



# Cowethas Kernewek Loundres

## London Cornish Association Newsletter



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

Spring 2016

As I sat down to prepare this newsletter, I realised that this was number 45 for me! My first issue was Spring 2005 which means that I am now entering my 12th year as editor! Where has the time gone? Of course, it would not be possible to produce a newsletter without the support of many people. I rely on your input, and am finding it more challenging now as the amount of 'copy' being sent in has dropped substantially. That said, I have to thank those who have sent in items and reports over the years – but please don't stop. We really want to hear from you. Articles do not have to be long and could include something you have seen or done in Cornwall, a place or person of significance – in fact, anything with a Cornish flavour. It could also be an interesting picture with just a caption. The more people that contribute, the more interesting the newsletter will be.

Looking back on some of the content of the past decade+, I am reminded how many changes there have been – to our membership numbers, our social programme, our publicity...

Sadly, the years have taken their toll and we have lost quite a few of our members. One of these, and one who made such an impression on me, was our previous President, Sir John Trelawny. He was so supportive when I took over as editor after the sad loss of Richard Dawe, regularly sending me encouraging emails. I have kept them and still read them from time to time as they meant so much. One of the things he was particularly keen on was using technology to promote and support the Association. I know he would be thrilled with our new website (just coming up for its first birthday) and would be chuffed to see how many emails it generates. Very importantly, it has brought in about 10 membership enquiries over the year, several of which have gone on to sign up. I can almost hear him chuckling at the idea that the LCA is about to get its own facebook page! He would agree that if we want to attract a

'younger' audience, we need to make use of the social media which are so much a part of life today.

Over the years, we have been confronted with several challenges – but the Cornish spirit lives on and we are constantly looking for innovative ways of adapting. The rise in the costs of renting venues in London has encouraged us to review our social programme and we now include more outings. Some are more structured, and include a talk or a tour – such as the recent visit to the Foundling Museum - whereas others are more about visiting places with like-minded people and being free to roam at our own pace. An example is the forthcoming visit to the Imperial War Museum.

An effective social programme needs several ingredients. Firstly, it needs ideas. We rely on our members to let us know what they would like and hopefully, suggestions of places to visit, speakers to listen to etc. Then, it needs someone to organise the events. Anyone can take on or help with this. They don't have to be on Council. Then, very importantly, we rely on the support of our members, relying on them to attend the events and give us their feedback – and if this could be in the form of a short report for the newsletter, so much the better!

We are about to introduce exciting changes to two of the events on our social programme. Following requests from several of our members who prefer not to go out in the evenings, we have decided to substitute a lunch for the traditional Annual Dinner. We are in the final stages of planning and are sure this is going to be a really good event. The next change relates to the AGM and the prestigious Trelawny Lecture which, for the first time, will be combined with our April Family History Day. We feel these changes are positive for the Association and look forward to the support of our members.

*Kernow bys vyken*

### Dates for your diary ...

**130th Anniversary Dining Event**  
Saturday 12th March  
12pm for 1pm

**AGM and Trelawny Lecture**  
Saturday 16th April  
10am

**Family History Day**  
Saturday 16th April  
10am

**Visit to Imperial War Museum**  
Thursday 2nd June  
11am

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

**Deadline for the Summer Newsletter is**

**5th May**

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

*Do we have your correct email and mailing addresses? Please let us know if you change your address.*

*Contact the editor on [editor@londoncornish.co.uk](mailto:editor@londoncornish.co.uk) or 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.***

## 130TH ANNIVERSARY DINING EVENT

at

Amba Hotel

Bryanston Street, London W1H 7EH

*(Previously The Thistle Hotel)*

**Saturday 12th March 2016**

**12pm for 1pm**

**Principal Speaker:** Mr Tom Varcoe

*Philanthropy Adviser, Cornwall Community Foundation*

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### Menu

#### *Starter*

John Ross smoked salmon and shaved fennel salad

#### *Main Course*

Breast of chicken, chunky ratatouille, oven dried plum tomato and crisp Parma ham

#### *Dessert*

Dark chocolate and Baileys mousse with sable biscuit

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#### ***To book, please contact :***

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## AGM AND TRELAWNY LECTURE 2016

**Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> April 2016**

This year, the AGM and Trelawny Lecture will form part of the Family History Day event on 16th April.

The annual Trelawny Lecture is one of the key events on the LCA Calendar. The lectures, which started in 1987, provide members with an opportunity to hear talks by eminent speakers on a variety of Cornish topics.

This year, we are privileged to have as our Trelawny Lecturer, Paul Holden who is the House and Collections Manager at Lanhydrock House, a National Trust property near Bodmin. He is an architectural historian, the author of two books and many articles and a popular speaker. His lecture, which will take place in the morning, will focus on the history and layout of Lanhydrock House as well as the history of the Robartes-Agar family who lived there from the early 1600s.

A brief AGM will take place during the lunch break.

## VISIT TO THE IMPERIAL WAR MUSEUM

**Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2016**

**Meet at the entrance at 11am**

An outing to the IWM has been arranged for 2<sup>nd</sup> June. There will be no charge for this event as it does not include a tour or talk. However, it provides a wonderful opportunity for those of us who have been meaning to get there, but

not actually got round it to go and explore the Museum's collections. You will be free to wander around on your own or join with others from the LCA.

***The Museum's address is:*** Lambeth Road, London SE1 6HZ. Tel: 020 7416 5000

***The nearest underground stations are:***

Lambeth North (10 mins), Waterloo (15 mins) and Elephant and Castle (15 mins)

***The nearest train stations are:***

Waterloo and Waterloo East (15 min) and Elephant and Castle (15 mins)

There is free parking on site for Blue Badge Holders but it needs to be booked at least 2 days in advance.

***Cost:*** Entry to the Imperial War Museum is free but you may need to pay if you wish to attend any of the events.

The Museum is open from 10am and there is an on-site café which is also open from 10 so you will be able to enjoy a cuppa if you get there early.

If you are interested in coming to this event, then please let our organiser, Mary Timmins know your Name and contact details (Telephone Number and Email address) before 31st May. Mary will be at the Family History Day on 16th April so you could book then.

If you have any questions then please contact Mary or visit the Museum's website - [www.iwm.org.uk](http://www.iwm.org.uk).

***Contact: Mary Timmins:*** Email: [mary.h.timmins@btinternet.com](mailto:mary.h.timmins@btinternet.com) OR Tel: 020 8997 8132

LONDON CORNISH ASSOCIATION  
FAMILY HISTORY DAY  
Saturday, 16<sup>th</sup> April 2016

**Speakers:**

**THE TRELAWNY LECTURE  
Paul Holden**

***'Lanhydrock House and the Robartes-Agar Family'***

Paul Holden, MA is House and Collections manager for the National Trust at Lanhydrock House. He is also an architectural historian and the author of two books and numerous scholarly articles in areas of architectural history and curatorship. Lanhydrock House is a Grade I listed mansion situated on the edge of Bodmin Moor in Cornwall and has been home to successive generations of the Robartes-Agar family since 1621. In his illustrated talk Paul will describe the general layout and history of Lanhydrock House and associated buildings and he will also give an account of the history of the Robartes-Agar family

**Debbie Kennett**

***'DNA for Beginners'***

Debbie Kennett is an Honorary Research Associate in the Department of Genetics, Evolution and Environment at University College London and a member of the International Society of Genetic Genealogy, amongst others. Debbie has a regular blog about all things genetic genealogical and is the author of several books, including 'DNA and Social Networking' published in 2011. Her talk will examine the three different types of DNA test that can be used as an aid to family history research: Y-DNA testing, mitochondrial DNA testing and autosomal DNA testing. It will include practical examples and success stories from Debbie's own research to illustrate how the tests work.

**Venue:**

Bloomsbury Central Baptist Church  
235 Shaftesbury Avenue  
London WC2H 8EP

*(nearest underground stations Holborn or Tottenham Court Road)*

**Time:**

10am to 4.30pm

*Please note that there will be a short AGM for LCA members during the lunch*

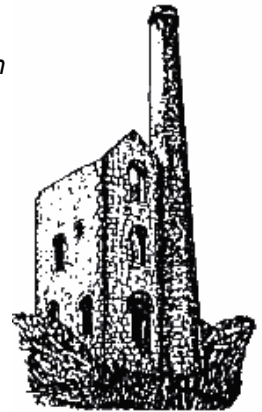
**Fee:**

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

**Contact:**

For booking or further information:

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Carol Goodwin ([carolgoodwin954@btinternet.com](mailto:carolgoodwin954@btinternet.com))



## NEWS OF PAST EVENTS

### New Year's Lunch – 9<sup>th</sup> January

Twenty three members and friends made it to the Penderel's Oak in Holborn for our New Year's Lunch. Sadly, some were not able to make it. There was plenty of chat and sharing of various bits of news. Everyone thought it was another great January lunch.

