



# Cowethas Kernewek Loundres

## London Cornish Association Newsletter



[www.londoncornish.co.uk](http://www.londoncornish.co.uk)

Welcome to the Autumn newsletter. We trust you have had a good break over summer and are feeling refreshed.

We have put together an interesting and varied programme for 2019/20 which we hope will be well supported by our members. We know pub lunches are always popular, so there is a good sprinkling of those, and we have family history days, a St Piran's celebration and one of our highlights, the Annual Dining Event in March. You will find out more information in the newsletter.

Our first big event is the Family History Day on 5th October. The Family History Group has put together another very interesting programme. We are not sure how many of our members have people with shady pasts in their family, but if you have, the talk on criminal records by Colin Chapman should give you ideas for finding useful information on their criminal history. And then there is the question of what to do with all that amazing family information you have gathered. Hopefully, the talk by Kathy Chater on how to write up your family history will inspire you and galvanise you to action.

One of our goals is to work more closely with other Cornish groups in London – the London Cornish Rugby Football Club, the London Cornish Pilot Gig Club and the Wreckers – so no matter what your interests – rowing, rugby or socialising, you're sure to find something which appeals. We will publicise appropriate events in the newsletter, but a more up to date schedule will be found on our website – [www.londoncornish.co.uk](http://www.londoncornish.co.uk). We hope that members will join us at some of these events.

As we go to print, the Awards Ceremony of the Gorsedh Kernow is about to take place. We are absolutely thrilled that the work of Priscilla Oates (past chairman of the LCA) and Mark Elton (founder of the Wreckers) has been recognised in this year's list and we congratulate them. You can find out more about them and their awards elsewhere in this newsletter.

In concluding, I would like to thank those members who have sent in items for this newsletter. Your support is much appreciated. Keep up the good work.

*Kernow bys vyken*

### Dates for your diary ...

**Family History Day  
- 5th October 2019**

**Pre-Christmas  
lunch and visit to  
Sir John Soane's  
Museum –  
23<sup>rd</sup> November 2019**

**New Year's Lunch -  
11<sup>th</sup> January 2020**

**St Piran's Day  
celebration –  
29<sup>th</sup> February 2020**

**134<sup>th</sup> LCA Annual  
Dining Event -  
21<sup>st</sup> March 2020.**

*Further details of  
these events can be  
found on page 2*

### Subscription Reminder

The annual subscription for LCA members is £15, due on 1st April. We thank those who have renewed for 2019/2020.

This is a gentle reminder to those for whom this matter has slipped their minds! Please send your payment to the Membership Secretary. You can do this via a BACS transfer to the Association's bank account (Please put your membership number as your reference), or by cheque made out to *The London Cornish Association* and sent to:

*The Membership Secretary*  
Chynoweth, 1a Dunwich Rd, Bexleyheath, Kent, DA7 5EW

**Deadline for  
the Spring  
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 our London Cornish Association events.*

### Family History Day - 5th October 2019

See note below.

### Pre-Christmas lunch and visit to Sir John Soane's Museum – 23rd November 2019

**Time:** 12noon – lunch  
2pm - visit to Sir John Soane's Museum

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

**Museum Venue:** 13 Lincoln's Inn Fields, Holborn, London WC2A 3BP

*(Nearest tube stations are High Holborn or Chancery Lane)*

**Contact:** Carol Goodwin  
([Chynoweth@hotmail.com](mailto:Chynoweth@hotmail.com); Phone: 0208 303 9054)

***Please let us know if you will be attending the lunch and/or museum visit as we need to book tables at the pub and organise timed tickets at the John Soane Museum.***

### New Year's Lunch - 11<sup>th</sup> January 2020

**Time:** 12 noon

**Venue:** Penderel's Oak – 283-288 High Holborn, London  
*(Nearest tube stations are High Holborn or Chancery Lane)*

**Contact:** Carol Goodwin  
([Chynoweth@hotmail.com](mailto:Chynoweth@hotmail.com); Phone: 0208 303 9054)

***Please let us know if you will be attending the lunch so we can book tables***

Put these dates in your diary now...

### St Piran's Day celebration –

#### 29<sup>th</sup> February

Details to be confirmed in the Winter newsletter and on our LCA website - [www.londoncornish.co.uk](http://www.londoncornish.co.uk)

### LCA Annual Dining Event - 21st March 2020

The Imperial Hotel, Russell Square, London WC1B 5BB. See details on the next page.

*An invitation will be included in the Winter issue of the newsletter.*

### FAMILY HISTORY DAY Saturday 5th October 2019

**Time:** 10:00 am – 4:30 pm

**Where:** Bloomsbury Central Baptist Church, 235 Shaftesbury Ave, London WC2H 8EP  
*(The nearest tube stations are Holborn and Tottenham Court Road.)*

**Cost:** Members and Affiliates: £15, Non-Members: £20

*This fee includes a pasty and saffron cake lunch (sent up from Cornwall) and a cream tea. Vegetarian pasties can be provided if we know of your need in advance.*

Our first speaker at this event will be **Ms Kathy Chater**. Her talk is entitled: 'Turning your Tree into a Tale – Writing up Family History'

After the lunch break, **Dr Colin Chapman** will ask 'Was your Ancestor a Criminal?'

***We look forward to welcoming you to this truly interesting and informative day in friendly company!***

**Contact:** Gill Penny [g.n.penny@btinternet.com] OR Carol Goodwin [chynoweth@hotmail.co.uk].

For urgent messages on the day only: Tel:077 364 38315

# 134<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dining Event

21<sup>st</sup> March 2020

**Time:** 12 noon for 1pm - *Meet in the upstairs bar*

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

**To get to the hotel:** Turn left as you exit Russell Square Tube Station and then left onto Russell Square. The hotel is a short walk down, on the left. To get to the entrance, pass through an archway to a courtyard.

