



Cowethas Kernewek Loundres

London Cornish Association Newsletter



www.londoncornish.co.uk

Winter 2017

Nadelik Lowen ha Blydhen Nowydh Da

Welcome to our last newsletter for 2017. I realised as I sat down to write this that this issue completes my 14th year as Editor! It has been rewarding in so many ways and has given me the opportunity to link up with so many amazing people. I am very grateful to those of you who have sent in items for inclusion over those years and urge others to do the same. Regular readers will know the sorts of thing that appeal. I rely on you to dig out those unexpected gems which others might not have noticed, or to share some of your Cornish experiences. My biggest challenge as Editor today is that the number of items or leads coming in continues to decline. Please do think about making a contribution. You do not need to write a lot. A photo with a caption might suffice – or a short paragraph. Of course, if you have a longer story to tell, we would love to see it. I know many of you go to Cornwall for holidays. Surely there is something you could share with us... a visit to an interesting place, something you've seen etc etc. What about something with a Cornish link that you know of where you live? And of course, reports on any of our events are always welcome. I look forward to receiving many more items in 2018!

Losing our amazing Chairman, Francis Dunstan, in June has made 2017 a sad year for the LCA. When you lose someone like that, you realise just how much you need them and what an incredibly valuable member of the team they were. At times, it has been quite challenging 'picking up the pieces', making decisions and taking the actions which we felt necessary to ensure the Association moves forward. We are so grateful to the members and friends who have supported us through this time. We are now confident that we are on the right

road and that the LCA has a good future ahead of it.

Since the Autumn newsletter, we have been very busy working on the social programme. The most exciting thing to report is that all the plans for the Annual Dining Event in March are now in place. That has not been without its trials as Council felt that the time had come to find a new venue for our lunch. Finding somewhere in London which is pleasant, reasonably priced, serves good food and is conveniently located is always tricky but I am pleased to report that we have found one that ticks all the boxes. We are very excited about this new venue and are sure the change will be very positive. In 2018 we will be going to the Imperial Hotel which is just a 2 minute walk from Russell Square underground station. The staff have been very helpful and we are confident that the event on the 18th March will be a really good one. As an added bonus, the hotel has given us a very good 'deal' which has enabled us to reduce the cost of a ticket quite substantially. Everything is now set for what we are sure will be a very good afternoon and we look forward to seeing many of our members and friends on the day. You will find a booking form in this newsletter.

How do you spend the long winter evenings? Why not use some of them this year to make poppies for the memorial project being organised by the Cornwall Regimental Museum in November. If you missed the item about this in the Autumn newsletter, you can see it online or, you can see a short summary on page 7.

Space has run out so I will end. As I sign off, I wish you 'merry winter poppy-making' and lots of good wishes for Christmas and for 2018.

Dates for your diary ...

New Year's Lunch
6th January 2018

St Piran's Day Celebration
3rd March 2018

132nd Anniversary Dining Event
17th March 2018

Trelawny Lecture, AGM and Family History Day
21st April 2018

Further details of these events can be found on page 2

Deadline for the Spring Newsletter is

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



Forthcoming events

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

Full details of our social programme can be found on the LCA website - www.londoncornish.co.uk

New Year's Lunch

**6th January 2018
12 noon**

Venue: This event will be held at one of our favourite (and easy to get to) London watering holes, *Penderel's Oak* in Holborn - 283-288 High Holborn, London, WC1V 7HP

Getting there: The nearest tube stations are Holborn or Chancery Lane on the Central Line.

Contact: Liz Broekmann Tel: 020 3638 6817 or email: lbroekmann@outlook.com

St Piran's Day Celebration

**3rd March 2018
1.30pm onwards**

Venue: Level 5 – Southbank Centre, Royal Festival Hall, London SE1 8XX (on the north side of the river)

Getting there: The nearest tube stations are Waterloo and Embankment. Mainline Stations: Waterloo or Waterloo East or Charing Cross

Join us for a celebratory Toast to St Piran and a taste of Cornwall.

Last March we held our first St Piran's Celebration and it was so successful that it was decided to repeat it this year. Any member or guest is welcome to join us.

If you would like to come to this event, please contact Carol Goodwin on e-mail chynoweth@hotmail.co.uk or phone 0208 303 9054 to book a place.

Trelawny Lecture, AGM and Family History Day 21st April 2018 10am to 4.30pm

Venue: Bloomsbury Central Baptist Church
235 Shaftesbury Avenue
London WC2H 8EP
(Nearest underground stations Holborn or Tottenham Court Road)

The *Trelawny Lecturer* for 2018 will be Mr Eric Bush JP: Cayman Islands' Representative to the UK and EU

He will talk about the link between the Islands and the Cornish settler's families and culture

The other speaker at this event is Simon Fowler who will talk on how to research your Brewery and Publican Ancestors

(There will be a short AGM for members during the lunch break)

A tasty lunch and cream tea are included in the fee.

132nd Anniversary Dining Event

**17th March 2018
12 noon**

Venue: The Imperial Hotel, Russell Square

Cost: £27.50 per person

Over the past two years, this event has been so successful that we are continuing with a luncheon in 2018. This dining event replaces our Annual Dinner, in response to requests from several members who find it challenging to be out late at night and prefer a lunch time gathering.

We are very excited to be going to a new, very well-located venue this year: The Imperial Hotel is a 2-minute walk from Russell Square tube station.

We are pleased to announce that the cost of a ticket is now lower than it has been in past years.

A booking form is enclosed with this newsletter

Annual Dining Event

17th March 2018

12 noon

Imperial Hotel, Russell Square

MENU

Starter

Roasted Vegetable Soup

Main Course

Roast Leg of Lamb with a Red Wine and

Rosemary Jus

Vegetables in season

A vegetarian option will be available

Dessert

Tarte au Citron

News of Past Events

Family History Day in October

For the October Family History Day, Mrs Elaine Henderson came from Cornwall to speak on 'Wills and Probates'.

