



Cowethas Kernewek Loundres

London Cornish Association Newsletter



www.londoncornish.co.uk

Spring 2015

The air is still very wintery, but the emerging spring bulbs tell us that the warm weather is on its way. Over the weekend I was at Hampton Court and had a bit of time to walk around my favourite part of the garden where there were dozens of snowdrops and even the odd daffodil - a reassuring sign that spring is definitely in the air.

As spring approaches, those of us living on the 'wrong' side of the Tamar can only imagine how lovely Cornwall must be starting to look now that the daffodil season is here. We, at the LCA, are so lucky that our Annual Dinner is in March - at the peak of that season and that each year, a couple of Cornish flower growers kindly send us a generous quantity of daffs to decorate the tables and the rooms. The profusion of yellow looks stunning against the black and gold décor, and their perfume as you walk into the room... Wow!

We are really looking forward to this year's dinner and hearing our speaker, Malcolm Bell, who is Head of Tourism at Visit Cornwall. We will be at the same central London venue that we have been at for the past three years so we know we are guaranteed really good food and service. All in all, it should be an excellent evening.

Since our last newsletter in early December, the New Year's Honours have been announced. It was lovely to see that, once again, many Cornish people have been recognised. What I found particularly interesting this year was the strong link to the sea. I have not noticed it being so obvious before, but it is totally appropriate in a county renowned for its coasts and its long historical connections with the sea. A list of this year's Cornish recipients can be found in this newsletter.

The LCA has a pretty busy and exciting social programme in the coming months. By the time you receive your next newsletter, we will have enjoyed our 129th Annual

Dinner, heard two brilliant speakers at the Family History Day in April, been on an outing to the London Metropolitan Archives and heard about Cornwall's War History during our Trelawny Lecture in June. And, shortly after this, in July, we will be meeting in our favourite pub - Penderil's Oak for our Mid-Summer Lunch. You can find out more about our events on page 2 and 3 of this newsletter - and don't forget to keep an eye on the website - www.londoncornish.co.uk where any updates will be posted.

On 1st April, membership subscriptions to the LCA fall due. You will find a renewal form with this newsletter. It would be most helpful if you could complete it and return it to our Membership Secretary, Graham Pearce as soon as possible.

This is also the time of year when we call for nominations for the Pemas Map Trevethan Award (Paul Smales Award) and the London Shield. These are prestigious awards, made by the Gorsedd and are a wonderful way of acknowledging those living outside Cornwall who work so hard for the County. We are keen to have as many nominations as possible as we know that there are lots of people out there working hard to promote Cornwall and its heritage. You will find more information on making nominations in this newsletter. Please ensure they are sent to the Chairman **by Friday 18th April**.

I will end by wishing you an enjoyable St Pirantide. Let us know what you will be doing to celebrate. I have decided that I will continue the education campaign at my school which was started last year. Like Pavlov, I have discovered what a valuable training tool food is and so I will be serving all teaching and non-teaching staff splits for tea!

Kernow bys Vykken

Dates for your diary ...

129th Annual Dinner
14th March at 7pm
Get together in the York Room from 5.30

Family History Day
18th April

London Metropolitan Archives Visit
28th May

AGM and Trelawny Lecture
10th June
Pasty lunch at 1pm
AGM at 2pm
Trelawny Lecture 3pm

Midsummer Lunch
11th July

Informal Lunches
23rd March
27th April
18th May
22nd June

Further details of these events can be found on

Deadline for the Autumn Newsletter is

5th May

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

Good news! Email problems now resolved

The problems we were experiencing with our email address have now, hopefully, been resolved. If you wish to contact us by email, please use the following address:

lca@londoncornish.co.uk

Forthcoming events

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

129th Annual Dinner - 14th March - 7pm

Gather in the York Room from 5.30pm for a 'bit o' chat'.
A cash bar will be available.

Venue: The Thistle Hotel
Bryanston Street, London W1H 7EH

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

Tickets: £37.50.

Contact: Jacqueline Trembath
Email: jackietrembath@sky.com, Tel 020 77386795

Family History Day - 18th April

See details below

Visit to the London Metropolitan Archives -

28th May

See next page for details

AGM and Trelawny Lecture - 10th June

1pm - Pasty lunch
2pm - AGM
3pm - Trelawny Lecture
4pm - Tea and biscuits

Trelawny Lecture: Ann Hicks, *Chairman of Cornwall Family History Society* will tell us about the Cornish War Project.

Venue: Bloomsbury Central Baptist Church,
235 Shaftesbury Avenue. London WC2H 8EP (*Nearest tube stations: Holborn or Tottenham Court Road - NB: Central line is not stopping at Tottenham Court Road*)

Booking essential and please tell us if you want a pasty lunch

Cost: £10

Contact: Francis Dunstan - 01494 531703 Email: lca@francisdunstan.plus.com

LONDON CORNISH ASSOCIATION

FAMILY HISTORY DAY

Saturday, 18th April 2015

Speakers:

Nick Barratt

'Family History and the Media'

Nick Barratt is a medieval historian, and currently Head of the Medieval, Early Modern and Legal team at The National Archives. However, he is probably better known to the general public for his expertise on genealogy and family history and his work as a broadcaster and author. He was consultant for the BBC's 'Who Do You think You Are?' involved in developing, researching and presenting the series. He has written several books including 'Who Do You Think You Are? Encyclopedia of Genealogy (2008)' and 'Tracing your Ancestors Lives' (2010). In his talk Nick will take us behind the scenes of 'Who do You think You Are?'

David Luck

'An Introduction to the Collections of the London Metropolitan Archives'

David Luck is Senior Archivist for the LMA where he has worked for the last four years.

Previously he worked in archives for a variety of employers including Surrey Police, Coutts and Co. and the Business Archives Council of Scotland. With 105kms of holdings the LMA is the largest local authority archive in the country, covering the whole of the city of London and the wider London metropolitan area. David will highlight useful sources for family history within the collection. He will also talk more widely on the history and records within the archive and on some of the long-term projects being undertaken at the LMA.

