalogues - the Library catalogue and the Archive catalogue for manuscripts and in addition the library holds a wide range of objects that are also catalogued online. Gregory explained that whilst the Museum holds both Merchant and Royal Navy records, the Merchant Navy collections are stronger for family historians.

Focusing on the Merchant Navy collections, and with a reminder that we shouldn't forget that women served too, Gregory spoke of the records that can help us to trace the careers of individual merchant seaman. First, he reviewed those available in other places, such as the registers of Merchant Seaman's Service in the TNA at Kew, the originals of the Central Index Register of Merchant Seamen 1918-1941 and the Crew Lists from 1863-1913 at Southampton City Archive. Then he focused on records available at Greenwich.

The Museum Archive has the only surviving records of the Certificates of Competency issued to merchant navy officers - it holds the certificates for masters, mates, engineers and cooks from 1845 to 1927. Unfortunately those after 1927 were destroyed in WWII. The front of the certificate is for show as it was often hung on the wall. The back is more useful to the family historian as it gives the seafarer's address, details of his place and date of birth, and an original signature. Unfortunately, the certificates are filed by number rather than name, but Ancestry has digitised them and has an index which gives both the mariner's name and number. Gregory issued a note of caution though, because even where the individual is registered and has a number there may not be a certificate for them.

Some certificates were removed for various reasons, including by relatives to put on the wall, before they got to the museum. Some of the numbers were reissued. And just because a mariner said that they were a master-mariner or a mate on their census return or marriage certificate didn't mean they actually held the qualification. Our ancestors too could be guilty of exaggeration!

The museum archive also holds many of the mariners' original application forms to be examined for competency. These forms have details of their address and date of birth and a record of any failed examinations. Gregory presented the example of Edward Smith, captain of the Titanic whose form shows that he initially failed his navigation exams. Apparently, he took them again and passed! Other information includes the ships the mariner served on with dates of service, and even additional details such as tattoos. As this information doesn't appear anywhere else, these records are especially valuable to the family historian.

Crew Agreements are contracts between the seaman and their employer and they can provide considerable information on the crews, the ship and their voyages. The museum holds 90% of the crew lists, which are alphabetical lists of seamen on British registered vessels, for 1861 and 1862 and has 10% of every following year ending with a 5, with the exception of 1945. Records prior to 1860 are held at Kew. Many of the remaining records were going to be discarded but fortunately for family historians, the Maritime History Archive at Newfoundland, Canada stepped in and preserved those for 1863-1938 and 1951-1976. You need to know the ships number and the voyage in order to access the agreement, but there are indexes available to help.

Gregory then explained that other records held by the museum relate to the ships rather than to the individual, but that these can throw light on the mariners' movements and give a fuller picture of their service. They include copies of Lloyds Register of Shipping, which is an annual list of merchant ships, from the earliest surviving copy in 1764 to the present. The museum also holds the Mercantile Navy List, compiled by the Registrar General of Shipping and Seamen from 1849 to 1855 and then annually from 1857 until 1977, excluding 1941-1946 during the Second World War.

The Archive holds information on several shipping lines, including some staff records, notably P&O. The Library also has 'Lloyds List', a daily newspaper first published in 1741 that reports maritime activities such as shipping movements, sailing times and casualties. Their earliest surviving one is from 1745 and the museum has a complete run from 1777 with an annual index on microfilm from 1838-1927. Unlike the Royal Navy, the Merchant Navy was not required to maintain a ship's daily log, but captains kept reports of notable events, and information such as the arrival of new crew members or the desertion of existing ones, and the birth or death of a passenger can be found in them. Gregory also reminded us that the library has an extensive range of publications, and books on ships and shipping companies, that provide additional background.

Gregory ended by reviewing the Royal Navy Records held at Greenwich. As the service records of the Royal Navy are held by the Ministry of Defence for 75 years and then transferred to the TNA, he suggested we should try Kew first. The Caird Library has complete holdings of the official published Navy List comprising all commissioned officers and others. The Navy List is the official Admiralty List and contains a variety of information including prize lists, deaths, and information on ships captured, etc. It also has comprehensive holdings on the history of the Royal Navy. Other resources include a microfiche with

details of all the British warships and Admiralty documents including letters to and from the Board of Trade.

Throughout, Gregory's enthusiasm for his topic shone through, and he illustrated the various records with slides showing examples of particular individuals and pointing out the key elements on each record. He was very happy to answer the many and varied questions put by the group at the end of the talk and offered to take us through the website if we wished.

Overall, this was a highly detailed, knowledgeable and enjoyable account of the resources available and I for one couldn't wait to start exploring them to see what else I could find out about my sea-faring ancestors. If Gregory is anything to go by, then we can be sure of a warm and enthusiastic welcome to our family history researches at the Caird Library.

Gill Penny.



Enjoying a welcome break during the Family History Day

Annual Service

Thirty five people attended this year's Annual Service on 13th November, including the President, who read a lesson.

The Bishop, The Right Reverend Tim Thornton, took the service and gave the sermon. He spoke of the re-organisation of the political 'map' of Cornwall with new heads of local government, of the resilience of the Cornish people, and of the visit to Cornwall by the Archbishop of Canterbury in the days following the Annual Service.

Prayers were offered for the people of the Philippines, and a collection for the work of the Cornish charity, Shelterbox, amounted to £200. This will be used to support the work of the charity in the Philippines.

Refreshments followed, including Pat Richards' traditional Cornish Black Cake and Pauline Dyer's traditional Fairings.
Lizzy Broughton

Member Tony Wakeham, who was recently awarded *The London Cornish Shield* in recognition of all he has done for Cornwall and Cornish people, brought the Shield to the Service so the other members could see it. It was greatly admired and Tony was congratulated by *One and All*.



A Message from Cornwall Family History Society Need help with your research?

A dedicated and knowledgeable team of volunteers is on hand at our Headquarters in Truro. We have a large database which includes baptisms, marriages, burials and monumental inscriptions, some of which go back to the 1600s. We also have a host of other resources that we can use to help break through your brick walls, find missing links and put flesh on the bones of your elusive Cornish ancestors.

Our charge for research is £10 an hour for members of CFHS and £12 an hour for non-members. You can request and pay for this via our website www.cornwallfhs.com – just follow the Research Request link at the top of the home page and complete the form.

If you have any queries, please email research@cornwallfhs.com.

Cornwall Family History Society acknowledges the contribution of LCA Member

Lorna Leadbetter is well known at the LCA for her incredible hard work with the Family History Group. For many years, she has organised the very successful Family History Days for which the LCA is renowned, always finding inspirational and knowledgeable speakers and putting together wonderfully interesting programmes.

But, her activities have not been limited to the LCA. Lorna has long been a very active member of the Cornwall Family History Society and can regularly be seen manning stands at Family History fairs and generally promoting both the LCA and the CFHS.

