



Cowethas Kernewek Loundres

London Cornish Association Newsletter



www.londoncornish.co.uk

Autumn 2018

For the LCA, this summer has had several highlights, beginning with the Countryside Parade which took place in Cornwall as part of the celebrations to mark the Duke of Cornwall's 70th birthday. The Association was represented by our Chairman, Carol Goodwin and members 'Cilla Oates and Don and Catherine Foster. Following this, there were two pub lunches, a visit to the Richmond Rowing Club to meet up with members of the London Cornish Pilot Gig Association and, for some, attendance at the Rosyer Lecture at City Lit.

At the end of August, several of us attended the Gorsedd Awards Ceremony in Newquay where our Chairman and Treasurer both received Awards from the Grand Bard. This was a proud moment for both the awardees and their friends and family. At the ceremony, we had pleasure of seeing the new Grand Bard and her Deputy and also meeting Delia and Dave Brotherton, who were previously just names behind emails. It was good to be able to put faces to those names at last.

While I was down in Newquay, I managed to get to the gardens at Trelissick and the charming Tudor manor at Trerice (where I have a family connection!). This provided some wonderful 'chill-out' time in beautiful surroundings. At Trerice the pale pink cyclamens were out in abundance, a sight which I won't forget in a hurry.

As it was school holidays during the time I was at these two National Trust properties, many activities had been arranged for families. At Trerice, they had set up two Cornish games - kayling and a rather dangerous-looking type of badminton/tennis, the name of which I have forgotten. This game is played with wooden bats and a sort of shuttlecock made of leather - and is definitely not suitable for children! Is anyone able to

identify this game from this rather vague description? My keywords have drawn a blank on google!

As already mentioned, the main reason for our visit to Cornwall was to attend the Gorsedd Awards Ceremony. Nominations for two of the Awards - the Pewas Map Trevethan (Paul Smales Award) and the London Cornish Association Shield - are coordinated by a Committee which includes the President and some Vice-Presidents of the LCA. The Committee make recommendations but the final decision on the awards is made by the Gorsedd.

We are now calling for nominations (with supporting motivation) for the 2019 awards:

The Pewas Map Trevethan Award is presented by the Gorsedd Council to a member of a Cornish Association affiliated to the London Cornish Association 'For services to Cornwall by someone living outside Cornwall'.

The LCA Shield is presented by the Gorsedd Council to someone for 'Outstanding Services to Cornwall and Cornish People'.

The closing date for nominations is 1st March so there is time for the Committee review them and pass their recommendations on to Gorsedd for consideration. We encourage Associations around the world to put forward names for consideration. They should be sent to the Editor at lbroekmann@outlook.com who will pass them on to the Committee.

As we head for autumn, one of the loveliest times of year in England, all that remains is for me to thank those who have sent in items for this newsletter and also those who have joined in our activities in recent months. We look forward to seeing many of you at our forthcoming meetings.

Dates for your diary ...

Family History Day

13th October 2018
10am to 4pm

Pre-Christmas Lunch

8th December 2018
12 noon

New Year's Lunch

12th January 2019
12 noon

Further details of these events can be found on page 2

Looking further ahead...

St Piran's Celebration

2nd March 2019

Annual Dining Event

16th March 2019

AGM and Trelawny

Lecture

13th April 2019

Family History Days

21st April 2019 &

13th October 2019

Details for these events will be given in future newsletters and on the Website

Please keep an eye on the website: www.londoncornish.co.uk as we may make other announcements from time to time.

**Deadline for the next Newsletter
is**

5th November

**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.

Family History Day - 13th October

See below for details

Contact: Carol Goodwin (Chynoweth@hotmail.co.uk) or Phone 0208 303 9054

Please let us know if you are coming so we can book tables.

Pre-Christmas Lunch - 8th December

Time: 12 noon

Venue: Old Bank of England pub
194 Fleet Street, London, EC4A 2LT
Tel: 020 7430 2255

(The nearest tube stations are Temple (on the District line) and Chancery Lane (Central line). Both are just a 5 minute walk away. The pub is close to the Royal Courts of Justice)

Contact: Carol Goodwin (Chynoweth@hotmail.co.uk) or Phone 0208 303 9054

Please let us know if you are coming so we can book tables.

St Piran's Day celebration – 2nd March

Time: 2.30pm

Venue: The Imperial Hotel, 61-66 Russell Square, London, WC1B 5BB.

(Nearest tube station: Russell Square (Piccadilly Line) is a 2-minute walk away. Train stations: King's Cross, Euston and St Pancras Stations are a short walk away)

Cost: £6.70 for cream tea with clotted cream!

Contact: Carol Goodwin (Chynoweth@hotmail.co.uk) or Phone 0208 303 9054

Please let us know if you are coming so we can book tables.

New Year's Lunch - 12th January

Time: 12 noon

Venue: Penderel's Oak - 283-288 High Holborn, London.
(Nearest tube station: Holborn or Chancery Lane - on the Central Line.)

Tel: 020 3638 6817

Annual dining event – 16th March

Venue: Imperial Hotel, Russell Square

More details and an invitation will be included in the next newsletter.

The London Cornish Association FAMILY HISTORY DAY Saturday 13 October 2018

Speakers:

Mark Penrose

Chairman, Morrab Library, Penzance

The library hosts a collection of 55,000 books, archives and photographic collections, and celebrates its bicentenary this year.

Dr Alan Kent

*Cornish writer, dramatist, poet and academic
'The Topsy Turvy World of Cornish Festivals'*

Venue:

Bloomsbury Central Baptist Church
235 Shaftesbury Avenue
London WC2H 8EP

(nearest underground stations: Holborn or 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 tea and coffee, Cornish pasty & saffron cake lunch and a 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 (Chynoweth@hotmail.co.uk)



News of Past Events

Lunch and the Rosyer Lecture

We were 13 in total and met at Penderel's Oak, Holborn where we had good food and drink and a great catch-up. After lunch, a few of us then went on to the City Lit for the *Rosyer Lecture* (which had been changed at short notice) to 'Britain's Oldest Play'.