Venue:

Bloomsbury Central Baptist Church
235 Shaftesbury Avenue
London WC2H 8EP

(nearest underground stations Holborn or Tottenham Court Road.

Please note that the Central line is currently not stopping at Tottenham Court Road)

Time:

10am to 4.30pm

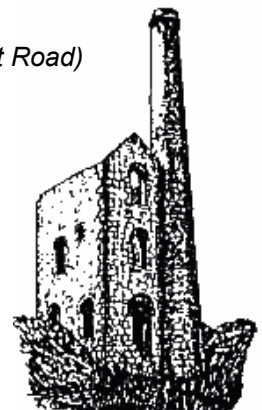
Fee:

£15 for members (including LCA-affiliated societies and Cornwall Family History Society). £20 for non-members.
This includes coffee, pasty & saffron cake lunch and cream tea.
Vegetarian pasties can be provided if **ordered in advance**.

Contact:

For booking or further information:

Gill Penny (g.n.penny@btinternet.com; Tel: 01908 316317)
Carol Goodwin (carolgoodwin951@btinternet.com)



VISIT TO LONDON METROPOLITAN ARCHIVES

Thursday 28th May

10.30am - 12pm

On this visit, there will be a free tour of the public rooms and we will have the opportunity to see some of the original documents in the Huntley Room. The tour will start at 10.30am and end by 12.

On Thursdays the London Metropolitan Archives is open from 9.30am to 7.30pm. If you would like to do independent research in the Archive Study Area after our tour, you will need to obtain a History Card. This can be applied for when you arrive or, in advance, on the website www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/lma

There is no cafe at the archives but there are hot and cold drink machines on the mezzanine floor. You are welcome to bring in your own packed lunch.

Venue

London Metropolitan Archives
40 Northampton Road
London EC1R 0HR

Getting there

Tube: Farringdon station (Circle, Metropolitan and Hammersmith and City lines) Or Angel (Northern line)

Train: Kingscross St Pancras or Farringdon

Farringdon station is about half a mile walk while Kings Cross/St Pancras station is about a mile away

There is no charge for this event but spaces are limited to 15 so booking is essential.

If you would like to join us on this outing, please let Mary Timmins know your name, telephone number and email address. She will be at the Family History Day on Saturday 18th April and will be happy to answer questions and take bookings.

Contact:

Mary Timmins

Email: mary.h.timmins@btinternet.com

Tel.: 020 8997 8132

Informal Lunches

As mentioned in the Winter Newsletter, we plan to hold the informal lunches at different venues around London, to be decided on by those who usually attend. The first of these was held at one of our most popular venues - *Penderel's Oak* in Holborn. Forthcoming sessions are as follows:

Forthcoming lunches:

23rd March - Penderel's Oak, Holborn

27th April - Penderel's Oak, Holborn

18th May - tbc

22nd June - tbc

Don't forget to diarise...

Mid-summer Lunch - 11th July - 12 noon

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

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

Contact: Liz Broekmann Tel:0203 6386817

Please check newsletters and the LCA website - (www.londoncornish.co.uk) for updates on the social programme.

News of Past Events

New Year's Lunch

Twenty nine members braved both winter and engineering work on the tube to go to Penderel's Oak for our New Year's Lunch in January and, with this number, we managed to take over a whole section of the pub. We have now had so many enjoyable gatherings here that we could almost consider the Penderel's Oak to be the LCA's local!

There were inevitably some people who were not able to be there, for various reasons, and we missed them, but we were thrilled to see several others we have not seen for a while. One of these was Tony Wakeham who, for many years has been the person organising this event. Everyone was thrilled to see him and to catch up on his news.

If the length of time people stay at an event is a measure

of its success then this event was a great success. It began at noon and some of the guests were still there at 4pm! It was obvious that everyone had really enjoyed spending time together and sharing a 'bit o' chat'.





PEWAS MAP TREVETHAN AWARD 2015

Paul Smales Award: Call for nominations

The Paul Smales Award is given to a Cornish Man or Woman, not currently living in Cornwall, who has made an outstanding contribution to the enhancement of the people and heritage of Cornwall.

Nominations are now being invited for the 2015 Award.

Nominations, with supporting evidence, should be **submitted by Friday 17th April** to:

The Chairman
26 Sharrow Vale
High Wycombe HP12 3HB

New Year's Honours List Recognises the Contribution of Several Cornish People

We can all be very proud of the fact that several Cornish folk were recognised in the 2015 New Year's Honours List. They include the following:

Dame Commander of the British Empire

The actress *Kristin Scott Thomas*, who was born in Redruth was given her award for her performances in a string of well known movies.

Member of the Order of the British Empire (MBE)

Sylvia Simpson from Penzance in Cornwall who was awarded her honour for services to the communities of Newlyn and Penzance

William Hewitt was appointed an MBE for services to maritime safety. He is operations manager at the RNLI's Rock Lifeboat Station.

Kenneth Richards has served more than 45 years as a Coastguard Rescue Officer in Cornwall.

Eddie Farwell who was the driving force behind Little Harbour children's hospice at Porthpean. He worked closely with Pirate FM to raise money for this cause which has led to the establishment of the three hospices which are run by Children's Hospice South West.

Ken Richards, from Port Isaac, is recognised for his work in co-ordinating the Boscastle rescue operations when the village was flooded in 2004.

British Empire Medal (BEM)

Richard Hall who founded the charity Sailaday which provides sailing trips for people who are recovering from addiction.

Roy Pascoe, RNLI Lifeboat Boathouse Manager at Penlee lifeboat station who has been a volunteer with the RNLI for 34 years. He helped with the rebuilding of the community following the Penlee lifeboat disaster when all eight of the boat's crew were lost during a rescue in wild seas.

Queen's Fire Service Medal

This medal was awarded to Cornwall's Chief Fire Officer, Des Tidbury.

Cornish MP features on BBC TV programme on Parliament

Did you see Andrew George, Lib-Dem MP for St Ives on TV recently? He featured in the second episode of the BBC programme *'Inside the Commons'* in the part of the programme dealing with Private Members' Bills.

