



Cowethas Kernewek Loundres

London Cornish Association Newsletter



www.londoncornish.co.uk

Spring 2018

It is hard to believe that it is already 3 months since I was putting the last newsletter together. Since then, the snowdrops have come and gone, the daffodils and blossoms are starting to appear and the mornings are getting lighter, all signalling the arrival of spring.

We are expecting a wonderful show of spring at our next major outing; our Annual Dining Event on 17th March. For many, many years, flower growers from Cornwall – Tregothnan, Caerhays and Fentongollan - have generously supplied us with an abundance of daffodils to use on the tables and to decorate the venue where we eat – and always there are enough for our guests to take a bunch home afterwards. The splash of gold and the wonderful smell provide a memorable greeting for our visitors as they enter the room.

This year's Annual Dining Event – now a lunch – will be held at a new venue. We are very excited about this. The venue, *The Imperial Hotel*, is well located for transport and, for those staying over, is in walking distance of tourist attractions such as the British Museum, Trafalgar Square and Covent Garden. Several visits to the hotel by members of the Dinner Committee over the past few months have convinced us that we are in for a very happy (and delicious) occasion. We are greatly encouraged by the number of bookings which have been coming in and hope to welcome a good number of members and friends to share a meal and some Cornish camaraderie on the day.

This will be our first dining event without our past Chairman, Dr Francis Dunstan. It was an event which always had a very special in his heart. He was the perfect host, and his delightful smile and kind words provided a warm welcome for our visitors. Francis will

also be remembered for his entertaining and humorous speeches which always got everyone laughing. What tales he could tell! He will be greatly missed this year, but I am sure he will be with us in spirit. Certainly, we will be thinking of him.

A look at the programme for the Family History Day on 21st April reveals an interesting combination of speakers. Once again, the prestigious Trelawny Lecture will be given at this event. We are privileged to have as our Trelawny Lecturer Mr Eric Bush, the Cayman Islands Representative to the UK and European Union who, when researching the history of the Islands, discovered a Cornish link. We look forward to hearing the story.

As we were about to go to press, the news about Goonhilly Earth Station's exciting future broke. In case you missed it, it has been announced that £8.4m will be invested there to create the world's first commercial deep-space communication station which will be able to track future missions to the Moon and Mars. This is very exciting from a scientific point of view but also because it confirms Cornwall's status as a key player in the future of space exploration - and it will also create new job opportunities.

Coming back down to earth ... it is time to remind all members that subscriptions for 2018-9 fall due on 1st April! For those of you who pay annually, a copy of the renewal form is enclosed with this newsletter.

I would like to end by thanking those people who sent in items or leads for this newsletter. Please continue supporting us in this way. It helps me with my job and provides lots of fascinating snippets, which make for more interesting reading.

Dates for your diary ...

St Piran's Day Celebration
3rd March 2018

132nd Annual Dining Event
17th March 2018

Family History Day (incorporating the AGM and Trelawny Lecture)
21st April 2018

Further details of these events can be found on page 2

Deadline for the next Newsletter is

5 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 any of your contact details change.
Contact the Membership Secretary at lca@londoncornish.co.uk*

Forthcoming events

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

St Piran's Day Celebration - 3rd March 2018 1.30pm onwards

Join us for a celebratory toast to St Piran and share in a taste of Cornwall.

Last March we held our first St Piran's Day Celebration and it was so successful that it was decided to repeat it at the same venue this year.

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

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

Any member or guest is welcome to join us at this event.

For catering purposes, please let us know if you are coming. Contact Carol Goodwin on e-mail chynoweth@hotmail.co.uk or phone 0208 303 9054 to book a place.

132nd Anniversary Dining Event - 17th March 2018 12pm to 4.30pm

In the past two years this luncheon event, which replaces our traditional Annual Dinner has been such a success, we are continuing with it in 2018. This is in response to requests from several members who find it challenging to be out late at night and would prefer a lunchtime gathering.

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

Getting there: *Underground:* Russell Square Station (Piccadilly Line) is a 2-minute walk away.

Train: King's Cross, Euston and St Pancras Stations are a short walk from the hotel.

Cost: £27.50 per person

Contact: Carol Goodwin
Tel: 0208 303 9054

Email: chynoweth@hotmail.co.uk

FAMILY HISTORY DAY Saturday, 21st April 2018

Speakers:

THE TRELAWNY LECTURE:

Mr Eric Bush, JP

Caymans Islands' Representative to the UK and EU.