The remaining members stayed on until 3pm when Penderel's started getting busier [and noisier – ed!] as the number of patrons who were coming to watch the World Cup Football match, England v Sweden, swelled!

Our meetings are made on an informal basis, which allows time to catch up with other members and enables reminiscing of Cornish memories and general chat. This gathering was a good example!

Carol Goodwin

Mid-Summer Lunch

A small gathering of 11 met at Richmond for the Mid-Summer Lunch. The venue was The Waterman's Arms which we have visited in the past two years.

After drinks and meeting two new members, I asked for the Menu whereupon the barman said there was no food as the kitchen was being refurbished! Afterwards we found out that there had been a problem and the kitchen has been closed down. No mention of the fact there would be no food was made during the reservation phone call! Needless to say, if we go to Richmond next year we will be using the Slug & Lettuce or another pub, the White Cross!

Anyway, after breaking the news we decided to venture forth to the Slug & Lettuce near the River. This proved to be a much better environment and the food very good. Plus, it was air conditioned - important during the very hot weather we were experiencing!

After lunch we went to the Richmond Rowing Club where the London Cornish Pilot Gig Association had a new Gig. There was plenty of food there.....pasties, cream teas, drinks...and a video about Henry Jenner was shown. Henry Jenner was a Cornish language revivalist in the late 19th century.

With the sunshine, it was a very pleasant afternoon.

Carol Goodwin

Rugby Fixtures

Forthcoming Fixtures for Cornish rugby teams playing in Greater London:

The following London fixtures, in which Cornish Teams are playing, may be of interest to some of our readers. Thanks to member Jonathan Henwood for alerting us to them.

Saturday 29th September
Ealing Trailfinders v Cornish Pirates 3.00pm

Saturday 24th November
Barnes v Redruth 2.00pm

Cornwall Air Ambulance Helicopter Appeal

LCA council member Chris Richards has been appointed a member of the Cornwall Air Ambulance Trust's New Heli Appeal board.

Chris' role is to help raise the £2.5 million the charity needs by April 2020 to buy a new air ambulance which will serve the people of Cornwall for the next 20 years.

This new helicopter will be able to travel 20 knots faster than the models the Trust currently leases. It will also be able to fly further without refuelling, allowing the charity to fly more missions each year, saving more lives.



For more information about the appeal, visit <https://cornwallairambulancetrust.org/appeal/>

The LCA's Trelawny Lecture, the prestigious annual lecture with a Cornish theme, will be part of the programme of the Family History Day on 13th April 2019. The lecturer on that occasion will be Paula Martin from the Cornwall Air Ambulance Trust who will talk about the work of this very special service.

Cornish memories: bus transport

After reading about the Pasty Saga, I would like to recall summer outings and day trips. In the early days, there were, two coach firms in Newquay - Newquay Motors Red Buses and Hawkeys light blue and cream buses. Some of these had fishtails!

Newquay Motors did the so-called long trips. A day trip to Torquay was something very special. Hawkeys did the more local runs for the church and chapel Sunday school outings.

After the main Sunday school service in the chapel and church where all children took part and the services in the chapel which was very full with parents we sometimes had a fete day at which we children had a cup of tea and a very large saffron bun – about 6 to 8 inches in diameter. Then it was to the sports field for sport. To win a race was 6d. 2nd place was 4d and 3rd place about 3d. I never won but had a few 3rds. The local silver band played in the early evenings when a lot of people sat around to enjoy the music.

Much later on a coach company at Summercourt did stopping trips from the china clay area to Truro on Wednesdays and Saturdays. The next village, Nanpean, had Currian Road Tours which did the school runs and went to Plymouth on Thursdays and Saturdays. To get to London, there was the Royal Blue Cornwall bus.

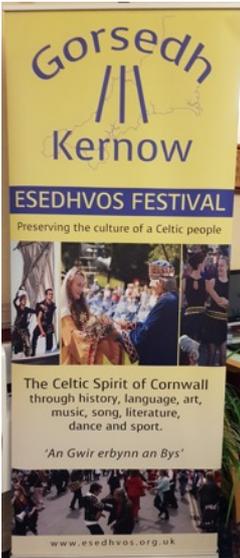
Tony Wakeham

Gorsedd Awards: A very proud moment for the LCA

The London Cornish Association was thrilled to hear that two members and two friends of the LCA were to have their endeavours recognised at this year's Gorsedd. The following is an extract from the Gorsedd press release, announcing the awards for 2018. (*Only the relevant awards have been mentioned*)

GORSEDDH KERNOW - The Celtic spirit of Cornwall

Gorsedd Kernow Adults Awards 2018 announced



The Council of Gorsedd Kernow recently announced the winners of their annual Adults Awards and Competitions after careful adjudication of this year's impressive range of entries.

'Awards are being given to entries that express the Celtic spirit of real Cornish culture and demonstrate exceptional endeavour or quality of work,' said Grand Bard of Cornwall Merv Davey, *Telynyor an Weryn*, 'and as one of my final duties as Grand Bard of Cornwall I look forward to presenting prizes once again to all our talented winners.'

The scheme has once more drawn on a diverse range of work from Cornwall's creative sector in Cornish language and dialect, Cornish studies and the arts including photography, performance, literature and design. Gorsedd Kernow has also welcomed nominations for members of the wider community to receive an award for their work caring for Cornwall's unique culture and identity.

'Gorsedd Kernow Awards and Competitions are very flexible these days,' said Merv Davey and we positively welcome entries that encourage learning, understanding and promotion of real Cornish culture.'