The Cornwall Choughs – 2014 Update

After 2013's sad losses and dramatic events in the lives of the choughs in Cornwall, it is heartening to hear from Claire Mucklow, the RSPB Cornwall Project Manager, that in 2014 there were more ups than downs and the survival rate for young birds is good compared with elsewhere in the UK. Five chough pairs produced 17 young, and another young couple produced eggs but they did not hatch.

The saddest event in the 2013 breeding season was the demise of the long-established and pioneering pair, the male disposed of by a usurping youngster and the female disappearing a few weeks later. However, this incomer (now nicknamed George by the chough team) was not a total villain as he took responsibility for feeding and raising the orphaned chicks, and formed a good relationship with an incoming female (Nora). In 2014 they produced and successfully reared three chicks. Nora is unringed so the chough team can't determine where she has come from, but she and George are now well established in the cave first inhabited by the original pair at the Lizard Southerly Point.

There are also choughs back in Mount's Bay. A young male and female from different Lizard sites bred for the first time, producing three chicks, although unfortunately two were predated leaving only one youngster. At another site in the far west two chicks were hatched in a nest in a mine shaft, but when it came to fledging time one made the mistake of flying down rather than up, resulting in a single survivor. This is the second year that a chick has taken the wrong direction when leaving the nest and the chough team are looking into ways of preventing this from happening again.

There are six as yet non-breeding immature birds along the coast at Cape Cornwall, together with the older 'gay couple' mentioned in earlier reports. In addition, two other immature birds have found their way to the Roseland although they make the occasional return visit to the Lizard. It is hoped that they will pair up and breed this year. As someone who grew up in what is often called 'the gateway to the Roseland' I find the prospect of eventually seeing choughs in my former home area very exciting indeed.

Finally to end this latest chough update, did you know that most choughs ringed in Cornwall have a black and white ring on the left leg? This is a nice reminder of the St Piran's flag, and makes them instantly identifiable as Cornish if they fly off to visit cousins in Devon, Wales or Brittany.

Lorna Leadbetter

Songs of Praise from St Piran's Oratory

What better way to celebrate St Piran's Day than with a special service from the St Piran's Oratory which lies in the sand dunes above Perranporth.

The BBC filmed the service and it is expected to be included in the *Songs of Praise* programme which will be shown on BBC 1 on March 1st.

The service was led by the Rev Caspar Bush, the curate of Perranzabuloe and included music and songs in Cornish, performed by the group Keur heb Hanow.

After the service, the Grand Bard, Maureen Fuller, said: *'It was an absolutely spiritual service, magical. It is a pity we couldn't go into the Oratory itself as the holy spring has flooded it, but it was wonderful weather for it, balmy, not at all cold. This place is so special, how many other places have the church of their patron saint in their own land.'*

Filming of this event was not without its drama: the service had to start about 10 minutes late because the BBC sound crew got lost in the dunes! They were rescued by no less a person than the Cornish Grand Bard.

The oratory was open to the public over the weekend, giving them a chance to go inside before it is buried once more in order to protect it.

A collection taken during the weekend raised an incredible £2,500 which will go to support the continued work of the St Piran's Trust.

Spreading the Word about the St Piran's Oratory Project: A message from the Lead Archaeologist

My name is James Gossip and I work for Cornwall Council as an archaeologist and am the director of the Uncovering St Piran's Oratory Project. The project is centred around the re-excitation of an early medieval Christian chapel associated with St Piran near Perranporth, and believed by many to be the site first established by the saint on his arrival in Cornwall.

I'm currently trying to spread the news about our project to a wider audience, and I thought you or your members might help spread the Facebook Group? Anyone interested in the origins of St Piran and his oratory might like to join the group, which highlights the progress of the project, or for more information can contact me direct.

The facebook group name is: Uncovering St Piran's Oratory, so people would just need to type that into the search box or try pasting <https://www.facebook.com/groups/658887744134690/> into their browser.

Calling all runners!

Entries are now open for the 2015 Eden Marathon and Half Marathon which will take place on 18th October.

As in the past, this year's races follow a challenging route through areas of spectacular mining heritage and beautiful countryside landscapes.

Bookings may be made online via the Eden Project website - <http://www.edenproject.com/visit-us/whats-on/other-activities/eden-marathon-and-half-marathon>

7th Cornwall International Male Voice Choral Festival – 29 April to 4 May 2015

If you are fortunate enough to be in Cornwall at the end of April, why not go to some of the choral concerts which make up the Cornwall International Male Voice Choral Festival. The following press release gives a taste of what is in store:



The Cornwall International Male Voice Choral Festival will again celebrate the fine tradition of male choir singing for which Cornwall is justifiably proud!

This International Festival brings together male choirs (both young and older) from across the world to celebrate an art form born of an industrial past but looking to the future with a wide variety of new repertoire. Nothing can surpass male choir singing, whatever

the language. The power and dynamic range tugs at the heartstrings of everyone in earshot.

The Seventh Cornwall International Male Voice Choral Festival will celebrate with 70 choirs coming together. Almost 40 of those choirs will be Cornish and showcase singing throughout the age spectrum with wonderful boys and teenage choirs, young men in a newly formed group and traditional male choir choirs. Twenty choirs from across England, Scotland and Wales (also of all ages) will be joining with them and thirteen choirs will be making the journey to our wonderful County from across the world. Choirs will be coming from Canada and USA, South Africa and Spain, Switzerland, Germany, Estonia, Russia, Hungary, The Czech Republic, Ireland and Lithuania.

With concerts in almost every town in Cornwall, the Cathedral and Hall for Cornwall in Truro and choirs singing at a wide variety of tourist attractions during the day time, there will be something for everyone. Thirty concerts have been organised with five International Gala Concerts in Truro cathedral, three in the Hall for Cornwall and 22 Regional Gala Concerts across the County. Regional Gala concerts will be hosted by local choirs anxious to demonstrate true Cornish hospitality. For the first time a special section of the Festival will be dedicated to boys and youth choirs. They will have their own workshops, an activity day, competition and International Gala Concert. (They will also sing in other concerts too.) All concerts will feature choirs from across the world in addition to the host choir and other choirs from the UK. Full concert details and ticket purchase arrangements are on the Festival website.