The weather on this day was fair and mild, with some odd showers.

From memory, I think this was our 16<sup>th</sup> January lunch. Do you remember our first one at the Harvester Pub in Boston Manor?

*Tony Wakeham*

### Condolences

It was with great sadness that we heard recently that member Stella Baily had died. Stella was a very supportive member of the LCA for many years, regularly attending events. She will be missed.

We offer our condolences to Stella's family and friends.

## NON-LCA EVENTS WHICH MAY BE OF INTEREST TO OUR MEMBERS

In London...

### St. Piran's Day Event at John Lewis 5th March

The Oxford Street branch of John Lewis will celebrate St. Piran's Day on Saturday 5th March by offering free samples of Cornish beers, cheeses and clotted cream in the Food Hall in the late afternoon and early evening. Camel Valley wines will be on sale in the wine bar at the same time.

### Cornish Conference: 'Cornwall Connections' Saturday 12th March

**Time: 9.30 for 10am to 5pm.**

A one-day conference, entitled 'Cornwall Connections' will be held in the Faculty of Geography and Earth Sciences at Royal Holloway, University of London (located in Egham) on 12th March. It will look at historic and contemporary links between Cornwall and London in terms of politics, sport, social, literature and migration. Presenters will include LCA member, Ben Gilby, a Postgraduate Geography Research Student specialising in Cornish Culture & Identity, Dr. Garry Tregidga of the Institute of Cornish Studies and author Dr Alan M Kent.

**Cost:** Free

Lunch will be available to purchase in the university refectory. During the lunch break, Ben Gilby will take delegates on a tour of the university's renowned Thomas Holloway portrait gallery, chapel and quadrangle.

If you are interested in attending this event, please contact Ben on [bgilby@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:bgilby@blueyonder.co.uk) to let him know.

This will be a very special event as it is the first time that the Institute of Cornish Studies has held a conference outside of Cornwall!

### COLLIDERSCAPE

**Friday 17th March - Sunday 3rd April 2016  
A.P.T. Gallery, 6 Creekside, London, SE8 4SA**

COLLIDERSCAPE brings together the work of four visual artists who explore, in different ways, the various intersections of physical nature, culture, technology and simulation.

Using images that conjure up undefined representations of both past and future, the artists ask us to question our relationship with our landscape, whether virtual, imagined or real.

One of the artists is Jacqueline Wedlake Hatton who is Cornish. For more information on Jacqui's art and exhibitions, visit her website [www.jacquiwedlakehatton.com](http://www.jacquiwedlakehatton.com)

And in Cornwall...

### Get involved with the Trelawny Shout

How are you celebrating St Piran's Day this year? The Cornwall Community Foundation (CCF) would love you to

join in with a collective 'shout'\* on March 5th, the national day of Cornwall

What better way to celebrate than to take part in a mass singing of the Cornish anthem 'Trelawny', which is happening in over seventy St Austell brewery pubs across Cornwall? Voices of all variety, regardless of pitch, talent, age and experience, will come together in pubs across the Duchy on the dot of 9pm, song sheet in hand, and sing their hearts out, knowing that down the road, across the moor or in some distant harbour, the celebration of community will be echoed. Last year more than seventy pubs and nearly every choir from the Tamar to the Isles of Scilly joined in with the 9pm shout.

The pubs themselves, with St Austell Brewery behind them all the way, will take on the challenge to raise money during the evening in whatever way they choose. Every shout will play an important part in our collective charitable effort. Speaking on behalf of the many landlords and landladies who have already joined the growing list of St Austell Brewery pubs involved in the Shout, Estate Director Adam Luck commented, 'The pub has always played an important role within local communities, especially so in Cornwall, so how could we resist getting behind such a wonderful affirmation of community spirit across our wonderful county? With such a memorable event raising much needed funds for local events and organisations, we hope the Shout will become a revitalised tradition.'

Please do join in. Follow us on facebook at Trelawny Shout or visit our website

[www.cornwallfoundation.com/trelawny-shout.html](http://www.cornwallfoundation.com/trelawny-shout.html)

to find out more about the Trelawny Shout. We can't do it without you!

\* A 'shout' is the term for Cornish pub singing.



*The Trelawny Shout has the support of the Fisherman's Friends - seen here in the Golden Lion in Port Isaac, one of the pubs participating this year.*

### Hepworth LIVE! – 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration

**Barbara Hepworth Museum and Sculpture Garden, St Ives**

**9<sup>th</sup> April – 6pm until 9pm, £18/£15 concessions**

To mark the anniversary of Hepworth's death, explore the garden and studio of one of Britain's most important 20th century artists at the Barbara Hepworth Museum and Sculpture Garden, where the artist lived and worked. Visit the unique garden she created for her bronze and stone sculptures, surrounded by lush subtropical planting.

This evening will honour Hepworth's interest in the performing arts featuring music, poetry and dance. Enjoy performances by violinist Philippa Mo and readings by Rupert Loydell, alongside a selection of readings and a screening of *The Ultimate Formballet*, by the artist Linder.

## **The Studio and the Sea - A season of two exhibitions about the ocean, the landscape and the ceramics studio**

**Tate St Ives, St Ives - 21<sup>st</sup> May – 2<sup>nd</sup> October**

### ***That Continuous Thing: Artists and the Ceramics Studio, 1920 – Today***

This exhibition surveys an international range of approaches to the ceramics studio over the past 100 years. It opens with the relationship between St Ives and Japan in the 1920s, through the influential ceramics of artist-potters Bernard Leach and Shoji Hamada, among others. An exploration of the Los Angeles 'clay revolution' of the 1950s and 60s will feature sculptures by the pioneering artist Peter Voulkos. The exhibition will conclude by looking forward, with a presentation of works made at Troy Town Art Pottery, a London-based workshop for artists.

### ***Jessica Warboys***

Jessica Warboys will fill several galleries at Tate St Ives with films, sculptures and large-scale paintings. Her work is informed by personal or collective memories – historical, mythical or fictional – and this solo show will consider her use of symbolism form and her approach to landscape. The exhibition will feature specially commissioned *Sea Paintings* created along the Cornish coast. In these she has applied pigment directly onto canvases before submerging the works in the sea and applying more pigment.

## **Tinth: The 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Cornish Mining World Heritage Site**

2016 sees the 10th anniversary of the Cornish Mining World Heritage Site and a year-long set of events and celebrations, across the ten areas of the site will allow people the opportunity to step into the stories and experiences of the mining years, increasing awareness and appreciation of the distinctiveness of Cornish Mining culture and the cultural inheritance. Two key projects; *The Man Engine* and *Picturing The Mines* will run throughout the year and other Cornish Mining locations and settings will collaborate in an ongoing calendar of activities, celebrations and experiential opportunities for locals and visitors alike.

### ***The Man Engine***

A colossal steam-powered giant will stride the length of the West Devon and Cornish Mining World Heritage Site Landscape to celebrate Tinth, the 10th anniversary of the UNESCO inscription. Part man, part machine, this towering metal miner has real fire in his belly, a beating beam-engine in his heart and the entire industrial revolution in his head. Thousands will crowd to see the largest puppet ever made in Britain: a twelve-metre tall, cast-iron Cornish Miner. Over a dozen miners and bal-maidens will attend and animate the steam-powered giant as he takes his first titanic step from Tavistock towards Lands End. At each key Cornish Mining World Heritage Site location,

over the course of two weeks, the cavalcade will be greeted by ancient chimneystacks smoking once again, traction engines in full steam, choirs in full voice, brass bands, schoolchildren, bal maidens and miners in authentic rig-out.

### ***Wild Spring Hare***

***Rogue Theatre, Tehidy Woods***

***April dates TBC***

An adventure for spring, an eruption of imagination and possibility, a twisting of paths, a collection of tales and a quest for life's hidden treasures.

Come join Rogue Theatre deep in the woods of Tehidy North Cliffs for an Easter trail like no other. Tangle with roots, find your own path and discover the new world of spring.