The Gorsedd Kernow Adults Awards and Competitions winners for 2018 are:

Pewas Map Trevethan Award (Paul Smales Award) 2018

Miss Carol Goodwin based in Kent – for her invaluable support to the London Cornish Association as Chairman, membership Secretary, website co-ordinator and photographer.

London Cornish Association Shield 2018

Ms Jacqueline Trembath based in London – for her important work as Treasurer of London Cornish Association and representing the LCA at key outside events.



Carol receives her award from the Grand Bard

Studhyansow Kernewek / Cornish Studies

Ben Gilby based in London – academic paper focussed on the contemporary perceptions and developments in the renaissance of Kernewek

Recipients received their awards at the special Awards Presentation Evening on 30th August, which forms part of the Gorsedd Kernow Esedhvos Festival of Cornish Culture.

New Bard

We were also thrilled to hear that Mark Elton, known by some of our members through his connections with the Gig Club and the Wreckers, was made a Bard. The announcement read:

Mark Elton, Twickenham, London, by examination in the Cornish language and continuing work for Cornwall. He also helps organise Kernow in the City to celebrate St Piran each year in London. (Bardic Name: Gwas An Wrekkoryon



Jackie receives her award from the Grand Bard

meaning Servant of Wreckers.)



LCA Chairman, Carol Goodwin, addressed the audience at the Awards Ceremony

New Members

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

Peter D Robinson – Born in Kerrier District, now living in Essex

Linda Adams - Cornish by descent, living in Surrey

Trevor Adams – Cornish by marriage, living in Surrey

Do you know anyone who has Cornish connections – whether by birth, descent or marriage? Why not encourage them to join the LCA? They can obtain an application form from:

The Membership Secretary

Chynoweth, 1a Dunwich Rd, Bexleyheath, Kent DA7 5EW

or on the website: www.londoncornish.co.uk

LCA continues to support the Duke of Cornwall as he celebrates his 70th year

In November 2018, Prince Charles, who is Patron of the London Cornish Association, will reach the landmark age of 70. To mark this great moment, several special events have been arranged to which citizens who share some of his passions have been invited. In May, some LCA Council members were invited to a garden party at Buckingham Palace to highlight the many charitable causes with which Prince Charles is involved. Shortly after this, our Chairman, Carol Goodwin, and a couple of members had the honour of marching in the Countryside Parade in Cornwall. This event celebrated Prince Charles' passion for wildlife and conservation, native breeds, food and farming and heritage and skills.



The Duke and Duchess of Cornwall enjoying the Parade. (Photo: Lee Searle)

The following is the press release which was issued by The Prince's Countryside Fund.

The Prince of Wales's lifelong contribution to rural life celebrated in Countryside Parade

Their Royal Highnesses The Prince of Wales and the Duchess of Cornwall attended the Prince's Countryside Parade, held at the Royal Cornwall Show (Thursday 7th June).

The Parade was comprised of 58 of HRH's rural patronages, including the London Cornish Association organisation, made up of 450 volunteers (and 40 animals), split in to six sections representing all parts of rural life, from waterways, to livestock, to food and farming. The Parade was held to a soundtrack of the Band of the Royal Marines and the Cornish male voice choirs and narrated by Phil Vickery MBE and JB Gill.

The Parade culminated in Their Royal Highnesses The Prince of Wales and The Duchess of Cornwall being presented with an oak tree and a two month old Boreray lamb named Bryher, led in the Parade and bred in Cornwall by local farmer Jowan Bobin. At 15, Jowan is the

youngest member of the Cornwall Rare Breeds Survival Trust Support Group committee.

The Boreray sheep, also known as the Boreray Blackface or Hebridean Blackface, is the smallest and rarest of all the UK's native sheep breeds. Though still the most endangered, since HRH became the Patron of the Rare Breeds Survival Trust in 1978 the Boreray has changed from being a category one critical breed, to being a category three Vulnerable breed.

Following the Parade, Their Royal Highnesses attended an afternoon tea to meet with many of the volunteers, supporters, and parade participants.

His Royal Highness also thanked the generous sponsors of the afternoon including Jaguar Land Rover, Rodda's, Ginsters, Dairy Crest, South West Water, and the Eden Project. The event was also supported by volunteers from Pendennis, Duchy College and local rotary club. It was delivered by HPower in partnership with The Prince's Countryside Fund and Royal Cornwall Agricultural Association



Preparing to march: L to R - LCA members Carol Goodwin, Don Foster and Cilla Oates

Condolences

It is with sadness that we heard recently of the death of LCA life-member **George Dunk**. Mr Dunk was passionate about Cornwall and all-things Cornish and had been planning to move down from London after his retirement. He was sadly denied the opportunity to do this.

Our thoughts are with Mr Dunk's family and friends at this time.

A Holiday in Penzance for 'Three Cornish Maids'

(The italicised passages are quotes from various sources)

Well, there may be a little poetic license in the title but the Trembath family (from Mousehole) and the Rawle family (from Roche) go way 'back along'.

We three – Mother Yvonne and daughters Jackie and Sallie – set off from Paddington for the long journey. It is mainly a scenic one, getting more and more so as you reach the West Country. In Cornwall, the banks were festooned with gorse, bluebells, cow parsley and a few lingering primroses. The estuaries and sea we passed added to the anticipation of our Cornish holiday.

Our apartment was in an elevated position overlooking Mounts Bay. Below us ran a dual carriageway and parallel to that, beyond a wall and railway line, the SEA! Our thoughtful hosts provided a telescope to bring St Michael's Mount closer to our sitting room! We had been told there would be coffee, tea and milk to make a drink on our arrival but what hadn't been mentioned was that, also on offer, were home made scones, jam and Rodda's clotted cream. So, before we unpacked, we sat down to a Cornish tea. We knew then that this was to be a special holiday. Later we walked to the shops and to check the time for the following day's morning service at St Mary's Church.