During the daytime, choirs will sing at many of the wonderful tourist attractions in Cornwall including The Eden Project, The Lost Gardens of Heligan, Trebah Gardens, Heartlands, Land's End, Pendennis Castle, the National Maritime Museum Falmouth, Tate St Ives and St Clement Church Flower Festival. Choirs are also encouraged to sing wherever they are whether in a town centre or on the beach!

Many choirs will also be in competition on Saturday 2nd May (Hall for Cornwall with 17 choirs) and Richard Lander School, Truro (Sunday 3rd May with five youth choirs).

As an **educational charity**, the Festival engages local school children in singing activities, introducing them to singing cultures from outside the UK. Master classes and workshops are also organised for directors of choirs and, in a further development for 2015, more repertoire workshops and seminars are being organised for youth choirs. Festivals such as this require a huge team to organise and staff. Cornwall has that volunteer support in abundance. Sponsorship, too, is critical to the Festival's success. If you feel able to sponsor a particular Festival activity, that would be warmly welcomed.

Further details of the Festival and how to get tickets are available from www.cimvcf.org.uk

New Members

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

Ms Jane Hazell a member by descent and now living in Harpenden, Hertfordshire.

The Rev. Catherine Carlyon from the Truro area who, after being in Devon for some time, has now returned to 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

Cornwall's Secret Army

At their January meeting, the Liskeard Old Cornwall Society, heard John Joliff talk about Cornwall's Secret Army of the second world war. The function of the army was to destroy any installations which would be of advantage to an invading army, including telecommunications, and railways. Their work was so secretive that even wives and families did not know what was going on.

At the start of the presentation, Mr Joliff showed the audience a 1942 German map of the Liskeard area, which included important landmarks.

The saboteurs were carefully recruited for their ability to work on their own and to cope with difficult conditions. They came from all walks of life including school caretakers, bank clerks, farmers and game keepers.

It eventually transpired that the army's communication system linking Liskeard with other units in the area was via Barclays' Bank. The Bank's communication was considered to be more secure and efficient than either the post office telephone system or even the military's own communication setup.

There were several units in the Liskeard area which operated from underground bunkers, in quarries and other hidden places. They were equipped with some powerful weapons and explosives but their preferred methods were 'silent' and included garrotting or a knife in the back! They wore a uniform which had no recognisable insignia. This was to ensure that if they were captured, the enemy would assume that they were members of the Home Guard.

More information on Cornwall's secret army can be found on the Coleshill website - www.coleshillhouse.com

Thanks to Duncan Paul Matthews for telling us about this

Condolences

It was with sadness that we heard that one of our long-standing members, **Fred Stevens** had passed away in January. We are grateful to former LCA Chairman, Rosemary Prichard for representing the Association at Fred's funeral in St Ives.

Our Chairman, Francis Dunstan, attended the Thanksgiving service in London. He writes:

Representing the LCA, I attended Rev Fred Stevens' Thanksgiving service at St Anne's Soho on Fri Feb 13.

Fred was born April 4 1942 and died Jan 15 2015. He was our 'assistant' chaplain under Rev Austen Williams from 1984/5 to 1987/8, and then Chaplain in his own right from 1987/8 to 1990/91. The Association continued to meet for its Annual Church Service at St Anne's from at least 1994 to 1997 and the AGM and Christmas Party were also held there.

At the Thanksgiving service, the Church was full, with chairs in the aisles. Mention was made of his Cornish roots, and one of his friends, originally from Newquay, gave one of the three Tributes.

I have pleasant memories of Fred and meetings at St Anne's. On one occasion we entered the church to be greeted by a strong smell of incense. On asking why, it was said that a Roast beef lunch had been held that day and the incense was used to mask it. Personally, coming from a different Christian tradition, I would have preferred the roast beef!

Fred's thanksgiving service was a most memorable one, and showed the affection in which he was held by his congregation and the external groups in which he was involved.

We were also saddened to hear of the recent death of a good friend of the LCA, **Alison Bastard** of the Torbay Cornish Association. She will be remembered for her kindness, friendliness and hospitality when Cornish cousins from London and elsewhere descended on Torquay for Cuntelles Kernewek and the annual dinner of the Torbay Cornish Association..

Our thoughts are with the families and friends of both Fred and Alison.

Gorsedh Kernow Marks a Publishing Milestone

(Article by Derek R Williams, *Map Jethan*, issued by Delia Brotherton, *Myrghwyn Melynor*, Gorsedh Kernow Communications Officer)

As Grand Bard of Cornwall, the late John Bolitho, *Jowan An Cleth*, wrote in 2002 of the need for Gorsedh Kernow to return occasionally to its wellspring, reminding itself of the ideas and principles which informed its founding fathers and remembering them with gratitude.

2015 marks the fifteenth anniversary of a publishing programme that has grown from these founding principles and has brought a dozen or so titles to the attention of people in Cornwall and beyond as valuable research material and sources of interesting local information.

Although Gorsedh Kernow had published books before – notably Hugh Miners' (*Den Toll*) *Gorsedh Kernow: the first 50 years* and William Morris' (*Haldreyn*) *The Gorsedd and its Bards in Britain* – it was not until the year 2000 that the first in a series of booklets and books about individual bards was published. *Map Kenwyn: the life and times of Cecil Beer* was followed two years later by a similar volume about Joseph Hambley Rowe, *Tolzethan*.

2004 marked the centenary of Henry Jenner's (*Gwas Myghal*) seminal *Handbook of the Cornish Language* and to commemorate this book by Cornwall's first Grand Bard, the more substantial *Henry and Katharine Jenner: a celebration of Cornwall's culture, language and identity* was published by Francis Boutle Publishers in association with Gorsedh Kernow. This marked the beginning of a very successful partnership and, under the chairmanship of Ann Trevenen Jenkin and, more recently, Terry Knight, the Gorsedh Kernow Archives and Publications Committee has overseen the production of two further titles – *Setting Cornwall on its Feet: Robert Morton Nance, 1873-1959* (2007) and *Richard G. Jenkin, a Great Son of Cornwall* (2013).