**Cost:** £29 per person

## Menu

*Starter:* Mushroom Soup

*Main Course:* Roast Loin of Pork with Sage, onion and Apple Sauce

*Dessert:* Profiteroles and Chocolate Sauce

**Invitations and booking forms will be sent out with the Winter newsletter.  
Online bookings can be made from November.**

## Other London Events of Cornish Interest

### London Scottish RFC versus Cornish Pirates RFC – Saturday 21st September 2019

**Where:** The Athletic Ground, Twickenham Rd, Richmond TW9 2SF

**Time:** 3:00 pm – 5:00 pm

Come along to this **Rugby Championship Cup Match** and cheer on the Cornish Pirates!

### Wreckers In The City - Wednesday 2nd October 2019

**Time:** 6.30pm – 11pm

**Where:** The Sun Tavern, 66 Long Acre, Covent Garden. London WC2E 9JD

*This event is held on the first Wednesday of each month. Join in for a great evening with like-minded Cornish Folk !*

### Fisherman's Friends Concert in London – Friday 11th October 2019

**Where:** Barbican Centre, Silk Street, London EC2y 8DS

**Time:** 7.00 – 10.00pm

The Fisherman's Friends are coming to London! Away from The Platt in Port Isaac... They will be performing at the Barbican Centre, with Sea Shanties galore!

Find out more about this event and dates of their events elsewhere at [www.thefishermansfriends.com](http://www.thefishermansfriends.com)

Tickets are selling rapidly so early booking is advised. Visit:

<https://www.barbican.org.uk/whats-on/2019/event/fishermans-fri>

### London Scottish RFC v Cornish Pirates RFC - Friday 15th November 2019

**Where:** The Athletic Ground, Twickenham Rd, Richmond TW9 2SF

**Time:** 19.45

Make sure you are at this **Rugby Championship League Match** and cheer on the Cornish Pirates!

## News of Past Events

### Mid-year's lunch

It was a slightly smaller group than usual at this year's mid-year lunch, but this did not affect our enjoyment of the day in any way. Those who joined us for the lunch at our usual 'watering hole', *Penderel's Oak* had a good lunch with lots of chat.

After the lunch, several of the group walked over to the City Lit to hear the Rosyer Lecture. The topic for this year's lecture was *Humphry Davy*. The speaker this year was Dr John Pring.

## Congratulations to Gorsedd Award Winners for 2019

We offer our congratulations to all those who will be given awards at the Gorsedd Kernow Award Ceremony in September. When announcing the names of those who will be acknowledged, Grand Bard Elizabeth Carne said *'Awards are being given to entries that express the Celtic spirit of Cornwall and demonstrate a deep understanding of Cornish culture...'*

The LCA was delighted to see that two people who have links to this Association have had their contributions recognised in this year's awards. The citations in the Gorsedd press release read as follows:

### London Cornish Association Shield 2019

*Priscilla Oates, Mullion - for her work towards the start of the LCA's 'Cornwall in London' project which focuses on people, places and events in London which are linked to Cornwall in some way.*

When living near London, Priscilla was a very active member of the LCA, being on Council for many years and serving as Chairman of the Association from 2003 to 2005. She maintains contact, despite having returned to Cornwall, and regularly attends our Annual Dining Events.

### Pewas Map Trevethan Award (Paul Smales Award) 2019

*Mark Elton, Gwas An Wrekkoryon, St Austell - for work with members of various pan-Cornish groups in London.*

Mark is the founder and driving force behind two major events for the Cornish diaspora in London – Wrecker's Wednesday and Kernow in the City. Wreckers provides a meeting place where members of the various pan-Cornish groups in London, such as the London Cornish Association, the London Cornish RFC and the London Cornish Pilot Gig Club can meet - as can anyone else who enjoys some Cornish camaraderie.

## LCA will soon fly high!

At our April Family History Day we had the privilege of hearing the CEO of the Cornwall Air Ambulance Trust, Paula Martin, talk about the work of the Trust and the plans it was making for the future. They are currently raising funds to purchase a new, state of the art, helicopter which will be faster, larger and have more advanced medical equipment on board. It is due to take to the skies in April 2020.

We were fascinated to hear the variety of emergencies the helicopter is called to deal with and were amazed to find out how many call-outs happen each year.

There was a very positive response to Paula's talk from our members and this convinced Council that the Air Ambulance was a project worth supporting. A donation was therefore made towards the funding of the new air ambulance. We have received a certificate which describes us as *Heli Heroes* and lets us know that the Association's name will be emblazoned on the undercarriage of the helicopter, together with those of other donors, when it takes to the air in April.



## New Members

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

Ms Deborah Lightfoot - Richmond  
Mrs Debbie Belshan - Linton, Cambs

Mrs Carol Fielding - Pinner  
Mr Joseph D Taperell - East Dulwich

*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](http://www.londoncornish.co.uk)

## Levant Mining Disaster remembered

2019 marks the centenary of a disastrous mining accident, involving a man-engine at Levant mine.

Man engines were an early type of lift which were used to transport workers up and down a mine and consisted of a series of moving ladders and stationary platforms.