'The Cayman Islands and its links with Cornish families and culture'

Mr Simon Fowler

Experienced genealogist and lecturer and a long established author and editor in family and social history.

'Researching Brewery and Publican Ancestors'

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 break

Fee: £15 for members (including LCA-affiliated societies and Cornwall Family History Society). £20 for non-members.

This includes coffee, Cornish pasty & saffron cake lunch and cream tea.
Vegetarian pasties can be provided *if ordered in advance*.

Contact:

For booking or further information:
Gill Penny (g.n.penny@btinternet.com; Tel: 01908 316317)
Carol Goodwin (Chynoweth@hotmail.co.uk)



News of Past Events

New Year's Lunch

Twenty-seven members and friends braved the cold January weather to come to the New Year's Lunch at our ever-popular 'watering hole', *Penderel's Oak*. We were particularly pleased to welcome new members Barry and Anne Dell and special guest Robyn Short who had come all the way from Queensland! Despite a bad case of laryngitis, she kept us entertained with stories of her travels, her Cornish interests and her life in Queensland.

As always, this was a chance to 'catch up' with our 'cousins', something which was clearly enjoyed as for some members, the 'lunch' continued until about 5pm!

Although we had a good number in our party, there were some who have attended in the past who could not be there and were missed. One person we particularly missed was Tony Wakeham who, for many years, was the coordinator of the New Year's Lunch.



Enjoying the lunch at *Penderel's Oak*. Robyn Short, our visitor from Queensland is giving the toast!

Researching the Cornish Language in the Late 1700s to Early 1900s

by Ben Gilby*

I am in the very early days of PhD research at the Institute of Cornish Studies, based at the Humanities department of the University of Exeter's campus in Penryn, Cornwall. My research, generously supported by the Cornwall Heritage Trust is on *'The Cornish Language: 18th Century to the Early 20th Century'*. This PhD was the culmination of a MA Cultural Geography Research degree in the Faculty of Geography and Earth Sciences at Royal Holloway, University of London, where my dissertation was entitled *'The Renaissance of Kernewek: The Indigenous Cornish Language: 1900 – 2017'*.

My PhD has three main research questions:

i) What was the reach of *Kernewek* in the 18th, 19th and early 20th centuries?

Within this era in Cornwall, mass emigration was taking place and a vital part of my research attempts to examine the relationships between remaining *Kernewek* speakers and the wider indigenous Cornish groups both within Cornwall and among the diaspora. Discussions that I have had with other Cornish language researchers over the course of my Master's dissertation suggest that there may well have been pockets of *Kernewek* speakers in the area around Summercourt in Mid-Cornwall and Lanherne, near Newquay, as well as some *Kernewek* being spoken and written on the Lizard peninsula much later than previously thought. If research in these particular areas could prove this, then it could, potentially, lead to the east/west model of language retreat being rethought. Lyon (2001) offers potential locations and individuals that would serve as starting points for this particular branch of the research. There are two examples within Lyon's work which I am particularly interested to investigate further. Firstly, the potential identity of the several hundred miners 'using uncouth jargon' (ibid p 11), in 1795 around Flushing, which quite possibly was a form of *Kernewek*. Lyon suggests this group may have come from the St. Day and Carharrack

area. Secondly, the example of John Davey who died in Boswednack in 1891 (ibid p 18-19). Morton Nance expressed doubts about Davey's use of Cornish, suggesting instead that he picked it up from reading Pryce's work *Archaeologia Cornu-Britannica* but Lyon asserts that he 'would have had a good knowledge of Cornish, learned traditionally at home' (ibid p 19). Due to Davey dying in the late nineteenth century, it would be, potentially highly significant to discover whether or not he had learned the language and, perhaps if he was in a position to speak it or teach it to others.

A final aspect of my research within this first framework, would be to consider whether or not *Kernewek* was used as an example of resistance against the earlier imposition of English – a situation which Gramsci (1971) may recognise as Passive Revolution. It would be particularly fruitful to investigate whether or not there were examples of local figures who were actively involved in the use/promotion of *Kernewek* and attempting to discover their motivation.

ii) How was *Kernewek* language use recorded?