Since its foundation in 1928, Gorsedh Kernow has periodically issued lists of bards or bardic rolls, and this tradition is now being maintained by bards who compile *Berdh Gorsedh Kernow/Bards of the Gorsedh of Cornwall* annually. Gorsedh Kernow strives to be very visible in the everyday life of Cornwall and for those seeking background information, there is no better source than Rod Lyon's (*Tewennow*) colourful *Gorsedh Kernow/The Cornish Gorsedd; what it is and what it does* (2008).

Not everyone can be a Jenner or a Morton Nance, of course, and five or six years ago it was decided to put together a publication detailing the lives and work of both deceased and living bards for each area in which the annual Gorsedh Kernow bardic ceremony is held. The first of these, *Cornish Bards of the St Ives Area/Berdh Kernow an Ranndir Porthia* (2010), was followed by volumes devoted to bards linked to Helston, north Cornwall, Penryn-Falmouth and the Tamar Valley.

What of the future? Well, work is almost completed on *Cornish Bards of the St Austell Area*, which will be launched in the town to coincide with this year's Gorsedh Kernow ceremony in September. And there is no shortage of other candidates whose lives and work for Cornwall and Cornish culture and identity deserve to be more widely known and celebrated. One of these is Robert V. Walling, *Scryfer an Mor*, whose Cornish illustrated manuscript *An Houlsedhas* is due to be published by Gorsedh Kernow in

conjunction with the Cornish Language Board in 2016, commemorating the centenary of its first production.

Robert Morton Nance's (*Mordon*) memorial in Zennor churchyard bears the inscription "*Oberow y vewnans yu y wyr govath*" (His life's works are his true memorial). Through its publishing programme, Gorsedh Kernow will endeavour to ensure that the life's works of more Cornish bards will be *their* true memorial.
January 2015

Gorsedh Kernow welcomes the WI Centenary Baton

'I can remember going to my first meeting in the 1960s, we walked down the road to the old chapel, our meeting place, cut off from the village by about half a mile, but the warmth of the welcome was impressive.'

The words of Past Grand Bard of Gorsedh Kernow and long standing member of Leedstown and Praze WIs, Ann Trevenen Jenkin, echo the recollections of many as she prepares to receive the National Federation of Womens' Institutes Centenary Baton at a special ceremony celebrating 100 years of the WI movement, to be held in Camborne Centenary Chapel on Thursday 19th February.

'I was asked to speak at this important event because I was the first female Grand Bard of the Cornish Gorsedd,' said Mrs Jenkin whose Bardic name is *Bryallen* meaning Primrose, 'a special honour as up until this year our sister Celtic Gorsedhau of Wales and Brittany did not have women leaders.'

Mrs Jenkin, who will be wearing her distinctive blue Bardic robe, will welcome the Baton as it arrives in the Rodda's replica model T Ford van, and it will be led into the chapel with a St. Piran's flag carried by her daughter Cllr Loveday Jenkin, also a Bard of Gorsedh Kernow.

'I will be particularly pleased to speak on this occasion both as a WI member and a past leader of one of the most important Cornish societies, Gorsedh Kernow, celebrating the diversity of our special Cornish language, history and culture.'

A new book...

Shout Kernow - Celebrating Cornwall's pub songs

Hilary Coleman and Sally Burley

ISBN 978 1903427 97 2

A new book of Cornish pub songs will be launched at special events early in March. The book comes together with two CDs which contain 31 songs recorded live in pubs across Cornwall.

Shout Kernow is end product of a project begun in 2012 by Hilary Coleman and Sally Burley whose aim was to record, celebrate and help sustain the living tradition of pub singing in Cornwall. It involved travelling around Cornwall recording variations of songs in twenty-two locations and meeting numerous singers from Calstock to Cadgwith. Over the last couple of years, they have collected words, tunes and harmonies, as well as the background to the songs and it is this, together with information about the pubs and events where the singing took place which appear in the book.

News from other Cornish Associations

Judging by the dearth of newsletters in the past couple of months, Cornish Associations locally and overseas seem to have had a very quiet time recently – no doubt due partly to Christmas and a cold winter. There seems to have been a bit more activity in Australia and we have enjoyed hearing their news.

This is a good opportunity to thank those associations who have sent us their newsletters during the past year. We always enjoy reading about what our cousins around the world are doing and sharing their news with our members. Please do keep sending us your newsletters - and if we are not on your mailing list, please do add us.

UNITED STATES

Part of the mission of the **Cornish American Heritage Society** is to support regional gatherings around North America. This means that they have a very busy couple of months ahead. In early June they will go to Grass Valley in California to attend the 24th Gathering of the Cornish Cousins, the theme of which will be 'Cornish Cowboys'. Early in September they will join the Toronto Cornish Association for a musical evening with the Trelawny Male Voice Choir and later in that month, they will go to the Southwest Wisconsin Cornish Society's annual Cornish Fest in Mineral Point.

The 24th Annual Gathering of the **California Cornish Cousins** will take place at Penn Valley/Grass Valley in early June. Two of the speakers at this event will be Professor Roger Burt from the University of Exeter who will talk about the influence of Masons and other lodges on Cornish migration and Greg Drew from South Australia who will talk about the Cornish influence 'down under'.

We are very much saddened to hear that the **Cornish Heritage Society East** has, like so many other associations, succumbed to the effects of declining membership and is to close. Barry Tracy writes:

Unfortunately, we have run our course. Many are unable to come to meetings, and as the last surviving officer of the society, I myself have just run out of steam...

CANADA

The **Toronto Cornish Association** has sent out a general invitation to anyone who would like to join them at their annual St Piran's Day Flag Raising Ceremony at Toronto City Hall on the 5th March. After the ceremony they will thaw out with hot chocolate and coffee in the City Hall cafeteria. The following photo shows a previous Flag Raising Ceremony – and one can see why that hot chocolate is needed afterwards!