In the afternoon of 20<sup>th</sup> October, as the men were changing shift, a metal bracket at the top of a rod on the Levant man engine snapped. The heavy timbers of the ladders crashed down the shaft, taking the side platforms with them as they went. At the time, at least 100 miners were using the engine. Thirty-one men were killed and many others were injured. A report on the accident appeared in the November 1919 issue of *Mining Magazine* and states:

*The accident at Levant was the worst disaster yet experienced at an English non-ferrous metal mine since the flooding of East Wheal Rose in 1846... It is desirable to remind readers that serious accidents also occur with the most up-to-date winding appliances, and that, in any case, the blame for the delay in reorganizing the mining methods at Levant does not rest on the management but with the owners of the mineral rights.*



*Levant Mine, near St Just*

## What makes Cornish ice cream so good?

An article which appeared in the *Telegraph* at the end of May asks the question - and got the answer from James Strawbridge, TV chef and Kelly's of Cornwall ice cream sommelier. He is quoted as saying 'Cornish ice cream has got to be the best in the country, if not the world'. And the reason? 'Quality ingredients, irresistible flavours and a hint of the sunny, salt-sprayed Cornish coast in every mouthful'

## Condolences

We were very sad to hear that member **Diana Jenkins** has recently died in Penzance, aged 89. Not only was she a very long-standing member of the LCA, but her link with the Association brought about a big change in her life, since that is where she met her future husband!

Diana was a very talented pianist something which was reflected in her choice of Bardic name - *Gwaryores Menestrouthy* (player of musical instrument).

Diana's daughter, Stella Cocks sent us the following memories of her mother:

*She met my late father David Rhys Jenkins at a London Cornish Dinner and later on wooed him with homemade steak and kidney pudding followed by Claire de Lune (Debussy). He then knew he was onto a winner! She became Chairman of the London Cornish in 1978 to 1980 and danced at the Helston flora day with*

*dad not knowing that he would have open heart surgery a few weeks later. My brother Paul and myself attended many children's tea parties at the London Cornish and I also later attended some enjoyable evenings at the Grosvenor Park Hotel in London. They both retired to Cornwall in 1987 and mum continued to play with the Mousehole Male Voice Choir for their annual summer concerts. We spoke to a choir member who said mum had been associated with them since just after the war. Over the years she played for some wonderful singers including Benjamin Luxon, Alan Opie, Felicity Lott, Cynthia Glover and Bryn Terfel. A wonderful mum, Nanny and sister. It is fitting that the funeral will be held at Paul Church where she was married and grew up.*

We extend our sympathy to Diana's family and friends.

## Down by the riverside...fun and games in gigs at Richmond Bridge!

The LCA is keen to strengthen ties with other Cornish groups in the London area (viz: London Cornish Pilot Gig Club, London Cornish RFC and the 'Wreckers'). One of the ways to achieve this is to encourage members to join in some of the activities of these groups. Recently a couple of members joined in two events with the Gig club at Richmond.

The first event, which took place in mid-July, was a truly Cornish 'do', complete with pasties and a Cornish tea. What added to the 'Cornish' experience was the invitation to the visitors, including some of our group, to get into a gig and do a bit of rowing. This was a very different and very enjoyable afternoon.



*All gigs safely moored after the race*



*A 'Proper Job' completed - time to celebrate!*



*Some 'rookies' learn the ropes from a couple of more proficient rowers from the LCPGC*

In early August, there was another opportunity to enjoy some action on the river. On this occasion, we were expecting to witness a contest between teams from the gig club and the rugby club. Perhaps rather wisely, and in the interest of sportsmanship, the decision was made to provide the three gigs with mixed teams. The teams boarded – and they were off. Up the river one way, back, and up the other way – a long distance for fast rowing on this very warm day. The finish was close, but team *Tormentor* just pipped *Rhos* and *Fury* to the post. The LCA landlubbers watching from the edge of the river were very impressed with the boating skills of the three teams, especially their ability to navigate the narrow channel to the mooring point!

After the excitement, one and all descended on the boathouse for a celebratory, and well-deserved drink.

## A Cornish Feast

May saw the 'Three Cornish Maids', joined this year by a 'London Lad', returning to the same self catering apartment as in the previous year for another Penzance based holiday, however it has to be said by and large, not a lot of 'self-catering' was undertaken! We enjoyed a cream tea in a café, a meal in a restaurant situated within a sculpture park and a variety of lunches, evening meals and snacks, but the meal we all voted our top choice, and the one I want to share with you was in the restaurant adjoining Truro Cathedral.

Jackie had gathered the information prior to our departure and she pre-booked lunch for the Thursday (because at that time Thursday offered a 'Roast-of-the-Day') for six of us, including my sister and brother in law who were to join us there.

On arrival we were pleasantly surprised to discover it was waitress service – a lovely Cornish lady – and were further impressed that a pristine white tablecloth and napkins were provided and one more bonus... it was licensed!

Not all our party chose the roast as a varied menu was available. Having thoroughly enjoyed our main course, we asked for the sweets menu. Our waitress explained they normally only served coffee with home made cakes (they looked scrumptious) but apparently, unnoticed by us, a 'meal of the day' was on offer that did include a sweet and not everyone availed themselves of it. She would see what she could do – and did she just! Six individual cream trifles in tall glasses, with a mango and pineapple base were all too soon consumed by six very appreciative diners. I paint the words to describe them but they were truly the icing on the cake.

I would recommend anyone finding themselves in Truro at lunch time to follow our example, and of course, you could always combine it with a visit to the cathedral. You don't have to pre-book a meal but we were advised to do so because we were a party of six.

*Yvonne Trembath*

## Cornwall International Male Voice Choir Festival – a personal connection

We were very fortunate in choosing the first two weeks of May for our annual holiday on Hayle Towans. I was able to attend the International Male Voice Choir Festival in Truro Cathedral where I was delighted to at last meet up with choirs from St Stithian's School and their families, friends and staff. My special interest of course being the connection with the co-founder, Albert Collins who was my mother's uncle. His friend Mr Mountstevens was the other founder. The residue from their estates was used to build the school (they grew up in Stithians).

We happened to be in Cornwall for the Helston Flora Dance, what a wonderful day!

