



Cowethas Kernewek Loundres

London Cornish Association Newsletter



www.londoncornish.co.uk

Winter 2014

Nadelik Lowen ha Blydhen Nowydh Da

The greeting at the top of this page is a stark reminder that another year has passed and that Christmas is just around the corner. Having grown up in two of the colonies where the Cornish took their skills and expertise (South Africa and Australia), I have been more used to bright, hot Christmases, but I have to confess to a great love affair with British Christmases. I will never forget my first Christmas after moving to the UK. I remember looking out the windows at work as it got dark and watching as the wonderful lights in the streets and shop windows came on – and I am still continually amazed at those incredible displays some people have on their houses. And there is something magical about going shopping in the dark. I loved (and still do) the cold weather, which somehow seemed to justify all that over-indulgence in rich food! I am about to celebrate my 13th Christmas in the UK and none of the excitement I remember of that first ‘northern’ Christmas has gone!

Around this time of the year the LCA traditionally holds its Annual Service. This year, the timing coincided with a very busy period in the Methodist calendar and so it has had to be postponed. We hope to have it sometime in the spring. As soon as we have the details, we will publicise them on the website (www.londoncornish.co.uk) and elsewhere so that everyone gets them.

We are very excited about our 129th Annual Dinner which will be held on 14th March 2015. We are fortunate to have as our Principal Speaker, Mr Malcolm Bell who is Head of Tourism at Visit Cornwall. It will be most interesting to hear what he has to say about our favourite county as a holiday destination. You will find more details of the Dinner on page 2. You will also find an invitation and booking form with this newsletter. (For those who get the e-newsletter,

this will be attached). We know this will be a lovely evening and hope to see many members and friends there.

Just a month after the Dinner, we will have another of our special Family History Days. This will take place on 18th April and the Family History Convenors – Carol Goodwin and Gill Penny – have pulled off a real coup: they have managed to get Nick Barratt to come to talk to us, despite the fact that there is a big Who Do You Think You Are? event in Birmingham on the same day! Those of us who have enjoyed watching WDYTIA? over the years will be familiar with Nick. This is an event not to be missed. More information will appear in the Spring newsletter and on the website.

We will start 2015 with our, ever-popular, New Year’s Lunch. This event, which is always well attended, will once again take place at Penderel’s Oak in Holborn. Feedback from various events we have held at this pub show that it is a very popular (and easy to get to) watering hole! We hope to see you there.

Although we are still heading into winter, spring will soon follow. One of the things that happens then is that nominations for the Medal Bras Map Trevethan (Paul Smales Award) are called for. These need to be sent to our Chairman by Wednesday 15th April, so this is a warning to start thinking about who you would like to nominate. This prestigious award is given by the Gorsedh Kernow For services to Cornwall by someone living outside Cornwall. More details of the criteria, and past winners, will appear in the next newsletter.

All that now remains is for me to wish you and our Cornish cousins in the UK and around the world a very blessed Christmas and a wonderful 2015.



Dates for your diary ...

2014

Annual Service

Please note that this has been postponed

2015

New Year’s Lunch

10th January

129th Annual Dinner

14th March

Family History Day

18th April

Informal Lunches

17th February

23rd March

27th April

Further details of these events can be found on page 2

Deadline for the Autumn Newsletter is

5th February

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

Forthcoming events

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

Annual Service

Annual Service has been postponed. Once the details have been confirmed, they will be included in the Newsletter and on the website - www.londoncornish.co.uk

New Year's Lunch

Time: 12 Noon

Venue: Penderel's Oak - 283-288 High Holborn, London

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

Contact: Liz Broekmann. Tel 07736438315

Informal Lunches

We are introducing a change to the informal lunches. Following suggestions from some of our members, we plan to meet at different venues around London. The first lunch of the year will be at one of our favourite watering holes - Penderel's Oak in Holborn. We welcome your suggestions for future lunches. If you have any ideas for a suitable restaurant or pub, please let our Chairman, Francis Dunstan know.

Forthcoming lunches:

17th February - Penderel's Oak (see details under New Year's Lunch)

23rd March - details to be confirmed.

Don't forget to diarise...

129th Annual Dinner - 14th March 2015

See below for more details

Family History Day - 18th March 2015

One of the speakers on this occasion will be Nick Barratt, genealogical consultant for the early series of *Who Do You Think You Are?*

AGM and Trelawny Lecture - 10th June 2015

The Trelawny Lecture will be given by Ann Hicks, Chairman of the Cornwall Family History Society.

A pasty lunch will be served before this event.

Do we have your correct email and mailing addresses?

Please let us know if you change any of your contact details

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

129th Annual Dinner of the London Cornish Association

at

The Thistle Hotel
Bryanston Street, London W1H 7EH

On

14th March 2015

Principal Speaker: Mr Malcolm Bell
Head of Tourism, Visit Cornwall

Cost: £37.50

Menu

Starter

Timbale of prawns, avocado puree, tomato concentrate

Main Course

Roasted loin of pork, apricot & sage stuffing, bramley apple sauce, fondant potato & French beans

Vegetarian Option

Butternut squash crumble with a gruyere and walnut topping

Dessert

Dark chocolate opera cake served with clotted cream

An invitation and booking form are included with this newsletter.

News of Past Events

Family History Day

Members and guests were treated to two very different but equally interesting and informative talks at the Family History Day in October. In the morning, Ian Waller presented a talk entitled *Reading the Handwriting - Tips on reading older records* while in the afternoon, we heard the fascinating story of Thomas Coram and the Foundling Hospital. The following reports summarise those two talks.

Reading Old Handwriting – a Talk Given by Ian Waller

The first talk of the day was given by Ian Waller, a respected professional genealogist who is also the author of a number of books on family history subjects. His topic was one that we all face at one time or another during the course of our research – that of reading and understanding old handwriting.

His starting point was that it is necessary to understand the various handwriting styles that were used in different eras. These may be summarised as:

- Secretary Hand
- Chancery Hand (as used in PCC wills)
- Italic Hand (the basis for modern handwriting)
- Legal Hand (used from about the 1760s)
- Cursive Hand (similar to italic)
- Mixed Hand

A key step is to recognise what style you are looking at and from this build up an alphabet of lower and upper case letters. Examples of such styles are readily available on the Internet by searching for “Old Handwriting Styles”. You are then in a position to transcribe the document.