Within this section of my research, I wish to examine the locations of language use with an emphasis on the communications between Cornish emigrants and their families and friends who remained in Cornwall. In terms of the Cornish language community within Cornwall in the period, I wish to examine the relationship between *Kernewek* as a day-to-day domestically spoken language and the influence of some of its words on Cornish dialect within the English language to see the extent to which there may have been a cross-over in this era. Using the existing research of Lyon (2001) as a starting point, it would be worth examining records from areas around the Lizard and Zennor – both locations in which he suggests that the Cornish language may have still existed to a degree throughout the nineteenth century.

Creating interest among the young generations will be vital in the progression of my research, and I am very keen

to use my experience as a qualified primary school teacher to develop 'Language Detective' sessions with Cornish primary schools in conjunction with the Institute of Cornish Studies and the Cornwall Heritage Trust, to get as many people on board with finding out what their own families may know or what documents they may have. The next generation of Cornwall needs to have some ownership of this research as they will be the ones who will take it forward in the future.

An additional route that my research would take would be to examine the interconnection between Cornish words in the English dialect and the intersection between them. It is highly likely that much of this cross-over took place in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. Looking closely at early examples of this, and the people who were writing in Cornish dialect may open avenues to explore whether or not these people may have been communicating in Cornish for longer than had previously been thought. A consideration of gender issues could also prove worthwhile – it is possible that the language use of Cornish women, as a socio-economic group has been ignored, with only the men's language choice being recorded. Research in this area, again, potentially in the form of written correspondence, could unearth evidence of women using *Kernewek* into the nineteenth century.

iii) What relationships were developed with other Celtic groups and nations, particularly Brittany?

With reference to the Celtic Revival and separate literature surrounding the establishment of the Breton *Goursez*, I believe it is particularly important to research the connections between the Cornish language communities and their Celtic cousins in Brittany. Stoyle (2002) and Spriggs (2003 and 2005) have noted the emphasis placed by Scawen on the loss of links between Cornwall and Brittany having a negative impact on the use of *Kernewek*. Despite this, I believe it would be important to investigate what links remained linguistically, particularly within the maritime and fishing industries in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. Attempting to discover use of *Kernewek* by Newlyn fishermen and whether or not they may have used aspects of the language when conversing with their Breton counterparts who began fishing around Cornwall from 1902 could offer some important information.

There has been a long history of trade between the regions of Cornwall and Brittany, but more research is needed to discover what written correspondence took place between the two areas in the nineteenth century. Discovering if any letters or written documents remain in *Kernewek* or *Brezhoneg* and if so, finding out about the identity and roles of the people who wrote them could be extremely worthwhile. It is known that in the post reformation period, there was a translation of saints from Cornwall to Brittany, and records in Breton monasteries could be a potential source of information as well as the public records offices and university libraries and archives in the territory. Preliminary links that I have made with Dr Jean-Yves Le Dizez at the Université de Bretagne Occidentale, who co-edited the book *Bretagne/Cornouailles (Britanniques): Quelles Relations?* will prove to be important in this area.

Ben Gilby,

PhD Candidate, Institute of Cornish Studies at University of Exeter, Penryn.
Postgraduate Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society

Communications Manager, Penryn R.F.C.
Vice-President of the Cornwall R.F.U.

"Deun yn-rag an Vurjestra!"

* *Ben Gilby was Secretary of the London Cornish RFU and regularly contributed Rugby reports before returning 'home' to continue his studies.*

Do any of our members have any information which would be of use to Ben? If you do, he can be contacted via the Editor whose details are on the last page of this newsletter.

And to continue on a Cornish language theme...

You can now use predictive text for your Cornish messages!

The language app company *SwiftKey* has now added Cornish to the list of languages for which it can predict text and correct spelling. This will enable anyone, from fluent speakers to those just able to hold basic conversations, to communicate more easily whether they are using text messages or WhatsApp.

The Cornwall Council is committed to encouraging people to use Cornish so that the language survives. One of the ways it is doing this is to get involved in the development of this App. Its role has been to assist with the compilation of a list of words to include in the *SwiftKey* dictionary.

Cornwall Council estimates that there are between 300 and 400 fluent speakers of Cornish and about 5000 people with basic conversation skills, all of whom will benefit from this App - and who knows what effect it will have on the use of Cornish for communication in the future.