*Rosemary Dean*

## Cape Town to Cape Cornwall

July saw another musical invasion from South Africa when the Langa Methodist Church Choir from Cape Town visited West Cornwall

The invitation to come to the UK was made by Michael Eavis, the founder of the Glastonbury Festival who had heard the choir when he was on a visit to South Africa. The choir began its tour in St Just where they sang in the St Just Miners' Chapel and at Geevor Tin Mine before going on to perform at Glastonbury.

One can't help wondering if they were made aware of the very strong links between St Just/Cape Cornwall and South Africa. In the 19th century, Cape Cornwall Mine was owned by Francis Oats, who also built Porthledden house which you pass en route to the parking area near Priests Cove. He started his mining career as a 14 year old at Botallack and was later sent to South Africa by the British Government to search for minerals.

For many years, in the latter part of the 19th century, Oats was involved in the diamond industry in Kimberley. He worked closely with Cecil Rhodes and was one of the founders of De Beers, serving as its Chairman for about 12 years. During this time he was also President of the Kimberley Cornish Association!



*May 2019, Turo Cathedral.*

*Rosemary Dean with the Duke of Cornwall Singers from St Stithian's School in Johannesburg.*

*This choir came first in the youth competition, winning the Slate Trophy and the John Langdon Cup. They also won the Kelwood Cup for the most entertaining performance with their African Melody.*

## La Vallee des Saints

Whilst on holiday in Brittany in North West France, I visited La Vallee des Saints, which is in mid Brittany at a place called Carnoet.

Entering the Valley of the Saints site is a unique experience that began in North Finistere, Brittany.

In July 2008, two men launched the creation of a 'crazy project'; the creation of a Breton Easter Island that will eventually include 1,000 Breton granite statues representing the Holy Founders of Brittany. In July 2009, with a team of 7 sculptors, they launched the first monumental sculpture project in Saint Pol de Leon.

To mark its 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, The Vallee of the Saints association launched a world first special event.

Named 'The Giants' Crossing', this crazy project includes commissioning, each year, the sculpting of a Breton Saint in another Celtic country and bringing it across the Channel aboard an historic sailing vessel. These spectacular crossings symbolise the monks (boat people) from

Ireland, Wales, Cornwall or Scotland who braved the seas to reach Brittany between the 4th and 7th centuries.

The first overseas statue is of Saint Piran, patron saint of Cornwall. It is the park's 100th statue to be sited and was created in Mabe by Stephanie Rouget and David A Paton. It was carried to the Vallee of the Saints between 5th May and 27th July 2018 thanks to a number of different modes of transport (steam engine, vintage sailboat, train, tractor, and horses).

A unique adventure allowing the joining of sea and land to reinforce links between the Celtic countries and to show the world what we truly believe in. For this year, 2019, the course is set for Wales and the creation of St David (Dewi or Divi) by the Sculptor Paul Kincaid.

It was such an amazing visit and well worth seeing if you are in that part of North West France.

*Carol Goodwin*



### Can anyone help with this enquiry?

A visitor to the LCA website recently sent in a question which has stumped us. Although we have not been able to find an answer, we are hopeful that one of our readers is able to provide the needed information. The email we received is the following:

*I have a piece of regalia from an elderly cousin whose father was President of the Bradford and District Cornish Association from 3rd March 1937 to 10th March 1938. His name was W.H.C. Stantan, and his name is engraved on the back*

*plate. It is in its original padded leather box and is an attractive piece with a gold and black ribbon attached.*

*... I was not able to find if there is an existing Bradford C.A.*

If anyone 'out there' is able to provide any information on the Bradford and District Cornish Association or it's President, Mr Stantan, please could you send it to [broekmann@outlook.com](mailto:broekmann@outlook.com) and it will be passed on.

Here's hoping...

## An unexpected encounter

On a recent visit to Winchester Cathedral, I went into the beautiful, symbolic Fisherman-Apostles Chapel on the south side of the nave. As I left the chapel, I saw an amazing tomb a few feet in front of me and wanted to know whose tomb it was. It was while searching for a label which would give me this information (it was the tomb of Bishop Wilberforce) that I made a remarkable discovery. Having been brought up to never walk over a grave I wanted to avoid stepping on a ledger stone on the floor near Bishop Wilberforce's tomb. As I stepped over, I glanced down - and was stunned to see the name of the person interred: **Mary Davies, daughter of Sir Jonathan Trelawny of Trelawny in the county of Cornwall.** This was such an exciting discovery and I was determined to read the inscription to find out more about Mary – years of being walked over and the position of the sun made this challenging but I managed to work out most of it. Fortunately, I also found mention of it in a very old book and used this to cross-check what I had transcribed. This is what the stone said:

*Here lyeth the Body of Madam Mary Davies, Daughter of Sir Jonathan Trelawny of Trelawny in the county of Cornwall, Baronet: A Lady of Excellent Endowments and Exemplary Virtue, of Courage & Resolution above her Sex and Equal to the Generous Stock whence She Sprang.*

*She was Maid of Honour to Mary, Princesse of Orange and relict of Lt Col Davies who at the Siege of Namur, mounting the Trenches at the head of ye Grenadiers of ye First Regiment of Guards, was ye first that threw the Fascenes (which others used to cover themselves with in their Attack) over ye Ditch and with his men pass'd it, beating the French out of theyre Works, which was a gallant Action and greatly contributed toward the taking of the Towne; in performing of which, he received the Wound of which he died and gained so just an Esteem for ye Boldness and Success of it with the King that He design'd him in Great Honour of a Visit ye Morning on which he died; and being informed of his Death in kind and honorable Terms express'd his concern and sorrow for the Loss of so brave and deserving and Officer.*

*She died XIIIst of September in the year of our Lord MDCCVII.*

Have any of our other readers seen this tomb?