Elaine spoke about two Cornish Parishes circa 1750 to 1850 – the Clays parishes of St Stephen and Launceston. She contrasted the parish of St Stephen with the prosperous town of Launceston, looking at the differences in the occupations of those making wills, the values of estates etc. She also mentioned the differences in the preparation of the wills and how the ones drawn up by professionals differed from the ordinary hand written ones.

In her talk, Elaine showed how the way wills were written in those days revealed the relationships within families, particularly the attitude of husbands towards their wives and fathers' towards their sons.

Finally, she spoke about how the wills reflected changes to the economy and society over the 100 year period.

During the lunchbreak, Mr Bruce Johns spoke briefly about the book he has recently written. Entitled 'The Dancer and the Drum' he revealed how he learned about his family's roots in Cornwall; how he tracked them on their migration to London and how he watched as they prospered while the City grew, finally seeing it end in tragedy and rancour.

Then, in the afternoon, we were delighted to hear Mr John Jolliff's emotional account of his younger days and those of his friends and acquaintances in his talk 'Cornwall's Secret Army'. Vivid memories and experiences were shared in a well delivered and most interesting talk.

The feedback from those attending was very good, and we were so pleased that Elaine and John were able to make the journey 'up country' to share their stories with us!
Carol Goodwin

Informal Pre-Christmas Lunch

Fifteen members and friends gathered at *Penderel's Oak* at the end of November for an informal Pre-Christmas lunch. Many stayed for several hours, proving how popular this kind of event is with our members, including our guest



of honour, Perran Bear who is now home from his recent holiday in Brittany.

Penderel's Oak was chosen for this event because it is easy to get to and is popular with our members. We have received some other suggestions from our members and will look to extend our repertoire in 2018. Keep an eye on the website (www.londoncornish.co.uk) and the newsletter.



Some of our members enjoying their lunch in the company of Perran

The Carpet at Penderels Oak

It never ceases to amaze me what people will write books about! A recent example is a book entitled *Spoon's Carpets* which was written by London blogger Kit Caless. This features photographs of over 75 carpets from Wetherspoon's pubs across the UK which Caless considers to be works of art. The carpets are made by Axminster, a company which has been making carpets since 1755.

Every Wetherspoons pub has its own unique pattern, which reflects the name of the pub or the character of the town. For example, the *Cross Keys* in London has gold keys on a blue carpet and the carpet in the *Britannia* in Plymouth includes a wave pattern.

The image below is of the carpet at our regular 'watering hole', *Penderel's Oak*. The pub occupies the ground floor and cellar of a building called Penderel House, named after Richard Penderel who, at the end of the Civil War in 1652, helped King Charles II to escape from Cromwell by hiding him in an oak tree on his estate.



An Excursion to the Land's End in 1741

*Reprinted from 'Devon & Cornwall Notes & Queries', Vol XXIII, p81
(which was found among the archive papers in the possession of Francis Dunstan)*

A PROGRESS 23RD MAY 1741

Communicated by One who was of the Party

Twas on that Auspicious Day, when We received Advices from our Brave Admiral before Cartagena, where He and his Sailors had been reaping Laurels, and in pursuit of still greater Honours for themselves and their Country That the Beautifull Villaria and her Brother, attended by some Friends set out on a Tour to the Lands End of Cornwall. We took Boat on the River Fale; and in about an hour and half We came ashore on the Lands of Trefusis; where we found a Generous Reception and had the Pleasure of partaking in the great Joy which prevailed and diffus'd its self universally thro' Towns, Villages, and the adjacent Country; Peals of Thunder from the Shipping, Vollies of Small Shot were heard from the Soldiery and Bonfires to be seen thro'out all the Country, which look'd chearfull and appear'd all day at Midnight. Monday We proceeded on our Route to Helstone, at about 10 miles distant partly a Stony, partly an open Country. Very little remarkable occur'd. An Impudent Lad on the Road put me in mind of Andrew Servant Boy to Haldudo in Don Quixot. We turn'd a little out of the Way to take a transient View of the Loe Pool, separated from the Sea by a little ridge of Sand; of about 4 Miles in Circumference and well furnished with a Fish call'd the Loe-Trout; a Dainty fit for a Prince's Table – from hence We went up the Marshes, and past on thro' the Town of Helstone; the Houses are fair-built, covered with Cornish Slate; the Streets neat and well-pav'd – the Market houses large of full stored with Corn and Victuals – Saturday is their Market day. We dined at a Gentlemans in the neighbourhood, and were kindly entertained – from thence We proceeded thro' a Tin-Country, to Godolphin, the Seat and Inheritance of a Very Ancient Family of that Name in this County; the House ancient, built Colledge-wise, a Quadrangle and Spacious Hall. None of the Family have resided here for some Generations; it looks V[en]erable and Solemn, in the midst of a Clump of Trees. Godolphin Ball has been ever famous for store of Tin Mines. The next Halt we made was at Trewinnard the Habitation of Christopher Hawkins Esq Our Head Quarters Pleasantly scituated on a Branch of the North Sea;



St. Michael's Mount, One of the Seats of St John St Aubyn... It has been lately fitted up for Habitation in the best Taste the thing wou'd admit of, at some Expence

which at low Water appears a Tract of Sand, very Commodious for all who pass that Way; a little out, is St Ives Bay, and the Town so called – about 2 Miles and half from Trewinnard is St. Michael's Mount, One of the Seats of St John St Aubyn. It was formerly a Priory of Benedictines; and afterwards annexed to the Abbey of St. Michael in periculo Maris in Normandy. It has been a Place of Refuge & Defense in troublesome Times. It has been lately fitted up for Habitation in the best Taste the thing wou'd admit of, at some Expence. Not far from hence is a Famous Copper Mine, call'd Wheal-Fortune, that is, the Fortunate or Lucky Work – it is now in good Reputation and Working and with the Help of a Fire-Engine they discharge such Quantities of Water as to enable the Miners to come at and throw up the great Riches which are in the Bottoms, to the no Small Advantage and Profit of the Adventurers, notwithstanding the Immense Charges they are at.