Ian suggested first taking a copy which you can mark, then

- Read through the document
- Number the lines on the copy on each end of the page so that you can keep a check on where you are
- Note and understand the frequently formulaic start to the type of document you are reading as this will assist with transcription of the remainder
- Extract and transcribe those parts which you can read exactly as written
- Highlight unclear words or phrases on the copy and omit them on the transcription.
- Recognise difficult letters and compare with similar letters in known words
- Be aware of possible contractions and abbreviations
- Consider the context as this will aid understanding of any unclear words or phrases

To do this effectively is a skill that needs practice. Wrong transcriptions can completely change the context and meaning of a document so be very careful.

To help illustrate some of the issues involved with reading old documents, Ian put a few examples on the screen and invited us to read out what they said. The results were mixed but most words were eventually successfully translated into modern parlance. It became clear that names were often some of the most problematic, especially surnames, as in these cases there was no way of making inferences or suggestions from other parts of the docu-

ment. Capital letters could also be difficult if the writer or scribe had chosen to add flourishes.

Other things to look out for include:

- contractions (when letters from a word are omitted to shorten it)
- superior letters (raising of letters above the general line)
- suspension (when the end of a word is omitted to make an abbreviation)

A key difference is that many old handwriting styles had words joined at the top rather than the bottom which is normal in modern handwriting.

Punctuation may also be a problem. For example a slash / may be used instead of a full stop. Quotes “....” and brackets (.....) are often interchangeable. The equal sign = usually means a hyphen.

Documents dating before 1734 were often written in Latin so you may need to consult a Latin specialist. English words also vary in this period. Numbers were often written as Roman numerals so familiarise yourself with this formula to decipher dates.

The National Archives has an online tutorial on Palaeography (the study of historical handwriting) at <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/palaeography/> and the University of Leicester has an online course on English Handwriting 1500 to 1700 at <https://www.english.cam.ac.uk/ceres/ehoc/>

Through his exposition and use of many examples Ian had demonstrated that we can all tackle old written documents with some hope of success. To be proficient however practice is essential but his guide was a most useful starting point.

John Symons

Report on the talk on The Foundling Hospital by Jane King of the Foundling Museum

The Chairman welcomed Jane to the meeting. Jane became involved with the Coram Charity (the successor to the Foundling Hospital) and its plans to establish the Foundling Museum, which opened in June 2004. She is a Patron of the Museum, has served on its Development Committee, gives talks and guided tours, and assists the Director with curatorial work including conservation projects.

Using visual aids, Jane spoke of the early beginnings of the Foundling Hospital, the brainchild of Sir Thomas Coram. He was born in Lyme Regis, went to sea when 11 years old and later spent time in the American colonies where he was a shipbuilder. After a while he wished to return to England and particularly, London where he became a successful trader.

He was keen to set up colonies in the New World to help those falling on hard times and later became a trustee of a new colony called Georgia. He also sponsored a colony in Nova Scotia for unemployed artisans.

When he was in London, Coram was based in Rotherhithe. While there, he was horrified to see babies in streets with their mothers or left alone to starve or dead in gutters. This was a time when London was expanding rapidly. Women from well-to-do families who found themselves pregnant moved to the city. Most of these babies died

before the age of two. Coram wanted to do something to improve this situation.

At this time, the country was facing economic problems, including a banking crisis and the South Sea Bubble, so getting financial support was difficult. Fortunately, Queen Caroline, along with some members of society who were moved by the dire baby situation got involved in the fundraising activities and in helping Thomas Coram achieve his idea of a Foundling Hospital. William Hogarth and his wife, Jane, were childless and took this project to heart. One of his paintings was the famous portrait of Sir Thomas Coram which was painted in 1740. This helped to improve Coram's celebrity status too!

Another important fundraiser was George Frederic Handel who in 1749, offered to give a fund-raising concert. This had the added advantage of also promoting Handel's own career! The concert was a performance of *The Messiah*. Tickets were sold with the proviso that gentlemen brought no swords and ladies wore no hoops! The equivalent of about half a million pounds was raised. Both Hogarth and Handel continued to support the Hospital.

In 1739, the Foundling Hospital was finally established by a Royal Charter. Land was bought in Lambs Conduit Street. Well-to-do people came to watch the construction of the buildings and mothers were encouraged to bring their babies.

Admissions exceeded spaces in the hospital and so a balloting system was instigated. The baby would be placed in a basket and left at the gate of the Foundling Hospital, a convenient place. Weak and sickly children were refused. In the first 4 years, 15,000 babies were taken in. The mortality rate was 70% which still left 4,500 to be looked after.

When a mother brought her child to the hospital, she would usually leave a token – or half a token. These included a range of items such as buttons, pieces of metal or pieces of cloth and would be an identifying token should the mother return for the child. Sadly, in the 18th century, only about 3 mothers in 100 returned. Jane showed photos of some of the tokens.

When admitted, the babies were re-christened and then be sent to other homes in the countryside, if possible, so that they could have fresh air and exercise to help them grow up healthy.

The Foundling hospital was quite an enlightened institution - the children received some education. Initially only the boys were taught to read and write but later it was agreed the girls should also be taught. When old enough, the girls went into domestic service and the boys into the army or navy. (there were a number of wars against the French in the 19th century).

Jane showed a picture of the last children to leave the Hospital, in 1926. Initially, these children went to a rented building in Redhill but in 1936 they went to Berkhamsted. After World War 2, this site was no longer suitable and it was sold to Hertfordshire County Council. The 'Fields' itself has been saved and converted into a Children's Playground in perpetuity. A sign on the gate indicates that adults may only enter if they accompany a child!

A most interesting and informative talk with a different slant on Family History.

Carol Goodwin

There is a treat in store for family history fans...

Family History Day – Saturday 18th April 2015

Venue: Bloomsbury Central Baptist Church, 235 Shaftesbury Avenue, London, WC2H 8EP

We are delighted that Dr Nick Barratt has agreed to speak at our next Family History Day which will be held on Saturday, 18th April 2015. The title of his talk will be '*Family History and the Media: behind the scenes of Who Do You Think You Are*'.

Nick obtained a PhD in history and began his television career whilst working at the BBC as a specialist archive researcher for a number of programmes. His valuable links to the largest archival institutions in the country and his expertise helped lay the foundation of the network he has in place today. This network allows Nick and his team of researchers to effectively complete projects in any archive across the country.