*The top section of the tomb slab*



*Bishop Wilberforce's tomb. The ledger stone of Mary Davies can be seen at the Bishop's feet on the left of the picture*

Do you know anything about a competition to compose a new tune for Trelawny?

Liz Lane, from the *Bournemouth Cornish Association*, has approached us to ask about a competition to compose 'alternative tunes to Trelawny'. This competition was apparently organised by the LCA in 1900. Liz is keen to establish what happened to the musical compositions which resulted. This has stumped us. Does anyone know anything about this competition and the music which was created?

If it is the case that the LCA was encouraging members to find alternative tunes for Cornwall's 'national anthem', it suggests a somewhat rebellious association because, you may or may not know, the LCA has its own (slightly different) lyrics for this song! Several years ago, our past Chairman, Francis Dunstan wrote the following

note to explain the difference between the words of the London version and the 'official' version.

*The difference between the LCA version of Trelawny and the more common version lies in the first two lines of the chorus. For most people, the first two lines are – 'And shall trelawny live or shall trelawny die'. At the LCA, we sing 'And have they fixed the where and when? And shall Trelawny die?'*

*According to Charles Cox of the Hawker Society, the chorus sung by the LCA is the correct version, although in fact Hawker did not originally write it as a chorus – he wrote it as the second verse of the poem. It is not certain who was responsible for introducing the chorus.*

## New Book on Cornish Children

***Growing Up in West Cornwall*** – Edited by Sally Corbet

Published by Penwith Local History Group (2019)  
ISBN 978-0-9954940-1-5 (Paperback, 100 pages)

Penwith Local History Group launched their latest book at the Morrab Library in August.

The book, *Growing up in West Cornwall*, describes the experience of childhood in West Cornwall, from the seventeenth century onwards.

The following is an extract from the Morrab Library blog:

*Growing up in West Cornwall talks of all aspects of childhood, including of course schooldays and playtime, but also work, when many children were expected to take up labour at such young ages, working with the fisherman, in the fields and even with the undertakers!*

*All sorts of fascinating stories have emerged – we learn that in 1600, boys from the age of 7 had to practise their archery in the Zennor churchyard, and that all young men from the age of 16 were obliged to bear arms. We are told of library books needing to be burnt after an outbreak of deadly measles in St Erth in 1917. And the stories about the bad behaviour of the boys at the Recreation Ground after it opened in 1893 prove that some things never seem to change!*

Copies of the book can be purchased from the Morrab Library or from the PLHG website: <http://www.penwithlocalhistorygroup.co.uk/> at a cost of £10 +P&P.

**Rick Rescorla – a Twin Towers hero.**

*The following extract is from the May issue of the Thames Valley Cornish Association newsletter.*

Cyril Richard Rescorla from Hayle was a military officer, police officer and private security specialist of British origin who served as a paratrooper during the Cyprus Emergency and as a commissioned officer in the Vietnam War. He is the holder of 'The White Cross of Cornwall', US Silver Star, US Bronze Star with Oak Leaf Cluster, US Purple Heart, Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry, British General Service Medal 'Hard Core' 'The Cornish Hawk'.

He saved 2,687 lives on September 11, 2001 whilst singing Cornish songs and is an academic, Cornish patriot, hero supreme, the man who predicted 9/11. Rick was worried about the safety of New York City's World Trade Centre. Ever since the 1993 terrorist attack, when a bomb blew-up in the building's basement, he was convinced that it would happen again.

During the 1993 attack, Rescorla was upset that the building evacuation had gone so poorly. He vowed that such a muddled exodus would never happen again. Among the first to understand that a new kind of terrorism was targeting innocent office workers, he became the director of security for Dean Witter/Morgan Stanley in 1997.

Believing the Trade Centre (where Morgan Stanley was headquartered) was a particularly vulnerable terrorist target, Rescorla recommended that his company find different space. Because of lease obligations, however, that alternative was not possible. Instead, Rick developed an emergency evacuation plan which he required the Morgan Stanley employees to practice over and over.

Rescorla could just not get out of his head that the Trade Centre would be attacked again. When it happened, on September 11, he and his colleagues were ready. When the Port Authority issued an announcement, via its PA system, that everyone in the South Tower of the World Trade Centre should remain calm and stay at their desks, Rescorla couldn't believe his ears. He immediately began an evacuation process.

With bullhorn in hand, he ordered the Morgan Stanley employees to evacuate the building. Before the second plane struck the South Tower, his colleagues were on their way down the stairs. Thousands of people — nearly 2700 to be precise — owe their lives to Rick Rescorla, and many are vocal about that fact. Trying to keep

people calm, under such incredibly stressful circumstances, Rescorla began singing inspirational songs. One, among them, was from his home. Based on the Men of Harlech, he sang;

*Men of Cornwall stop your dreaming,  
Can't you see their spear points gleaming?  
See their warriors' pennants streaming,  
To this battlefield.  
Men of Cornwall stand ye steady,  
It cannot be ever said ye  
for the battle were not ready  
Stand and never yield!*

Because of Rick Rescorla's foresight and belief that he knew what was right, nearly every Morgan Stanley employee made it safely out of the South Tower before it collapsed.

Incredibly fearless and courageous, Rescorla entered the South Tower of the World Trade Centre to be sure that all of the Morgan Stanley employees had safely left the building. He believed there were a few who still needed help. A soldier to the end, he would never leave anyone behind, even if it meant sacrificing his own life.

Rescorla knew he was facing difficult odds when he re-entered the Tower. He was last seen near the 10th floor, on his way up to help the last of his colleagues leave the building.