Perhaps one of the things she will be most remembered for is the hard work she put into creating the Cornish Masters and Mates database which has really proved itself an invaluable family history resource. More recently, she has been part of the CFHS team putting together a searchable database of Cornish people who were involved in the two world wars and subsequent conflicts.

It was with great pleasure that we heard recently that Lorna's hard work and commitment have been acknowledged by the Cornwall Family History Society who awarded her a certificate at their recent AGM and made her a Fellow of the Society. We congratulate her on this well deserved honour.

LCA Shield and Medal Bras Map Trevethan (Paul Smales Award)



Recipients of awards at this year's Open Gorsedd at Penryn included two members of the LCA.

Council member, Tony Wakeham was presented with the London Cornish Shield which is awarded *For outstanding services to Cornwall and Cornish People*. The award recognises all the many things that Tony has done over the years to promote Cornish heritage and links in London.

Apart from organising the LCA's highly successful New Year's Lunches and Annual Picnics, he has planned and run many outings which highlight interesting Cornish relics – such as the Rillington Cup in the British Museum, the Trevithick engine in the Science museum and Cornish minerals in the Natural History Museum - and he has organised London walks to places with Cornish connections.

Tony has an extensive knowledge of London and has used this to track down people, places and events in the capital which have Cornish links. Over the years he has collected a large amount of information which is being used for the *Cornwall in London Project* which he started with Past Chairman, Priscilla Oates several years ago.

Tony is tremendously supportive of others. He is always happy to get his hands dirty behind the scenes, he represents the LCA at dinners of other Cornish Associations and he regularly contributes reports to the LCA newsletter.

Editor, Liz Broekmann, was awarded the Medal Bras Map Trevethan (Paul Smales Medallion) for *Services to Cornwall by someone living outside Cornwall*.

Penryn Gorsedd 2013

In September I spent a very enjoyable weekend in Cornwall with my two friends and fellow London Cornish Association Council members Liz Broekmann and Tony Wakeham when they received awards at the Open Gorsedd held in Glasney field Penryn.

We arrived in Falmouth on Friday evening to torrential rain and a hailstorm resulting in the main road to our accommodation flooding and therefore being closed to traffic. Luckily we found another route and were able to book into our guest house just hoping this was not a portent of what was to follow the next day!

Fortunately as we set off for the Gorsedd on Saturday morning the weather was fine and thankfully remained so. On our arrival in Penryn we just had time to greet friends from the Bournemouth Cornish Association and past London Cornish Chairman Priscilla Oats before it was time for them to join the procession to Glasney field.

After the Bards had entered the circle a fanfare announced the arrival of the Grand Bard and the ceremony commenced. Luckily I found myself standing next to a lovely Cornish lady who was able to help me follow the proceedings especially those in Cornish.

I felt extremely proud and quite emotional as Liz and Tony entered the circle alongside all the other award recipients. When their names were announced they came forward to be greeted by the Grand Bard who congratulated them and presented them with their award:

*Liz Broekmann - The Paul Smales Medallion
For services to Cornwall by someone living outside Cornwall*

*Tony Wakeham - London Cornish Association Shield
For outstanding services to Cornwall and the Cornish people*

I am sure readers will agree with me that Liz and Tony are worthy recipients of the honours bestowed upon them.

Jackie Trembath

Falmouth celebrates its railway

Two anniversaries were celebrated in Falmouth over the August bank holiday weekend and we were delighted to be invited to both.

On the 24th August 1863, a train travelled between Truro and Falmouth for the first time and despite various difficulties down the years, the line has survived. The pannier tank locomotive 0-6-0 number 6435, built by the GWR at Swindon in 1937, steamed cheerfully in the Moor on Saturday 24th August 2013. It had been carried from its home at the Bodmin and Wenford Railway on a low loader. Along with a model steam engine, traction engines and a model train layout, it drew large crowds to the area. There were also stalls of railway memorabilia and of special interest to us was the stall manned by the Friends of Penmere Platform, whose restoration work on the station has won them prizes as well as much acclaim.

This was the other anniversary to be celebrated as the group began their activities 20 years ago. On seeing the vast improvement that they had made to what had become a real eye-sore since my father, the last man to work

there, retired. I contacted them to express my admiration and gratitude for their efforts. A correspondence grew between us with updates on progress from them and reminiscences, cuttings from the press etc from me, so that they now have an impressive archive of facts about the life of the Platform. They have had considerable help from the local community ranging from plants from the Parks Department to custom built themed planters and seats made by the students and apprentices from the Technical College and Docks. They also made an excellent contribution to the exhibition held in the Polytechnic, telling the story of the line in all its many aspects, where an air of excitement was palpable among the young children enjoying the 'hands on' activities and the adults reminiscing and also discovering previously unknown facts.

On Sunday the 25th August we experienced another 'first' for the line, when a First Great Western high speed train was diverted from its route from Paddington to Penzance to carry Richard Burningham from the Rail Partnership, the Deputy Mayors of Truro and Penryn and the Mayor of Falmouth, with invited guests on a wonderfully smooth run to unveil commemorative plaques at Penryn and Falmouth Dock stations before returning at speed to Truro for the final unveiling before a sumptuous buffet on the station and the return of the train to its scheduled run. Now re-styled as the 'Maritime Line' with a smart blue and white colour scheme and the Dell platform now renamed Falmouth Town, the passenger numbers have soared and the future of the line seems assured.

We are immensely grateful to Steve Lloyd and the Friends for inviting us to be part of this event and applaud the great work that they are doing to attract more visitors to this beautiful part of the County. Others are taking notice and plans are afoot for a similar group to form at Perranwell Station. Enterprises like this are at the heart of the Cornish spirit and long may they continue to thrive.

Valerie Harris



Falmouth Docks Station showing the new mural



Penmere Platform today

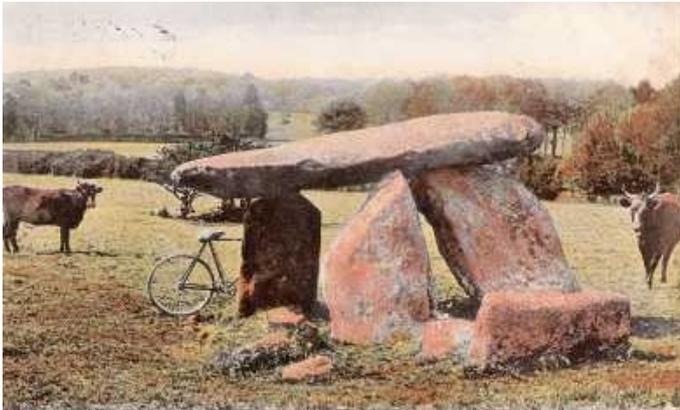
Carwynnen Quoit Is To Stand Again - Its Official!