In addition to working as a presenter, Nick is a prolific reviewer and commentator on all aspects of history, but particularly family history. He has worked with various companies, celebrities and TV presenters often compiling their family history. These range from Richard Bacon to Richard Hammond, Victoria Beckham to Catherine Zeta Jones.

Once we have finalised our second Speaker, details will be made available via the newsletter and the website – www.londoncornish.co.uk.

Everyone, both members and non-members of the LCA, is welcome so please do come and join us on 18th April. We know it will be a most interesting and informative day. Put it in your diary now!

New Members

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

Miss Kate Neale who was born in Truro (Porthcothan) and now lives in West London.

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

129th Anniversary Dinner

Bookings for this special event are now open.

This will be a good evening with:

- An interesting Cornish speaker
- Good food
- A chance to catch up with old friends
- A small Cornish surprise to take home

Make sure you book early

Cornwall's War History And The Search For Survivors

Some time ago I wrote in the Newsletter about this very ambitious project which is being undertaken by Cornwall Family History Society as a tribute to all those brave Cornish men and women who lost their lives in the First World War and subsequent conflicts. Quite a number of LCA members provided me with information about and photographs of their own relatives, for which CFHS is very grateful. A fledgling website went live in June and can be seen at <http://www.cornwallswarhistory.co.uk/>; this is very much a work in progress and additions or adjustments are being made, almost on a daily basis. If you don't see the information you hope to find, or if you feel it is incomplete, please do contact me and provide the details. It is not too late to get a name inserted, or some additional information or photos included. This website has been very well received so please do take a look – it is free to everyone.

And now for the next exciting stage! Up to now we have concentrated on recording the names of the fallen. We are now moving on to compiling a further data set, which we are calling "the survivors", in other words any man or woman, Cornish-born or with some connection with Cornwall, who served in either of the two world wars or Korea, and who survived and returned home. We are recording not only those who were employed on overseas fronts, but also those who served at home during the war years, for example in the Home Guard, the Land Army, or as nurses, ambulance drivers, firefighters and so on. The information we are recording is: name, service, rank, service number, date and place of birth, residence, any awards, date and place of death, place of burial, parents, spouse, and a brief story (can be as brief as a few words, e.g. "following his demobilisation he worked as a postman in Truro until his retirement").

If you have any information to contribute, or any questions on any aspect of the project, I'll be delighted to hear from you, preferably by email at leadbetter@lineone.net or at any LCA event, or on 02089897634.

Lorna Leadbetter

News of Two LCA Members

At the Annual General Meeting of Cornwall Family History Society held in Truro on 2nd November, Francis Dunstan, was re-elected Vice-President of the Society.

On 4th November at its AGM in Theydon Bois, Epping Forest Branch of the U3A elected Roger Pearce as its Chairman

This information was supplied by Lorna Leadbetter who, by driving 320+ miles on 3rd November, managed to attend both events!



*New Deputy Grand Bard Elect,
Elizabeth Carne
(Mellenek)*



Maintaining the Celtic spirit of Cornwall: Gorsedh Kernow announces new Deputy Grand Bard elect

The Council of Gorsedh Kernow is delighted to announce that their new Deputy Grand Bard elect is Elizabeth Carne from Newquay.

Elizabeth, whose Bardic name is *Mellenek* meaning greenfinch, was made a Bard in 1978 at the Merry Maidens stone circle near St Buryan, West Cornwall, through examination in the Cornish language *Kernewek*.

She taught Cornish for many years through Cornwall Adult Education and now has a private class in Newquay, while at the same time continuing as the representative for the Federation of Old Cornwall Societies on the Cornish Language Board, a role she took on over 25 years ago.

'It is the greatest honour to be elected as the next Deputy Grand Bard', said Mrs Carne, accepting the invitation, 'and I will do my utmost to carry out the role to the best of my ability.'

Mrs Carne, a retired primary school teacher, has been elected for a period of three years. The only candidate nominated by members of the College of Bards and following the agreed procedures laid down in the Gorsedh Kernow constitution, she will gradually become more involved in the many duties required of a Deputy to the Grand Bard of Cornwall.

'She always greets people with a smile, is a good listener and is interested in the other person's point of view', said current Grand Bard of Cornwall Maureen Fuller.

'Elizabeth has spent her working life in a team and knows how to boost people's self esteem to help them reach their potential for the good of others', said Mrs Fuller, 'which is invaluable in an organisation of volunteers. We are delighted that she has accepted our invitation'.

Candidates for the role of Deputy Grand Bard of Cornwall are nominated in writing by two Bards as proposer and seconder. The candidate gives written consent for the nomination to proceed. If there is only one candidate for the office, the Returning Officer certifies in writing that the candidate is duly elected and all Bards are informed of the result.

In addition to her representation on the Cornish Language Board Elizabeth Carne has also, for many years, fulfilled the role of steward to the Dancers and Lady of Cornwall at Gorsedh Kernow ceremonies.

Elizabeth Carne's interests have included teaching French, Cornish and music, and running after-school clubs for French conversation and Cornish dancing. She is a member of Newquay Brass Band, the Newquay Trefoil Guild and a worker for the Newquay Ladies Lifeboat Guild.

Delia Brotherton (Myrghwyn Melynor), Gorsedh Kernow Communications

Prestigious medal is given to the 'Orange Army' who re-connected Cornwall

The team of engineers who worked 24/7 to re-open the Dawlish rail link following the severe weather at the start of 2014, were awarded the prestigious Brunel Medal at the 2014 Institution of Civil Engineers (ICE) Awards in October.

The Brunel Medal, recognises individuals or teams who have shown excellence in civil engineering. Fittingly, this year it goes to a team who repaired part of a railway Brunel himself designed.

The ICE Awards Committee said the Dawlish Sea Wall Emergency Works demonstrated a 'shining example of civil engineers - teamwork, inventiveness, innovation, quick thinking and sheer determination.'

Opened in 1846, the South Devon Railway is the only rail connection from the Westcountry to the rest of the UK. It is accustomed to extreme weather conditions, however, the severity of the storms in February 2014 caused chaos, cutting the west of the region off by rail. Between Dawlish Warren and Teignmouth 4.5 miles of railway infrastructure was severely damaged, including a 100 metre breach to the Dawlish Sea Wall.