Shortly before the South Tower collapsed, Rick called his wife Susan. He told her: 'Stop crying. I have to get these people out safely. If something should happen to me, I want you to know I've never been happier. You made my life.'

Something did happen to him. When the South Tower collapsed, Rick was still in the building. His body was never found. All but thirteen Morgan Stanley employees had safely exited the building.

Rick is honoured in the United States and in Cornwall. Sadly, the British Government have ignored this Cornish hero, but we remember him.

## Painting a record!

At the invitation of the National Trust's installation artist, Anthony Garratt and the Newlyn School of Art, artists, both beginners and experienced, were invited to help set a world record for the most people painting a landscape outdoors in the same place on September 1<sup>st</sup>. The plan was for at least a thousand painters to bring their pencils, paintbrushes and easels and form a continuous line along the coast from Land's End to Sennen.

This was more than just a record attempt; it was also an innovative way to raise funds for the National Trust who look after the coastline in the area. These funds will go towards maintaining the path from Land's End to Sennen to help reduce erosion and to protect the rare flora and fauna.

You can see some film footage of this event on the Seasalt Cornwall Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/SeasaltCornwall/videos/513329172574170/>



Sennen Cove

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## Kresen Kernow opens for business

In May, the transfer of documents and other items from various repositories in Cornwall to Kresen Kernow began. This included manuscripts, maps and documents from Cornwall Record Office, photographs, books and newspapers from the Cornish Studies Library and archaeological records and photographs from the Historic Environment Record. Once completed,

the new centre will hold 1.5 million records covering 850 years of history.

Over the past few months, the staff have been very busy organising the material in preparation for the official opening on 11th September.

The pictures, photographs and maps in the collection are being digitised. As these are completed, the digitised images are being uploaded to the new Kresen Kernow website -

<https://kresenkernow.org/>

# News from other Cornish Associations

## UNITED STATES

The hard work is almost complete and now the Cousin Jacks and Jennys of the **Southwest Wisconsin Cornish Society** are ready for the 27th Annual Midwest Cornish Festival which will take place at the end of September.

The most anticipated event on the Festival programme is the Saturday evening performance of *The Mousehole Cat*, the Cornish legend of Tom Bawcock which tells how he saved the village of Mousehole from starvation. The story has been adapted for the stage by Dr Alan Kent and is directed by Guy Watson.

The actors who will perform the play are the 'Cousin Jacks' who hail from Carnon Downs in Cornwall.

## CANADA

In July, members of the **Toronto Cornish Association** met in the Duke of Cornwall Pub for an informal summer gathering. The chef at the pub prepared 'wonderful pasties' and salads for their lunch. In late August, members gathered at Erla Jose's house for a barbecue.

The Association has booked a table at the Beach Celtic Festival in September. They will prepare a display and will use the opportunity to promote the TCA and tell people about Cornwall.

At their September meeting, Tim Douglass will do a presentation on *The Lighthouses of Cornwall* while in October, John Webb will talk on *British Home Children*.

Exciting news from the Toronto area is that a new Cornish Association has been started. The **Cornish Society of Durham** was inaugurated on 21<sup>st</sup> July, with 17 members. This was a dream come true for Chairman Sher Leetooze who wrote in her first 'Message from the Chairman' - *For many long years it has been my dream to have a Cornish Society here in this area. After all, who settled this place 190 years ago if not the Cornish? Well, there were a few Devon folk, too, and I suppose they should not be forgotten ...*

This new Society is affiliated with the **Toronto Cornish Association** and has already been invited to join in some of the TCA events. We wish the Society a long and productive life.

## AUSTRALIA

The guest speaker at the May meeting of the **Cornish Association of Victoria** was Sarah Slade, Director of Experience at the State Library of Victoria. She mentioned that the library was opened in 1856 when Melbourne was barely twenty years old and was one of the first in the world to provide free access to anyone over fourteen years of age. Today it is one of the busiest libraries in the world, with over two million visitors a year.

In June, the subject of the talk was *The Dennis and Tregurtha Families of West Penwith*. In September they will hear about the *History of the Handkerchief* and in October, something very different – *Separation, Gold and Prosperity: Victoria after the Gold Rush*.

A big headache facing the Association at present is where to store their rather extensive library. In the past, it has been stored in the church, but now the church needs the space itself and the library will have to find an alternative home.

The **Ballarat Branch** of the **Cornish Association of Victoria** recently held its AGM. After the business part of the meeting, President of the CAV, Neil Thomas presented a slide display on his 2018 trip to Cornwall. During his visit he was able to attend three festivals – Padstow Obby Oss, Trevithick Day and the Helston Flora Day. During the Trevithick Day celebrations, he visited the 'Cornish Embassy' a double decker bus in Cornish colours. Here, he sat a test to become a 'Cornish Citizen'. The good news is that he passed!

Most of the newsletter from the **Cornish Association of South Australia** carries news of Kernewek Lowender. There was some concern that the number of people attending some events was a bit lower this year – one possible reason being that for some events only online booking was available. There is however optimism and the organisers are looking at ways to boost numbers again in 2121.

In June, members of the Association enjoyed a soup and pasties supper and then indulged in some Cornish singing, while in July, they gathered for a BYO basket lunch.

## NEW ZEALAND

The **New Zealand Cornish Association** held its national meeting in New Plymouth in May, hosted by the Taranaki Branch. Members enjoyed a pasty lunch before the meeting started, the pasties being kindly donated by 'Traditional Cornish Food'.

After the meeting, during which elections for the national president and the committee took place, the Pheonix Morris Dancers entertained with traditional dances, tunes and songs inside, outside and all around the houses of the Telford Retirement Village. The residents seemed enchanted by their energy and enthusiasm.

The next national meeting, which will take place in May 2021, will be hosted by the *Christchurch Branch*.