Find out more about this app on

<https://swiftkey.com/en/keyboard/android>

New Members

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

Barry and Anne Dell - Richmond
Matthew Trevail - East London
Nicholas and Fiona Orford-Williams - North London

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

The Membership Secretary, 'Chynoweth', 1a Dunwich Rd, BEXLEYHEATH, Kent DA7 5EW

OR

The LCA website - www.londoncornish.co.uk/

We got there! The LCA is now on Social Media



Exciting news! The London Cornish Association is now on Facebook, thanks to some hard work by our newest Council Member, Chris Richards. Please do have a look, and make sure you 'Like' our page at <https://www.facebook.com/LondonCornishAssociation/>

Our Facebook page will be one of the tools we use to publicise and promote the LCA's news and events- so do keep an eye on it .

When I went onto the page, I was intrigued to see a message my son has posted a while ago after he danced the Flora with me!

Condolences

We were very sorry to hear of the recent death of LCA member, **Fred Hancock**. Fred also belonged to the Bournemouth Cornish Association where he served terms as President and Treasurer. He will be remembered by his many Cornish cousins as someone who was very active in the Cornish world. He was a warm host at Bournemouth dinners and was a popular attendee at the dinners of other Association. One of my most treasured memories is of him performing as a Gilbert and Sullivan sailor in an entertainment put on by Bournemouth CA at *Cuntelles Kernewek 2006*. Our thoughts are with Fred's family and friends and the members of the Bournemouth Cornish Association.



Sailor Fred Hancock is on the right of the picture



L to R: Fred Hancock, Alison Spencer, Colin Spencer, Alison Bastard

We have also been saddened to hear of two other Cornish cousins who, while not members of the LCA, had a place in our hearts.

Colin Spencer from Midlands Cornish Association passed away in January. Like Fred, he was a regular visitor to Cornish dinners where his wonderful sense of humour endeared him to all who spent time with him. Our thoughts are with Alison, his family and the Midlands Cornish Association at this time.

Ros Paterson was the longest-serving bard in Australia and will be particularly remembered for her promotion of Cornish heritage in South Australia and beyond. She was on the *Kernewek Lowender* committee right from its inception and was the first person to be made an Honorary Life Member of KL. She was a member of the Cornish Association of South Australia for many years, including 5 as President. As the LCA editor, I get sent the newsletters of the Australian Cornish associations and over the years have enjoyed reading about the amazing things she has done to ensure the Cornish legacy in Australia lives on.

We offer our condolences to her family and friends and to the members of CASA.

Crime and Punishment in Cornwall in From the LCA Archives... Bygone Days

From the Thames Valley Cornish Association newsletter

Sheep theft, forging a £2 bank note and killing a ram are just some of the bizarre crimes for which people have been executed in Cornwall – a detailed database has revealed.

A comprehensive list has been compiled of exactly who was executed in Cornwall, when they were executed and for what crime.

The list throws up some unusual entries and heavy punishments, often involving crimes for which people these days would receive a slap on the wrist.

In England in 1820 there were 220 crimes for which people could be issued the death penalty, today there are none.

In addition to those who were actually executed in Cornwall, many were sent to Australia and the colonies, magistrates believing that if the journey didn't kill them then the diseases and other dangers of the new world definitely would. Some people executed were as follows:

- 1549, Nicholas Bowyer Mayor, his part in the rebellion, publicly hanged at Bodmin Mount Folly.
- 1720, Rosevear, riot and theft of grain at Par, hanged at Launceston.
- August 1735, Henry Fellows, housebreaking, hanged at Bodmin Five Ways.
- May 1760, Francis Lafond, highway robbery, hanged at Bodmin Five Ways.
- October 1767, William Pearse, stole from a wreck, hanged at Launceston.
- September 1798, William Howarth, theft of a purse, hanged at Bodmin.
- April 1812, Pierre Francois La Roche (24), forgery of a £2 bank note, hanged at Bodmin.
- September 1812, Elizabeth Osbourne (20), setting fire to corn stack, hanged at Bodmin.
- August 1828, Thomas Pring Coombe (21), two housebreakings, hanged at Bodmin

A Call for Help...

Researching Cornish Games

Eden Fish, a student at Falmouth University is doing a project on creating a local Olympic games. The plea for help which appears on the *Federation of Old Cornwall* website is as follows:

I'd like to find some interesting, unknown and bizarre sports that have ties to Falmouth or Cornwall, that can be celebrated. I've looked at Cornish wrestling and hurling, and was thinking of including some oyster shucking and pasty eating. I've thought about ones connected to the sea - surfing/sailing/rowing. I was wondering if any of you there knew of any others, or had seen any competitions you thought deserved recognition.