Less than 48 hours after the first call, a joint team comprising Network Rail, BAM, AMCO, Dyer & Butler, Sisk and Tony Gee & Partners had assembled to plan the repairs, however on 14 February another storm struck battering the 10-tonne shipping containers which were being used as a temporary breakwater.

Works continued 24/7 with an average of 300 people each day and 150 each night working tirelessly to re-open the line. Eight weeks on from the first storm, after battling high waves, rain, gales and a further landslip - the rail link to South and West Devon and Cornwall re-opened on 4 April.

Tim Broyd, Chair of ICE's Awards Committee said: 'Considering the extent of the damage and the relentless conditions the engineers were faced with, it is quite extraordinary that they were able to get the track up and running before Easter - two weeks ahead of schedule.'

'The teamwork, inventiveness and sheer determination were inspiring - a shining example of civil engineers doing what they do best. I have no doubt that if Brunel was with us today he would be extremely proud - congratulations to all involved.'

Mark Carne, chief executive of Network Rail said: 'It seems fitting that the Dawlish team should be awarded the Brunel Medal for like him they have shown great vision and ingenuity, ably overcoming every challenge and obstacle that has been sent their way.'

Thanks to Graham Norton for sending in this press release.

The Great Debate: which town in America is the most Cornish?

Newsletter of the Cornish American Heritage Society

Mineral Point humbly accepts (Jim Jewell)

The most Cornish town in America plaque now resides on the main floor of the Mineral Point Public Library, the spoils of victory from the great debate with my good friend Gage McKinney.

Perhaps I had a 'home court' advantage with the debate held in Wisconsin. Like a politician I worked the morning crowd at the La Quinta Gathering hotel, shook hands with everyone I saw, kissed babies and reminded One and All - vote for Mineral Point.

Grass Valley and Mineral Point are but two of many historic Cornish settlement spots in North America. Before Face-book and Twitter, Cornish folk in the 19th and early 20th centuries had their own social networking within North America.

Just as airlines today have major hubs in certain cities, our Cornish ancestors had hubs in far flung locations such as Grass Valley, California; Butte, Montana; Calumet, Michigan as well as towns in Pennsylvania, Colorado, Nevada, Arizona and others.

A few days after the Gathering I had lunch in Mineral Point with Mike and Juliet Kiernan of Redruth who extended their Gathering visit with a week long tour of area cemeteries. Mike is head of the Global Migration Programme that helps document and trace the Great Migration of the Cornish. Mike had with him the excellent binder which shows the statistics of when and where the Cornish migrated to within America. In effect it clearly shows an interior diaspora of the Cornish after they arrived here.

Hopefully the debate helped to highlight those past connections in the family reunion atmosphere of the successful 17th Gathering of the Cornish Cousins. In the 21st century perhaps a CAHS volunteer can use Facebook, YouTube or other relevant media to keep the Cornish connections alive.

Grass Valley undeterred (Gage McKinney)

The great debate of 2014 - 'which is the most Cornish place in America' - didn't go my way. But I would not have missed it.

My friend, Jim Jewell, was a worthy adversary, and when he spoke for Mineral Point he made Wisconsin proud. And what a place it is - an unglaciated jewel on the breast of the continent.

Mineral Point has achieved what every post-industrial town in America or Cornwall hopes to achieve. It has reestablished its identity based on a rich heritage, embodied in preserved Cornish cottages at Pendarvis. Through the efforts of artists and other creative people it has become viable in a new era.

Grass Valley, California, has done the same, and done it while maintaining its Cornish heritage, especially its carols and male voice choir. There, as historian A. C. Todd put it, 'Cornwall is never far away'.

What surprised me about the great debate in Milwaukee wasn't that Jim's town won and my town lost. What surprised me was that we didn't hear from other towns. Gold Hill, Nevada had her champion. Someone called: 'New Almaden!' What of Pen Argyle? Calumet? Ely? Bowmanville? Butte? Lead? Jerome? I had hoped the debate might have ended with a cacophony of claimants or with enough write-ins to make the balloting inconclusive.

Perhaps Jim and I debated too well. Or maybe the voters - even the few from the Far West - wanted to give me what I had coming for - stirring up a controversy.

Wherever they settled in America our ancestors took Cornwall with them. In our time we do the same. The most

Cornish place in America is any place where we gather, sing Trelawny and tell stories.

After the Saturday night banquet in Milwaukee I had a pint with a group that included Richard J. C. Hoskin. He asked, what are these gatherings all about? He answered his own question by citing a beloved hymn: *'that I may fight be-friended'* *

We are fighting against the forces that would wipe the world clean of minority cultures. We are fighting the homogeneity that would reduce individualism to patterns of consumption. We are fighting for a more authentic life that acknowledges who we are and where we come from. I'm glad to fight that good fight with Jim Jewell and all my Cornish friends beside me.

**O Sacred Head Sore Wounded, words by Robert Bridges, 1899*

News from other Cornish Associations

Several Cornish Associations have celebrated important anniversaries in recent years. We know that the Toronto Cornish Association has just turned 20 and we have now heard that, in 2015, the Cornish Association of South Australia will mark 125 years. This is amazing, making it even older than the London Cornish Association, which was founded in 1898 – although we have had an annual dinner since 1885! We thought it would be interesting to find out how old other Associations are. Please do let us know about your Association. You can send the information to the Editor at lca@londoncornish.co.uk

UNITED STATES

The big event of the past few months was the 17th Gathering of Cornish Cousins which took place in Milwaukee in August. Delegates were asked to complete an evaluation form at the end of the Gathering and a summary of the information gathered appears in the Fall newsletter of the **Cornish American Heritage Society**. The programme contained an incredible variety of events which were evidently greatly enjoyed. Those singled out for special mention included brass bands, workshops, a pasty supper and a presentation on Cornish Art. Very popular was the debate between Jim Jewell (representing Mineral Point) and Gage McKinney (representing Grass Valley) to decide which is the most Cornish town in America. After an entertaining debate the vote went to Mineral Point and the *'most Cornish town in America plaque'* is now in the Mineral Point Public Library.

The incoming President of the CAHS, Kathryn Herman (who some of our members will remember from her visit to London a year or so ago) summed up the success of the Gathering when she said...