### ***Michael Rosen's "We're going on a Bear Hunt, Chocolate Cake and Bad Things"***

***The Story Republic, Cornwall College Camborne***  
***May-July dates, prices TBC***

Step inside a humongous chocolate cake and explore a secret larder, swishy swashy and splash splosh your way through a Bear Hunt. And dare you explore the Bad Things in the Dread Shed? Discover hidden rooms and brilliant clues that show what inspired Michael Rosen's writing including his Grandparents' sitting room and his classroom. Younger children can enjoy a Bear Hunt trail, whilst older children can go on a, fun fact finding mission about Michael Rosen and create poems of their own to take away.

### ***The Trench***

***Levant Mine***

***1st July 2016***

The 1<sup>st</sup> July 2016 marks the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first day of the Battle of the Somme. On this one day in 1916 the British lost 58,000 troops (one third of them killed). As part of the First World War Centenary commemoration, and the Tinth anniversary of the Cornish Mining World Heritage Site, a remarkable event will take place near the cliff tops at Levant Mine in Cornwall. Organised by Collective Arts Ltd, a theatre company that specialises in large scale community productions, The Trench is a cultural event that explores and celebrates the lives of Cornish miners serving on the Front Line during the First World War. This is an immersive theatrical experience that simulates life in the trenches using an area of 'No Man's Land' landscape at Levant Mine. Audience members will become participants who 'enlist' and are given a real identity, taken to the trenches and discover for themselves the realities of life on the Western Front and the build up to going over the top.



## WHO'D WANT TO BE AN 18<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY LIGHTHOUSE KEEPER?

While browsing through the 1883 edition of Bradshaw's Descriptive Railway Hand-book of Great Britain and Ireland recently, I came across the following article on the Eddystone Lighthouse. People who watched Michael Portillo's programmes on Great British Train Journeys on the BBC several years ago will know about Bradshaw and, although he had some very unflattering things to say about Cornwall (Cornwall, from its soil, appearance and climate is one of the least inviting of the English Counties), this article is worth reading as it describes the history of the lighthouse and provides an insight into what it was like to be a lighthouse keeper in the 18th century.

The Eddystone Lighthouse is ten miles from [Devonport], on a granite rock in the open channel. It was erected by Mr Smeaton, and is a striking instance of human ingenuity, which has hitherto baffled all the fury of the elements. The first stone was laid on the 1st of June, 1757.

Mr Smeaton conceived the idea of his edifice from the waist or bole of a large spreading oak. Considering the figure of the tree as connected with its roots, which lie hid below ground, Mr S observed that it rose from the surface with a large swelling base, which at the height of one diameter, is generally reduced by an elegant concave curve to a diameter less by at least one third, and sometimes to half its original base. Hence he deducted what the shape of a column of external violence, when the quantity of matter of which it is to be composed is give.

To expedite the erection of the building, the stones were hewn and fitted to each other on shore, and after every precaution to ensure security had been taken, the work

was completed in October, 1759. It has proved highly beneficial to all nations, which fact was strikingly exemplified by Louis XIV.

France being at war with England while the lighthouse was being proceeded with, a French privateer took the men at work on the Eddystone rocks, together with their tools, and carried them to France, the captain expecting a reward for the achievement. While the captives lay in prison the transaction came to the knowledge of the French monarch, who immediately ordered the prisoners to be released and the captors to be confined in their stead, declaring that though he was at war with England, he was not so with mankind. He therefore directed the men to be sent back to their work with presents.

The form of the present lighthouse is octagonal and the framework is composed of cast iron and copper. The outside and basement of the edifice are formed of granite, that kind of stone being more competent than any other to resist the action of the sea. Round the upper store-room, upon the course of granite under the ceiling, is the following inscription:

*"Except the Lord build the house,  
They labour in vain that build it."*

Over the east side of the lantern are the words:

*"24<sup>th</sup> August, 1759.  
Laus Deo."*

The number of keepers resident at the lighthouse was at first only two, but an incident of a very extraordinary and distressing nature which occurred showed the necessity of an additional hand. One of the two keepers took ill and died. The dilemma in which this occurrence left the survivor was singularly painful: apprehensive that if he tumbled the dead body into the sea, which was the only way in his power to dispose of it, he might be charged with murder,



THE EDDYSTONE LIGHT HOUSE.

*"The Eddystone Light House, Devon" engraved after a picture by W.H. Bartlett, published in History of Devonshire ..., 1830. <http://www.ancestryimages.com/proddetail.php?prod=f9630>*

he was induced for some time to let the copse lie, in hopes that the attending-boat might be able to land, and relieve him from the distress he was in. By degrees the body became so putrid that it was not in his power to quit of it without help, for it was near a month before the boat could effect a landing.

Since the above occurrence three men have been stationed at Eddystone, each of whom has, in the summer, a month's leave to visit his friends, and are provided with food and all the other necessaries by a boat appointed for that purpose; but they are always stocked with salt provisions, to guard the possibility of want, as in winter it sometimes happens that the boat cannot approach the rock for many weeks together.

The range of the enjoyments of the keepers is confined within very narrow limits. In high winds so briny an atmosphere surrounds this gloomy solitude, from the dashing of the wave, that a person exposed to it could hardly draw his breath. At these dreadful intervals the forlorn inhabitants keep close quarters, and are obliged to live in darkness, listening to the howling storm, excluded in every emergency from the hope of human assistance, and without any earthly comfort but that which results from their confidence in the strength of the building in which they are immured. In fine weather they just scramble about the edge of the rock when the tide ebbs, and amuse themselves with fishing; and this is the only employment they have, except that of trimming their nightly fires. Singular as it may appear, there are yet facts which lead us to believe it possible for these men to become so weaned from society as to become enamoured of their situation. Smeaton, in speaking of one of these light-keepers, says, "In the fourteen years that he had been here he was grown so attached to the place, that for the two summers preceding, he had given up his turn on shore to his companions, and declared his intention of doing the same the third, but was over-persuaded to go on shore and take his month's turn. He had always in this service proved himself a decent, sober, well-behaved man; but he had no sooner got on shore than he went to an alehouse and got intoxicated. This he continued the whole of his stay, which being noticed, he was carried in this intoxicated state, on board the Eddystone boat, and delivered in the lighthouse, where he was expected to grow sober; but after lingering two or three days, he could by no means be recovered."

In another place he says, "I was applied to by a philosopher kind of a man to be one of the light-keepers, observing, that being a man of study and retirement, he could very well bear the confinement that must attend it. I asked him if he knew the salary? He replied no; but doubted not it must be something very handsome. When I told him it was £25 a-year, he replied he had quite mistaken the business; he did not mean to sell his liberty for so low a price; he could not have supposed it less than three times as much."

Another man, a shoemaker, who was engaged to be the light-keeper, when the boat which conveyed him thither, the skipper addressing him, said "How happens it, friend Jacob, that you should choose go and be cooped up here as a light-keeper, when you can on shore as I am told, earn half a crown and three shillings a-day in making leathern hose (leathern pipes so called), whereas the light-keepers salary is but £25 a-year, which is scarce ten shillings a week?" "Every one to his taste" replied Jacob promptly; "I go to be a light-keeper because I don't like

*confinement.*" After this answer had produced its share of merriment, Jacob explained himself by saying that he did not like to be *confined to work.*

*(Smeaton's lighthouse was the third of the Eddystone lighthouses to be built on the rock. It continued to operate until 1877 when erosion to the rocks meant that it became unstable. The tower was pulled down and was re-erected on the Plymouth Hoe. The foundations, however, could not be removed as they proved to be too strong so they were left on the rocks, close to the current lighthouse. The 'new' lighthouse, which is overseen by Trinity House, became operational in 1882 and, a century later in 1982 became automatic)*

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## Its official... Spring arrived on February 10<sup>th</sup>

How do you know when spring has arrived in Cornwall? Well, according to *The Great Gardens of Cornwall*, that is when six monitored champion *Magnolia campbellii* trees in the designated *Great Gardens* - Caerhays Castle Gardens, Trebah Garden, Tregothnan, Trewidden, Trewithen, and The Lost Gardens of Heligan – each bear over 50 blooms!

In 2015, the first flowering *Magnolia campbellii* was recorded on 21st January, more than a full month before the official start of spring in England (3rd March 2015) so this year the champion *Magnolia campbellii* trees were all eagerly monitored using bloomometers to see when they would be in full flower.