If you have any information which would help with this research, you can contact Eden at eden42@googlemail.com

Back then...A social life for One and All in London

Life for Cornish people in London has changed a lot since 1898 when the LCA was founded. In the early days, 'The City' was a long way off and the Association became a 'home from home' for those coming up to work or to attend medical appointments. With transport being a lot more time-consuming in those early days, members were cut off from their family and friends across the Tamar, often for extended periods and so they became dependent on the Association for friendship and entertainment. The membership was large and there an extensive programme of social events and activities. In fact, the Association was a social club rather than just a place where like-minded Cornish folk could spend time together. The old 'yellow books' which the Association used to publish give us some idea of the social programmes of times past. The following extracts from the yellow books published just before and after the war give us an indication of what life was like for members in those days.

1938/9

Sat Oct 15th – Re-union Social and Dance

Tues Nov 15th - Lantern lecture by Mr C J King. 'Scillonian' the Charming Islands of the West.

Sun Dec 18th – Ramble in Herts

Tues Jan 17th – Literary Evening. Balloon Debate 'Famous Cornish Characters'.

Sat 11 March – Sports Whist Drive

1946/7

A note which appeared at the end of the programme read:

The Council have very reluctantly decided that, in view of the prevailing food situation in Europe, the present rationing restrictions, and the high charges now being made by Hotels for such functions, it would not be in the National Interest, nor in the Interests of the Association to hold such a social function during the current year.

Post-War rationing affected the programme in 1946/7:

Sat Dec 14th – Annual Christmas Party (Subject to derequisitioning.)

Sat Feb 15th – Literary Evening – 'Hawker of Morwenstow'. Speaker: A L Rowse

There was no dinner that year – presumably due to rationing. Dinners were resumed in 1947/8

1947/8

Sat March 20th – Annual Dinner and Dance

Times have changed a lot since those days. Seventy years later, both the methods of publicity and the types of events we organise have transformed to adapt to changing lifestyles and needs. Our events tend to be less formal and whereas we used to use the printed 'yellow book' to publicise those events, we now use technology – website, facebook and email – and, of course, our newsletters. But even though the types of events and the ways we promote them have changed, the social programme continues to reflect the aims of the LCA laid down in the early days – to 'promote and foster fellowship and goodwill among Cornish people in London and elsewhere'.

Caiman Capers At The Blue Reef Aquarium

There is a brand new arrival at the Blue Reef Aquarium in Newquay. A male Cuvier's Dwarf Caiman which has been nicknamed 'The Colonel' by the staff has taken up residency in the aquarium's Amazonian exhibit.

Donated by John Harrison of Lost World Reptiles, the young caiman joins the aquariums existing female Cuvier's Dwarf Caiman, Nibbles, who is 16 years his senior. When carefully introduced under the watchful eyes of Blue Reef's trained aquarists it seemed to be love at first sight for the pair. They are getting on really well and are often spotted snuggling up together by the exhibits waterfall.

'As soon as he got into the water he went straight over to Nibbles who accepted him instantly which was great to see. Often upon introductions there can be territorial arguments between the reptiles, but not with this pair. We are now working on target feeding the caiman so that we can monitor his food intake.' said Jade Hammond aquarist at the Blue Reef Aquarium.

The Cuvier's Dwarf Caiman or *Paleosuchus palpebrosus* are the smallest species of the crocodylian family with a total length averaging 1.4 m for males and up to 1.2 m for females.

Their size makes them desirable within the illegal pet trade where they are smuggled from South America. They are an extremely dangerous animal and owners are required to have a 'Dangerous Wild Animal Licence' and strict conditions to keep them. They are best kept by zoo and aquarium professionals.



'The Colonel' settling in to his new home

An Exciting Addition to the Kresen Kernow Archive

One of the newer acquisitions at Kresen Kernow is the archive of the Garstin family of Penzance. These important papers were acquired with the help of Cornwall Heritage Trust, the Friends of the National Libraries and the V&A.