We discovered that there was to be a concert in the church that evening with the Cornwall Concert Orchestra playing Beethoven's Pastoral Symphony, Finlandia etc. Jackie and Sallie were able to purchase tickets and very much enjoyed the evening.

On Sunday, we walked to church where the congregation seemed rather sparse but we discovered later that St Marys is one of four churches called the Penlee Cluster and many of the members of the other three churches were attending Paul Church which was having a dedication service following extensive restorations. We had a warm welcome, and provided three more to swell the small number!

St Mary's Church stands on the site of an earlier chapel which was destroyed by the Spaniards. Later rebuilt, it has a spacious blue ceilinged interior and a serpentine font. Wall tablets serve as reminders that Cornishmen travelled and died far from home.

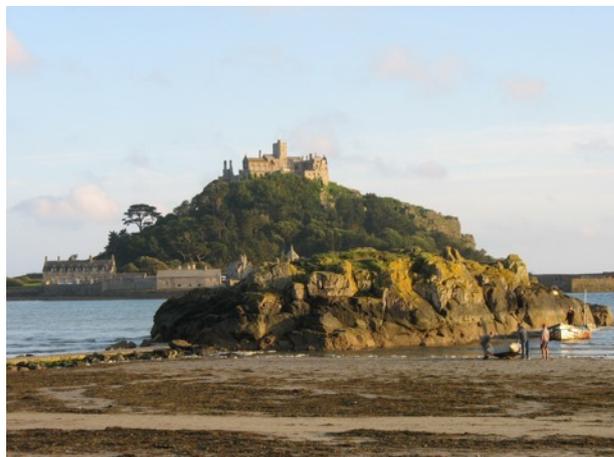
The east window with a background of the sea didn't have the usual Galilean boats but a fishing lugger and the Scillorian Ferry! From our apartment, we could watch the ferry dock at night and make its way next day for the Isles of Scilly.

Monday 7th May: St Michaels Mount

St Michaels Mount so near to us was, of course, a must. We caught the bus to Marazion, a lovely ride. We had hoped to walk to and from the castle but the tide was against us so we took the ferry both ways. The castle at the top of the Mount is quite a challenge to reach, climbing steep cobbled steps and paths so Jackie and Sallie set off without me.

My plan was to explore the garden. I had forgotten it too mostly clings to the Mount and access is also by steep steps. The gardeners actually abseil to plant some of the very varied floral and greenery onto the cliff edge! I made

it half way up and later with help from Jackie and Sallie got up further, well worth the effort. On our entry to the level part of the garden we passed a cemetery where we saw what seemed like pale green Cornish crosses, on closer inspection we could see they were covered in lichen; little pollution in this corner of Cornwall!



A message from Lord St Levan in the National Trust leaflet: *The History of St Michaels Mount stretches back in the mists of time, but it is still home to me and my family as well as some thirty other people who live and work on the island. Whether you come because of its beauty, its spirituality, its varied past or to find out more about its vibrant present. I very much hope that you have enjoyed your experience here.*

We enjoyed a short talk from a National Trust worker about those thirty people and how the various buildings, some their homes, have changed their use over the years.

Once back in Marazion we visited All Saints Church – *This delightful Victorian church was designed by the architect James Piers St Aubyn and was consecrated in 1861. This is the third church on the site, the first one being in recorded use as early as 1309 (Church leaflet).*

What took our attention were the colourful array of tapestry kneelers made by members of the congregation to celebrate the repair and updating of the much-loved church in 1992.

Tuesday 8th May – Helston Flora Day

We left Penzance early and went on a duplicate bus or 'dupe' as named by the inspector! – a slightly different route to the normal one. Our double-decker bus drove through narrow Cornish lanes giving us lovely views over hedges and frightening the tourists! We arrived in time for a cup of coffee in the church hall at the top of Helston and to catch the children's dance. Then we were off to find Priscilla Oates (a previous Chairman of LCA.) It was grand to spend several hours in her company. With her superior knowledge she knew the best place to view the main dance near one of the stops where the dancers weave in and out, followed by some of the band. We had been joined by my niece and her friend and we all experienced the usual stirrings when we heard the first beat of the drum. They were on their way!! This was a spectacle that words can never adequately describe although in the past, several contributors to this magazine (myself included) have attempted to! The dancers were led by the Mayor of

Helston, Mrs Gillian Geer and her Consort. Gillian Geer was the Principal Guest at the LCA's 2017 'Dining Event'. Priscilla had been invited to her reception at the Guildhall so she left us in good time for that. Afterwards, it was back to Penzance for us – the usual route this time – still humming the Floral Dance tune!

Wednesday 9th May – Paul and Mousehole

We started the day at home with a quick look in the Penlee Gardens and Art Gallery and then over the way to the Morrab Gardens. This garden of several acres which is set in the heart of Penzance is filled with sub-tropical plants, bamboo trees, huge ferns etc. Embellishing them is a large ironwork bandstand and fountain and at the top stands a cream Georgian-style villa, now one of the very few private libraries still in existence, and the only one in Cornwall.

Then, it was another bus ride, this time to Paul. Our first port of call was to the church to view the refurbishments that we had heard about on Sunday. We were fortunate to meet up with a very helpful lady who was taking down her exhibit '*Cornish Women's part in the World Wars*' and was a mine of information about the church, too much to relate. The church leaflet points to 15 items of interest. One we found particularly poignant was the memorial to the eight-man crew of the Penlee life boat who lost their lives in 1981. We also learned there was a coffee morning in the hall over the road which we happily joined. We then made our way to Paul cemetery to place some plants on Ted's (my late husband) father, Billy Trembath's grave. At the time of his death, he was the Clerk of Works for Penzance Council. After lunch in the Kings Arms we made our way down the hill to Mousehole passing the school Ted attended and the house he once lived in. We enjoyed going from one end of the village to the other and up and down the many lanes, on one of which we met a man with two ferrets on a lead!