At the July meeting of the **Christchurch Branch** of the NZCA, Judy and Doug showed their pictorial news from Cornwall, after which members watched another episode from the popular 'Doc Martin' series. Tea and a raffle ended the afternoon. In August, Member Don Hillier gave a talk on his latest trip to the UK, which took him from Yorkshire to Cornwall. He included a video of the Cornish leg of his journey.

## UK

Members of the **Thames Valley Cornish Association** have had a busy couple of months, enjoying a very varied social programme. These included a picnic in Castle Gardens in Wallingford and a visit to Osterley House. At their AGM in May, they had the pleasure of hearing Dick Richards talk about the Commonwealth War Graves Commission. In his talk, entitled '*The Road to Peace is lined with Headstones*', he referred to the far-sighted men and women who established what is now the CWGC to ensure that the fallen would be remembered. He described the architecture & design of CWGC cemeteries & memorials and the underlying principles on which they are based.

The Association's next get-together will be a pub lunch towards the end of September.

The members of the **Bournemouth Cornish Association** hold meetings monthly, usually involving food! Over the past few months these have included a cream tea, BBQ and restaurant lunch. They will hold their Annual Dinner in October. Guests attending this event, who stay overnight in the hotel, are treated to a delicious

pasty lunch on the Sunday before they start their journey home.



Members of the TVCA look at a 'board' game carved into the old Tudor table in the kitchen at Osterley.

### Are you planning to visit London?

Don't forget to contact the London Cornish Association and let us know when you are coming. We would love to try and meet you.

Contact us by email at [lca@londoncornish.co.uk](mailto:lca@londoncornish.co.uk) or at the address on



(Source: Bodmin OCS Facebook page)

On 7<sup>th</sup> August, Bodmin OCS unveiled a memorial plaque in Dennison Road, Bodmin in memory of eight people who were killed by German bombs. On August 7 1942, two German planes dropped bombs on the gas works and on the working-class part of the town. Seven of those killed were from one family. Another person died afterwards of grief.

## Tintagel footbridge opens

Tintagel Castle is built in one of the very scenic places in Cornwall and is a very popular tourist site. However, in the past, access has been via a path with hundreds of steps, which has provided a challenge for some visitors.

English Heritage who look after the site, was keen to link the island to the mainland in a way which would improve access. We know that in the Middle Ages, there were sections of Tintagel Castle on both the island and the mainland and that there was a narrow, high bridge linking the two parts, but it disappeared sometime between the 14th and 17th centuries. The new bridge will reinstate the original access route used by people in the Middle Ages and will hopefully give visitors an experience more similar to that which was familiar to those early residents as they moved from one part of the castle to another.

Work on the new footbridge began in October 2018 and has now been completed. It opened to the public in the summer.

If you are intending to visit Tintagel sometime, please be aware that entry to the castle is now by timed tickets in order to control the numbers and protect the environment. Tickets can be booked online.

### *The Arthurian connection*

The alleged link between King Arthur and Tintagel can probably be attributed to Geoffrey of Monmouth who, in the 12th century, allegedly claimed Tintagel as the place where the future King Arthur was conceived!

King Arthur is one of the best-known figures in English history, but there is a question mark over his authenticity. Was he just a legendary figure, or did he actually exist? Why not watch the short animated history on the English Heritage website at:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uoy-FmhNmSI&utm\\_source=English+Heritage+Members&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=10813933\\_Members%27+E-Newsletter+%7C+22+August&utm\\_content=King+Arthur](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uoy-FmhNmSI&utm_source=English+Heritage+Members&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=10813933_Members%27+E-Newsletter+%7C+22+August&utm_content=King+Arthur)

and make up your own mind!

*Did you know that according to legend, King Arthur did not die but was transformed into a chough? Because of this, it is thought to be very unlucky to kill a chough.*

## Tom said to me one day

In our Spring newsletter, we mentioned that our Chairman, Carol Goodwin was asking if anyone knew a song which her grandmother used to sing to her to the tune of the Flora Dance. The first two lines of the song were:

*Tom said to me one day,  
can you dance the Flora?*

In our summer newsletter we mentioned that a reader had come back to us saying she remembered her mother singing it.

This little verse clearly struck a chord with our members as we have now had another interesting contribution – this one a variation on a theme!

*Barbara Mckeown writes:*

Growing up in Port Isaac in the 1960s, I can remember Tuesday and Thursday evenings in the summer months were always 'Band Nights'. Bodmin Band came on Tuesday evenings and St Breward Band came on Thursday evenings. They would play on The Platt at the top of the beach for about an hour and then would play the Flora up the hill to the top, along The Terrace overlooking Port Gaverne and then back down again. They would finish with 'The Day Thou Gavest Lord Has Endeth'.

We sang similar words to Carol and Lorna but ours were:-

*Charlie said to me one day  
O-oh can you dance the flora (repeat both lines).  
Yes I can with a nice young man (repeat twice)  
O-oh I can dance the flora.*

We also changed 'a nice young man' to 'Bodmin Band' or 'St Breward Band' depending on the evening. For example, line three might read *Yes I can with St Breward Band.*

*Any other memories out there? Please do share them.*

# My Meanderings

We have now reached summer and once again I wish you all the best for this year and more. Well the weather has been warm, hot and sunny as we always hope for, but towards the end of July it was reported that the temperature was the highest since 'records began'. Apparently this only dates back to 1910! Not really all that long ago!