We'nsday the 27th We rid over the pleasant Sands between Market-Jew & Penzance, at about 3 miles distant, a Pretty Town, it seems to project out into the Sea, and brings to my Memory Sannazarius' Verses on the City of Venice who says that "it stands out into the Sea and Claims Dominion". Thro' Newlyn, an adjoining Fisher Town, We climbed up an Hill, thro' the Parish of Paul into that of St. Burien. We lay at Boskenna the Seat of Mr Paynter where We were received with great Civilities and an Hospitality peculiar to Him; the next morning We all set out for the Land' End in the Parish of Sunning; it is a Nook of Land and Rocks which advance far into the Sea, very narrow and cragged – it requires a Steady Head and much Curiosity to see the utmost Point, wherefore I can say nothing particularly of the Armed Knight or the Fabulous History concerning him. I saw at a distance of about 7 Leagues the Islands of Scilly – they seem a Ledge of several Rocks lying in Length for N.E. to S.W. they were very distinguishable by the Shores being covered with a fine shining White Sand. As to the Report that there was once a Communication with Cornwall, and those Islands I look on [it] as a Fiction, of the same Original, with that of Rhegium in Calabria, which is supposed to be broken off from the rest of Italy and that it formerly joined with the Messina in Sicily, a distance of 12 Miles. The same may be said of Dr. Musgrave's Britannia Pene-Insula, between Dover & Calais – Antiquaries and Poets claim great Latitudes. From hence We Coasted along to Castle Treereene in the Parish of St Levin; this is reckoned the other Lands End, and indeed is a Stupendous Collection of Rocks, of great Extent; they seem vast Stones, as if lain one on the other subject to little or no Variations of time since the Foundations were first laid.

*Hills pil'd on Hills, on Mountains, Mountains lie,
To make their mad Approaches to the Sky.*

On the furthest Precipice, the uppermost Stone, which the Country People call the Logging Rock, is of an Immense Sise; notwithstanding, it rests on such a Poise, that with a Common Strength you may move it; tho' with many mens united Strength you can't remove it from the Basis or Centre – there are many Instances of the same Nature within the County; We returned thro' a very high overshadowing steep rugged Country in Company with Our

Generous Host – where we were nobly refresh, and, in the Evening We took Our Leave.

Boskenna is scituate on the Sea, a great Exposure, had it not been for the Great Industry of the present Gentleman and his Father Who have made large and regular Plantations of Trees which surround and fortify it so effectually, as to the Houses, Orchards and Gardens, that few inland Places exceed it – the Method by which they succeeded in the Attempt was the erecting Furss-Reeks in the Extremities, which gave sufficient Shelter for the Growth of the Trees till they could encounter the Bleak Weather and Sea Air and have now a most Noble Effect. Everything around this place shows something or other of the Ingenuity and Industry of the Possessor. The Innumerable Tufts of Trees and Gloomy Scenes which give a Magnificent Appearance to the Place put me in mind of Shalum's Plantations on Mount Tirzah by which at last He captivated the obdurate Heart of Hilpah the Daughter of Zilpah. I have not the Poetical Fancy to describe the Palace of the Nereids a Sacred Retirement – it is diversified with Conchs or Shells of Various Sorts, as Muscles, Oysters, Cockles, Perle, Fossils, Metals, Chrystal, Spars, Flints, Stones, Agates, Jaspars, Marbles, Corals, Ambers all made & combined so as to imitate Insects, Fishes, Birds, Sea-Monsters, Chimaeras dire. Here the Sea Nymphs shift themselves after Bathing.

The Road on Our Return lay thro' the Same Countrey, Neptune was propitious and disclosed a Passage thro' her [sic]Sandy Palaces. We arrived at Trewinnard very seasonably where We rested Ourselves all the following day – the Larks awaked us the Saturday Morning. We past over Hayle Sands and came into a Small Piece of Countrey which look'd somewhat like the Accounts which Travellers give of Arabia Deserta, the Scene changed soon, when we advanced up into a Countrey where the high Cliffs present you with a Steep View of St George's Channell – a little inward We arrived at Tehiddy the Seat of that ancient Family of the Bassets, planted in Cornwall. It is an entire new-erected Edifice; Good Ashlar work, the Ground Story common Moorstone; exactly and fine-Hewn, the Depth and Length of the Building, I believe proportional – the Offices are detached, One at each Angle the commu-

nication between the Kitchen & main House is a covered way; there are many Rooms on each Floor. Whether it be a well-effected Piece of Architecture must be answered by what the Gentleman said, who show'd it, that it was a good Living House for any Gentleman.

From Tehiddy We Took our direct Route for Truro. We met on the Road an old Hag riding on a white Horse, who muttered some words and crost [?curst] us several times; this was not quite so agreeable, the Adventure look'd a little Ominous and unlucky – the Probable Conjecture was, her being an old Witch; the Superstition of the Country People reports to have seen her sometimes high in Air, mounted on a Broom-stick & brewing a Storm – at other times, she has appeared in the Shape of an Hare, industrious and cunning enough to evade the Skill of the Huntsman and to seal up the Noses of their Hounds – the Country Housewife when she has not been able to run her Milk, has often call'd out upon her in bitter reproachfull Terms – the only misadventure that befel us, was, We came into Town very hungry and the Cook was bewitch'd!



...the next morning We all set out for the Land' End in the Parish of Sunning; it is a Nook of Land and Rocks which advance far into the Sea...

Condolences

LCA member **Norman Bunney** passed away in November. He was a longstanding and very active member of the Association, serving as Chairman in 1961-2 and Secretary for many years. In recognition of all he had done, he was appointed an Honorary Vice-President, an Office he held until his death.

When he retired from his job in London and returned to Cornwall, Norman linked up with several other LCA members and members of other associations who were also returning and formed the '*Homecomers*'. For many years, he was its secretary.

He was admitted as a Bard of the Cornish Gorsedd in 1967, and took, as his bardic name, *Lynhyr* (Deep Anchorage).

Something Norman will be particularly remembered for is his musical prowess. This was acknowledged in 2010 when he was awarded with the Music Shield (Skoos an Orsedh) by the Gorsedd

We offer our condolences to Normans family and friends.