Coming from the 17th Gathering of Cornish Cousins in Milwaukee, I am more aware than ever that the Cornish in America are a committed, dedicated, knowledgeable, hard-working, diverse, jolly, loving, and, yes, a formidable group of people. If you were with us in Milwaukee, you witnessed it.

The newsletter also contains a short report on the Central Mine Methodist Church which comes to life one Sunday a year to celebrate the heritage of a mining community in Michigan's Keweenaw Peninsula. It is currently looking for a backup pastor for the annual Reunion Service. The preference is for someone with a Cornish background – although this is not essential. The 109th reunion will be held on Sunday, July 26, 2015 with services at 9 and 11 am.

Co-hosting the 17th Gathering with the CAHS was the **Cornish Society of Greater Milwaukee** and their Winter newsletter carries interesting reports and impressions on

what was obviously a very enjoyable event. Sadly, one member, who has been actively involved in the organising and running past Gatherings, Richard Baker, was unable to go this year. He had been ill for some time and was not well enough to attend. He passed away in October. We send condolences to his family and friends.

The Southwest Wisconsin Cornish Society have welcomed several overseas visitors in recent months. The first of these was a young student from the University of Falmouth who was doing research on Cornish migration to the United States. He was impressed how much the terrain and architecture resembled that of Cornwall. During his visit, he interviewed many descendents and listened to their family stories which he plans to include in a book and exhibition.

After the Gathering, Howard and Elizabeth Curnow from Cornwall stayed on to renew acquaintances and visit familiar places. A pot luck dinner and open house was held to welcome them.

Another Cornish visitor was Mike Klernan who is head of the Cornish Global Migration Programme in Redruth.

CANADA

The August meeting of the Toronto Cornish Association marked the 20th anniversary of the TCA and members gathered to enjoy a bbq and picnic at the home of the Pellows – and to show off some fancy millinery creations. The winner of the ladies *'hat competition'* was Jacqueline Tucker who had a creation with a black Chough sitting on top of blue lace waves and sand. Jim Dagg won for the men with his straw hat with Octopus'.



Their September meeting was held at the Kelly Library where a TCA exhibition had been set up in the foyer. The exhibition ran from early August to mid-October. The Kelly Library is the recipient of 320 books on Cornwall which have been donated by the TCA.

After the business part of the meeting, members had the pleasure of hearing Ann Crichton-Harris's talk entitled *That Bloody Woman – The Turbulent Life of Emily Hobhouse, Cornwall's Forgotten Heroine*. This talk can be seen/heard on youtube.

In September, the TCA had a booth at the Beaches Celtic Festival. This was deemed a success and it was recommended that they participate again next year.

Sher Leetooze spoke about *WW1 Nursing Sisters of Old Durham County – A Cornish Connection* at the October meeting. She said that in the early part of the war, the care of wounded soldiers was done by medical orderlies, but by 1915, nursing sisters were allowed to serve in the military hospitals. The Cornish link was a nursing sister whose family had originally emigrated from Cornwall to Durham County.

In November, Daphne Blunden spoke about Conner Downs and Area. Conner Downs is in the Hundreds of Penwith and is where Daphne grew up.

The TCA is currently trying to decide whether to take on the responsibility for running the next Cornish Gathering, a mammoth task. They are planning to set up a feasibility committee to look at the logistics before making a final decision.

AUSTRALIA

The main focus in Australia at present is the planning and organising of Kernewek Lowender which will take place in May. A preliminary programme is already available on the KL website – www.kernewek.org/. There are 60 or more events and activities taking place in the three Copper Coast towns over the eight days of the Festival. One of the first of these will be a 'Cornish cuisine dinner experience' with Celebratory Chef Sophie Budd from Cornwall. There will also be a spiritual retreat - *'Praying with the Cornish Saints: Spiritual development in Cornwall from the Reformation to the Wesleys'*. Other activities will include maypole and Furry dancing, show rides and a cavalcade of cars and motorcycles.

New in 2015 will be a re-vamped May Queen competition which is designed to attract participation from both male and female community-minded young people who are passionate about the Copper Coast and its Cornish heritage.

Another change in 2015 concerns the Furry Dance. The following quote is from the Summer 2014-15 issue of the Kernewek Chronicle: *Participants in the Furry Dance in Moonta and Kadina may find themselves a little bit more out of breath at the 2015 festival as the furry music has been re-recorded, digital-ised and sped up!*

We were sorry to hear of the recent death of Bill Phillips, long-time Patron of the **Cornish Association of Victoria**. We offer our condolences to the Association, his family and his friends. At the September meeting of the **Ballarat Branch** of the CAV, June Whiffin read the Grand Bard's tribute to Bill after which there was a minute's silence.

On a happier note, we congratulate three members of CAV on their initiation as Bards in September. Well done, Wendy Benoit, Derek Trewarne and Rob Lloyd.

The guest speaker at the October meeting of the **Ballarat Branch** of the **Cornish Association of Victoria** was

Jenny Burrell who did a presentation on her trip to Cornwall and her Cornish links to St Just in Penwith.

At the end of October, twenty nine people from Ballarat, Melbourne and Geelong joined a coach trip to the Buninyong area. Their guide was local historian Doug Bradby whose home is a converted Wesleyan Church which was originally constructed in 1864 and was where Cornish miners working on Scotchman's Lead used to worship. It is now a B&B and was the venue for morning tea.

In 2015, the **Cornish Association of South Australia**, which was founded at a banquet in the Adelaide Town Hall in February 1890, will celebrate its 125th anniversary and members are looking for ideas to mark this great achievement. One of the first events will be an anniversary dinner on St Piran's Day in March.

At their July meeting, members of the Association heard an interesting talk on the technical details involved in moving the *City of Adelaide* clipper ship back to Adelaide. The *City of Adelaide* was built a few years before the *Cutty Sark* and it and the *Cutty Sark* are the last two clipper ships which survive today. While the *Cutty Sark* was used to carry tea and wool, the *City of Adelaide* was primarily a passenger ship which carried migrants to South Australia, including some from Cornwall. More details can be found at <http://cityofadelaide.org.au/>

In September June Ladner spoke about the *'Feast or Famine'* meal and concert she organised a few years ago. In October, Robyn Knight spoke about her own family history research and her attempts to trace a 'missing' grandmother while in November, Greg Drew talked about the Cornish mining heritage in Mexico, Spain, Chile and the USA. He organised a visit to Kapunda where members could see some of the mine workings and hear about the archaeological work being carried out.