Denis Garstin found himself in St Petersburg during the Russian Revolution. He had been sent there with the British government's Propaganda Mission. His work brought him into contact with the revolution's leaders, and he wrote vivid descriptions of them: *'Trotters [Trotsky] is a funny old bird – an eagle, to be exact.'* Lenin, on the other hand, *'struck me as the biggest force I've ever felt in my life... If you take the usual picture of Shakespeare and bring it to life by putting a smile of cynicism into it – you have Lenin'.*

In July 1918 Denis was ordered to re-join the British Army and was sent to North Russia. On August 10th 1918, he wrote: *'It seems funny that I should be [fighting] against the Bolsheviks, having been so much in touch with them in Moscow...'* In his final letter, sent the same day, he described a *'really swashbuckling & quite successful'* action with his troops.

Five days later, he was killed in action, *'by a bullet from a machine gun which struck his neck.'* He was buried with military honours in Archangel Cemetery. His untimely death, aged only 28, cut short a promising literary career. However, the survival of this treasure trove of letters ensures his talent lives on, as well as giving us a tantalising glimpse into the events that rocked the world a hundred years ago.



The Morrab Library Celebrates its Bi-centenary

The Morrab Library in Penzance is the only independent library in Cornwall and one of only about 30 independent libraries in the whole UK. This year, it celebrates its bi-centenary, having been established in 1818

The following extract is from the Library's Spring 2018 Newsletter.

Professor Nick Round recently pointed out that bi-centenaries come along roughly every two hundred years; thank goodness for academia! Thus library work over the past months has very much been about 'the future'. Our 200th anniversary is a wonderful achievement and a Cornish one at that. The Committee, a sub-committee and the staff have collaborated to generate a twelve-month-long calendar of events; these events range from lectures, song and dance, book-making to tin-smelting (there's even talk of a Ukulele tutorial day) and are designed both as a celebration and as a showcase; we want everyone to know how wonderful our library is and what we have to offer. A full programme of events will be available in the library and online shortly. In a world where gloom is endemic our library is flourishing, we are better stocked, brighter and wiser than ever.

The foyer has been freshened up and the Theology Room has been decorated; and a dozen new, comfortable, chairs have now been ordered; the Poetry Room..formerly, and unbelievably, the home of the Photo Archive.. has also been decorated and re-shelved. In the coming months the collection of poetry books donated by the Hypatia Trust will grace the shelves. Very soon the Secretary's Room, Annabelle's 'den', will be comprehensively redecorated and readied for the arrival of the Hypatia's 'Elizabeth Treffry' Collection; focusing on 'Women in

Cornwall' this 'new' room will be the first major literary addition to the original part of the building since the 1960's.

New cctv and security measures have been put into place and concern regarding the possibility of flooding in the basement has been addressed.

The Photo Archive continues to flourish; the painstaking process of digitising and preserving the collection is well ahead of expected progress. The online presence of the photo archive is well established and is 'hit' many hundreds of times; at the last count the site has been accessed from 54 countries worldwide. We look forward to the first publication from the archive this coming year.

The move towards digitising the book catalogue is progressing; in the coming years a system will develop where individuals can find, on-line from anywhere in the world, the information that is now only available on our card catalogue.

As ever our thanks go to the Myner Trust for its support and very active interest.

2018 will be a watershed year for our library; working together we can ensure that it continues to flourish, that it reaches out, that it is a force for good in our community and the world. Please be part of our big year; attend, spread the word, contribute and enjoy.

You can find out about the events which they have planned for this year on their website - <http://morrablibrary.org.uk/200-year/morrab-200-celebrations/>

Pick-me-up

by Mabel Pearce

So you baint feelin very well
Quite tired out, you say.
You're always feeling poorly like
Wi' edache every day.

Aw my dear Saul, tez wishy, sure nuff,
To hear you be took slight.
I'd think about-ee all day long
And far into the night

I know what tez like in Lunnon town,
I daunt abide the place,
Folks be always coosin round
Life's nothing but a raace.

Do-ee mind yerself with fitty meals
Away in that there flat?
Or do-ee live pon Fish & Chips
And bits o' trade like that?

Or ave-ee started out to slim
Wi just a nut for dinner?
Or ar-ee workin far too 'ard
An daily getting thinner?

You'd best way take an 'ave a change
Will-ee bide long-we, fer a bit?
A good long stay in Cornish air
Should help to make-ee fit.

You've never smelt the golden Gorse
Across our windswept Moor
Nor gathered purple Lilac blooms
Right 'ere, beside our door.

Our orchard's looking 'ansum now.
A froth o' pink an white
The Laburnum an the Beeches too
They make a heavenly sight.