After three years of fundraising, the Sustainable Trust, owners of the field formerly known as Cromlech Parc or Frying Pan Field, have finally found the funding needed to restore the Carwynnen Quoit to the standards required by English Heritage.

The Sita Cornwall Trust will fund the excavations and restoration, and the Heritage Lottery Fund will fund the education and outreach aspect of the project. Support has also come from The Tanner Trust, Cornwall Heritage Trust, The Council of British Archaeology and Cornwall Archaeological Society, the Federation of Old Cornwall Societies and the Camborne Old Cornwall Society as well as from Patron Charles Thomas.

The final excavations were due to take place in October after which it will be possible for the first of the support stones to be erected.

There are plans to make a film on the project, commission a ballad and create exhibitions. While talks and education days will be available to schools



Carwynnen Quoit before it collapsed

Mousehole meets Milwaukee: A Cornish Gathering on the Waters 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 every Cousin Jack and Jenny to come together.

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

The organisers are now calling for presenters at this great event. If you are interested or would like more information, contact Kathryn Herman on vkherman@avalonsquare.com. Applications must be submitted by 15th January.

The Man Outside

It was many years ago, just after the First World War, when regiments – in this case The Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry – decided that they wanted to remember the men they had lost during that conflict.

The DCLI approached Stanope Forbes of Newlyn who had, by then, become an acclaimed artist and sculpturer, to ask if he or one of his contemporaries could create a suitable statue. Forbes agreed to do this, with one proviso – that the man used as the model could be William Harvey Triggs who had himself served with the DCLI. William was already quite well known to Stanope Forbes as he had modelled for him on many occasions at his school in Newlyn.

The statue was created and was unveiled by the then Duke of Cornwall on July 17th 1924.

Watching the unveiling with her sister was a beautiful 24 year old young lady, Helen Mary Adams from Sidcup in Kent.

In 1940, Helen was evacuated to Redruth where she taught children at Tabb's Hotel which had been converted into a school during the war. One day, a certain William Triggs, who was a farmer on Carn Brea, was driving his horse and cart into Redruth to deliver milk. It was pouring with rain and he gave a lift to a young lady who was waiting for a bus. The young lady turned out to be Helen Mary Adams who eventually became his wife. They were my parents. My mother's sister, Christine Chapman (who is mentioned earlier) was a member of London Cornish, living in Eltham, London SE9.

Long may this statue reside outside the barracks close by Bodmin General Station.

*Peter Triggs
Chairman West Somerset CA*



The Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry War Memorial in Bodmin

More Chough News (good and bad)

Our Summer edition reported the sad news that in June, after a prolonged battle with another bird, the male of the resident couple at Southerly Point on the Lizard disappeared, presumably ousted by a younger rival who then went on to 'adopt' the female and her two chicks. I've received a further update from Claire Mucklow, Cornwall Chough Project Manager, RSPB SouthWest.

It seems that some two weeks after this unusual rearing/fostering, there was further sad news – the original female disappeared too. Claire comments that it is not unheard of for the remaining partner of a strongly-bonded pair to pine away without her mate, and presumably this is what happened. However, the usurping male continued to feed the two chicks "like a chough possessed" and the good news is that the youngsters successfully fledged in mid-July. They are doing well and the male interloper has found himself a new mate.

The other Lizard pair, which has bred successfully for the past two years, also disappeared after hatching two chicks. One of these chicks was undersized so unlikely to survive anyway, but why the parents and remaining chick also vanished is a mystery and it is thought they were predated.

Moving on to Penwith, the two pairs established there fledged five chicks, which Claire says is a remarkable achievement given the harsh winter and delayed spring. In addition a young male arrived from the north coast and teamed up with a female who had been without a mate for four years. They produced one chick and together protected it well for a while until the male left his little family and returned to the north. Luckily the youngster is doing well but his mother is once again without a mate.

Claire also reports that there are more choughs in Cornwall, from Bedruthan Steps in the north to Cadgwith in the south. These are mainly young pre-breeders who are establishing territories and pair-bonding. Unringed birds appear and disappear from time to time and it isn't known whether they are different incomers or choughs moving around. It shows the value of colour-ringing and the insight this sheds on the world of the chough.

Let's hope that 2014 will be an even more successful year for our Cornish choughs and we send our best wishes to Claire and her dedicated team of chough-watchers.

Lorna Leadbetter

New Members

We welcome the following new members:

Miss Kathryn Major from Penzance and now living in Coulsdon, Surrey

Ben Gilby by descent and living in Worcester Park, 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
Tel: 01622 727167

A reason to visit...?

John Lobb of St James Street are bootmakers to the Prince of Wales and this is particularly appropriate considering the founder came from Cornwall. *London's Industrial Heritage*, published this year and written by Geoff Marshall tells the story:

While still a young man, John Lobb fell from a donkey - some say a hay wagon - while working on a farm in his native Cornwall. He sustained a serious injury, but as events turned out, a fortuitous one, for John was forced to abandon farm work and seek employment elsewhere as a bootmaker. And in this trade Lobb became skilled; he was also ambitious and, despite his disability, found the strength to walk to London to seek his fortune. At the time Thomas' of St James's were the best bootmakers in London and Lobb headed there and asked for a job. He was met with a firm 'No' and in response reported that one day, 'I'll build a firm that will knock you sideways'.

Rejected by Thomas', the ambitious young man set off for Australia in search of gold. Gold he did not find; instead he started out making prospectors' boots with hollowed-out heels in which the prospectors could store their gold in secret. Lobb, as we have seen, was never slow at coming forward and while still in Australia was confident enough to display his boots at the 1862 Exhibition in London...He won a gold medal for 'good work and first class materials' and promptly wrote to the Prince of Wales to ask if he could be awarded the royal warrant. His nerve paid off and in 1863 he was awarded it. Three years later Lobb, his wife and his young apprentice Frederick Richards, boarded a boat for England.

Despite there being over 3,000 boot makers in London, Lobb thrived. The medals followed.

Lobb moved to St James's Street in 1880 and has been located at various buildings there ever since; their present address is 7-9 St James's Street.

The above quote is from:

London's Industrial Heritage by Geoff Marshall
Publisher: The History Press ISBN: 978 0 7524 8728 1.

Ursula Jeffries



Lobb's shop front in 1866

<http://media.johnlobb.com/media/wysiwyg/bootmaker/timeline/1866.jpg>

Cornwall Male Voice Choirs Do A 'Proper Job'

Three years of planning and two of rehearsing resulted in a very special Cornish event in London in November. The combination of about 600 (mostly) Cornish male voices in one of the country's most beautiful venues has to be a recipe for success. For lovers of Cornwall, and the tradition of Cornish male voice choirs, Kernowyon A Gan was the ultimate in treats and will long be remembered.