At the beginning of December, members held their Christmas concert which started with some of the songs used in their choir's concerts during the year. These were followed by Cornish carols and community singing.

CASA has its own choir and it has had another very busy year singing at various venues and events. One of the highlights was a visit to Broken Hill where they had a demanding weekend performing. They spent the Saturday afternoon singing for the residents at a nursing home and in the evening, joined two local choirs for a concert. The weekend finished with participation at a Sunday service at an Anglican church where there *'was some amusement, but appreciation for the effort, that the Anglicans had even placed bilingual English/Cornish signs on the toilets!'*

It is not often that we mention the sporting activities of members of Cornish Associations in these round-ups, but there is one which cannot be omitted. Life member of CASA, Henry Richard Hancock, will be participating in the Sydney to Hobart yacht race after Christmas as part of the crew on a 60 year old wooden boat, *Southern Myth*. This is no mean feat as it can be a pretty tough race. I have many happy memories of standing on a headland and watching the boats setting off on this race. There can be few more beautiful sights than all those boats, in full sail, and all the well-wishers in other boats – usually in bright sunshine. We wish him well.

The **Yorke Peninsula Branch** of CASA held its Christmas lunch in late November, with about 30 people present.

The newsletter of the **Southern Sons of Cornwall** carries the good news that the Association has decided to go ahead with a Cornish Cultural Celebration in 2016. This was made possible by a very successful auction in June which raised enough funds to virtually cover the cost of their public liability insurance premium. This means that other funds could be freed up for activities, including the CCC. So now the planning begins...

The Association has been active in attending events around the area. In May, they participated in the Berry Celtic Festival where they joined in the morning march through the town's streets and had a booth where they were able to promote the SSoC and sell old library books and magazines. In October, they arranged to have an information marquee at the Shoalhaven River Festival. They organised a SSoC picnic to coincide with their visit to the Festival.

At a lunch in August, members had the pleasure of meeting the latest addition to their fold - a lady who had found out about the SSoC through an article in the local newspaper. Their Christmas event will be held in early December.

NEW ZEALAND

We offer our congratulations to Jean Harry of the **New Zealand Cornish Association** who was initiated as a Bard in September. This acknowledges her continuing hard work for Cornwall in New Zealand.

At their August meeting members of the **Taranaki Branch** of the NZCA heard about the Pears family and were shown posters and a salt and pepper set, all of which advertised Pears products. In November, the members usually go on an outing and this year, they planned to go to Lavender Lane in Stratford which grows and refines lavender products.

At their meeting in August, 25 members of the **Christchurch Branch** of the NZCA practised singing *Hail to the Homeland* in Cornish so that they would be able to join the St Albans Choir at their September meeting.

In his session of Cornish news, Les asked if any members knew where Herodsfoot is. One member knew as she had spent some time in the area. He then explained that this village was interesting as it was one of only fifty two towns and villages in the UK who sent men to fight in WW1 and saw them all return safely. Interestingly, it was also one of only 14 who had the same good fortune in WW2. These villages are known as the 'Thankful Villages'.

The September meeting marked the Branch's 47th birthday and 67 people attended the event. The reason for this large number was that the meeting had been publicised on the radio and in the local papers. The St Albans Community Choir performed Cornish songs and everyone joined in with 'a rousing rendition of *Trelawny*. During the afternoon Les gave a talk on Cornwall before inviting non-members to join the Association. Guests were led to tea down the hall by a group of volunteers dancing the Flora.

The **Cornish Interest Group** of the **New Zealand Society of Genealogists** participates in Interest Groups' Research Days where they help people who are researching their Cornish families. Their latest Research Day was in November.

UNITED KINGDOM

The **Thames Valley Cornish Association** recently held a very successful 'pre-Christmas warm-up' at a local res-

taurant. Nineteen members enjoyed a good meal and several hours of chat.

In early December, the **Torbay Cornish Association** will hold its 42nd Annual Dinner. This is always a good weekend, which is attended by guests from many other associations. Their new year will start with a talk on glass blowing in January while the RHS show behind the scenes will be the topic at February's meeting.

Some exciting news from The Copper Triangle: Australia's 'Little Cornwall'

A place important to all Cornish-Australians has been nominated for National Heritage Listing.

South Australia's 'Copper Triangle' is the spiritual home of Cornish-Australians and one of the first places in Australia where large-scale industry was developed.

At a recent public meeting hosted by South Australia's State Heritage Unit in Kadina Town Hall, Dr. Ash Lenton, of the Australian National University, said the towns of Moonta, Wallaroo and Kadina: Australia's 'Little Cornwall' is one of the most important places in Australia's history. It has rightly been nominated for National Heritage Listing and will, perhaps, become a World Heritage Site one day.

Thousands upon thousands of Cornish people migrated into South Australia in the 1860s and effectively changed Australia from a rural economy to an industrial one. Australia's industrial revolution was happening right here in South Australia. We are very excited about the Copper Triangle's nomination. It is something the whole community can get behind. All over Australia, there are millions of people of Cornish decent and many of their ancestors passed through here. Cornish-Australians should be very proud of this place.'

The events that took place in the Copper Triangle were hugely important to the development of Australia's cultural history; the character and ethics of the Australian people was forged right here in the copper mines of South Australia. The technical achievements of the 19th-century miners cannot be overstated and the potential for research into this area is enormous. It is vitally important that the Copper Triangle's achievements and contributions are recognised at a national level.

Cornwall Calling – a new Cornish website

Invest in Cornwall is launching Cornwall Calling, a website to engage people around the world who have a connection to Cornwall. Our research shows that 99% of people who relocate to Cornwall do so because they have a connection: they grew up here, visited here or have family here.

Cornwall Calling has been designed to engage with this key audience, in order to celebrate Cornish culture and heritage, and lifestyle. Our content also helps to reinforce Cornwall's business pedigree as a modern and thriving location for work and life.

The website is live and ready to explore. Here are a couple of links which might be of interest:

Cornish Writers: <http://www.cornwallcalling.com/cornish-muse-writers-whove-inspired-far-south-west/>

Videos: <http://www.cornwallcalling.com/cornwall-art-scene/>

Rugby

New Season, Fresh Hopes For London Cornish

After finishing the previous season on the crest of a wave, London Cornish are aiming to build on this with more success in 2014/15. First team head coach Tom Sincok has been speaking to club press officer Ben Gilby about his views ahead of the new league season in London Two South-West.