Mind you tez purty quiet yer,
Just me and sister Nelly.
Them Skiffle bands be miles away
An we baint got a telly.

Our interests lie in homely things
Which don't cost very much
I can't explain - but you may find
That they've a soothin touch.

Now, I must must mind to tell-ee too
Our sister Nelly baakes.
She's famous for 'er Saffron buns
An so for Teddie caakes.

Her Tarts and Pies an all 'er Puddens
They'll give-ee vim and vigour
But when you taste er Pasties - my -
You'll soon forget your figure.

Mind daunt-ee now fer goodness saake
Decide to cast yer clout.
Tez a thing we never do down yer
'Till May be really out.

If you should apt to ketch a cold
We'll give-ee Elder Tay
But just as well taake care a bit
Tez changeable in May.

There's a lot that I could write-ee 'bout
But now tez gettin late
The pigs be scritshin murder too
Tis time they 'ad their mait.

So I must finish up my chores
No need fer me to tell-we
'Ow proud we'd be if you mind to come
To stay wi' me and Nelly.

This poem was sent in by Jenny Bray - Niece of the Author, Mabel Pearce who was a Grand-daughter of James Stevens of Penwith (1847-1918) whose selected writings were published as 'A Cornish Farmer's Diary'. (Read more about this on the next page)

Another of Mabel Pearce's poems 'Our Village' was published in our Autumn 2016 newsletter. Following this, Jenny Bray was contacted by someone who turned out to be a cousin (*my third cousin once removed - or something like that!*) How exciting that the LCA newsletter has managed to link up distant family in this way.

The Diary of James Stevens of Zennor & Sancreed, West Penwith, Cornwall (1877 & 1892-1912)

If you are interested in the history of West Penwith, this transcription of the diaries of a farmer in the area might be of interest. The following item explains more:

James Stevens farmed at Foage, Zennor and Sancreed in the late 19th & early 20th centuries. He kept a Diary in 1877 and from 1892-1912, which was originally transcribed and published in 1977 by the late Peter Pool as *A Cornish Farmer's Diary*.

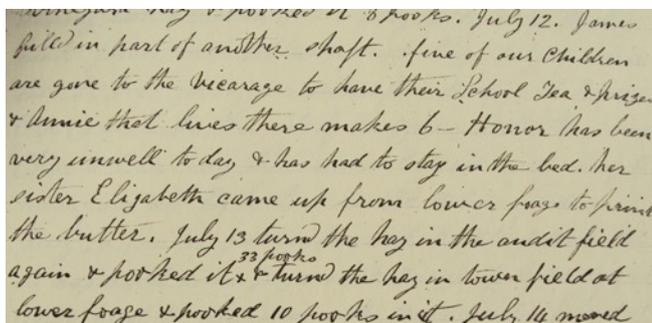
I've now re-transcribed this version, concentrating on entries that could be helpful to people researching individuals and families who lived and worked in West Penwith, Cornwall at this time. I'm also continuing to add background and supplementary information, including family trees.

The Diary could also be useful to anyone with an interest in Cornish local history, national & international events of the time, historical diaries and old farming techniques.

The new version is in PDF format, fully searchable, and contains indexes of over 400 surnames and place names, plus some businesses – these indexes can also be viewed via the menus above.

This is available free of charge, so if you'd like me to email you a copy please [contact me](#). I also have a [JSCD Facebook Group](#) (a closed group) which includes photos of people and places connected with the Diary.

A page from the diary



Suffrage in Cornwall

2018 marks the 100th anniversary of two important events in the emancipation of women: in February, the *Representation of the People Act 1918* was passed, giving some women over the age of 30 the right to vote and in December, they were able to exercise those new rights during the first general election in which women could have their say.

These events have been in the news a great deal recently, but the focus has usually been on the role played by many of the more familiar players such as Emmeline Pankhurst, Emily Davidson and Millicent Fawcett. We hear little of what was happening in Cornwall.

The Hypatia website - <http://hypatia-trust.org.uk/blog/2013/06/20/votes-for-women-in-cornwall> - includes an article on suffrage in Cornwall which is based on reports which appeared in *The Cornishman* newspaper at the time. It reveals that *Cornish activists*

enjoyed widespread support, from the dominant Liberal political class and influential religious groups such as Quakers headed by families such as the Foxes of Falmouth.