In all, there were 27 choirs, 25 of which were members of the Cornish Federation of Male Voice Choirs, and two of which were associate members. Cornish youth were represented by Cambiata (a choir for boys whose voices are changing), and the Cornwall Youth Orchestra whose organist Angus Webster, at just 14, played an impressive organ solo. He is thought to be the youngest person ever to play the organ at the Royal Albert Hall – a wonderful first for Cornwall

The audience, numbering in excess of 4 000, descended on the Royal Albert Hall, coming in from different parts of the country. They could be seen emerging from chartered buses, the tube, taxis, London buses... many wearing tartan. Most of the people there were from Cornwall and the Grand Bard summed up the invasion when she said that they *were like Trelawny's Army of old, anxious to make a presence in London.* That they most surely did.

Included in the audience were the Lord Lieutenant of Cornwall, Colonel Edward Bolitho, previous Lord Lieutenant, Lady Mary Holborough and Maureen Fuller, the Grand Bard of the Gorsedh Kernow. There was also a strong London Cornish Association presence. It was our Past President Sir David Brewer, as Lord Lieutenant of Greater London, who welcomed everyone and there was a special greeting from our current President, Sir John Trelawny. Even the MC for the evening - the Bishop of Truro, Tim Thornton - is a member! And then of course, there were the many members in the audience on this memorable evening.

After an incredible programme of singing and music, the evening ended in the only way a Cornish event can - with the singing of Trelawny. With a choir of 600 and audience of 4 000 all singing together, this was a moment which will not easily be forgotten!

2013 marks the thirtieth anniversary of the Cornish Federation of Male Voice Choirs which promotes the choirs in the county and this event was an important part of the celebrations. What a way to celebrate!

Proceeds from the evening went to the RNLI, the Cornish Hospices and the Radio Cornwall Appeal.

Kernowyon A Gan was recorded by PM Sound and will be released as a CD early next year. Look for more details on the Cornish Federation of Male Voice Choirs website - fed-cornishchoirs.org.uk

There is no doubt that inside the Royal Albert Hall, the Cornish were making their presence felt, but, as everyone emerged into the evening and looked onto the beautiful Albert Memorial in front of them in Kensington Gardens, how many were aware that it too had a Cornish link? The memorial was designed by Sir George Gilbert Scott who chose as his Clerk of Works, Richard Coad from Liskeard.

Modern Cornish Cross Erected at Saltash

After three years in the planning, a giant 20 metre high Celtic-style cross has been erected in Saltash near the bridges crossing the Tamar River into Cornwall from neighbouring Devon. Saltash, once a bustling town on the main road south, was by-passed by a new road layout many years ago. The new cross is one way for the town to re-invent and re-invigorate itself. With the development of the nearby run-down Elwell Woods, it is hoped the cross will attract as many as 50,000 people a year to stop in the town and generate millions of pounds for the local economy. That is a very tall task (excuse the pun!).

Designed by Simon Thomas of Fowey and built using £450,000 of British lottery funding, the cross uses very modern materials but tries to evoke aspects of Cornish heritage. The internal spars are made of carbon fibre and fibreglass. Attached to the outside are over 6,000 individual geometric resin panels impregnated with copper and then sand-blasted to reveal the bluegreen copper colour. The head contains samples of gold and silver—other metals mined in Cornwall.

The cost of the sculpture has generated a lot of public debate and controversy as works of art often do. Saltash Town Council also contributed £50,000 with many locals questioning how much benefit could have been gained if the money had been spent on supporting poorer members of the community. However the cross provided jobs for ten people in Newquay where it was built by Gateguards who specialise in making full size replica aircraft for museums, the film industry and, as the name suggests, marking entrances.

The overall effect is strongly reminiscent of the granite Celtic crosses found all over Cornwall. So the cross combines references to ancient history, industrial history and modern technology. The archetypal stone Celtic cross has the wheel-shaped head adopted in the Saltash cross. Examples can be dated back to the 12th century or earlier. More recent examples, known as Latin type crosses, have the Christian crucifix style head. In the 15th and 16th centuries cross construction became more complex with the development of lantern style heads that ceased to be strict 'crosses'.

There are over 400 intact crosses throughout Cornwall. They were used to mark boundaries, especially parish boundaries or sacred sites such as burial grounds. Often they were wayside markers guiding people to churches or pilgrims to holy sites.

From the New Zealand Cornish Association newsletter



<http://www.westernmorningnews.co.uk/images/localworld/ugc-images/275776/Article/images/18769259/4777632.jpg>

The Archbishop of Canterbury visits Cornwall

The Most Rev Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury, made history in November when he visited Cornwall for a weekend as part of his *Journey of Prayer*. The purpose of the visit was to encourage the people of Cornwall to pray with him.

On arrival, he was greeted at Lemon Quay by the singing of local children. He offered a special prayer for Cornwall saying, *'There is hope, we need to be really optimistic. Cornwall sometimes gets forgotten, I wanted to say how important it is to be here'*

During the short visit, he managed to fit in a trip on the Penlee lifeboat (including time on the tiller) and a visit to the Launceston Food Bank.

On the Sunday morning, there was a special service at St Martin's Church in Liskeard. At the Service, the Archbishop was assisted by the Bishop of Truro, Rev Tim Thornton and the resident Priest, Rev Tony Ingleby.

Later in the day, there was a Covenant Service at St Petroc's Church in Bodmin. At this service representatives from different Christian groups committed themselves to working closely together.

At the end of his visit, the Archbishop described the support he had received from the people of Cornwall as 'overwhelming'.

Crisis for Cornwall

If, as planned, the three times daily air link from Gatwick to Newquay stops at the end of next March, Cornwall and West Devon will be entirely dependent on surface travel to and from London. The effects on the business community (and the knock-on effects on the area as a whole) will be catastrophic. Truro is 275 miles from central London by road and the alternative, the train, is not the quickest.

The history of air services to Cornwall is interesting. In 1977 Brymon Airways introduced a twice daily 50-seat service into Heathrow from Newquay, with a stop in Plymouth being added in the early 1980s. At this time, Plymouth enjoyed a short boom.

BA brought Brymon and took over its Heathrow slots. Brymon's successor, Air South West, flew into Gatwick. Flybe, seeing the success of the route, introduced a non-stop flight from Gatwick to Newquay. Following this, Air South West closed down and Plymouth airport was affected by the reduced flights. Flybe has now sold its entire slot allocation at Gatwick, saying that it is not viable for smaller aircraft operators to use the airport.

Newquay and seven other routes are at risk, but strong parliamentary representation from Inverness may have saved that link. In 2008, 431 000 passengers used Newquay airport, but these numbers have been dropping.

Stephen Gilbert, MP for St Austell & Newquay hopes to encourage EasyJet to help save the air corridor between Cornwall and the capital.