Gorsedh Kernow announces host town for 2018

'Newquay is now a very popular holiday destination in the UK but it had a long history before tourism,' said the Grand Bard of Cornwall, Merv Davey, *Telynyor an Weryn*, 'and with the remains of prehistoric burial grounds on both the Barrowfields and Trevelgue Head, plus evidence of Bronze Age and Iron Age dwellings, we know that people have lived and worked here for thousands of years.'

The Grand Bard's words were spoken as a joint declaration with town mayor Cllr Margaret North that Newquay, on Cornwall's Atlantic coast, would host the 2018 Gorsedh Kernow Esedhvos Festival of Cornish Culture and bardic ceremony.

'We are delighted that the bards of the Cornish Gorsedd have accepted our invitation to hold their celebrations here next year,' said Cllr North, 'and we are proud that history shows that our town was an important hub for Cornwall's then main industries of mining, fishing and agriculture.'

Accepting the invitation on behalf of fellow bards, Dr Davey expressed a wish for openness and inclusiveness among Cornish people as they grapple with the issues facing a modern Cornwall whilst at the same time celebrating their distinct cultural identity.

'I come from an old Newquay family who have always been proud of both Newquay's heritage and ability to embrace the new' said the Grand Bard.

'My Grandfather was a keen local historian and a strong supporter of Gorsedh Kernow and would be delighted to see the ceremony being held at Newquay.'

'These days Newquay is firmly established in the world of top class surfing with our famous Fistral and Watergate beaches,' said mayor Cllr Margaret North, 'and we are also a contender for obtaining a licence to operate as a Spaceport, but we are immensely proud of our Cornish roots and look forward to welcoming members of the College of Bards to our town.'

A message from Kath Slatter

Dear One and All,

May I take this opportunity to say a big 'Thank You' to Liz, Carol and Jackie for stepping in after the death of Francis. Without their tireless help there would be no more London Cornish Ass'. I had the job of clearing his house 'with friends' and Francis had amassed a van full just of Cornish Items, plus Family History items, 'to be sorted by Lorna', dealt with by Liz and off loaded into Carols garage. I personally want to 'thank' all 3 of them for all the effort they have put in, it has been quite a task. Between them they have laid plans on how best to keep the Ass' going forward. They are doing a Grand job.

From us all 'Thanks'

Kath

Newquay Harbour's other Tunnel

[posted on Facebook by Chris Shinner, for the Newquay Old Cornwall Society] (*Taken from the Cornish Association of South Australia newsletter*)

In 1838 the new owner of the harbour Joseph Treffry commissioned the rebuilding of Lomax's old quays, the work being completed by 1843. As part of the re-construction a tunnel was built under the South Quay running through from just below the high water mark and discharging on to Towan beach. It was quite large about 6ft high with an arched roof and some 4ft in maximum width.

The purpose of the tunnel was to allow the tides and waves to wash sand away from the harbour allowing vessels to be moored as far along the quay as possible. Even after the harbour became less well used this device continued to work well as can be seen from the 1930s picture of a Newquay girl, Mary Newcombe standing in the tunnel with her dog "Tiny".

In the 1960s the outer wall of the South Quay was reinforced and the tunnel exit closed leaving only a large pipe. Consequentially sand built up in the sheltered area between the slipway and the South Quay resulting in a safe and sunny area of soft sand much favoured by local Mums with small children and being known locally as "Ratepayers' Corner".

By the 1970s the tunnel was partially blocked but more than one small child would crawl through to the consternation of the parent finding them suddenly missing! In recent years the tunnel has become totally blocked leaving only the arched roof visible above the sand.

The recent winter storms have, however once again partially re-opened the tunnel and it again is possible to see "light at the end of the tunnel".



New Members

We are pleased to welcome the following new members:

Mr Alton Morgans – Cornish by Descent and living in Harrow

Mrs Jenifer R Poynter – Born in Cornwall and living in Worcester Park, Surrey

Mr Peter J Chalkley - Born in Saltash and living in Belvedere, Kent

We look forward to seeing them at future events.

*Do you know anyone who might be interested in joining the LCA? Let them know they can get an application form from the LCA website - www.londoncornish.co.uk **OR** the membership secretary at lca@londoncornish.co.uk*

Notes from the city, to the sea

Written by LCA member, Josiah Mortimer

I like my water free.
Not locked in, with concrete
or hemmed with steel

The barriers of old dockland
choke the estuary,
trapped by machine-hewn granite,
bordered by quay

But on the margins of this isle
three hundred miles away
from an oceanless empire
the sea breathes effortlessly.
It lolls, and rolls,
and lazies, and lashes
with total impunity.

If you want to witness liberty –
and feel it, too –
stand on the Minack steps
high above the waves
They breathe into you there
so all you can think is:
'Engulf it all', or
'Share that precious liberty'

But I am not on those steps
where granite is uncarved
(not by man, at least)
or among First Nature, as it wants to be

Instead, I am back to wharf
and the cold humanity
of paved-over wetland
Terra firma, foot-worn
by those seeking
a semblance of the sea

But it's a poor copy.
The water here is a lion, caged

There is, though, I'll admit,
a memory –
which is, incidentally,
why I've come here;

remembering, yearning
for a Real Thing:
the wild roar
of Cornish coast
rattling headland, defiant
Shouting to the sky:
'This is what it is
To be'

Here, in this huge city
I strain to hear it –
over aeroplanes, cars,
crowded high streets

But by the docks
I think I feel something
a shared memory, or
the song of a longing
or that precious liberty

And if I focus, I can feel
the desire of bridled water,
to roar at the sky once more –
'I am free, truly, free'

The BBC explores the Lizard

Early risers who start their day in the company of BBC Radio 4 might have heard the fascinating episode of Open Country at 6am on 18th November which focused on the Lizard. The programme note reads as follows

Helen Mark meets people whose livelihoods depend on the unique landscape of the Lizard peninsula in Cornwall. She finds rock that looks like snakeskin, otherwise known as serpentine, and hears a dragon breathing. Possibly. It's all a bit reptilian.