In September, the TCA, will link up with St Olave's Church to host an evening with The Trelawny Male Voice Choir which will be touring Eastern Canada. The mission of the Trelawny Male Choir is to take Cornish music, culture and singing to the Cornish diaspora, performing for Cornish communities around the world.

Members of this Choir all sing with other Cornish male voice choirs.



AUSTRALIA

It is hard to believe that it is two years since the last Kernewek Lowender and that the next one – the 21st – will soon take place. It will be held from 17th – 24th May in Kadina, Moonta and Wallaroo in South Australia and is expected to attract 35 000 visitors. The programme for this event, which celebrates the Cornish heritage of the area, has a record 60 events and can be seen on the KL website - www.kernewek.org. Do have a look at the website, as apart from seeing what is on offer, you will be able to look at photos from past festivals. We look forward to hearing more news - and especially first-hand accounts - of the Festival in the coming months.

2015 is a special year for the **Cornish Association of New South Wales** as it celebrates its 40th anniversary. It was on 16th April 1975 that the Cornish Association of Sydney was started – and some of those founder members are still involved in the CANSW (its successor) today. We offer our congratulations on this great achievement.

The Association will hold a special lunch on 7th March to celebrate its anniversary and to mark St Piran's Day. Members attending this function are asked to dress in Cornish colours or tartan to help give the event a 'Cornish' feel. They are also asked to bring photos and memories of the past 40 years to share with others. Entertainment will be provided by the Raggeder Band.

The Committee of the **Southern Sons of Cornwall** has reported that the association is in a sound financial position and would very much like to use some of the funds to hold another **Cornish Cultural Celebration**. The past CCCs have been very successful and as this type of event is unique in New South Wales, they are very keen to continue with them. However, the challenge is to find enough people prepared to do the work.

In December, the SSoC held its Christmas gathering. It was attended by twenty five members who shared in a day of good fun and friendship. Included was a Cornish language competition in which participants had to say simple greetings or phrases in Kernewek. Although they were

given the Cornish words, the challenge was to get the pronunciation right!

Each year, the Southern Sons holds an arts competition. As they expected some of this year's poems to include Cornish words, it was decided that they should be judged by Harry Glasson who is in Cornwall. The winner was due to be announced at their AGM in February.

Early in December, the **Ballarat Branch** of the **Cornwall Association of Victoria** was joined by members from Bendigo, Geelong and Melbourne at their Christmas meeting. Wendy Benoit read excerpts from stories of Cornish Christmas traditions and then introduced some community carol singing. This was followed by a sumptuous meal.

On Wednesday 4th March, some members will attend a special ceremony at the Australian Catholic University, Aquinas College, when the name of the main building will be changed from *Manifold House* to its original name, *Carn Brae*. *Carn Brae* was built between 1882 and 1883 for Cornish miner and blacksmith Cyrus Bath Retallack.

The Branch will hold its St Piran's Day activities in front of *Carn Brae*. These will include a Flag Raising and Wreath-Laying Ceremony and a tour of the building. This will be followed, most appropriately, by a pasty lunch.

NEW ZEALAND

Since our last newsletter, we have heard of the death of Gary Wellington, President of the Taranaki Branch of the New Zealand Cornish Association. We offer our condolences to his family and friends.

UK

We were very sorry to hear that Alison Bastard of the **Torbay Cornish Association** had passed away recently and offer our condolences to her many friends in the Association and further afield.

On a happier note, the Association started its 2015 programme with Lee James, Cockington's glassblower, who told the fascinating story of his career in the industry. He started with Edinburgh Crystal, on the bottom rung of the ladder. He was one of a group of nine, each with his own part to play in the production of a perfect article, perhaps destined for a wedding gift and now holding pride of place in a glass cabinet somewhere. He mourned the demise of the UK crystal industry, reminding us of the names behind the beautiful craftsmanship.

Lee's business is in the craft centre in Cockington. Cockington village and the country park are beautiful places and should not be missed by visitors to Torbay.

The Livermead Cliff Hotel welcomed over 50 guests at the Association's 42nd dinner in December and it was a joy to see so many friends from Bournemouth, Bristol, Gloucester, London, Midlands, West Somerset and Thames Valley Associations and from the Homeland. The guest speaker was Mr Ian Hanaford, Chairman of Torbay Civic Society who showed he has a hand on the pulse of business in the Bay.



Enjoying the dinner at the Livermead - Mary Watters (Chairman of Torbay CA), Graham Pearce (London), Liz Broekmann (London), Ena Hocking (Torbay) and Liz Lane (Bournemouth)

Members of the **Thames Valley Cornish Association** welcomed in the New Year with a lunch in a local restaurant. A good time was had by *One and All*.

The Chairman's report at the **Homecomers** AGM in November showed what an interesting year that group has had. It began with a well-attended St Piran's Day lunch in March at which the speaker was Philip Rodda who talked about the founding and operation of Rodda's Creamery at Scorrier. In April, they visited County Hall in Truro where they heard how the Authority operates.

Bodmin was the venue for the May meeting. The group visited St Petroc's Church and participated in the re-enactment of the trial of Matthew Weeks for the murder of Charlotte Diamond.

In July they visited the preaching pits at Fraddon and St Newlyn East while the August outing consisted of a walk-about in Lostwithiel and a visit to Restormel Castle.

During the rest of the season they went on a rail journey from Plymouth to Calstock and Gunnislake, visited a First World War display at the City University Museum and the Wheal Martyn China Clay Museum at Carthew.

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 us on email: lca@londoncornish.co.uk
OR

Write to the Editor at the address on the back page

A warm welcome awaits you at the London Cornish Association

Rugby

CORNISH ON THE UP!

By Ben Gilby, Press Officer, London Cornish RFC

After finishing the 2013/14 season in third place in London Two South-West, their highest ever league position, London Cornish RFC have entered 2015 on the crest of a wave and not only have promotion firmly in their sights, but a possible Cup Final appearance at Twickenham!

At the half way stage of the 2014/15 campaign, 'The Exiles' are placed third in London Two South-West, having lost only two games, and have a regional Quarter-Final tie in the RFU Intermediate Cup against Crowborough to look forward to.