'It is absolutely vital that Cornwall stands up and speaks with one voice and calls for the air link with London Gatwick to be retained', he said. 'This is a crucial route for businesses in Cornwall to take local goods and services

to markets in London and the South East and even further afield, as well as being a key-route into Cornwall for those investing here or visiting our part of the world'.

Cornwall Council is committed to doing what it can to protect the air links.

Breaking News...

It has been announced that Flybe will continue to run its Newquay to Gatwick service whilst a long term solution is worked out. It is expected that it will run twice daily flights to London until at least October 2014.

Just for a laugh...

You may remember the Chemical Elements song by Tom Lehrer. Well, now try this one...The Cornish Elements Song by Colin Leggo which lists 96 locations in one county – Cornwall.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4d1SzbBfblE&feature=share>

Thanks to the Pacific Northwest Cornish Society (via The Cornish American Heritage Society) for alerting us to this.



News from other Cornish Associations

UNITED STATES

The latest newsletter of the **American Cornish Heritage Society** highlights the forthcoming *17th Gathering of the Cornish Cousins* which will be held in Milwaukee in August 2014. Planning is well underway and, as part of that, the Chairman of the organising committee, Kathryn Herman visited Cornwall earlier in the year where she made some useful contacts. It was on this visit that several members of the London Cornish Association had the pleasure of meeting both her and Vern for a meal.

In October, the members of the **California Cornish Cousins** met for a pasty lunch at the home of Jan Davis. The homemade pasties were made according to the recipe originally used by Jan's grandmother – with the exception of the lard!

Philip Hosken of the Trevithick Society in Cornwall, who was one of the guests at the event, gave a talk on Richard Trevithick.

The northern fall lunch was a combined event with members of the New Almaden Quicksilver County Park Association who were holding their annual Pioneer Day. During the day, the NAQCPA conducted a special dedication to the Mexican and Cornish miners of New Almaden.

We are aware that many Cornish associations are faced with dropping membership and reduced participation and that some are reaching the point where they are no longer sustainable. We were saddened therefore by a recent email from the **Cornish Heritage Society East** which showed that it is suffering from these problems. In the email, their President and Editor says that *'Our society is at a very low ebb. Almost no one has renewed membership dues. I have had some serious health issues, and it is too difficult for me to do the newsletter as usual.'* We hope that they will be able to resolve some of these issues in the coming months.

Usually the members of the **Cornish Society of Greater Milwaukee** go to two public events a year – the Highland Games in Waukesha on the Labor Day weekend and the Holiday Folk Fair in Milwaukee in November. Their latest newsletter carries brief reports from members who attended the Highland Games and highlights the importance of promoting our Cornish organisations and making contacts. During the event, they met people who had been actively searching for a Cornish association in the area but also some who had never heard of Cornwall!

The Society's Winter newsletter carries a review of the first volume of a new book by Jim Jewell - *Cornish Connections In Mineral Point, USA*. When the Cornish came to Mineral Point, Wisconsin from Great Britain, from about 1830, they not only dug for lead and copper but they also transplanted many of their cultural traditions. The book includes sections on Cornish wrestling, the women's suffrage movement, Cornish cookery, stone masonry and much more. With the Cornish Gathering taking place in a couple of months, the launch of this book is perfectly timed.

The **Southwest Wisconsin Cornish Society** helped to fund a Cornish memorial which has recently been completed and installed in the Mineral Point Public Library.

The memorial is bas relief and is dedicated to the Cornish immigrants who came to the Upper Mississippi Valley Lead Region to make new lives for themselves and their families.

CANADA

Members of the Toronto Cornish Association will be celebrating their 20th Anniversary Banquet in May 2014 and to mark this occasion, they plan to produce a special 20th Anniversary Booklet which, it is hoped, will include contributions from members explaining what their TCA membership means to them.

The Association must be very proud of Ann Crichton-Harris who, with two other ladies, fought for five years to save a historical mid-nineteenth century house in the former Carville village in Vaughan. Their hard work has finally paid off and the building has been saved. The Remington Group will now restore it. The house was of particular interest to Ann because she lived in it when her children were young.

At the October meeting, which was held at Maple Leaf Gardens, Tim Douglass gave an interesting talk about his four ancestors who built lighthouses for Trinity House. The focus of Tim's talk was on the lighthouses they built off the Cornish coast, namely, Bishop Rock, Wolf Rock, Longships and Eddystone.

Members learned about 'Tea the Cornish Way' at their November meeting. In December, the Association always has a special Christmas meeting. This year, Jim Dagg will prepare a special Cornish Quiz and it is hoped that Ann Burke will tell a Cornish

AUSTRALIA

Kernewek Lowender is, undoubtedly, the highlight of the Australian Cornish programme. It is held in South Australia every two years and attended by thousands of people from all over the world. We were thrilled to hear recently that the 2013 Kernewek Lowender has been awarded a Silver Medal at the South Australian Tourism Awards. This is an incredible achievement as there were eighteen contenders. We offer our congratulations to the organisers.

In August, members of the **Southern Sons of Cornwall** held a social gathering and auction. It was a good day, its success being measured as much by the laughter and friendly competition as by the quality of the feast and the funds raised.

Later in the month, some of them attended the Kangaroo Valley Celtic Gala Day. The SSOC set up a stall so they could make a decision about future participation. They seemed to have decided that there was sufficient interest to justify going again.

At the end of October, the group went on a tour of the Treat Factory in Berry. This factory sells a range of items directly from the producer. On site, they make a large assortment of chocolates, jams and sauces.

The Association held its Genealogy Day in November. This was a free event where members of the SSOC

helped members of the public, who had Cornish links, to explore their family history and it was a good opportunity to promote the Association

The latest newsletter reminds members that the theme for this year's 'Arts Competition' is '*photography with a Cornish connection*'. Entries will be judged at the next AGM. The prize will be the group's Celtic Cross trophy.

The **Cornish Association of South Australia** sadly lost its Patron, Hon Ian Wilson AM, earlier in the year. The good news is that Rev Matt Curnow was offered, and has accepted the position.

Early in December, the CASA choir will hold its Annual Christmas Concert. This will include songs from other concerts which took place during the year, some Australian carols and many much loved Cornish carols.

The choir has had an unsettling time this year due to the retirement of their conductor, Daphne Magrin. She had been with the choir for many years and the Association found her difficult to replace. They did finally appoint Asher Reynolds who took up her baton recently.

Members of the Association listened to Noel Carthew talk about Cornish Bards at their September meeting. Ros Paterson then gave a brief overview of the South Australians who have become Bards over the years. In October, the speaker was Andrew Peake, a genealogist who was a hostage in Iran in the 1970s. For him, a delayed departure from London, en route to India meant his plane was still on the ground being refuelled in Kuwait when Saddam Hussein's forces invaded the country. It was three months before he was able to return home.