Looking through my past 'Meanderings' I found the following question which I asked back in 2011. I did say at the time that *'it may be a stupid question'* but still I asked, *'have you any idea why the Devil never entered Cornwall?'* I have never had a response. Perhaps you may be thinking that he has already 'moved in'. This question was highlighted when I was looking through an old book and came across an article entitled *'Why the Devil never entered Cornwall'*. It said that when he was sitting on the summit of a hill in Devon, he was able to overlook Cornwall and watch what the people were doing. He was struck by the fact that they made everything into pies such as rooky pie, herby pie and conger pie (*whatever each of these were?*) as well as tasty pasties. He was then half afraid to risk himself among people possessed by this strange mania. What if they took a fancy to 'devil pie'? He found this alarming and thought he might not be spared and what would the World do without him? So, he shook his head, turned away and in a single stride he left Devon as night was falling. He never came into Cornwall. I don't know what date this was, but sometimes I do wonder if he has ever changed his mind!

A number of years ago I read an article in a newspaper where it referred to the Cornish town of Hayle as *'a sleepy seaside town'*. What an insult! As I have often said, Hayle was my home town, where I was brought up, and it certainly was not sleepy.

Things change over time. I was looking in my *'Kelly's Directory of Cornwall for 1897'* and automatically went to the section on Hayle where I read the following:

*'Hayle was a manufacturing town where the most important industrial establishments in Cornwall were located. The engineering works of Messrs. Harvey and Co. Limited, who were, at the time, largely engaged in the making of steam engines and boilers, as well as mine machinery, forges and rope factories, where they employed about 500 people. At Hayle and Copperhouse,*

*there were two important flour mills, worked on the roller system, and belonged to Messrs. Hosken, Trevithick, Polkinghorn and Co. Limited; Messrs. Pool had a factory at Copperhouse for making the fine wire work which was used in the Camborne and Redruth tin mines'*

Things are rather different now as time has progressed.

Browsing through the books of the 19<sup>th</sup> century I came across the following which I thought was rather interesting. It was in an 1854 book *'A Geography of Cornwall'* where I found the following:

*GWINEAR is a parish and village, with a station called Gwinear Road on the Great Western Railway just 3 miles from Hayle. I always remember Gwinear as it was so close to Hayle.*

Then in another book I read:

*BUDE is the least rowdy modern seaside town in Cornwall. It needs sunlight to show it off at its best, there are no towering cliffs except for Eford Beacon 300 feet high at the southern end. There are grassy downs and sandy bays. Going back to the early 1800s it started as a seaport for the Bude Canal which, in those days, went 30 miles inland as far as Launceston.*

MARHAMCHURCH, which is near Bude, was quoted as *'an attractive hilltop village with wide streets, colour washed cottages among flowering shrubs, with the church at the west end of the village looking down to Widemouth Bay two miles away'*.

How do you like these 'spelling lessons' which I found in a book?

*'Listen' and 'silent' use the same letters.*

*The term 'race car' spelled backwards still spells 'race car'.*

*The word 'eat' is, I believe, the only word that if you take the first letter*

*and move it to the last, it spells its past tense 'ate'*

Now a quick question:

Do you know any other words of more than 3 letters that can be read forwards or backwards, or are anagrams that can be rearranged to spell other words?

As always, I end by asking for 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.

Well that is all for now. I hope you have found these 'Meanderings' to be of some interest. I also hope that 2019 is an enjoyable and hot (but not too hot) year. I did forecast that this year would be hotter; it looks as if I was right. I hope you have enjoyed it.

I wish you all the best for the rest of this year and on into 2020 and hope that we continue having the good weather, but, please, not too hot.

*Kernow bys vyken*

*Graham Pearce*

## A vision of Cornwall

*The following item was sent in by Mary Watters who was, for many years, Chairman of the Torbay Cornish Association.*

This poem, written by Torbay member Sheila Farrance, was read at the final meeting of the Torbay Cornish Association a couple of years ago. .

Sheila was born in Kent in 1926 and lived there until 1968 when she moved with her family to South Devon, where she still lives. In her younger days she was a church organist and trained as a secretary. She has always enjoyed writing; as well as her diaries and poems, she has written a book about life in a village Rectory during the Second World War.

Sheila's deep love for Cornwall stems from numerous visits and family holidays and she was a member of the Torbay Cornish Association for 25 years. She loves the countryside and enjoys exploring new places...and still threatens to take up surfing one day!

## A Vision of Cornwall

Cornwall is a county of sheer delight  
Whether you visit by day or by night.  
Spring heralds in the daffodil host  
And many more things of which Cornwall can boast.

Rivers and wildlife, sea and sands,  
Sitting in parks, listening to bands.  
Enjoy fish and chips on a happy day out  
But please don't leave any litter about.

Truro Cathedral is centuries old

Guarding the city, serene and bold.  
The tin miner's friend – St Piran by name –  
Came over from Ireland, and such is his fame.

Sunny St Ives and Mevagissey  
Always enchanting, always so busy.  
Souvenir shopping, pure honey from bees  
Are almost as famous as Cornish 'Pas-teas'!

Helston Flora Day dance brings crowds from afar,  
The only problem is parking the car!  
Daphne du Maurier fans have a treat in store  
When proud little Fowey opens its doors.

A spectacular event is Obby Oss day  
Unique to Padstow on the first day of May  
The Eden Project and Royal Cornwall Show  
Are other attractions to which you should go!

Wooded, winding lanes lead down to Land's End  
Where postcards are waiting to write and to send.  
'Come down to Cornwall, this vibrant county,  
Where grace and charm form part of its bounty'.

As the Cornish sun sets and the evening light fades,  
Children trudge home with their bucket and spades.  
Tomorrow will bring God's brand-new day  
To treasure and keep in our own special way.

*Sheila M Farrance. Torbay Cornish Association 2016*

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

***5th November***

*Please send all contributions to:*

*The Editor  
55 Brownell Place  
London  
W7 3AZ*

*Or email to [llbroekmann@outlook.com](mailto:llbroekmann@outlook.com)*