Sincok, the former Redruth and Cornwall county player, has no doubts whatsoever as to the reasons behind last season's success story which saw the club win ten of their last twelve matches, securing ten bonus points in the process to finish in their highest ever league position of third: 'After the relegation battle we faced in the previous season there was a lot of soul searching amongst the players. I think that drove a lot of individuals to improve their overall commitment to the club. This was key for us to improve our game and ensure continuity in selection. The boys will tell you we worked very hard at our fitness during pre-season and in season and this really paid off later in the campaign. Finally, thanks to a great recruitment drive by the coaches and players, we added some very talented individuals to our squad, the likes of Harry Somers, Ben Devonport, Cieran Axford, Andy Eustace, Luke Bridges, Jamie Macdonald, Rob Healey, Phil Dale, Craig Chatley, Joe Skinnard and Rich Skinnard all added a huge amount to our game.'

As Sincok alludes to, the travails of 2012/13, when Cornish needed to secure four try bonus point wins in their last two games to avoid relegation, changed so many elements of the club: 'We have gone from having two coaches to five, with a dedicated 2nd team coach. We are training twice a week as opposed to once which has had an immediate impact. There has been a massive change in player personnel, which could always cause problems, but luckily the boys have gelled well as a team on and off the pitch. Yes there are things that need to be changed, such as training on a full sized pitch but these are things that can be dealt with in time and not rushed as our location is key to us attracting players to the club.' Another aim for the club this season will be to have more players available more often; 'We need our 1st team squad of 25 to 30 players available for every game. That is it really, we have the players to do very well in this league, we just need them on the pitch every Saturday to do the job.'

A strong period of pre-season training is always vital to ensure any team hits the ground running. 'It went really well this year with excellent numbers,' Sincok states. 'I think the spectators will enjoy a very fast game of rugby this season. Coach Marc Sweeney has just completed an elite athletics course, funded by the club, and has started to introduce some very cutting edge techniques. There were noises coming from the players such as I have never heard before during the last session!' I next asked Tom about player movement during the close season. 'There have been a few new players join and I'm actively looking at a couple of new players but will only invite those players who are going to be fully committed to club and whose character and personality fits. We have a young team and we're still developing. If we can keep this squad together for another 3 or 4 seasons who knows where could be.'

This aura of positivity which seems to be surrounding the club is reflected in Sincok's clear aims for the coming

season: 'I want us to improve on last season's final position (third), and for the team to play a style of rugby that the players and spectators will enjoy. As for who I expect to be challenging at the top of the table this time round, the league is always very open. I think our old friends Tottonians and maybe the new boys Farnham will be up there. I'd like to think we will challenge too, but we shall see.'

Finally, I asked Tom what he believes makes London Cornish such a great club to be connected with - 'Being an amateur club the players play for the love of the game, the shirt and for each other - things that are very rare in today's game!'

*By Ben Gilby
Press Officer, LCRFC*



Thanks to Jonathan Henwood for alerting us to the following match which has Cornish interest:

London Scottish v Cornish Pirates

Date: 16th January 2015

Time: 19.45

Venue: Richmond Athletic Grounds

Twickenham Rd, Richmond, Greater London TW9 2SF

Condolences

We were saddened to hear that member Brian Reed passed away in October. He was one of our 'oldest' members, having joined the LCA in 1947. Over the years he did a tremendous amount to support the Association and he will be greatly missed.

One of Brian's passions was rugby and he followed the activities of Cornish teams closely. As editor, I was so grateful to him for regularly sending in lists of fixtures which could then be published in the newsletter.

Brian was born in Redruth and moved to London in 1939 when he was a very young man. Despite living in the City for most of his life, he never remained a Cornishman through and through.

Mem Sec's Meanderings...

In my last *Meanderings* I commented on our spring weather and said 'enjoy it' and hope for a good summer. Well I hope this summer has not been too hot for you! I will not moan apart from saying the humidity was, at times, rather uncomfortable. Winter is now upon us, and we will be able to 'enjoy' the ice and snow - and then complain that it is too cold and begin looking forward to the summer, which we hope will be as warm and pleasant as this year. Whatever the weather we nearly always criticise: too hot, too cold, too wet or too dry!!

Now as Membership Secretary I must go onto my regular subject and report on the present membership.

Sadly we have recently lost a long standing member, Brian Reed, who died in October. He joined the LCA in 1947 and has done a lot to support the Association over the years.

Unfortunately, six members failed to renew their subscriptions which were due on 1st April despite being sent reminders by e-mail and post. We are sorry that they did not respond or give a reason for not continuing their membership.

I am glad to say that there is one new member who I am pleased to welcome. She is Miss Kate Neale who is Cornish born and whose home town is Truro (Porthcothan). She is now living in London W5.

As you can see our membership has decreased by 6 and is now 224 which is spread over London and the Home Counties. There are nearly 100 living farther afield, including some abroad. We are always on the lookout for new members and any help encouraging others to join the Association would be greatly appreciated.

Did you watch the *Last night of the Proms* at the Royal Albert Hall in September, either at the Hall or at home on the television? Or maybe you were in Hyde Park? I watched it on the TV and was pleased and proud to see the Cornish flag amongst all the various flags that were being waved in the audience. I wonder if any of you were the ones waving the flags?!

I said that I would continue to look for some more snip-pets about Cornwall in various books and newspapers. I decided this time not to look too deeply into the past and have, instead, found the following items quoted in recent newspapers:

- There are more than 1,000 species of banana. We eat only one of them.
- The human brain has the same percentage of fat as clotted cream.
- 95 per cent of spiders in your house have never been outside.
- In 2009 a search of Loch Ness for the Loch Ness Monster located 100,000 golf balls.
- Tipping the hat comes from the military salute, which in turn comes from men in armour lifting the visor to show their faces.
- By the age of eight, children have forgotten 60 per cent of what happened before they were three.

- The lawnmower is the most dangerous item in the garden. The second most dangerous is the flowerpot.