The family of Charles Williams, Chairman of the Great Gardens of Cornwall and owner of Caerhays has been keeping a diary of daily happenings in the Caerhays gardens since 1897. Speaking of this year's season, he commented '*I can say with great certainty that this is a uniquely early magnolia season. We saw our first flowering magnolia, (a hybrid of M. mollicomata and M. Campbellii) on January 3. In 2010 or 2011 we had a magnolia flower on the table in very late January but this beats all known or conceivable records by about a month. Quite staggering.*'

Commenting on the blooms themselves, he said '*Cornwall's magnolias are multi-prize winning and truly stunning. This year the magnolias are particularly early and they are a sight not to be missed. We encourage all those interested in seeing gardens in full bloom to come down and see The Great Gardens of Cornwall!*'

To celebrate spring this year, representatives from The Great Gardens were invited to Downing Street, along with Cornish MPs, to present a bouquet of magnolias.



<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/b03ffng98vqsvr/AAABUaNQUW0cAqYsL7vYLwSca?dl=0>

## ON A LITERARY NOTE...

### St Piran's Day Launch of a new book on the Cornish language

A ground-breaking new book about bard of Gorsedh Kernow, Robert Victor Walling (1895-1976), soldier, poet, journalist and writer with a special interest in the Cornish language, is being published on St Piran's Day, Saturday 5th March, 100 years after its original publication and exactly 121 years after the birth of the author.

"*Scryfer – R.V.Walling*", has been researched and compiled by former Grand Bard Ann Trevenen Jenkin, *Bryallen*, the result of months of painstaking work by several bards of Gorsedh Kernow, including Stephen Gadd, *Reskadinnick*, who has translated Walling's original words and designed and produced the layout.

Encouraged by his father Robert Alfred Walling, who was also a bard, the young R V Walling had been inspired by Henry Jenner's *Handbook of the Cornish Language*, first published in 1904. As he lay injured in a French military hospital during the First World War, R V Walling drew on this inspiration and turned his attention to a deeper study of Cornish and while recuperating from his injuries, he produced a magazine called '*An Houlsedhas*' ('The West'), an illustrated manuscript in his own handwriting.

"This important book is being published as a facsimile of '*An Houlsedhas*' for the very first time," said Mrs Jenkin, "and will add considerably to our broad study of the Cornish language written during the First World War."

R V Walling was made a bard of Gorsedh Kernow in 1934 taking the bardic name *Scryfer an Mor*, Sea Writer. The long awaited publication of his illustrated magazine, translated into English, has never been seen before by the general public.

"The original text has been translated by Stephen Gadd, from Camborne, a new bard living and working in London," said Mrs Jenkin, "and he has worked extremely diligently on what has been a fascinating but sometimes difficult project."

"This ground-breaking book is a valuable addition to other documents in the Cornish language," said Grand Bard Merv Davey, "and Gorsedh Kernow, along with the Cornish Language Board, is very proud to support its publication."

"*Skryfer – R V Walling*" will be launched by Jori Ansell, *Caradok*, past Grand Bard of Gorsedh Kernow and current Chairman of the recently launched Cornish Language Academy, at 6pm at Camborne Rugby Club, on St Piran's Day, Saturday 5th March 2016.

The book costs £9.99 + postage. For information on purchasing copies, please contact Ann Trevenen Jenkin, 'An Gernyk', Leedstown, Hayle, Cornwall, TR27 6BA, UK Tel: 01736 850332, or email: [pellgowser@btinternet.com](mailto:pellgowser@btinternet.com)

### And, a new Cornish publication...

#### Lamorna

By Susanna Lambert

This is a story of love and loss, set in West Penwith in 1968.

The book is available as an e-book on Amazon and is priced £2.01, including VAT. *All royalties from the sale of the book will be given to the Penlee Lifeboat appeal to be used for a new lifeboat house in Newlyn.*

### Winston Graham Historical Prize 2015

Cornwall has a very strong literary heritage, being home to authors such as Daphne Du Maurier, Rosamunde Pilcher and Winston Graham - who was the author of the Poldark series. And then, there are authors such as E V Thompson who adopted Cornwall as their home and whose novels are set in Cornwall.

The Winston Graham Historical Prize was launched in 2008 and is supported by the Royal Cornwall Museum and a generous legacy from Winston Graham. It is awarded to a published work of historical fiction which is set in the South West of Britain

The shortlist for the 2015 prize was announced recently. The three books on the list are:  
(*Summaries from Amazon*)

#### Jane Jackson – Crosscurrents

Santo Innis is developing a revolutionary new engine to counter the lethal effects of high-pressure steam. His backer is Richard Vaughan, heir to Frederick Tregarron, owner of Gillyvean estate. Following the tragic deaths of his wife and baby son, Richard immersed himself in work. But his world is turned upside down by the unexpected arrival at Gillyvean of Melanie Tregarron, a talented artist and Frederick's illegitimate youngest daughter. Desperate to prove the viability of his invention, Santo persuades Richard to let him fit one at Gillyvean's brewhouse. But when Bronnen Jewell - worried about her mother's suffering at her father's hands - arrives to brew the harvest beer she's horrified, fearing loss of the income on which she depends. As the lives of these four become entwined, a shocking revelation shatters Bronnen's world; desperate for money Santo makes a choice that costs him everything; Melanie fears she will never be free of her past; and Richard has to face his deepest fear.

#### Sarah Moss- Signs for Lost Children

Only weeks into their marriage a young couple embark on a six-month period of separation. Tom Cavendish goes to Japan to build lighthouses and his wife Ally, Doctor Moberley-Cavendish, stays and works at the Truro asylum. As Ally plunges into the institutional politics of mental health, Tom navigates the social and professional nuances of late 19th century Japan.

#### Martin Sutton – Lost Paradise

In late 1914, the gardeners of Heligan estate in Cornwall wrote their names in pencil on the walls of their privy, before enlisting for service in the war. Most did not return.

When eighteen-year-old William Pascoe writes his name, the Head Gardener is only too pleased to be rid of the rebel in their midst. Infamous for his innovative botanical ideas, and distinguished by his commanding height and tangle of fair hair, he has drawn the eye of Diane Luxton, niece to the owner of the estate.

When William is sent to the front, Diane follows him, working as a nurse for the Red Cross. Their lives, and the lives of friends and family around them, are soon changed beyond all recognition. Losing many of the fixed certainties he has lived by, William no longer knows who he is.

As the war rages on, Diane searches for him, and his family await word, but William is amongst those who have gone missing.

*This book was the winner of the 2013 Historical Novel Society International Award.*



## Caerhays Estate wins the 2016 Garden of the Year Award

The following press release breaks the exciting news that Caerhays Estate has won the 2016 *Garden of the Year Award* which is awarded by the Historic Houses Association and sponsored by Christie's. Members of the London Cornish Association will be particularly pleased to hear this news as the Association has had a long relationship with the Estate. For many years, Caerhays has generously provided daffodils for our annual dinners, making the room look so attractive and giving so much pleasure to our members and guests.

As the press release provides very interesting information on the Estate and the reasons it was chosen, it is being included in full.

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**London** – In the striking Cornish countryside, with picturesque views across the English Channel, sits Caerhays Castle and Gardens, winner of the 2016 Garden of the Year Award, awarded by the Historic Houses Association and sponsored by Christie's. Now in its 32nd year, this prestigious national award is designed to recognise the importance of some of the country's most spectacular gardens with outstanding horticultural and public appeal, either in their own right or as the setting for a historic house.

**Orlando Rock, Christie's UK Chairman**, commented: "It is with great pleasure that we congratulate Caerhays Castle Gardens on winning the respected Garden of the Year Award, awarded by the HHA and sponsored by Christie's. Presenting a unique opportunity to recognise some of the country's most outstanding gardens, the award is a testament to the passion and care of the Williams family and their team in their efforts to nurture these historically and botanically significant gardens."

**Richard Compton, President of the Historic Houses Association**, commented: "I am delighted that Caerhays Castle has won the prestigious Garden of the Year Award for 2016. The Castle has been owned and lived in by the Williams family for many generations and there has always been a strong tradition of collecting rare species of plants. The beautiful gardens and their striking views are enjoyed by thousands of visitors each year and continue to thrive under the direction of the current owners and their team. I hope this national recognition means many more people will visit this special place."