The Lizard is the most southerly point of England and it's probably not named after serpentine, the snakeskin-like rock that's found here, and nowhere else on earth. It's a peninsula that's almost an island, cut off by the Helford River on one side and the coast on the other, surrounded by some of the cleanest water to be found in the UK. It's kept that way by the rocky coast that makes it dangerous for ships to come too close and muddy up the sea. Salt has been extracted from the seawater here since the Iron Age, and seaweeders still harvest sea spaghetti and pepper dulse from its shores, both for gourmet consumption.

Other gourmet items are the organic 'destination pasties' of Gear Farm, which also has an Iron Age heritage to protect in the form of a fort and geophysical evidence of nearly fifty roundhouses which once graced its land. Helen meets Don Taylor, who loves the mystery and magic of serpentine and makes it into sculptures inspired by the shape of the rocks he finds in the cliffs. And there's artist Bridget Leaman, whose home is perched on the cliffs by Lizard village. The landscape here inspires her paintings, sometimes in the most unexpected ways.

If you missed it, you may be able to pick it up on iPlayer. Definitely worth listening to.

A gentle reminder about supporting Cornwall's Regimental Museum.



In our last newsletter we mentioned that the Cornwall Regimental Museum was appealing for people to make poppies to be used in a display to mark the centenary of the end of World War 1 in November 2018. They are hoping to have get 4 282 poppies, one for each of the DCLI men killed in the war. This is a reminder to get involved.

Poppies can be knitted, crocheted, felted or stitched and

can be in any style. There are just a few guidelines: Poppies must be:

- Handmade in any textile medium
- Up to 4.5 inches in width
- Ready to fasten – a simple fastening such as a safety pin on the back is absolutely fine.

Anyone who makes a poppy is welcome to dedicate them to a particular DCLI soldier.

Once your poppies are made, they should be labelled with your name and any dedication and sent to
Cornwall's Regimental Museum, The Keep, Bodmin, PL31 1EG

Books with a Cornish interest

Exceeding My Brief by Barbara Hosking

ISBN: 978-1785903557

RRP £25. Available on Amazon – Hardcover £17.95, Kindle £13.00

This book provides an insight into the incredible life and career of LCA member, Barbara Hosking. From a scholarship girl in a Penzance school she rose to eventually become Press Officer to both Harold Wilson and Edward Heath. The period in between saw her working on the Scilly Isles, in London typing pools and on a copper mine in East Africa (complete with snakes under the mattress!).

During her political career Barbara found herself at the centre of power during a challenging time in domestic and world politics. She was at number 10 at the time of the terrorist attacks at the Munich Games and when the UK joined the Common Market.

Barbara is an interested and curious person who seems to love new adventures and so with this, and her enthusiasm for journalism, it was not surprising that she got involved in TV. She became deputy chairman of West-country Television and later on, joined the governing board of Independent Television.

The book is written in a delightful, chatty style and was a pleasure to read. Her passion for Cornwall comes through strongly and it is fascinating to read about life in Cornwall in the depression years and during the war. Also to get a glimpse into what was going on behind the scenes at the time of some of the great political events of the past.

In her epilogue, Barbara says *'I always wanted to be a 'real' writer, and I have at last produced a 'real' book...'* And so she has, and it is a *'proper job'!*

My Cornish Life by Sue Bunney

ISBN: 978-1521130780

Available at Amazon – Paperback £1.45, Kindle £2.39

This book, which focuses on the fishing villages of Mevagissey and Gorran Haven, was inspired by the discovery of a Cornish ancestor. Matthew Hinkin from Mevagissey had been taken by a press gang. He escaped by jumping ship in Samoa, where he married the local chief's daughter and became a preacher.

The book is based on his story but also Sue's own stories of living in the close knit community which includes wrecks and smuggling, the campaign to save the famous Dodman Point from becoming part of a firing range and using a Cornish cream tea as a bribe for the media. Also, discovering the Lost Gardens of Heligan when they were just a wilderness, the birth of a now famous theatre company, (Kneehigh) in a barn on a Cornish cliff top, meeting the rescued sea gull who fell out of his nest and had to be taught how to fly, finding a stranded whale, and saving a sick seal pup. The different characters spring from the pages, the ancient fisherman finally disclosing his secret fishing marks, the harbour master spinning his tales of Cornish water buffalo on the beach. Catching the fish of the day and proving that girl power can be useful. Learning to appreciate the changeable moods of the sea, all woven into a humorous story of pride of place, and leading the reader to immerse themselves into a bit of Cornish magic.

Sir Richard Carew

Sir Richard Carew, who was born in East Antony in 1555, was described as a Gentleman, Entrepreneur and Philanthropist. He was a great scholar, going to Oxford at the age of 11 and then to Middle Temple.

During his life, he translated several learned publications and was a member of the Elizabethan Society of Antiquaries. He travelled extensively in Cornwall and is particularly remembered for his *Survey of Cornwall* which was published in 1602. It was only the second English county history to appear in print and described the landscape features, curiosities and gentlemen's estates of the nine Cornish hundreds.

In his survey, he expressed the view that Saltash was one of the healthiest towns in Cornwall because its roads were so steep that the filth was washed away when it rained! The roads of west Cornwall he considered to be better than those of the east and, while he admired the new bridge at Wadebridge, he still thought it safer to cross the River Camel via the ford! He revealed his concern about the fact that in Looe, some of the houses were built on sand without sufficient foundations.

Sir Richard had progressive views on agriculture and promoted crop rotation so as not to deplete the land of nutrients and encouraged farmers near Looe to condition their soil with seaweed from the beach.

He was fond of fish, both fresh and salt water and had fish ponds built at Antony House, around which he placed a sloping fence to keep the otters out!

Carew served as High Sheriff of Cornwall in 1583 (when only 27) and 1586 and was MP for Saltash in 1584. He was one of the deputy-lieutenants of Cornwall, serving under Sir Walter Raleigh who was then, Lord Lieutenant.

He died in 1620 while praying in his study at Antony House and is buried in Antony Church where a plain marble slab in the wall describes him as a 'most peaceful man'.