Thursday 10th May – Ascension Day

Jackie and Sallie attended a breakfast at St Mary's Church where Sallie joined a group of singers and a trumpet player at the top of the church tower. Then, it was off to pastures new for all three of us. We went to Tremenheere Sculpture Gardens. We were not disappointed! The bus dropped us off at the end of the lane that led to the huge garden with amazing sculptures. I couldn't begin to describe them but for those of you with access to the internet, the address is www.tremenheere.co.uk. The plants, like many in Cornwall, were mainly sub-tropical. There was also a river running through the garden. The café was excellent – a non-plastic area! We had the wrong time for the return bus so instead, we walked along one of the flower-decked lanes to Gulval. There we caught a bus to St Ives. The sea was spectacular, and we saw a group of youngsters being taught surfing. Many were in the sea riding the huge waves. On our return to Penzance, we saw a lone fox in the middle of a field.

Friday 11th May - Truro

Jackie and I went to Truro, this time by train. We were met by Don Foster who took us to his and Catherine's splendid bungalow for coffee. Don and Catherine have been members of the LCA for many years and have now joined Priscilla in the *Homecomers*. It was lovely to catch up with them again and much news was exchanged. Sallie meanwhile had made a return visit to Morrab Place for a tour of the library during which she heard an interesting talk. She

also went to Newlyn, hoping to visit their church, the 4th member of the Penlee cluster, but found it shut. She did however enjoy exploring Newlyn. In the evening we all went for a walk along the coast road and had our last pub meal.

Saturday 12th May – Time to return

Terminus to terminus again! This time it was last stop Paddington. Having started our Cornish Holiday with a cream tea, it seemed only right to end it with a pasty lunch on the train (pasties purchased earlier in Penzance). Proper Job!!

Yvonne Trembath (nee Rawle)

All aboard for Penmere celebrations

On Saturday 25th August, the Friends of Penmere Station are holding a Party on the Platform to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Friends.

At one of their recent gatherings, they were joined by Julia, the granddaughter of British Rail employee Leonard Grose, (father of LCA member Val Harris) who manned the halt between 1945 and 1968. During his time there, he created an award-winning garden at the station. For the past 25 years, the Friends have carried on his work.

Val Harris, the daughter of Leonard Grose, writes about the long association her family has had with the Penmere Friends:

The close relationship that my family has built up over the years with the 'Friends of Penmere Station' grew even closer this summer when it was agreed to celebrate their 25th anniversary of caring for the garden with a rose dedicated to my father. He first tended the garden during the intervals between trains when he was one of two men who handled all the duties at the station.

When the station was 'unmanned' it gradually returned to its original wild state. The concerned 'Friends', with the help and support of the community, gave up their time to recreate a fitting approach to Falmouth and have worked tirelessly since, winning many awards.

My daughter Julia and her husband Colin were keen to meet them and once again, during their stay in the town in June, and were delighted to see the progress they had made and the wonderful tribute to a much-loved railway man and father.

Val Harris

Are you thinking of going to Kernewek Lowender in 2019?

The *Kernewek Lowender Copper Coast Cornish Festival* is a biennial festival held in the Copper Coast towns of Kadina, Moonta and Wallaroo on Yorke Peninsula, South Australia. It is the world's largest Cornish Festival to take place outside Cornwall, lasting 7 days and with an attendance of 45 000.

The 2019 dates are 13th to 19th May.

If you are thinking of going to the festival next year, you might be interested in attending the full day Cornish History Seminar. And, if you have a particular interest in Cor-

nish history, you might even consider contributing a presentation. If you need more details, about the Seminar or any other aspect of the Festival, contact Jan Lokan, Seminar Coordinator and Vice-President of the South Australia Cornish Association - jj.lokan@bigpond.com

New book with Cornish Interest about to be published

Brenda – For the Love of Cornwall
By Sue Ellery-Hill

Brenda Wootton was known as Cornwall's First Lady of Song - she was famous around the globe in the 1970s and '80s, and hosted her own radio programme, Sunday Best, on Radio Cornwall for 10 years. Last year she was awarded a prestigious Blue Plaque by Radio Cornwall listeners, selected from all other possible Cornish worthies.

Local author, Michael Sagar-Fenton commented about her as follows:

...in Cornwall she was simply Brenda from Penzance - one of us, doing rather well overseas. Unknown to us she could regularly fill the most prestigious halls in capitals all over Europe, meet and perform with the major stars of the day, shake hands with presidents and royalty, and conquer all she met with her music and supercharged personality.

She however never forgot her roots. On the contrary she made a point of putting Cornwall and its heritage front and centre of all her recordings and performances, fulfilling a self-made promise to include some items in the Cornish language at every concert she played...

A proper biography of Brenda is well overdue. Others have tried to encapsulate such a wide-ranging story, pin down her complex and extraordinary character, but all have failed, myself included. I'm now so grateful that we did, because only Sue, her daughter, has the full story, the memory, the detail, and the courage to tell it as it was. Sue was long in denial that she had the talent to write this book, but the blood-line of engaging conversational storytelling, passed down from Brenda, her grandfather Angus and who knows how many other generations, runs sweet and true in her. It is a terrific story, beautifully and movingly told, and will give pleasure to the thousands who fell under Brenda's spell and thousands more who were never lucky enough to know her.

The book, which will include photos and be sprinkled with personal anecdotes and reminiscences from many who knew and worked with her, will be published by a Cornish company in Padstow.

The author has been trying to crowdfund this publication but unfortunately, the fund will be closed by the time this newsletter is published. If you would like to find out more, or get involved, please contact the author, Brenda's daughter Sue Ellery-Hill, at sueellery-hill@brendawootton.org

Do you know of any Blue Plaques with Cornish links?