[https://www.dropbox.com/sh/foyk9dq8089rbgm/AABON6KOSUIBBmbD5JtaHIE5a?dl=0&preview=Caerhays+in+March+\(c.Caerhays\).jpg](https://www.dropbox.com/sh/foyk9dq8089rbgm/AABON6KOSUIBBmbD5JtaHIE5a?dl=0&preview=Caerhays+in+March+(c.Caerhays).jpg)

## History

Nestled above Porthluney Cove, framing the castle designed by John Nash, the 120-acre historic gardens of Caerhays Castle are designated a Grade II\* Listed Park and Garden and considered of outstanding importance by The Royal Botanic Garden at Kew. The woodland oasis, which is enjoyed by so many visitors today, flourishes under the care and supervision of Charles Williams, whose great-grandfather J.C Williams (1862 - 1939), along with the support of the great plant hunters Ernest Wilson (1876-1930) and George Forrest (1873–1932), laid the foundations of this much-loved Cornish garden. Throughout their travels across China, Wilson and Forrest sent back a wealth of exotic and exciting plant species such as Chinese rhododendrons, magnolias, camellias, azaleas and acers facilitating the extensive hybridisation efforts for which the garden is celebrated. Many of these plants were previously unknown in Western Europe and a large number can still be appreciated more than a century later, growing in maturity and basking under the hooded canopies of the Caerhays oaks.

**Charles Williams of Caerhays Castle Gardens** commented: "It is a great honour for the work of four generations of the Williams family and the four talented head gardeners at Caerhays since 1897 to be recognised with such a prestigious award from the HHA and Christie's. A woodland garden like Caerhays never stands still and is never 'complete' but this is certainly a key moment in the history and development of the plant collections here."

## Hybridisation

J.C. Williams bought his first 25 Chinese rhododendrons from the Veitch Nursery in Exeter in 1903. The 1905 Garden Book at Caerhays records the first of these new Chinese specimens, which had been collected by Wilson, being planted on the hillside above the castle. In 1906 the creation of the garden was well under way with over 50 new species of Rhododendrons planted. By 1911 thousands of packets of seeds were being shipped to Caerhays where Williams's team of over 50 gardeners worked tirelessly to create small sheltered planting coups, nestled together to replicate the native environment of the Szechwan and Yunnan mountains.

The arrival of the seeds provided the opportunity for Williams and his successors, Charles and Julian Williams, to implement an extensive programme of hybridisation which continues to shape the ever expanding landscape of Caerhays.

One of the garden's greatest treasures is the free-flowering and easy to grow x williamsii strain of camellias from 1923. This originates from Williams's cross between the single red *Camellia japonica*, which arrived at Caerhays in 1902, and two pink forms of *Camellia saluenensis* which were discovered by George Forrest in March 1918.

The first hybrids were named after his wife, Mary Christian and himself. The subsequent generations of x Williamsii camellias are now available in thousands of varieties throughout the world, including *Camellia* 'Caerhays' and *Camellia* 'George Blandford'. In 1955 head gardener Philip Tregunna continued the tradition and successfully raised the playfully named M. 'Caerhays Surprise' which produces pink flowers at an incredible 5 years of age, unlike many tree magnolias which can take up to 40 years to flower. The legacy continues to this day, led by Charles Williams, head gardener Jaimie Parsons and their talent-

ed team whose work is exemplified by the most recent addition, a hybrid which flowers in an outstanding rich pink bloom known as M. 'Caerhays Splendour'.



[https://www.dropbox.com/sh/foyk9dq8089rbgm/AABON6KOSUIBBmbD5JtaHIE5a?dl=0&preview=Azalea+%27Amoena%27.+Lake+and+sea+view+\(c.+Caerhays\).jpg](https://www.dropbox.com/sh/foyk9dq8089rbgm/AABON6KOSUIBBmbD5JtaHIE5a?dl=0&preview=Azalea+%27Amoena%27.+Lake+and+sea+view+(c.+Caerhays).jpg)

### **The National Magnolia Collection**

A traditional Cornish flowering garden, Caerhays Castle Gardens is one of only four gardens in Britain to hold the NCCPG National Magnolia Collection boasting an incredible 72 species of magnolia, 222 separately named cultivars and around 205 unnamed seedlings or cultivars. The first of the Chinese magnolias to flower at Caerhays was the M. sprengeri 'Diva' in 1919. This had been collected by E.H. Wilson and bought in 1912. The collection continued to expand over the years but it was not until 1930 the sensational magnolias trees, such as M. x veitchii, M. campbellii and M. sargentiana began to perform. The blooms, which captivate visitors from late spring, have been cultivated by four generations of the Williams family, carefully planted in the sheltered woodlands and benefiting from the fresh sea mists, typical of the humid Chinese mountain habitats where many of the incredible collection of magnolias originate. This unique microclimate and rich acidic soil produces ideal growing for ericaceous plants and allows the radiant magnolias to thrive, perfectly complementing the exquisite blooms of camellias, rhododendrons and Asiatic shrubs which decorate Caerhays.

*Caerhays is open to visitors: 22 February 2016 - 19 June 2016*

### **Cornwall gets seven new marine conservation zones**

In a recent government announcement, seven new Marine Conservation Zones were confirmed in Cornwall. They are Land's End, Mount's Bay, Hartland Point to Tintagel and Newquay and the Gannel.

The importance of this is that in future, activities which could damage the environment will be restricted in those zones. The areas contain important species such as sea-grass, stalked jellyfish, dolphins, porpoises and basking sharks and this status will help to protect the seabeds and the flora and fauna living there. It should also enable endangered species such as the Porbeagle shark to increase in numbers.

Good news indeed for a county with a long and beautiful coastline.

### **Gorsedh Kernow Challenges 'An Gre Maters' - The Status Quo**

Gorsedh Kernow has entered the new year with a renewed sense of confidence and enthusiasm as it looks to challenge 'an gre maters yn Kernow' - the current state of affairs in Cornwall.

'The College of Bards has enjoyed a very fruitful year with our 'Do Something for Cornwall' challenge, launched last year on St Piran's Day to complement our long established ceremonial events for which we are best known and loved,' said Grand Bard of Cornwall Merv Davey.

Bards and supporters of Gorsedh Kernow were involved in all sorts of events, some of which grabbed the headlines alongside more modest endeavours, with music, song, dance, art and theatre as a constant cultural presence. Increasingly however, individuals and organisations are looking to Gorsedh Kernow for support and are responding to positive action by bards to help maintain and grow all aspects of precious Cornish culture.

'Stability is a very desirable thing' said Grand Bard Merv Davey, 'but we don't want to be preserved in aspic or closed to new ideas.'

'Since achieving Minority Status there has been a growing sense of urgency to get things going and see tangible results from our efforts, not only among my fellow bards but among friends and supporters of Gorsedh Kernow and all those who love Cornwall.'

Such a result was achieved recently when Bude-based bard Jonathan Ball MBE, co-founder of the Eden Project, architect and now internationally elected Councillor for the Royal Institute of British Architects received confirmation that RIBA had revised its Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Policy to recognise Cornish ethnicity.

'There was no mention of Cornwall on RIBA's equality, ethnicity & diversity form despite there being mention of all the other Celtic nations,' said Jonathan Ball, 'but I am delighted to confirm that the new President and Board of RIBA have reconsidered and agreed to include Cornwall as a Celtic nation in all their policy documents, with immediate effect.'

Frank discussions are being encouraged with cultural organisations such as English Heritage who are seeking to establish better relations with bards and draw on the vast treasure trove of knowledge and expertise for which Gorsedh Kernow is justifiably proud.

There is also a growing awareness of the need to make fuller use of social media and for much more local mainstream media coverage.

'Just recently one of our bards, Denzil Monk, a professional film maker, has launched a campaign to persuade the BBC to add a new channel, BBC Kernow, to their proposed new charter,' said the Grand Bard, 'and the Council and membership of Gorsedh Kernow is delighted to lend support to this exciting proposal and urges others to do so. We think it would sit very well alongside our friends at BBC Radio Cornwall and the excellent Radyo an Gernewegva online Cornish language radio programme.'

# News from other Cornish Associations

## USA

Members of the **Cornish Society of Greater Milwaukee** held a picnic at Homestead Hollow in Germantown, Washington County in September. It was well equipped with outdoor picnic tables and a shelter and the nearby hiking trails were ablaze with asters, goldenrod and native grasses. Unfortunately, the planned guest speaker who, it was hoped would speak about hiking trails in Cornwall was unable to attend. This did not spoil the event as members were able to use the extra time for chatting together. A business meeting followed the meal.