Thanks to DP Matthews (Liskeard OCS) for reminding us of this important Cornishman who featured in a recent talk to the Liskeard OCS by Carole Vivian.

Emily Hobhouse's birthplace to be restored

Members of the Liskeard OCS recently heard about plans to restore the Rectory at St Ive which was the birthplace of Emily Hobhouse. The work will be based on plans from 1852 which still exist, and will bring the house back to what it was when Emily lived there with her parents.

Emily will be remembered for her work as a welfare campaigner. It was she who highlighted the atrocious conditions which existed in the British concentration camps where the Dutch women were kept during the Boer War. Perhaps less well known is the fact that she was an avid opponent of the First World War and organised the writing and signing of the *Open Christmas Letter* which was a public message for peace addressed to the women of Germany and Austria. Her concern about the welfare of 'enemy' children led to her helping set up the *Fund to Aid Swiss Relief* which was soon afterwards incorporated into the *Save the Children Fund*. It is not surprising, that with her strong social conscience, she was also a suffragette.

DP Matthews

News from other Cornish Associations

UNITED STATES

Everything about the recent 25th Annual Cornish Fest of the **Southwest Wisconsin Cornish Society** was a great success - from the programme to the weather. The report in their latest newsletter comments that *'the piskies and tommyknockers were again kind and provided a beautiful late September weekend for the Cornish Festival and Celtic Celebration. The streets of Mineral Point were filled with visitors who enjoyed the events and took advantage of what the shops and restaurants and other businesses had to offer.*

The events over the weekend were many and varied and included a pub night, which had the highest attendance ever. The Saturday night show, *'Sights, Sounds and Stories of Cornwall,'* which was based on a typical Cornish Saturday night entertainment, was also well attended. During this event, Jim Jewell was presented with the *'Cornishman of the Year Award'* in recognition of his efforts in promoting Cornish heritage in the Old Lead Region.

There was a special programme for children and between 45 and 60 participants played games and enjoyed Cornish stories.

During the weekend, Kathleen Ernst launched her new book *Mining for Justice*. There was good attendance at her talks and many took the opportunity to get their copies of the book signed. A 'pop-up' museum was a huge success and is expected to return at a future event.

CANADA

In September the TCA organised the Canadian Premiere of the film *Brown Willy*. Many TCA members, as well as members of the public attended. Before the screening, the audience was shown videos of Cornish music and images. After the event, there was a Q&A session with Simon Harvey (Actor/Producer) and Brett Harvey (Director) via Skype. The event got coverage in the British Canadian newspaper.

Their October meeting took place at the Oshawa Museum where the museum's archivist gave a talk on Cornish emigration to the Oshawa area. This focused on the significant contribution the immigrants made to the mid-19th century development of the area. After the talk, there were tours of Henry House and Robinson House which are adjacent to Guys house where the meeting was held. All houses were built in the middle of the 19th century.

At the meeting in November, the theme was *Family Scandals* during which members could share their own family history stories. We look forward to seeing the report and hearing what skeletons were unearthed!

Their last meeting for the year will be a Christmas party early in December.

TCA member Heather Dale, who is well known for her performances of Celtic music has been on a *'Celtic Spark Tour'* in which the audience has been able to enjoy a *'peaceful evening of Celtic and seasonal songs'*.

AUSTRALIA

At the September meeting of the **Cornish Association of Victoria**, Brian Brewer talked about his Trembath connections. His ancestor, Michael Trembath was a Cornish coalminer who went to Walhalla when gold was discovered at Stringer's Creek. When the mines closed, he ran a grocery business where he was able to make more money *'selling goods to the miners than through mining itself.'* The last Trembath direct descendent to live in Walhalla was Brian's grandfather but there are many other Trembaths in the area and every 5 years, there is a Trembath reunion in Walhalla. In 2015, 100 relatives attended.

In October, the talk, which was entitled *'A Cornish Corner in Mt Pleasant, Ballarat'*, was given by Graham Bartle who has had a long career in music, culminating in his becoming Deputy Dean of Music at the University of Melbourne.

Graham's parents moved from Cornwall to Ballarat where he was born. The family attended Mount Pleasant Methodist church where they played a very active role in the musical life of the church.

'At Mt Pleasant, Christmas Carol singing was always a highlight of the year with Cornish Carols being very popular. Christmas Eve activities, involved the 30-member church choir boarding a flat-backed truck, on which two pews were placed in the middle facing outwards to allow the women to sit. Male choristers sat with their feet hanging over the truck's sides and the harmonium was placed behind the truck's cabin.

It was a slow journey as the convoy stopped every hundred metres or so to sing both the Cornish carol repertoire as well as the more traditional carols. Runners knocked on the doors and asked for donations.'

After his talk, Graham gave the audience a challenge - he handed out booklets of Cornish carols and encouraged them to sing them while he played the piano.

In November, the Cornish Language Group presented a dramatic production of *'Seeking the Mermaid of Zennor'*. Members of the audience who do not speak Cornish had the benefit of English subtitles on a screen!

The October meeting of the **Ballarat Branch** of the CAV was a *'Members' Interest'* afternoon where members had the opportunity to talk about objects or memories which were of special interest to them. The range of items shown included photo albums, a great grandmother's birthday book and a handmade brick, the creation of Les George's great, great grandfather. There was a talk on the Curnow family, one of whom was born on St Michael's Mount and one of whom was a successful pirate. Another talk focused on Trevega Farm and Paul Quick while one member showed a newspaper article about a fire in a grocer's shop which was owned by her great grandfather's brother and in which seven members of the family died.

Rob and Leanne Lloyd of the **Bendigo Branch** of the CAV spent an enjoyable morning with the Grade 6 students at Lightning Reef Primary School recently. These youngsters, who are doing projects on Cornish migration to Bendigo heard about Cornwall, the Cornish in Bendigo

and some Cornish history. They responded with enthusiasm *'and had wonderful questions...'*

They also recently attended the Eaglehawk Fire Brigade Presentation Dinner where they presented the Bendigo Cornish Encouragement Award. This was the 26th year that the Bendigo Cornish have presented this award to the Eaglehawk Fire Brigade.