The key to this success is a settled team; all of the players who enjoyed such great success at the club last season stayed at The Richardson Evans Memorial Playing Field for the present campaign, with the 'Exiles' having a strong Cornish-born spine to their team. The club started the season with five successive victories, scoring 141 points in the process, before suffering a heart-breaking 16-15 defeat at Warlingham in mid-October when the Surrey side sent a penalty sailing through the posts with the last kick of the game. Cornish responded well by winning their next five games on the spin, conceding just twenty-eight points as they did so, which sent them to the top of the league.

This then set up a huge 1st v 2nd clash at home to Hampshire side Tottonians, in a game which was covered by BBC Radio Cornwall. 'The Exiles', missing their two first choice props for the match, slipped to a 19-6 defeat. In the games following this, London Cornish could easily have fallen behind Tottonians at the top of the league, as they faced two away games on the bounce. However, both games were won, with 'The Exiles' scoring seventy points in the process.

If Cornish were successful in their promotion battle, they would find themselves playing in London One, which is one league below the National Leagues. On top of this, they are entering the final stages of the RFU Intermediate Cup, the final of which is held at Twickenham. There could well be plenty for Black and Gold rugby supporters to enjoy and celebrate in 2015.



London Cornish RFC would love to see London Cornish Association Members on the touchline to support the side in the remaining games, as the club are closing in on a historic promotion. Admission to all games is FREE, and includes a complimentary full colour match programme. Pre-match lunches are also available to be booked. Contact club press officer Ben Gilby at bgilby@blueyonder.co.uk for more details.

St Ives Festival - 12-26 September 2015

'This year is already shaping up to be the most exciting line up of great names for quite a while,' said Dave Brotherton, returning to the St Ives September Festival this year as Chairman, 'and we are delighted to announce our plans in good time for those who like to get their tickets early.'

Headlining this year will be Festival Patrons Show of Hands, always popular in St Ives, along with Kate Rusby, Dervish, John Lees' Barclay James Harvest, Joanne Shaw Taylor, Miranda Sykes & Rex Preston, The Martin Barre Band, Chris Jagger and The Kronies, The Beat, Legend and The Rollin' Clones.

Steve Knightley will also be performing the national premiere of his brand new solo show 'All At Sea' in the atmospheric setting of The Mariner's Gallery, right in the heart of the town.

'It's great to be back working with the Festival volunteers once more and seeing our programme come to life' said Dave Brotherton.

'The St Ives September Festival is a very important part of life here in late summer and we all enjoy the huge diversity it provides.

'As well as the fabulous music programme that's taking shape there will be the usual full arts and literature programme which is really important to the life and success of the Festival.....I'm really looking forward to it.'

Tickets and further information are available from:

www.stiveseptemberfestival.co.uk

www.crbo.co.uk

A useful resource for those interested in the history of Methodism

Source: *The Week Ahead*, a publication of the Methodist Church 12th February 2014

One of the world's most important research collections documenting the history of British Methodism and the 18th-century Evangelical Revival has been deposited at the John Rylands Library. The special collections of Wesley College in Bristol and its predecessor institutions, Headingley and Didsbury contains personal papers of iconic figures from evangelical history including John and Charles Wesley, John and Mary Fletcher and George Whitefield, as well as rare and unique items from chapels and Methodist-related organizations. An itemised catalogue is available to download at the following address:

https://rylandscollections.wordpress.com/2015/01/29/wesley-college-archives-and-manuscripts-now-open-to-public-access-at-the-john-rylands-library/?utm_source=Methodist+Church+&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=5343447_305+WA+120214&dm_i=BVI,36J13,5SQZ3,BEDDK,1

Mem Sec's Meanderings...

I have previously commented on our spring weather and on last summer's weather which I hope you enjoyed. Well what about this winter? The forecasts were very up and down. One moment it said there would be frost and snow and there wasn't and then the forecast was for better weather and often it was the reverse! If they said that later in the week, say in four days time, it was probably going to be snowy, then, on the next day it was still forecast for four days time! Eventually it might have arrived, but then, it was no surprise (or should I say 'snow surprise')!

If where you are living you did get the forecasted ice and snow, I hope you enjoyed it. Of course we are all now looking forward to summer when we hope that it will be as warm and pleasant as last year. As I said in my last *Meanderings*, we nearly always complain about the weather, saying that is too cold, too hot, too wet or too dry!!

Enough about the weather... As Membership Secretary I must now go onto my regular subject and report on the present membership.

Sadly towards the end of last year we lost another member, Michael Williams from Hayle. He and I weren't at school together but I knew him as a 'youngster' as my father used to buy his daily newspapers from Michael's father's shop at Copperhouse in Hayle. His daughter, Mary, is still a member of this Association and I hope she continues to be one.

There is, however, some good membership news and I am glad to report that we are able to welcome two new members:

Ms Jane Hazell a member by descent and now living in Harpenden, Hertfordshire.

The Rev. Catherine Carlyon from the Truro area and resident in London N19.

Overall, our membership has decreased further. I am able to report that we now have 225 members, not all of whom live in London and the Home Counties. There are 100 living farther afield, including some in Cornwall and a few abroad.

If you can help encourage new members this will be greatly appreciated. I repeat what I always ask, '*please do what you can to encourage other people to join the Association*'.

We are not the only Cornish Association that has declining membership - last year both the Tunbridge Wells and West Kent Associations had to close because of falling membership. Sadly people were getting older and no longer able to attend regular meetings but I am glad to say that some of us do still occasionally meet for a pub lunch, although our numbers are dwindling.

I am continually on the lookout for more snippets about Cornwall in newspapers and in various books. I try not to look too deeply into the past and so this time have found the following items in recent newspapers.

In one report, it was stated that a supermarket in Cornwall disposed of 9,864 Cornish pasties because the delivery was 17 minutes late. It did add that they were offered to a food bank manager in Cornwall, but did not say what happened to them. The food bank manager then said that he had been offered 30,000 spring greens but couldn't take them as '*he had nowhere to put them*'. He comment-

ed that he had also been offered a large number of tomatoes from a supermarket because '*they were too big*'. I will not comment any more on this!!!