Several members of the South Australian Mining History Group are interested in the idea of having a combined seminar, with CASA, where members of both groups could present talks about people from their own families who came to South Australia as miners in the nineteenth century.

The Cornish Association of Queensland held their Foundation Day Lunch on 5th October. The food was excellent and everyone had a good time. The guest speaker at the event was Cheryl Hayden who talked of her experiences of doing research for her recent novel, 'A Christmas Game'.

Early in December, the Association will hold a combined Cornish/Manx Christmas party where they will be served a traditional Christmas lunch. Entertainment will be provided by Yvonne Barlow-Turner from the Red Hot Mamas and there will be a Secret Santa. Member Sally generously gave a beautiful quilt to be raffled at the event.

Some members of CAQ recently had the pleasure of meeting for a most enjoyable lunch and long overdue chat with Graham and Jean Harry of the Cornish Association of New Zealand who were house-sitting their daughter's home in the area.

Members of the **Cornish Association of New South Wales** have had a busy couple of months. In October they held a Pasty Day. This was followed by a Cornish cream tea in November when the Association was invited as the guests of Cousin Jacks Pasty Co who were launching their cream tea. Also in November was the pre-Christmas party.

In October, the **Cornish Association of Victoria** held a Seniors Day. On this occasion, there were twenty one

visitors who were given a taste of Cornish culture and a chance to find some information on their Cornish ancestors. This was a good opportunity to promote the Association and tell them about the resources available in their library. The day was most successful, with seven of the guests joining up and two others showing interest.

In November members heard Max Beck talk about the Dunstan Family in a presentation on *Cornish Pioneer Miners to Australia*. In December they will hold their Christmas lunch.

The new year will get off to a good start when, in February, Ted and Beryl Curnow will talk on '*Walking The Sand Dunes Of Perranporth In Celebration Of St Piran.*'

Some time ago the Association collected information on the ancestors of CAV members who had served in the First World War. With the WW1 centenary approaching, a working group from the Association is re-looking at the material and hopes to update the information it contains.

The **Ballarat Branch** of the **Cornish Association of Victoria** has had a busy couple of months. In August, they had a 'fun' night with a Cornish Quiz, some community singing and a talk by Bev Pratt on the life of Cornishman Rev. John Cope who emigrated to Australia. At the October meeting, John Mildren spoke about a recent trip to Cornwall and Moira Drew gave a talk on 'Overland Gold'.

In the past few months, the group has attended the Maryborough Family History Fair and the Central Highlands Historical Association Festival where they were able to promote the CAV and help people with their research.

They will hold their End of Year Dinner early in December.

Shirley Lindsay, the Branch's secretary for many years stepped down at the AGM. In recognition of all her hard work, she was presented with a certificate at a special afternoon tea.

The **Geelong Branch** of the **Cornish Association of Victoria** held their Annual Dinner in November. The guest speaker on that occasion was John Mildren, the Chairman of the Ballarat Branch of the CAV.

NEW ZEALAND

The **Cornish Interest Group** of the **New Zealand Society of Genealogists** had a stand at the NZSGs National Family History Fair which was held in Manukau City in August. Whilst the Fair was aimed at the public, many family historians attended from throughout New Zealand.

In early November, the Cornish Group joined other interest groups for a Research Day where they had access to the resources of the NZSG. They also had the opportunity to use the Cornish Family History Society Database for which a corporate subscription had recently been taken out. It was originally hoped that this database could be accessed remotely through the NZSG website, but it has been established that members will need to visit the Family Research Centre if they want to use it.

We offer our sincere condolences to the members of the **New Zealand Cornish Association** on the recent death of one its key members, Ina Hocking. She was a very active member and served as secretary for many years. Her service to the Cornish community in New Zealand was acknowledged through her installation as a bard in 1992 and the award of the Paul Smales Medal in 2001.

As their President was unable to attend the August meeting of the *Christchurch Branch* of the NZCA, there was no Cornish language lesson. Instead, the meeting began with an update from Les, who talked about happenings in Cornwall over the past month. The guest speaker afterwards was member Freida Looser who used a Powerpoint display to explore the reasons why so many Cornish folk have left their homeland over the past 200 years or so.

The numbers attending the September meeting were down because many members were overseas while others were coping with storm damage to their properties. It also coincided with the opening day of the summer sports season. Les read his usual news from Cornwall and Dorothy shared an amusing story. The main activity of the afternoon was a game of Trivial Pursuit, with Les as quizmaster.

The quarterly meeting of the *Taranaki Branch* was held in mid-August. Gary told members about a resident of St Austell who was given a jail sentence after holding up a petrol station while wearing a see-through plastic bag as a disguise! This enabled him to be identified on CCTV!

After a short business session, members Graham Richards and Faith Weston told members about their recent trip to Cornwall.

The Branch recently received some good news when it heard they had been given a Taranaki Savings Bank Community Grant to help them run their activities.

UNITED KINGDOM

The *West Somerset Cornish Association* is in the envious position of having, on average, 75% of its 30 members at meetings. They have a varied programme which has included talks on a range of subjects from nursing in Iraq to Antarctica as well as pub lunches, a cream tea and fish and chip supper.

We were saddened to hear of the recent passing of Maureen Thompson, a member of the *Bristol Cornish Association*. She will be missed by her friends at the Association as well as by others who knew her from Cuntelles Kernewek. We offer our condolences to her husband Trevor (an ex-president of Bristol CA) and to their family.

Thames Valley Cornish Association celebrated its Annual Lunch in October. A good turnout, a good meal and plenty chat made this a most enjoyable event. Their next event will be their new year's lunch in January



Members of the *Torbay Cornish Association* have recently enjoyed a couple of very interesting talks and these will continue in the new year when Mary Watters tells members about *The Cornish Saints* and Colin Small tells them about *The National Coach Watch*. Before that, in early December, they will hold their very popular Annual Dinner as well as a Christmas lunch.

Are you planning to visit London?

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

Contact The Editor at editor@londoncornish.co.uk

A warm welcome awaits you at the London Cornish Association

Cornish Embassy for London Announced

Plans to create a Cornish Embassy in London have been announced. The Cornwall Development Company said it was looking for an office site on behalf of the Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP).

The embassy would showcase the county's assets and strengths. The Cornwall Development Company said the building would also act as a base for meetings with business leaders to try and attract investment to the county. Roland Tiplady, from the LEP, said: *'If we want to expand the influence of Cornwall we have got to be in London and showing people in London this is a good place to do business. Companies that come to England always go to London first. Unless we have a presence there, they will never consider us.'*

Local companies, including St Austell Brewery, are supporting the plan for an embassy. James Staughton, the director of the brewery, said: *'As an ex-Londoner I have always harboured an ambition that Cornwall has an embassy in London where we can showcase all the wonderful parts of Cornwall.'* The LEP and the Cornwall Development company are currently investigating the costs of setting up an embassy in the capital.