Seen in a newspaper in early November was a report on Prince Charles and his wife Camilla, the Duchess of Cornwall, on their visit to Mexico. They went to the Pasty Museum at Real del Monte which is reputed to be the only pasty museum in the world. Wearing white aprons, they filled pastry circles, folded and crimped them. Perhaps we should ask them to make some pasties for one of our Association meetings!

Outside the Museum they had a fit of giggles as a staff member whipped out a photo album containing only pictures of pasties!

It said that the delicacy was introduced to Mexico by Cornish miners who sailed there in the 19th century to work in the silver mines, and today more pasties are sold in Mexico than in Cornwall! Do you really believe this? I think more pasties are eaten in Cornwall where people cook their own as well as buying some.

What do you believe, or actually know, about the crimping of pasties? I was always told that it depends on what part of Cornwall you are in as to where the crimping is on the pasty: far down towards Land's End the crimping is around the edge so the pasty can be held by it when it is being eaten down in the mine. As you move up through Cornwall they crimp the pasty in different ways. In mid Cornwall it is part way up the side and up north of the county it is across the middle. Am I right or am I wrong? What is your idea as to where the crimping should be? For me, it doesn't matter where the crimping is I still enjoy a good pasty, particularly the ones that my wife makes, yum, yum.

Another newspaper article referred to the Cornish town of Hayle as 'a sleepy seaside town', what an insult. Hayle was my home town and where I was brought up - and it certainly was not sleepy. I would consider the newspaper reporter as 'dozy'.

Recently I came across these 'spelling lessons':

- 'listen' and 'silent' use the same letters.
- The term 'race car' spelled backwards still spells 'race car'.
- The word 'eat' is, I believe, the only word that if you take the first letter and move it to the last, it spells its past tense 'ate'.

That is all for now and I really hope you did enjoy your summer holidays. Just a reminder: to look out for Cornish names when abroad.

Again I hope you have found these 'Meanderings' of interest and, perhaps given you some 'food for thought'.

Kernow bys vyken

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

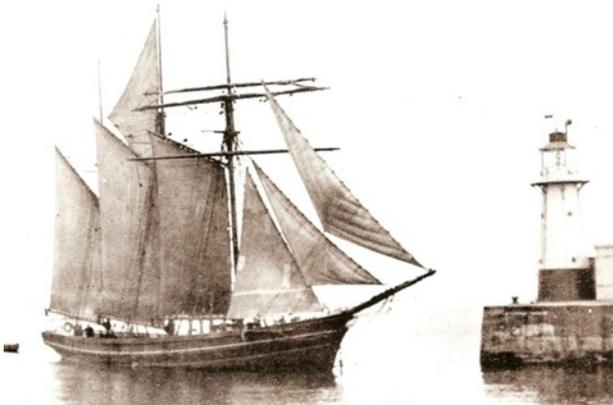
Crowdy Crawn

'Rhoda Mary' – A Cornish Schooner wreck to be restored

Plans are now being finalised to salvage the remains of a wrecked Cornish Schooner which is lying in the River Medway in Kent and take it to Cornwall for restoration.

The *Rhoda Mary* was the most famous of the schooners built by William Ferris of Cornwall. She was built and launched off the beach at the mouth of Restronguet Creek, Falmouth in 1868 after which she was used for transporting cargo around Northern Europe. She proved to be exceptionally quick and reliable. Since her purpose was to provide a good profit for shareholders, her quick reliable passage-making, meant she could undertake more journeys and thus give a good return on investment.

We will follow the restoration and give updates where possible.



The Rhoda Mary entering Newlyn

Source:

<http://www.restronguetcreeksociety.org/images/bssh/s3.jpg>

Kernow bys Vyken!

A couple of our sharp-eyed, music-loving members have reported that while they watched the *Last Night of the Proms* on TV in September they spotted a large St Piran's flag being waved by a member of the audience. Did you spot it? Does anyone know who the flag-waver was?

The custom of flag-waving at the *Last Night* appears to date from the 1950s when the Proms were first televised and really took off during the reign of Sir Malcolm Sargent.

100: The Day Our World Changed

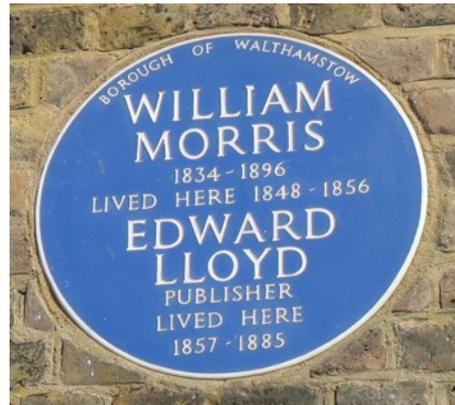
On Sunday 3rd August WildWorks Theatre Company took to the harbour, to the streets, to the fields and to the gardens of the villages of Mevagissey, Gorran and St Ewe to re-imagine the haunting day that war was announced. A unique performance, 100: The Day Our World Changed, started at 5:30 am at the Gorran War Memorial and climaxed with a haunting battle field, a shared grave and a long roll-call, near to dusk, of the names and short personal descriptions of each of the 53 local men who were killed as a result of the First World War.

You can find out more and see pictures at <http://heligan.com/news-events/news-article/100-the-day-our-world-changed1>

Blue Plaques. Have you ever wondered where they are made?

Since 1886, 880 blue plaques have been erected to commemorate people who lived in London and who made an important contribution to society. Most of us will be familiar with them, having seen them on buildings all over the city and surrounding areas. But, have you ever wondered where they are made?

The plaques are erected in London, but are made in Cornwall from a secret recipe involving seven ingredients. The people currently responsible for making them are Frank and Susan Ashworth who have their studio in Lanteglos-by-Fowey. Yet another example of the big contribution Cornwall has made to the city over the centuries and a candidate for the LCAs *Cornwall in London* project.



Is anyone aware of Cornish people who have been commemorated on blue plaques? Please let the editor know if you are.

Cornwall Club: strengthening links with the county

The Cornwall Club has been set up so that people with links to the county can have closer connections through contributing to its welfare. It's part of a thriving family of organizations that make up the Cornwall Community Foundation.

Recently, the Foundation has

- increased the money it makes available for funds grants
- given money to various community projects
- set up the London-based committee of the Cornwall Club.
- started work on plans for a second annual event in London on St Piran's Day, 5 March

The deadline for the next issue of the LCA Newsletter is

5th February 2015

Please send all contributions to:

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