At their September meeting, the members of the Cornish Association of South Australia heard a talk on the *Reclamation of brown coal mines in Germany*. In November, the President of the History of Science, Ideas and Technology Group gave a talk on electric cars. CASA's choir will hold its Annual Christmas Concert on 10th December, followed by a tea.

The **Yorke Peninsula Branch** of the CASA celebrated its 10th anniversary in May, having been started in 2007. In July they held their AGM. After the meeting, Graham Hancock spoke about the National Heritage Listing of the Moonta and Burra mining areas.

Members of the **Southern Sons of Cornwall** held an auction recently in aid of Paws and Tales. This is a project in which dogs lend a paw to children with literacy and social issues. The event began with a talk by Catherine Horsley in which she explained how the project works and how she and her dog Beau are involved. Beau works with children who lack confidence in reading. They read their stories to him and he listens in a calm, non-judgemental way. The children grow in confidence as they share the non-threatening environment with Beau. Catherine said, *'Beau is the perfect reading companion because he loves people and he really loves children, that's his qualifications'*. The proceeds of the auction, with some top-ups, enabled the Association to make a very worthy donation of \$500.

At the end of November, members held their Christmas party luncheon at a local hotel. Their next meeting will be the AGM in February, during which they will announce the winner of the Annual Art Trophy.

After a challenging period, the **Cornish Association of Queensland** has undergone some big changes. At an Extra Ordinary General Meeting in September, the majority of the members who attended voted for a 're-contruction' of the Association. The main reasons for the need for change were the lack of insurance to *cover voluntary committee members, work place health and safety and a heavy decline in membership*. The Association will continue to exist but will now be known as **Queensland Friends of Cornwall**. Despite the change in name the group will continue to keep their Cornish identity, to participate in Celtic activities and to celebrate their heritage, including marking St Piran's Day. As they say - *Nothing has really changed apart from the fact that we are no longer an association*.

The Friends have put together what looks like an interesting social programme for the coming months. We wish them well as they move forward in their new format.

NEW ZEALAND

Twenty-two members of the *Christchurch Branch* of the **New Zealand Cornish Association** attended a meeting in early September. Their President, Val Moore, opened the session having rushed in from a Synod meeting called

to decide the fate of the earthquake-damaged Christchurch Cathedral. The main entertainment on this occasion was provided by Don and Sharron Hillier who have led tours to Cornwall and other parts of England. They talked passionately about their travels and at the end, answered many questions.

The meeting in October coincided with Christchurch Heritage Week. To mark this, the Association joined with the St Albans Choir and guest artistes to host a concert entitled *'Hail to the Homeland'*. This was followed by a tea.

UNITED KINGDOM

In September, members of the **Thames Valley Cornish Association** held a special meeting to consider the future of the Association following the death of their Chairman, Dr Francis Dunstan. Although many members could not attend, the meeting was very positive, with everyone determined that there would be a good future. By the end of the evening, all Offices had been filled and the first social event planned. This will be a finger lunch in High Wycombe towards the end of November. Planning for the social programme for 2018 is also well underway.

The evening ended in the traditional Cornish way with everyone enjoying a delicious pasty supper!

The **Bournemouth Cornish Association** hosted a very happy dinner at the end of October. Apart from their own members, they welcomed members from many other Associations. Most guests stayed in Bournemouth overnight and attended a pasty lunch on the Sunday where we enjoyed not only genuine Cornish pasties but also the most amazing selection of desserts. It was a very contented group who then set off for their journeys home in different parts of England and Cornwall.

Looking for Christmas calendars or cards?

Here is a chance to get some while supporting the Fishermen's Mission

How does a professional photographer from Cheltenham, end up creating a calendar about St Ives Fishermen? Well Chris Boulton started visiting friends in St Ives and was immediately drawn to the people and natural beauty of Cornwall. He took a photo of fisherman, John Whit, last year. Then posted the photo onto the "Love St Ives" Facebook site and was encouraged by many who enjoyed the composition and quality of the image, to then make a calendar. Chris loved the idea and set about making plans to come back to Cornwall in between his busy schedule of photo assignments, both here in the UK and throughout Europe.

The A3 (297 x 420) calendars are available at £10 with all proceeds going to the Fishermen's Mission and can be purchased from Ebay via the following link.
<http://www.ebay.co.uk/itm/-/282654470120?>

Christmas cards in aid of the charity can be purchased for £5 from the following link:

<https://www.ebay.co.uk/itm/-/272838823809>

My Meanderings...

A peek at old Cornwall with our past Mem Sec, Graham Pearce

As I am no longer the Membership Secretary I do not now have the up to date membership records with the changes which have occurred since the last newsletter - such as new members joining or the numbers of those who have left so can't mention them. Instead, I am back to looking at my books. I found the following extract in my copy of 'A Geography of Cornwall' which was published in 1854:

THE SURVEY OF CORNWALL

The county of Cornwall is bounded on the north by the Bristol Channel; on the west by the Atlantic; on the south by the English Channel; and on the east by the Tamar. From the source of the Tamar to the sea is a neck of land about three miles broad; but for this Cornwall would be an island.

(What would Cornwall be like as an island? Would it try to be independent or would it simply be like The Isle of Wight or The Scilly Islands?)

The length of the coastline from Morwenstow to the Land's End is about ninety miles; from the Land's End to Rame Head is about one hundred; and from Rame Head to the source of the Tamar forty miles.

Cornwall is separated from Devon by the Tamar, by a rivulet in Maker, a line in St. Budeaux, the river Carey, a line on Sherston Moor, and the Marsland Brook. It lies more south than Ireland, Cape Clear being about twenty six miles north of Morwenstow, the most northerly parish in Cornwall. There is no land to the west of Cornwall nearer than North America: the northern part of the island of Newfoundland is in the same latitude as the county of Cornwall.

The Land's End is the extreme westernly point of Cornwall and England: some parts of Scotland extend more to the westward. The Lizard is the extreme southern point of Cornwall, England and Great Britain.