The Society participated, once again, in *The Scottish Games* during the Labor Day weekend. The theme they adopted on this occasion was *The Cornish Classroom*. In their newsletter, they report that:

*So many people don't know about the Cornish so we set up our tables to teach Cornwall and the Cornish. Using maps and artefacts, we aimed for the simplest and briefest lesson.*

*For most people passing by, identifying ourselves was sufficient. But for anyone who lingered, we were able to discuss who, where and what about Cornwall. There were activities for children, including a puzzle of Cornwall to put together, a world map on which they had to find Cornwall, an opportunity to draw the Cornish flag, and...perhaps the most challenging...say three words in Cornish.*

*People liked it; it was fun not only for visitors but for the 'teachers' as well.*

In October, the **Southwest Wisconsin Cornish Society** hosted a group of seven students from Redruth as part of the Redruth/Mineral Point Student Exchange which started 16 years ago. The original idea of the exchange was the brain child of Jim Jewell. At a welcome meal shortly after they arrived, the Cornish students spoke of their impressions, commenting on how much bigger cars, houses and streets were compared with Cornwall.

The exchange has led to the formation of some long-standing friendships. Just recently, a young woman who had previously been part of the exchange, returned to Mineral Point to be a bridesmaid to a friend she made while she was there.

The Society is congratulated on the effort it has put into getting a park in Mineral Point renamed *Cornish Heritage Park*. The following article by Glen Ridnour describes this accomplishment:

### IF YOU DIDN'T KNOW – YOU WOULDN'T KNOW

On the face of it, that sounds like a silly statement, but it also may be true.

If you didn't know that Mineral point has been named '*The most Cornish town in the USA*', how would you know?

- Or that Mineral Point and the surrounding area boasts 40% of the population being of Cornish heritage?
- Or that a miner from Mineral Point is featured on the Great Seal and Official Flag of the State of Wisconsin?
- Or that the grand collection of limestone cottages and commercial buildings in Mineral Point were built by Cornishmen?

- Or that if you looked in the bottom of the lead and zinc mines in operation in the area in the 1830s and 1840s you would likely find a Cornishman?

This would certainly be true of most people turning off the highway and driving into Mineral Point but also true of many residents as well!

As a remedy for that situation, the *Southwest Wisconsin Cornish Society* and the Mineral Point-Redruth Cornwall Twinning Committee recently asked the City of Mineral Point to name the small park located on High Street, just next to the Opera House, '**CORNISH HERITAGE PARK**'. Following enthusiastic discussion, the city Council unanimously agreed, and the park has now become officially, '**CORNISH HERITAGE PARK**'!

The primary purpose of the new park is to create a place where anyone passing by can find information on the Cornish Heritage of Mineral Point. Over time, it is hoped, that the park will provide historical information on a variety of subjects.

The Society will celebrate St Piran's Day with a pasty lunch during which Glen Ridnour will give an update on the Cornish Heritage Park and Jim Jewell will explain how the large influx of Cornish people to the Old Lead region shaped the State of Wisconsin and why it is important to celebrate this Cornish heritage.

## CANADA

Members of the Toronto Cornish Association gathered at the home of Ann Crichton-Harris & John Senders, on 12th December for their Christmas meeting. President John White welcomed everyone. After the business part of the day was over, they all '*then tucked into a delicious array of food and drink accompanied by lots of chat and merriment. After the nosh, Jim Dagg presented a Cornish Quiz that included 20 puzzling questions about Cornwall*' while '*Ann Burke, story teller supreme, told us the humorous account about 'Buying a house in Cornwall in 4 Days.'* A true story as she recently purchased a house with her brother.' The day ended with One and All singing Trelawny, accompanied by a CD recording.

The Association's next meeting, in February, will look at Family History in a novel way. The title of the presentation by genealogists Louise Todd and Debbie Marks of Marks in Time will be '*How do you want to be remembered? What is your legacy?*' which will provide tips on researching your ancestors and preserving their stories.

Following the suggestion by Ann Crichton-Harris that members research street names in Toronto which have Cornish connections, Ann has provided a map on which she has marked a number of streets which appear to be Cornish. Members are encouraged to mark their own discoveries on the map.

TCA member, Heather Dale who is a well known Celtic music recording artist, recently recorded her 17<sup>th</sup> CD. This time, it is a CD for children. Well done Heather!

St Piran's Day is getting closer and plans are in place for the TCA's annual flag-raising ceremony during which they raise a Cornish flag at the Toronto City Hall.

## AUSTRALIA

In November, 24 members of the **Cornish Association of New South Wales** braved the heat to attend the Association's end-of-year-lunch at the Searock Grill. On Australia Day at the end of January, some of them attended the Celtic Australia Day event in North Sydney.

The 5th March will be a busy day for the Association. Members will gather for a buffet lunch to mark St Piran's Day and to celebrate the Association's 41st anniversary. Their AGM will be held just before the lunch. As with so many other Associations, they are pleading for members to join the Committee where they can play a supportive role.

Their outing in May will be a very Cornish one, with members visiting the *Cousin Jack's Pasty Company*.

The Association has a novel way of advertising itself – members have been given CANSW contact cards and leaflets to put on notice boards or hand to people. The leaflets have themes such as *'What Do These Names Have In Common'*, and *'Cornish Recipes'*.

The **Southern Sons of Cornwall** is very busy planning the Shoalhaven Cornish Gathering which will take place at the end of May. The programme for the three days is varied and will keep delegates very busy. Events will include a bus tour to places of Cornish interest in the area, a dinner at which the Past Grand Bard, Maureen Fuller, will be guest speaker, a visit to the Berry Celtic Festival, a church service and a river cruise.

In early December they held their Christmas get together. A clash of dates meant several apologies were received but they still had an impressive 18 attending. The day will be remembered for its good food and enjoyable company. They will celebrate St Piran's Day with a special lunch.

Each year SSOC holds an art competition. This is usually judged at the AGM in February but this time the judging was conducted at the Christmas gathering as the brief was to design the front cover for the December Newsletter. The winner was Julie Wheeler who produced a delightful cover featuring a Christmas tree with decorations and parcels in Cornish Tartan

The **Cornish Association of Victoria** will celebrate its 30th Anniversary in March with a Cornish weekend in Daylesford, Victoria. The area has strong Cornish links and one of the events which has been organised is the official unveiling of a plaque to commemorate the Cornish miners who worked the mines in this historical area. There will also be a formal dinner and the opportunity to explore some of the Cornish sites in the area. This promises to be a really good weekend.

The CAVs Cornish Language Group meets once a month to try their hand at either learning to speak or speaking Cornish. They had great fun rehearsing a play which was performed at their November meeting. At their meeting in February, they will look at the Cornish version of the Bardic Ceremony in preparation for the Badic Ceremonies which will be held at Daylesford and Shoalhaven later in the year.

The **Geelong Branch of the CAV** held its annual dinner in November, with almost 50 guests in attendance. The evening began with the singing of *Trelawny* and the grace was said in Cornish. A toast to the Cornish was proposed by Max Beck who entertained the diners with a talk about modern Cornwall and the curious accents of the inhabitants. The Guest Speaker was Tom Dennis whose ancestors arrive at Port Henry near Geelong in 1840. They then travelled to their land holding near Birregurra where the family still resides.

At their April meeting, the **Ballarat Branch of the CAV** will have Max Beck as their speaker. Max is a former magistrate and coroner and comes from Geelong. He has written a novel – *A Different Earth* – which is based on the life of his ancestor Jane Dunstan and tells the story of her travels from Cornwall to Burra and then overland to the goldfields at Castlemaine.

The Branch will hold its AGM in June. The speaker on this occasion will be their President, Beryl Curnow.

The **Cornish Association of South Australia** will celebrate St Piran's Day with a lunch. Several members are expected to join in the CAV anniversary celebrations in Daylesford a couple of weeks later.

The AGM of the **Cornish Association of Queensland** will be held on St Piran's Day and, with that in mind, the President has appealed in her newsletter message for members to join the CAQ Committee. Like so many associations, they are finding it difficult to recruit helpers. As she comes to the end of her time as President, Grace Robert, reflects: *...It has not been an easy job as there have only been four of us on the committee, Miriam holding two positions to help us stay active...To keep going we need more help on the committee as the workload needs to be shared. Please consider coming onto the committee as we can only survive if we get more help.*

On St Piran's Day, the Association will hold its AGM, followed by a lunch and some light entertainment.