Blue plaques are signs installed in public places in the UK to commemorate a link between that location and a famous person or event.

Members of the Old Cornwall Societies (and others) have been asked to help record the location of historical Blue Plaques with a Cornish link and to pass the information (together with a photograph, if possible) to:

Claire Jacques, Cornwall Heritage Trust, GO3, The Percy Williams Building, Krowji, West Park, Redruth, Cornwall TR15 3AJ

Telephone: 01209 707 008

Email: info@cornwallheritagetrust.org

Andrew Langdon has advised that *Historic Environment Record* (HER) is also interested in this so that the plaques can be recorded on their mapping scheme and database.

The message from *Historic Environment Record* reads:

I've been in contact with the Cornwall Heritage Trust and they mentioned that you might be undertaking a project relating to introducing plaques around Cornwall, similar to the blue plaques around London.

I just wanted to let you know that the HER would be happy to help provide any information where we can, and also that if any plaques are set up or old ones recorded/photographed we would be very happy to receive any information on them so I can add them to the HER.

Unfortunately there are many memorial plaques that are missing from our record so it would be great to add any more information if possible.

Hannah Curnow MSc MRICS, *Historic Environment Record* Assistant, Neighbourhoods Directorate, Cornwall Council, Room 3A, Pydar House, Pydar Street, Truro TR1 1XU

External tel: 01872 224306

Email: Hannah.curnow@cornwall.gov.uk

Are you aware of any blue plaques with a Cornish interest? If so, please pass on the information.

2018 Summer Festival - Callington OCS

At the end of June, the Summer Festival was held in Callington. London OCS was represented by LCA past Chairman Priscilla Oates – who is currently President of the OCS -, Mary Watters and Elizabeth Lane. Bournemouth OCS was represented by Aubrey and Elizabeth Lane. At the end of the ceremony, Aubrey and Elizabeth Lane were presented with roses to acknowledge their contribution to both the London and Bournemouth associations.



Aubrey and Liz Lane representing Bournemouth OCS and London OCS



FOCS President (and past LCA Chairman) 'Cilla Oates leads the banners

A good-news story: Trelawny Coffin Plate Returns Home

Bishop Jonathan Trelawny, whose story inspired Hawker's *'The Song of the Western Man'* (better known as *'Trelawny'*), died in London in 1721 and was buried in Pelynt Church. Since the 1880s, his coffin plate has been on display in the church. In 2016, the coffin plate was stolen and despite a concerted effort, could not be found.

Miraculously, when folksinger Megan Kingdom visited a charity shop in Norfolk recently, she noticed the coffin plate. Although she did not know about its origin, she recognised it as some type of memorial. Believing that such an item should be with either the deceased's family or home town, she bought it and then, using the internet, traced the item to Pelynt Church. It arrived back in Pelynt in time for the Trelawny Day celebrations on 30th June.



Sir John Trelawny (14th Baront and 11th Gt. Gt. Grand-son of Bishop Trelawny) and Vicar Revd Marilyn with the returned coffin plate

<https://www.trurodiocese.org.uk/2018/07/the-trelawny-coffin-plate-returns-home/>

Author Jessica Mann dies in Cornwall

The author and broadcaster, Jessica Mann passed away in July. She was known for her mystery and suspense novels, publishing 22 since 1971. She also wrote a couple of non-fiction books, including one - *Out of Harm's Way* – which provides an account of the overseas evacuation of children from Britain in World War 2. This was a subject close to her heart as she and her brother were evacuated to North America for three years.

Jessica was born and educated in London. When she finished school, she and three friends joined an archaeological dig at Godrevy in Cornwall. It was here that she met the Cornish archaeologist, Charles Thomas, who was later to become her husband. After the 'dig', she went to Cambridge to do a degree in archaeology and Anglo-Saxon and soon after completing it, married Charles with whom she had 4 children, two boys and two girls.

After a period in Edinburgh and Leicester, the family moved to Cornwall where Charles had been appointed the first director of the Institute of Cornish Studies. They made their home near Truro.

News from other Cornish Associations

With summer holidays in the northern hemisphere and an apparently very cold winter 'down south', things have been very quiet and so, consequently, there is little news from other associations. We expect a fuller report in the next issue.

USA

We offer our congratulations to Richard Damian Nance from Connecticut and Glen Ridnour from Mineral Point who will be initiated as Bards at the Gorsedd gathering at the beginning of September.

The big event on the US calendar is the **Cornish Fest 2018** which will take place in Mineral Point, Wisconsin at the end of September. The programme for the 3-day event will have as its theme, *Cornish Legends of King Arthur* and will include a performance of Camelot as well as a pop-up museum with photos and artifacts showing Cornish home life plus crafts, photos, postcards and more. There will also be a pub night and a tour of Mine Hill.

Many members of the **Cornish Society of Greater Milwaukee** met in April for a pasty lunch.

Each year, the Society presents a scholarship to a deserving high school senior of Cornish ancestry and at the April meeting, this year's winner, cellist Stephen Simuncak, was presented with his \$250 cheque. Members had the opportunity of hearing him play a solo. Interestingly, Stephen's grandmother was the founder of the Society in 1985.

During the meeting, Sharon and Bob James showed members 40 large photos of Society events going back to the 1990s. These will be used in future displays.

The Society's next event will be a picnic in September and they will attend the Folk Fair in November when they will share a booth with the Welsh Club.

CANADA

Congratulations to Carole Roberts from North Vancouver who will be made a Bard in recognition of her services to Cornish identity in Canada

AUSTRALIA

We congratulate two South Australians - Jan Lokan and Margaret Johnson - who will both be initiated as Bards at the Gorsedd gathering in Newquay.

In May, a number of members of the **Cornish Association of New South Wales** joined members of the **South-ern Sons of Cornwall** in Berry for the 12th annual Celtic Festival where they showed the Cornish colours and flag as well as their CANSW banner.