Odd Cornish Place Names

Cocks
Brown Willy
Cheese Ring
Grandma's Gusset
Mousehole
Feock
Little Egypt
Playing Place
Flushing
Boobys Beach
No Man't Land
Portwinkle
Cockwells
Shop
Venton Gimps

(From Facebook.com/ProperJobCornwall)

Publications

We have been made aware of the following publications:

A Schoolboy's War in Cornwall

By Jim Reeve

Publisher: The History Press

ISBN 978 07524 5540 2

The book sets out the experiences of evacuees, including the author, who escaped from the hazards of the Blitz in London and other cities to find safety in Cornwall, only to find that sometimes they were still at risk from enemy aircraft strafing the beaches while they played. When they were evacuated neither they, nor their parents, knew where they were going until the children sent a postcard on their arrival. Some of the children were as young as five.

When the word went out on the radio 'Evacuate Now', one and a half million children were moved on 3000 buses and 4000 trains that had been commandeered by the Government. This was said to be equivalent to moving ten armies. The children's parents were not allowed to see them off.

When they arrived at their destinations, bewildered and tired after their long journey, they were ushered into church and school halls, where they were selected by foster parents, who had no choice but to take a child home or face a fine or jail. The snotty-nosed kids from the East of London were left till last.

Most children had a wonderful experience but there were some who did not and they share these with the reader. Many made friends for life, some enjoyed Cornwall so much that when they grew up they returned to live there. The book gives an insight into war as seen through the eyes of the young and is a must for anyone interested in the Second World War history.

The book can be obtained via The History Press www.thehistorypress.co.uk or Amazon.

Theatre In The Round: The Staging Of Cornish Medieval Drama

By Sydney Higgins

Publisher: Alldrama through CreateSpace Independent Publishing

The important and rich collection of medieval plays from Cornwall has, in the past, been all but ignored by the majority of drama historians and critics. In this book, Sydney Higgins shows why this is a mistaken and ill-informed view.

The oldest of the three surviving manuscripts is the Cornish Cycle - performed on three consecutive days - that is probably the earliest surviving British drama script. Next is 'Buenans Meriasek' ('The Life of St. Meriasek') that is the only full-length medieval saint's play to have survived in the literature of Great Britain. The last of the three, 'The Creation of the World' is the first day of another Biblical play.

In the manuscript of the Cornish Cycle, there is a plan of the theatre for each of the three days and there are two similar ones in 'St. Meriasek'. Apart from these five, the only other other plan of a British medieval theatre that has survived is of 'The Castle of Perseverance'. Like those for the Cornish plays, it is circular.

Among the many important conclusions in the detailed and meticulously researched examination of the staging of the Cornish plays is that the medieval circular theatres are far more likely to have been the inspiration for the circular theatres of Shakespeare's age than the highly unlikely notion that their origin arose from a pageant waggon being parked in a rectangular inn yard.

The book is available on Amazon and in bookshops.

Richard Jenkin: A Great Son of Cornwall/Map Dyvroeth: Mab Meur a Gernow

By Derek R. Williams

Published by Francis Boutle Publishers, with funding from Cornwall Heritage Trust, The Federation of Old Cornwall Societies, Gorsedh Kernow, An Guntelles Kelttek – Kernow (The Celtic Congress – Cornwall), Kesva an Taves Kernewek (Cornish Language Board), Mebyon Kernow – The Party for Cornwall, and the Sir Arthur Quiller-Couch Memorial Fund, this important new book examines Richard Jenkin's life as a cultural and political leader, writer, editor, and Grand Bard.

As well as essays by a number of well-known writers which cover various aspects of Jenner's work for Cornwall and the wider Celtic world, it features some of his own writings, and reminiscences and tributes from both friends and colleagues.

European Parliament supports more protection for *Kernowek*

Press release from the office of Sir Graham Watson

11th September 2013

The European Parliament has voted to call for governments to do more to preserve regional languages today.

This follows a report by the United Nations cultural body UNESCO, who described the Cornish language as 'endangered'.

Language campaigner Sir Graham Watson, who represents Cornwall in the European Parliament supported the report and commented,

'Protecting our regional culture and diversity is vital. And protecting ancient languages is just as important as protecting our regional food, drink and geography. For many years I have campaigned to encourage more people to take up another language. That is why I was very happy to support these proposals in Parliament today.'

'As a linguist by training, I understand the importance of languages. Even with the spread of English as a language of communication, it is still dwarfed as a mother tongue by Mandarin and still less widely used than Spanish. And languages less widely used than these three often need active support. Language shapes thought, and linguistic diversity provides diverse forms of intelligence. Artifacts such as sculpture or scripture can be saved when a culture becomes extinct. A language cannot. It lives and dies with the people who speak it. We must therefore do all we can to preserve our languages.'

Mem Sec's Meanderings...

Here we are in autumn – time flies! It is gradually getting cooler and the days are getting shorter. Strong winds, almost a hurricane, blew across much of the country on 28th October bringing down trees and causing transport disruption. This was the worst since the ‘hurricane’ of 16th October 1987. But let us not complain as next year, with its spring and summer, is only just around the corner!

This year the Paul Smales Pemas Map Trevethan Award, which is presented annually by the Cornish Gorsedd for services to Cornwall by a Cornish person living outside Cornwall, was awarded to our Editor and Past Chairman, Mrs. Liz Broekmann. We offer our congratulations to Liz for the award, which she well deserved. Well done Liz and three cheers from our members.

Now onto my regular subject as Membership Secretary. Our membership has reduced to 227, but we are able to welcome two new members:

Miss Kathryn Major from Penzance and now living in Coulsdon, Surrey and

Ben Gilby by descent and living in Worcester Park, Surrey

Over the years our Membership has gradually reduced, but, nevertheless, we do try, and we hope to recruit some new members. Repeating what I always say, ‘*please do what you can to encourage other people to join the Association*’.

Have you noticed that on radio or TV today a Cornishman will often say that they are Cornish? We know that Cornish people are very proud of their Cornish ancestry and being Cornish or simply having Cornish connections, either by birth, marriage or descent is important to us. Do not hesitate to encourage Cornish people that you know to come along to functions where they will be able to meet with other Cornish people. Pride in our heritage brings us together and who knows, there is always the chance they might meet someone from their schooldays or even from where they lived.

Do you ever ‘look back in time’, and reflect on your memories and history and wonder how it can help improve the future. Members of the London Cornish Association, I am sure, all want the LCA to continue in the years to come. Sadly some Cornish Associations have folded due to a declining number of members and in many cases lack of membership support. This could happen to the LCA if new members do not come forward. So please do try and encourage others to join. Our membership has dropped again, although we need to remember that not all our members live in London - they are spread across the country and some are even living abroad.