In April, they will attend the Celtic Honours Awards Evening, an annual event organised by the Celtic Council of Australia Queensland Inc. They are very proud to know that one of their members, David Rex will be getting an award in recognition of his long years of service to the Cornish Association of Queensland.

## UK

The LCA would like to thank the many UK Cornish Associations who sent Christmas and New Year greetings.

It is with great sadness that we have heard of the demise of another Cornish Association. At the beginning of the year, the West Glamorgan Cornish Association announced its closure. Their Hon Sec writes, *Folk have aged, moved or passed away and there is no longer sufficient support. We have enjoyed the fellowship of exiles since 1976 and those who remain locally will keep in touch with those who have returned to Cornwall or to other parts.*

The pre-Christmas celebration of the **Thames Valley Cornish Association** took the form of a lunch at a favourite watering hole in Maidenhead. About 22 members did justice to the wonderful carvery and enjoyed the camara-

derie of a Cornish gathering. Seventeen of them were back again in January to welcome in the New Year. These lunches have now become a regular part of the TVCA social programme and another gathering has already been planned for March.

The Association will hold its AGM in May.

In early December, close to 60 members and friends gathered in Torquay for the final dinner of the **Torbay Cornish Association**. Despite being tinged with sadness because this was the last dinner, it was nonetheless a very happy time with friends able to share some their memories and enjoy a chat over a delicious meal.

The Torbay dinners have become an institution over the years, with Cornish friends from Kent to Lands End coming together for a relaxing and enjoyable weekend. They will be missed.

The **Bournemouth Cornish Association** has had a busy time in the last couple of months as the following letter from Liz Lane (*Maghteth Bal Du*) shows...

Guilty as charged ( by the editor) and quite rightly, especially as I am always preaching communication!

2015 was not a good year for me personally with the loss of friends and family, one after the other, which resulted travelling to Cornwall seven times in seven months.

We have, however, had a few highlights such as the Gorsedh held in St. Austell where we witnessed Daphne Stone receiving the London Cornish Association Shield in well deserved recognition of her services to **The Midland Cornish Association**. Another honour, the Pewas Map Trevethon ( Paul Smales) Medallion was awarded to Dickon Moon. Both of these people were born in the Redruth area.

Other good news came when we heard that Priscilla Oates, a past chairman of London Cornish Association and still a member, was elected President of the Federation Old Cornwall Societies.

The highlight of the end of the year was seeing and enjoying the company of members representing their As-

sociations at the Bournemouth Annual Dinner in November and the **Torbay Cornish Association** dinner in Torquay in December. This event included Bards up from Cornwall.

Bournemouth remains strong compared with a number of other Associations, both in membership (5 recent new members of Cornish birth or decent) and attendances. Our new members bring a wealth of talent and already participate in the Association by taking part in events.

This year four of us joined the excellent company of the **West Somerset Cornish Association** celebrating a late Christmas Lunch, both venue and menu were pleasing.

February 14th is a recognized date by many, but to BCA members it is a very important date in their diary being the birthday of the Founder of Bournemouth, Capt. Lewis D Tregonwell who also built the first house. This is now the Exeter Hotel. The event is celebrated annually by raising the St. Piran flag at the Bournemouth International Centre which can be seen from the top of the Exeter Hotel and St. Peters Church. Flowers are placed on the tomb in St Peter's Churchyard by the President and the Mayor while the Vicar or a Church dignitary offers up a short prayer. Being a Sunday this year, members will attend the St. Peters Church service, after which they will place the flowers on the tomb and then have lunch at the Mayfair Hotel.

St. Piran celebrations will take us back 'Home' to Cornwall. We look forward to being at The Homecomers Pirantide lunch in Falmouth on Friday 4th March and in Truro ( my home town) on the 5th for the St.Piran's Parade. In the evening we will be at St. Martins Church in Liskeard for a concert and the Trelawny Shout.

Our newly elected President, Bill Sweet (a Newquay Boy) is holding a coffee morning with members of the BCA on the Queens 90th birthday on April 21st.

Anyone visiting the area would receive a warm welcome from our Association, please make contact with Liz on 01202 632297.

## Are you planning to visit London?

Don't forget to contact the London Cornish Association and let us know when you are coming. If possible, we would love to meet you.

Contact us on Email: [lca@londoncornish.co.uk](mailto:lca@londoncornish.co.uk) or  
At the mailing address on the back page of this newsletter.

**A warm welcome awaits you at the London Cornish Association**

## The Bronte sisters

Did you know that the Bronte sisters have a Cornish connection?

At a recent meeting of the Liskeard Old Cornwall Society, members heard a talk on the Bronte sisters by Mrs Yvette Toms of Polperro. The family lived in the parsonage in the village of Haworth in Yorkshire where their father was a Church of England perpetual curate. The Cornish connection comes through their mother who was born in Penzance.

Three of the daughters – Charlotte, Emily and Anne - became famous poets and novelists. As was common practice at the time, they wrote under pseudonyms – Currer, Ellis and Acton Bell.

The talk was most interesting, especially for those who were familiar with the classics such as Jane Eyre, Wuthering Heights and The Tenant of Wildfell Hall.

*Duncan Paul Matthews*

## The Eden Project spreads its message

The Eden Project in Cornwall is one of the UK favourite tourist spot and attracts many visitors from all over the world. But it is not only a very successful tourist attraction; it also plays an key role in education. Now it has announced that it is to set up a similar environmental centre in China – the first Eden to be built overseas.

The Chinese project will be built in Qingdao, a city on the east coast which lies half way between Shanghai and Beijing. It will fit in with Eden's key transformation and regeneration themes as it will be built on a site which has been environmentally damaged after being used for salt production and then prawn breeding. The Cornish Eden Project was built in a former clay pit.

Qingdao, a city of 9 million people lies at the confluence of two rivers and has a mountain backdrop. It was the venue for the sailing races at the 2008 Olympics, has the largest bathing beach in Asia and is the home of Tsingtao Beer. It currently attracts 63 million visitors, many of whom are from Korea and Japan. China Eden will have stunning views of the city

## A mine revitalised after the Poldark TV series is to get a 'facelift'.

Cornwall College engineering students will be involved in a new project to restore machinery that used to be 'the heart' of Poldark Mine at Wendron near Helston. The task is expected to take several years to complete. In addition to being involved in the actual restoration, the students will undertake the research required to find the replacement parts which will be needed for the job.

David Edwards, who bought the mine last year, said the machinery on site had deteriorated because it had received little or no investment for 14 years. However, the recent BBC TV series of Poldark has revived interest in the mine and prompted the need for the work to be done. Restoring the machinery which is on display will make the experience for visitors more interesting.



The site at Wendron has been a place of industry since the 1400s, making it one of the oldest industrial structures in the UK. This makes it an important part of Corn-

wall's heritage and it is therefore vital to preserve and maintain it.

Luke Bazeley, an engineering lecturer at Cornwall College, said: *'We always try to give the students work experience and this is the perfect live project to work on - they've loved visiting the site and finding out more about Cornwall's heritage'*

## And, while on the subject of Poldark...

Winston Graham wrote 12 Poldark novels – and many of the author's original notebooks, showing his novels written in longhand, are held by The Royal Cornwall Museum which also has the typewriter he used to write letters. These items are included in a special display of Poldark related exhibits which will be on view at the museum until 30th September 2016. Also in the display are the original manuscript of Bella Poldark, Winston Graham's first acceptance letter for a piece of published work, and the detailed Poldark family tree, with Graham's handwritten notes.

## Student interest in Wheal Jane continues to grow

Wheal Jane Earth Science Park has become a regular field trip for a number of courses run by our local universities where there is much of interest to degree students in various specialisms, including mining, geology, the environment, forensic science and more. However, 2015 saw interest from further afield with Environmental Geology students from Leicester University and architecture students from Manchester University becoming the latest to add Wheal Jane to their annual itinerary.

A recommendation from Exeter University's Environmental and Sustainability Institute whose renewable energy students visit Wheal Jane every year led to this first visit by students from Manchester, and the first from a group studying architecture. The field trip was looking at the effects of historical mining on the architecture of Cornwall. After a presentation and tour, the students were able to appreciate how the legacy of mining on the Wheal Jane site is being transformed to provide economic benefit and job creation as well as restoration, remediation and a sustainable future for the site.