I have also found the following items in the newspapers:

- *Sixty percent of British meals are eaten in front of the television.*
- *If a dead whale is found on a UK beach, the head legally belongs to the King and the tail to the Queen.* It doesn't say how the present monarchy manages.
- *In three years the London Fire Brigade rescued 18 children with their heads stuck in toilet seats.* I did wonder if the heads were big or the toilet seats small and I suddenly remembered that our eldest son suffered a similar predicament many years ago. But he didn't get stuck!
- *The commonest place to hide valuables is in the sock drawer, it is also the first place that burglars check.* I would suggest you mark your sock drawer as '*underwear only*'
- *Plants grow more quickly if you talk them in a Geordie accent.* Where on earth did they get that idea from? I am sure that all you keen gardeners will agree with me that the Cornish accent is far more effective, even if it doesn't tell the weeds where to go!

Have you been to Cornwall recently? If so, have you noticed anything that has changed? Is Cornwall as you have always remembered it? Do send in your opinions.

That is nearly all for now. I do really hope that you had a good start to the year as we are now well into the early part of 2015 and, I am sure, are hoping for a nice spring. We have been very pleased that our daffodils, snowdrops and crocuses have been flowering in our garden for a few weeks. Of course, I am sure many of you are looking forward to the summer and a good holiday - but remember that if and you go abroad you should look out for Cornish names. I am sure that there is more evidence of Cornwall around the World than of any other county of the UK. Just one last thought... I remember that years ago, when I was in Jerusalem, I visited the Church of the Pater Noster on The Mount of Olives where there were versions of *The Lord's Prayer* in 45 different languages. They were written on beautiful glazed tiles - and each language was labelled. I remember that I was surprised, and very proud, to see that one of them was boldly labelled '*Kernow*'.

I hope you have found these *Meanderings* of interest and that they have given you some more 'food for thought'.

Kernow bys vyken

*Graham Pearce, "Pengwyth", 17 Trellyn Close, Barming, MAIDSTONE, Kent, ME16 9EF
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LCA news and updates...

Don't forget to keep an eye on our website where we will put updates to the social programme. The web address is:

www.londoncornish.co.uk

Crowdy Crawn

Pasty Champions sought at Eden for the fourth year

The Cornish travelled far and wide and pasties are familiar fare in those countries where they settled. Now, for the fourth year, the battle is on to find which cook (and which country) can create the best pasty.

The World Pasty Championships will take place at the Eden Project on February 28th. This competition encourages pasty-makers, local and overseas, to pit their own special version of this Cornish delicacy against the creations of others. In previous years, entries have ranged from the traditional to the exotic and it is hoped for similar this year.

As part of the marketing campaign for the Championships, Eden's head chef, Tony Trenerry has created a massive 'pasty planet'. The global shaped pasty is 70cm in diameter and took eight hours to create. Tony admits this was the toughest challenge he has faced as a chef



Source: <http://www.edenproject.com/visit-us/whats-on/other-activities/cornish-pasty-baking-competition>

Unusual find in Penzance house

Doreen Liddell, who died in Penzance late last year, kept a small statue of a cat's head next to her fire place. Her family assumed that the bronze cat, complete with gold ear rings was a cheap replica of an Egyptian statue and so were ready to discard it after she died. Fortunately, it aroused the curiosity of David Lay, the local auctioneer, who had come in to clear the house and he decided it merited a closer look.

The investigation revealed that the cat was a genuine relic dating back to about 600BC and might therefore be very valuable. He proved to be correct when it was sold at auction on 19th February for £52,000!

There has been speculation as to how this ancient Egyptian cat ended up in a cottage in West Cornwall. It is thought that it had come via Mrs Liddell's husband who was, at one time, managing director of Spink and Sons auction house in London. This firm was well known for its sales of Ancient Egyptian artefacts and, after the death of Howard Carter, who discovered Tutankhamun's tomb, had been responsible for selling his estate. It seems likely that the cat was bought by Mr Liddell while he worked at Spink and Sons.

The statue, which is in excellent condition, was authenticated by the British Museum and confirmed to date from the 26th Dynasty. The Museum said that the cat was a particularly fine piece of craftsmanship and would have been commissioned by someone of great wealth and importance.

If only it could meow!

You never know what you will find – or where you will find it...

One of my responsibilities at work is to maintain and develop the school archives and to this end, I am currently creating a database of past pupils. Inevitably, in the school's 142 year history one is bound to come across some interesting old girls – for instance, just a few weeks ago, I discovered that one of our alumni became the aunt of the present queen. It was, however, another entry which particularly intrigued me because of potential Cornish links.

It was the surname Boscawen which initially aroused my interest and when I looked more closely at her registration details discovered that her guardian was given as 'Viscountess Falmouth'. Further investigation revealed that she was the only daughter of Evelyn Edward Thomas Boscawen, 7th Viscount Falmouth! She attended Notting Hill from 1918-1919, when the school was still in Holland Park.

A great Cornish story returns to TV

It was with great excitement that this Poldark fan heard the news that a new serialization of the books by Winston Graham is about to be shown on the BBC. The last Poldark series was broadcast between 1975 and 1977.

The new series was filmed in Cornwall and Bristol in 2014. Interestingly, Robin Ellis who played Captain Ross Poldark in the last series plays the Reverend Halse in this new production. Ross Poldark is played by Aidan Turner while Demelza is played by Eleanor Tomlinson.

St Piran's Lullaby

Cornish children were recently challenged to compose a Cornish lullaby which tells the story of St Piran. The competition has been coordinated by St Piran's Festival, Redruth, in partnership with The Cornwall Music Therapy Trust.

The winning entries will be broadcast on local radio on St Piran's Day itself while the first live world premiere performance will take place at the St Piran's Day Festival in Redruth on 7th March

The deadline for the next issue of the LCA Newsletter is

5th May

Please send all contributions to:

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Or email to lca@londoncornish.co.uk