Of the fifty two counties of England and Wales, Cornwall stands the sixteenth both as regards size and population, it contains 1,407 square miles, or 900,480 acres, not including the Isles of Scilly. The population of the whole county in 1841 was 341,269; in 1851 it was 354,193. The increase 1831 to 1841 was 40,331; from 1841 to 1851, only 12,934. This extraordinary decrease is owing to the large emigration which annually takes place from Cornwall.

The population of some of the parishes by the census of 1851 is as follows:

Camborne	12,887 most populous parish
Temple	241 - east populous parish
Madron	11,699
St. Mary's, Scilly	2,651
Callington	2,142
St. Hilary	3,021 with Marazion
Kenwyn	9,742 with part of Truro
Launceston	2,591
St. Just in Penwith	8,759
Falmouth	7,274
Liskeard	6,128

St. Mary's	3,108 with part of Truro
Gluvias	4,697 with Penryn
Paul	5,408 with Newlyn
The Mount	147
Illogan	9,218
Redruth	10,571
St. Clement's	3,465 with part of Truro
St. Austell 1	0,750
St. Agnes	6,673
Gwennap	10,465
Wendron	8,676
Bodmin	4,705
Looe Island	7
St Erney	79

Things were different back in 1851! But now leaving the past behind, we come into more recent times. Earlier this year I read an article in a local Cornish newspaper entitled 'Pasty sent into space':

Rowe's Cornish Bakers has made history by literally sending Cornwall's famous speciality into space.

The challenge took place when a hand crimped pasty was launched into the stratosphere reaching 35,482 metres. The intrepid pasty was sent on its mission on a weather balloon from Hayle Community School.

It coincided with a space project the school's students were undertaking. They were able to follow the pasty's space adventure thanks to an on-board tracking device.

The flying pasty was suspended in the stratosphere for about 93 minutes. As the temperature dropped to -62 Celsius, the pasty returned to Earth completely frozen and landed on Bodmin Moor. They were delighted to have pulled off the stunt in celebration of the traditional Cornish pasty. [If you would like to see a film clip of this event, visit the Rowe website - <https://www.rowebakers.co.uk/about-us/first-pasty-into-space> - Ed]

After thawing it out, two brave people then happily devoured the pasty.

Once more I must mention the weather...this summer and autumn have been different, with many warmer days after which it has suddenly turned cooler. Whatever the weather we will always complain! I do hope that you had an enjoyable summer and autumn and wish you all the best for winter.

As always, I ask for your support for the London Cornish Association. Please remember that new members are always welcome, so do refer them to the Membership Secretary whose contact details are in this Newsletter [or get them to apply via the website - www.londoncornish.co.uk. - ed]

Well that is all for now. I hope you have found these 'Meanderings' to be of some interest.

I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Kernow bys vyken

Crowdy Crawn

And now for a feast of pasties...

Did the Cornish pasty really start out as a Devonshire tea?

(This item, written by Tahira Yaqoob, was found among Francis Dunstan's papers)

The name it gave to its meaty treat brought worldwide fame to Cornwall. Now rivals across the border claim the Cornish Pasty is a mis-nomer-as it was actually invented in Devon.

The claim follows the discovery by historian Todd Gray of a yellowing shopping list from 1510 which lists the ingredients of pasties - more than 230years before the first Cornish written reference to the snack. The note, scrawled on parchment and found in the pages of an old audit book, mentions the venison, flour and pepper needed to make the pasties and calculates the labour involved to make them.

Devonians claim it is conclusive evidence the pasty originated with them. Dr.Gray said; *'These are phenomenal documents. It is a great joy for me as a local historian to discover pasties may have originated in Devon.'*

He claimed the earliest record of a Cornish pasty recipe was written in 1746. But Les Merton, who wrote the Official Encyclopaedia of the Cornish pasty, insisted pasty recipes had been handed down by word of mouth in Cornwall since 8,000BC. He said: *'There will always be claims about the origins of the pasty.'*

While there is no standard pasty filling, old fashioned recipes include diced meat, potato and turnip.

An interesting idea, one for discussion! Let the debate begin!!!

By sheer coincidence, the following appeared in a recent Cornish Association of South Australia newsletter:

When is a pasty not a pasty?

The Cornish Magazine (May 1958) reports:

Mr. K.R.C. Martin, the Chief Inspector of Weights and Measures, has fought the long-drawn-out battle of the pasty to a conclusion – but only we can make sure it is a successful conclusion. The Public Analyst has pointed out that the minimum meat content should be 20% of the filling. So now its “one for Aunty, one for Uncle, one for me, and one for the Public Analyst!”

Make sure you also read **My Meanderings** on page 15 to find out about the pasty that went into space - and do have a look at the video clip of this great event at <https://www.rowsbakers.co.uk/about-us/first-pasty-into-space>

What's the origin of 'nineteen to the dozen'? Could it be Cornish?

(Found in the newsletter of the Southern Sons of Cornwall)

When going nineteen to the dozen something or someone is going at breakneck speed. It goes back to the time of the Cornish tin and copper mines. These mines were often hit by floods. In the 18th century coal powered, steam driven pumps were installed to clear the water. When working maximally the pumps could clear nineteen thousand gallons of water for every twelve bushels of coal.

It's a fact...the world's best cheese is Cornish!

In November, a cheese made by a small dairy in Cornwall beat 3000 other cheeses from 35 countries to be named World's Best Cheese for 2017. The Cornish Kern cheese is a cow's milk cheese which is made by Lynher Dairy. This is the same dairy which 'invented' Cornish Yarg cheese thirty years ago.

Cornish Kern is made in open vats and is pressed and brined, after which it is coated in a protective black wax-like rind and then matured for 14 to 18 months. The cheese is flaky and quite dry with a nutty flavour.



Sharing the love
<https://www.facebook.com/lynherdairies/photos/>

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

5th February

Please send all contributions to:

*The Editor
55 Brownell Place
London
W7 3AZ*

Or email to lca@londoncornish.co.uk