The big question is ‘*What do people want from a Cornish Association?*’ Could we please have your ideas, suggestions and opinions?

I promised in my last *Meanderings* I would look for some more snippets about Cornwall in various books and newspapers. Well, while looking through an old book on Cornwall, dated 1895, I found the following interesting newspaper cutting (sadly undated) entitled ‘*Why the Devil never entered Cornwall*’:

“*One of the many quaint legends concerning the Devil relates the reason why his Satanic Majesty never entered Cornwall. On the other hand, so many places are called*

after him that it seems probable he must occasionally have paid the county a visit. It was on account of a universal habit, which Cornish people still have, of making everything into pies and pasties. The story then goes that one evening long ago the Devil had taken one of his customary strolls round his snug little farm, the Earth, to see how his crops went on. He had been busy in Devonshire, so walked across Dartmoor to rest himself, population being absolutely nil in wild regions. On the summit of Yes Tor, overlooking the Cornish country, he sat down on a rock. The salt wind blew keen over the narrow land from the North Sea to the South; Satan shivered and tucked his tail round his cloven hoofs, for the evenings were getting chilly and he was accustomed to a climate. Then he turned himself to survey Cornwall from his coign of vantage (viewing point). Telescopes had not yet been invented, but that was of no importance to the Devil. He who can detect every weak point in a human heart did not need glasses to see through the rugged granite masses of the Cornish mountains, Rowter and Brown Willey which rose before him a few miles away. At the first glance the country seemed a pleasant one and profitable, for it was well peopled in those days by folks with no less original sin than their neighbours. But as he watched their occupations he was struck by the fact that they made everything into pies. There was rooky pie, herby pie, conger and tatie pasty, star-gazey pie, with the heads of pilchards sticking up through the crust. His Satanic Majesty grew thoughtful: he was half afraid to risk himself among a people possessed by this strange mania. What if they took a fancy to ‘devil pie’? He shook his head regretfully and turned away. Crossing Cranmere Bog in a single stride, he returned to Devon as the shades of night were falling. That is the true history why the Devil never came into Cornwall.”

This is a story that many of you have probably heard before, but if you do not believe it have you any other reason why the Devil never entered Cornwall?

Time flies it is now November and these Meanderings have to be sent to our hard working editor, Liz, who will produce the Newsletter and post it to you all. This also means Christmas is fast approaching so I take this opportunity to wish you a Merry Christmas as the next Newsletter will not be until next year, 2014. Sorry if I am making you feel older!

Once more I hope you have enjoyed these ‘*Meanderings*’ and that you will continue your membership and perhaps even manage to recruit new members. I’ll look for some more little snippets for my next ‘*Meanderings*’.

Kernow bys vyken

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<http://cornwalkernow.co.uk/cornwall-twinned-with-heaven/>

Crowdy Crawn

A 'Proper Job': Cornish MP Saves The Day

Quick thinking action by Cornish MP Stephen Gilbert recently saved a woman from drowning in the Thames.

According to reports, Mr Gilbert was at an event on the House of Commons terrace when he noticed what he thought was a body floating in the river. When he saw it move, he rushed to get a life-buoy and threw it to the woman. She was able to grab it and hang on until she was rescued further down the river, near Westminster Pier.

We congratulate Mr Gilbert on doing 'proper job'.

David Dimbleby, Britain and the Sea

In a new TV series which started recently, David Dimbleby will be travelling around the coast on his boat Rocket, exploring Britain's longstanding relationship with the sea and looking at how the sea has influenced our art and literature.

In the first episode, David travelled from the Helford Estuary up the Cornish coast to the Britannia Royal Naval College in Dartmouth. En route, he explored Falmouth, investigated smuggling in Mevagissey, learned about the artist George Morland who painted some Cornish coast scenes and visited the childhood home of Daphne du Maurier. When he arrived in Plymouth, he visited a tattoo parlour - where he can be seen getting the scorpion tattoo which has been so much in the news!

An interesting series with some lovely photography. Well worth catching if there is a repeat.

A new Coffee Shop and Delicatessen in Falmouth

A new Coffee Shop and Delicatessen, which specialises in providing Cornish produce from small independent producers, recently opened in central Falmouth.

Apart from the coffee shop which sells sandwiches, pasties and cream teas, the delicatessen provides a range of locally sourced products and a range of hampers. Goods can be bought in the shop or online.

And as an extra service, if you are planning a picnic, they are happy to give you suggestions for where to go.

Find out more on their website - Web: www.picniccornwall.co.uk or call on 07884 498794

Cornish group supports local charities

A Cornish group, *The Proper Job Singers*, raises funds for Cornish charities by singing Cornish songs and sharing Cornish dialect stories. They have recently made large donations to the Radio Cornwall Phoenix Stroke Appeal and the West Cornwall Parkinson's Disease Group.

Two CDs have now been released and will be sold to raise funds. More information about them (and some sound bites) can be found on the group's website www.properjobsingers.org. Copies of the CDs can also be bought via the website.

Can you help?

There were apparently two nineteenth century mining engineers from the Liskeard area who, like so many Cornish miners, went overseas to work. Although they apparently made valuable contributions to mining in other countries, we know very little about them. Are you able to fill in any of the gaps? We are looking for information on:

Mr Bryant (of Menheniot) who went to South Australia and apparently developed a new method of dressing copper ores

Mr Gluyas who went to South Africa (I have discovered a Charles Gluyas who might be the person concerned)

There is also thought to have been, a 19th century Liskeard mining engineer working in Papua New Guinea. Has anyone heard of him or know anything about him?

If you have any information on any of these men, please contact the editor at editor@londoncornish.co.uk or at the address on the back page.

Cornish Carols

One of the special things about Christmas in Cornwall is singing rousing carols and none were as well-loved as the carol tunes written by Thomas Merritt. '*Hark the Glad Sound*' comes immediately to mind.

Merritt was born in Illogan near Redruth in 1863 to a poor mining family. His education was cut short at the age of eleven when his father died and he had to go to work. He followed his father into mining.

At the age of 18 he began his interest in music and, when his own poor health forced him to stop making a living by physical labour, he began to teach music. He was later appointed organist for the Chili Road Methodist Church. In 1889 he moved to the nearby Illogan Highway Methodist Church where he was organist and choirmaster until he died in 1908.

Revivalist Methodism was a strong force in Merritt's life and he is credited with playing a major role in its popularity among the Cornish people. His composing went beyond hymns and carols. He wrote for brass bands, oratorios and a march for the coronation of King Edward VII.

From the New Zealand Cornish Association Nov/Dec 2012

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

5th February

Please send all contributions to:

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Or email to editor@londoncornish.co.uk