We were also pleased to play host in April to a group of seventeen tailings dam engineers and operatives from mining companies in Sweden who were encouraged to visit Wheal Jane to experience first-hand the high standards and best practice applied by the Wheal Jane Group to its ongoing management and, ultimately, remediation of the Wheal Jane tailings depository. The group's visit to Cornwall was rounded off with an exhilarating surfing lesson at Perranporth on a thoroughly chilly and wind-swept Cornish Saturday afternoon!

*Wheal Jane Group Newsletter*

## Mem Sec's Meanderings...

Here we are in another year. Please don't forget that subscriptions are due on 1st April. Once again I must thank all of you who pay on time and an extra thank you to those who generously include a donation to the Association.

If you have any questions don't hesitate to contact me, my address and telephone number are at the end of these *Meanderings*. I never like having to write members off for non payment of their subscription, particularly when I do not know of their reason.

Sadly two members have died, Mrs. Barbara Hancock and Mrs. Stella Bailey. Our deepest sympathies go to their families.

Our membership has again decreased and I have to report that, as of February, it stands at 214. As I have previously said there are about 100 of our members living away from the London area with many of them in Cornwall and abroad.

I ask, once again, that if you know anybody who is of Cornish decent or is interested in Cornwall, try to direct them to the London Cornish Association and encourage them to join the LCA. This would be greatly appreciated.

Reflecting back on the history of the London Cornish Association, there was a time when we had a large number of members who were in their teens and twenties. In the late 1950s a club was formed especially for them. It was known as *The Trelawny Club* and it catered for many interests and activities. There was an additional Annual Subscription of Half a Crown (that was 2 shillings and 6 pence or, in today's money, 12½ pence.) Details of this Club were published in The Association's Annual Brochure as follows:

### THE TRELAWNY CLUB

*Membership is open to all members of the Association who are under 30 years of age. The programme includes Theatre Parties Swimming Parties, Informal Socials and Dances, Record Sessions, Rambles, etc.*

It then named the Chairman, Vice-Chairman, the Hon. Secretary and the three Committee members

In the 1970s, the Club closed due to lack of interested members and sadly, today, out of our 214 members there are not enough who would qualify to join the Trelawny Club!

When I reflect back on the 1960s I can remember the many things that we did. At the time we did not even think we would get older and therefore not qualify to be members of the Trelawny Club. As it shows in the above Brochure extract, we had very active and enjoyable activities which were well supported. I remember 'Ice Skating' and 'Dancing' - very enjoyable, but I don't do these activities now as you will no doubt understand as you realise that was over 50 years ago and today I would not qualify for Trelawny Club membership! But we must have members who are both 'younger and active'?

If anybody would like to reform the Trelawny Club, perhaps with an upper age limit please let me or the Secretary know!

Looking through a book entitled '*Geography of Cornwall*' that was published in 1854 I came across a number of interesting items such as:

*The town of Falmouth takes its name from its position at the mouth of the river Fal. When you think of it this is pretty obvious, but how many people really make this connection?*

Further in the same book I read the following:

*Falmouth was founded by the Killigrews, Lords of Arwenack in the reign of James I, that vessels might have a nearer port than Penryn, this was two miles from the mouth of the harbour, Truro, which was seven miles up the river. The building of the new town was opposed and hindered by the men of Truro, Penryn and Helston; but King James, after hearing the arguments for and against the design, directed that the work should proceed. The few houses standing on the spot before the town was built were called 'Smithick' and 'Penny-come-quick'. From its advantageous position Falmouth became the first port in Cornwall. In 1832 Falmouth was united with Penryn to form one borough for purpose of electing two members of Parliament.*

A recent news item reported:

*That a map of Cornwall was originally drawn by map maker George Withiell in 1690 to keep track of the new town of Falmouth that was rapidly expanding. Unfortunately the map was lost for generations of more than 300 years after it was drawn. It was later discovered in the private collection of an historian who died in June 2015.*

*The map was last on display in the 1880s and, hopefully, will now be made available to the public by the Cornwall County's Record Office.*

*Further interesting facts on the river Fal are that it divides the county into almost equal parts. It rises at Fenton-Fal near Hensburrow in the parish of Roche, then gathering up many small streams from the moors, passes by Gram-pound and through the vale of Creed, leaving Tregony on its left bank (town to which it was formerly navigable). Then meeting the tide at Ruan, passes Tregothnan and joins Truro and St. Clements creeks, separating Mylor and St. Just, forming Carrick Road and expanding into Falmouth Harbour. It is nineteen and a half miles long, four of which are tidal.*

Another article referred to St. Ives:

*St. Ives was an ancient market and borough town and the largest port on the north coast, lying on a spacious and beautiful bay, but much exposed and encumbered with sands. It was the chief seat of the herring and pilchard fishery.*

*In the reign of Henry VI four French ships entered the bay and burnt Porthminster, a small village a mile from St. Ives, which has never since been rebuilt.*

So much from this book for these *Meanderings*. Perhaps I'll find something for another time.

That is all for now and once more I hope you have found these *Meanderings* to be of interest and that they have hopefully brought back memories and given further 'food for thought'. Also I hope that the weather this winter has not been too disruptive for you. As I said in my last *Meanderings* be prepared for a late winter, but don't worry as summer is on its way.

I wish you all the best for 2016 and, once again I remind you to see what you can do to support the future of the London Cornish Association. New members are always welcome.

*Kernow bys vyken*

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

## Crowdy Crawn

### **From: West Briton 23 Aug 1859**

ACCIDENT IN A SCHOONER - On Thursday the 11th instant, a lad belonging to the schooner "Plymouth," of Plymouth, lying at Fowey, fell from the mast, upwards of 40 feet, to the deck, by which he sustained severe injuries, his arm was broken, jaw smashed, fore-teeth knocked out, and he was otherwise injured, but is going on favourably.

*Francis Dunstan*

*[They obviously built them tough in those days! Ed.]*

### **Cornish young people achieve well at Cornwall College**

At a graduation ceremony in Truro Cathedral recently, 800 graduates from Cornwall College received their degrees. One of them was the son of two of our members – Christopher and Gillian Woon – who graduated with a BSc Hons degree in Environmental Resource Management. We offer our congratulations to him and to the other Cornish young people who will now go on to make their mark on the world.



### **The Coxless Crew breaks a double record**

In April 2015, Laura Penhaul from Cambrose near Redruth and three other women took on the challenge of rowing a 29ft boat – the Doris - across the Pacific Ocean to raise money for charity. Their incredible 257 days row ended when they pulled into the Marlin Marina in Cairns on 25th January - and entered the record books – twice! These intrepid women became the first all-female team and the first team of four to row across the Pacific

During the nine months it took for them to complete the challenge, the women rowed 8446 miles and had to deal with storms, enormous waves, sea sickness and the odd

attack of flying fish. The whole event has been filmed for a documentary entitled *Losing Sight of Shore* which is expected to be ready later in the year.

The team hope to use their achievement to raise £250 000 which will be split between two charities. On their Virginmoneygiving page, Laura has written:

*We rowed the Pacific to support those women that have had to cross their own Pacifics by facing adversity and overcoming life changing events, which is why we are raising money for the women of Walking With The Wounded and Breast Cancer Care. Thank you so much for your support. Laura, Natalia, Emma, Izzy, Lizanne and Meg x*

They still have quite a way to go to achieve their target. If anyone would like to make a donation they can do so using the following link:

<http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/fundraiser-web/fundraiser/showFundraiserProfilePage.action?userUrl=coxlesscrew&isTeam=true>

When she is not rowing across the ocean, Laura is the lead physiotherapist for the UK Paralympics athletics team – so she has a very busy year ahead of her.

### **Wreckers Wednesday Cornish gatherings continue to flourish in London**

In the newsletter last year, we mentioned the *Wreckers Wednesday* Cornish-themed evenings which are held monthly in The Sun Tavern in Covent Garden. These events include quizzes and music and are still going strong. If you want to know what is happening at their next event, visit their facebook page - <https://www.facebook.com/wreckerswednesday>.

The sessions start at 6.30-ish at The Sun Tavern, 66 Long Acre, London WC2E 9JD

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

***5th May***

*Please send all contributions to:*

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