At the end of May, the members, family and friends of the Cornish Association of New South Wales gathered at Bondi Junction where they enjoyed a pasty from Cousin Jack's Pasty Co. More pasties were eaten in August when they met at Betty's house by the sea for a get together. This is a popular event where members are able to enjoy 'proper' pasties, great company, chat and warm hospitality. Those who attended were encouraged to bring an item, a story, a song or a question about Cornwall to talk about.

It has been a busy couple of months for the **Cornish Association of South Australia**. In May, they heard a

talk on *The Cornish in Broken Hill - then and now* in which Robynne Sanderson outlined the contribution made by the Cornish in Broken Hill and revealed the interest in the area's Cornish heritage among residents today.

At the June meeting they had soup and pasties before doing some 'Cornish' singing. In July, members took up the invitation from CASA member Stephen Skillitzi to visit his glasswork studio. Stephen has been called the 'Father of Australian Studio Glass' and his work has been included in international exhibitions. After their AGM in August, Matt Curnow gave a talk on the *Cornish Stannary Parliament*.

NEW ZEALAND

We were saddened to hear of the death of Jean Harry on 24th August. Jean became an active member of the NZCA in the early 1980s and during her time as a member, she served as national secretary and treasurer as well as looking after the Association's library. Our thoughts are with the NZCA at this sad time.

Better news from the Association is that Nick Bartle, Secretary and Treasurer is being initiated as a Bard at this year's Gorsedd. We offer him our congratulations.

At the May meeting of the *Taranaki Branch* of the **New Zealand Cornish Association** members heard stories of immigrants which had been obtained from the Research Centre of Puke Ariki Library. This included a number of letters which were read and which led to some simulating discussion and reminiscing about the experiences of the early immigrants to the area.

Members of the *Christchurch Branch* of the **New Zealand Cornish Association** held their AGM in April during which Jeanette Beaumont was declared the new President, filling the vacancy left after the passing of Val Moore.

After the formalities, Sue & Doug McKay spoke about their trip to Turkey, Greece, Italy and France.

In May, the new President Jeanette Beaumont welcomed 36 members and guests to the annual pasty lunch. Before the meal there were the traditional toasts to The Duke of Cornwall, to 'Kernow' and to Absent Friends and grace was sung in the Cornish language.

After lunch, members heard the latest news from Cornwall and then enjoyed a varied programme of entertainment, ending with a rousing rendition of Trelawny.

UK

At the end of June, a group of **Thames Valley Cornish Association** members met for a picnic in Castle Gardens, Wallingford. This was a most enjoyable event for those who attended. At the end of September, they will hold a picnic on the banks of the Thames at Marlow. They will end the year with a Pre-Christmas event at the end of November.

The **Bournemouth Cornish Association** will hold its Harvest Supper in September. In October, they will welcome members and friends from other associations to their Annual Dinner. This association is one of the few to still have an evening dinner and this is a popular event. For those who spend the night in Bournemouth, there is the opportunity to have a pasty lunch on the Sunday

My Meanderings

What a hot and dry summer we are having. Of course, we should not be complaining as it could be cold, wet and miserable when, of course, we would be moaning! But this summer has, up to August, been very hot and sweaty - but should we be complaining? I hope you are enjoying this summer with its very hot July temperatures and the forecasted continued hot weather in August.

Looking at weather records over the years we can see that there have been many changes. For example, in 1676 the Thames froze to a depth of 11 inches and it froze again in December 1683 and 1814. This August looks as though it is going to beat previous records including August 2003 when the temperature in Kent reached 38.5 degrees Centigrade. Our weather does seem to follow a cycle. For instance, we had a hurricane on 26th November 1703 and again on 16th October 1987. When is the next one?

Some of you may know that my wife, Jenny, had a stroke at the end of August 2016. I am happy to report that she is now able to walk with a frame.

This time I have decided to meander through my previous 'Meanderings' instead of looking through the books. You may therefore remember the following extracts from 'My Meanderings'.

Many people have varied ideas on Cornwall and the Cornish. We know what we are, but others have their opinions. I came across the following:

'Cornwall has always been regarded as a somewhat remote and mysterious place, this being especially true before the Industrial Revolution and subsequent rail transport development. In those distant days the Celtic inhabitants of Cornwall were imagined to be semi-primitive barbarians devoting much of their time to their favourite activities of smuggling and ship wrecking.'

With the decline of mining and engineering within the County many places have been developed into 'holiday resorts' and many traces of their history and industrial past have been obliterated.

In the 1870s and 1880s small fishing villages such as Cadgwith and Mullion had been 'discovered' by increasing numbers of summer visitors, while neighbouring Coverack was said by *The West Briton* to be 'filled' with lodgers for 'most of the summer'. Most of these visitors travelled into Cornwall by the Great Western Railway which began to promote tourism as a means of stimulating passenger traffic.'

How about this headline from *The Western Morning News* of 26th August 1933: '*Riviera Express Quadrupled!*'

So, tourism and the Cornish holiday is not a new innovation!

In *The Cornishman* of 30th September 1999 there was a visitor's recollection of the bombing of St. Ives in September 1942. I remember that I was actually on the beach that afternoon, but across the Bay on Mexico Beach at Hayle. I had just gone down at the water's edge with my sister when our parents started shouting and waving at us, I waved back happily until I realised it was more urgent and there was a big flash and a bang from St. Ives. This of course was the Gas Works being bombed. We ran back up the beach and sheltered (hid) in the sand dunes while, whoever had been on the rifle range which then existed on

the Towans opened fire over our heads at the two aeroplanes just leaving St. Ives. I was only 6 years old and thought it great fun, but I'm sure I would not have done so had I been on the beach at St. Ives. I don't know what happened to the aircraft, but later (and I mean in later years) there were always stories. One was that they 'shot up' a bus at Whitecross on the main road from Penzance to Hayle and we also heard that one of the planes was actually shot down. Of course, news at that time was not readily available and, as I said, I was only six, it would have been later that the rumours and stories made sense. When I read the story it brought back memories, but I had not realised it was 1942, I would have thought it was nearer 1944. Time can play tricks with memory!

Jenny also remembers planes dropping bombs on Falmouth doing considerable damage as they hit fuel tanks and the fire lasted for several days. One plane dropped its last bomb on Penpol, Feock. Luckily it landed in thick creek mud and did no damage and she recalls going down to the Creek the next day with her father and friends to admire the crater and see the remains of the bomb.

Her next memories were after the war when 2 or 3 U-boats were moored on the mine bank in the Devoran River. Within a few days, in the late evening a queue of small boats was making their way to the mine bank. She then said that her father and a couple of friends decided they would have a look and they found that the U-boats were only a shell. The local Police Constable did make enquiries around the village and no one had any information! Some weeks later rather a lot of strange objects appeared in local gardens.

What childhood memories have you had revived by newspaper cuttings, old photos, etc.? Not that I am advocating that we should live in the past with our memories, but our futures depend on our yesterdays; without the past there is no tomorrow!

In the last Meanderings I asked if anybody knew about a restaurant in Penzance that was, or is called, '*The Lantern*'. A lady I met once explained that as a young girl her mother had taken her to Cornwall on holiday (I didn't ask how many years ago!) and they had gone to a restaurant in Penzance called '*The Lantern*', which she thought was situated in Causewayhead. She would love to go back on a visit to Cornwall and find it. I haven't been able to find anything in the telephone directory. I have had no response yet, so I would be grateful if anybody could please tell me if this restaurant still exists - or has it perhaps been renamed?

A column in the 'Bude & Stratton Weekly News' Saturday 16th August 1924 entitled 'Knowledge for All' had some interesting snippets, such as:

'A bronze halfpenny is exactly an inch in diameter and therefore gives us a very convenient measure. Laid on an Ordnance map of the inch scale, the halfpenny just covers 500 acres.'

What multi-purpose coins do we have today?

'The golden wedding is celebrated by only one out of every 100 married couples.'

Ours is 54 years this year!

'In the fifteenth century whales were constantly found on the table of the Lord Mayor of London. These monsters, or part of them, were either roasted and served up on the

spit, or boiled and sent in with peas. The tongue and tail were considered especially choice.'

'Potatoes never grow larger than marbles in Greenland.'

Is this information useful or useless – or just fascinating? If you have any comments or queries about these snippets don't hesitate to contact me.

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

As always I ask for support for the London Cornish Association. New members are always welcome, so do refer them to the Membership Secretary whose contact details are in this Newsletter.

Kernow bys vyken

Graham Pearce (Past Membership Secretary)

Crowdy Crawn

Youngest Spitfire pilot dies in Cornwall

The youngest Spitfire pilot to fly in the Battle of Britain died recently at his home in Mullion, Cornwall.

Geoffrey Wellum was born in Essex and was only 18 when he joined the RAF at the beginning of World War 2. He joined 92 Squadron and took part in various combat missions, including 'dogfights' above London and the Home Counties. He was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross and was promoted to flight Commander with 65 Squadron. He later led Spitfires from HMS Furious to relieve Malta. After he left the RAF, he became a test pilot at Gloster Aircraft, testing the Hawker Typhoon.

Geoffrey Wellum wrote of his experiences in his book *First Light* (available on Amazon) in 2009. Shortly afterwards, the BBC made it into a TV film.

A proper job!- and a proud moment for Cornwall

None of us will easily forget the recent drama and the incredibly brave actions of divers who rescued the young members of a football team who were trapped in a flooded cave in Thailand. What many of us may not know is that one of those divers was a Cornishman? The following article is from the newsletter of the Ballarat Branch of the Cornish Association of Victoria

Cornish Diver in Thailand Rescue

Cornwall diver Josh Bratchley helped rescue the trapped children and their soccer coach from the cave in Thailand.

Josh grew up in Gunnislake, Cornwall and has a great deal of experience in cave and mine rescue operations and techniques, having worked for the Devon Cave Rescue Organisation, which operated in Devon and east Cornwall.

He was caving secretary at the Adventure and Expedition Club at Plymouth University.

He graduated from there in 2013 with a degree in meteorology and oceanography and also has qualifications from the Met Office, for which he now works as a meteorologist in north Wales.

He has also travelled extensively and worked as a boat driver and counsellor at children's summer camp in New Hampshire in the US in 2012.

Was Cornwall a communication leader before Goonhilly?

This item was sent in by member Dick Richards, but we have been unable to find its original source. Can anyone throw any light on this?

Proud to be Cornish

After having dug to a dept of 10 feet last year, Australian scientists found traces of copper wire dating back 200 years and came to the conclusion that their ancestors already had a telephone network more than 150 years ago.

Not to be outdone by the Aussies, in the weeks that followed, an American archaeologist dug to a depth of 20 feet and, shortly after, a story was published in the New York Times: *'American archaeologists, finding traces of 250-year-old copper wire, have concluded that their ancestors already had an advanced high-tech communications network 50 years earlier than the Australians.'*

One week later, the Council in Cornwall reported the following: *'After digging as deep as 30 feet in St Just, Denzil Penberthy, a self-taught archaeologist reported that he found absolutely bugger all. Denzil has therefore concluded that 250 years ago, Cornwall had already gone wireless.'*

Just makes you bleddy proud to be Cornish – dunna?...



Oh dear! Is that jam on top? I thought we were in CORNWALL!

(Photo: Lee Searle)

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

5th November 2018

Please send all contributions to:

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Or email to lca@londoncornish.co.uk