The tragedies of Pankhurst's treatment and Davison's death rallied peaceful Suffragists into action and on Thursday 19 June an amazing thing happened. Seven women gathered at Land's End to start the Suffrage Pilgrimage, a gruelling march through Cornwall and up country to London.

Parallels were drawn between the Cornishmen who, in 1497 marched to London to protest against war taxes imposed by Henry VII and this little group of women who were protesting about their rights (or lack of them). Their ultimate destination was Hyde Park where they were to meet up with thousands of other women from across the country for a rally on 26th July 1913. The gruelling walk took them 5 weeks – and as they marched, they carried a banner saying 'Land's End to Hyde Park.'

You can find out more about the Suffrage movement in Cornwall, from a book by Katherine Bradly entitled *Friends and Visitors: a History of the Women's Suffrage Movement in Cornwall 1870-1914* which is published by The Hypatia Trust and available via their website for £5.

The White Slave Trade in Cornwall

For a period of over 300 years, from the early 17th to the 19th centuries, people living along the south-west coast of England were regularly attacked and enslaved by Barbary pirates from North Africa and sent off to the Arab slave markets of North Africa.

The pirates did not restrict their raids to the sea, but also came onto the land. In August 1625 they raided Mount's Bay, capturing 60 men, women and children. St Keverne was raided frequently and boats coming from Looe, Penzance, Mousehole and other coastal towns were captured, and their crews taken. The scale of the pirate attacks was incredible. By 1640 it was estimated that between 3000 and 5000 English people (including some from Cornwall) were in Algiers. They were sent to the slave markets of the Ottoman Empire where they were bought as labourers or concubines. Some were used to row the pirate's galleys.

In a raid on the Cornish coast in 1645, 240 men, women and children were taken. Initially, there was very little response from the English authorities, but later, parliament sent Edmund Cason to Algiers to try and negotiate the release of some of the slaves. He managed to pay enough ransom for the release of 250 people. In subsequent years, he was able to raise enough money to have another 400 freed.

These attacks had serious ramifications for England's fishing industry because fishermen feared going to sea and were concerned about leaving their families unprotected at home. One can only imagine what this must have meant to a place like Cornwall where fishing was such a vital part of the economy.

Oliver Cromwell showed no mercy in dealing with the pirates. He decreed that any who were captured should be taken to Bristol and drowned slowly. Some pirates set up their HQ on Lundy Island in Devon and this was attacked by the English – but still the raids continued in Cornwall, Devon and Dorset.

In desperation, Sir John Narborough, with a Royal Navy squadron went, in 1675 to try and negotiate a peace deal in Tunis and later, Tripoli. Britain, France, Spain, Netherlands and the USA all fought battles with Algiers. Finally, in an attack by forces from Britain and the Netherlands in 1816, more than 4000 Christian slaves were freed. After this, the pirate raids ended.

In a recent episode of the TV documentary *Invasion*, Sam Willis talks about the invasions of the Barbary pirates, and mentions in particular, the attack on Mount's Bay, stating that the people kidnapped there were the entire congregation worshipping in a church.

Giles Milton has written a book on the white slave trade of the 17th and 18th centuries which includes a description of an attack on Looe. The book can be bought on Marketplace via Amazon. Its details are: *White Gold* by Giles Milton (Hodder & Stoughton)

Cornwall Takes The Lead In Caring For The Environment

A new project aimed at dealing with the environmental challenges caused by plastic has led to Penzance becoming the first UK town to gain *Surfers Against Sewage Plastic Free Coastline* status. The 'Plastic Free' campaign combines community action, education and political lobbying to tackle single-use plastics in our environment.

To earn its 'plastic free' status, Penzance had to meet five targets, demonstrating its commitment to reducing the use of plastics. These are:

Strategic. The Town Council committing to tackling single use plastics at a strategic level

Business. Lobbying and encouraging local businesses to ban single use plastics or switch to sustainable alternatives

Communities. Engaging with and encouraging other communities, groups and organisations to take action on single use plastics.

Education. Rolling out 'Plastic Free Schools' across our town

Positive action. Holding beach cleans, fundraisers and other awareness raising events.



News from other Cornish Associations

Lack of space in this newsletter prevents us including much news from other associations. The following is a brief summary of some of the highlights from around the diaspora.

USA

Pleasing news from the USA is that the *18th Gathering of the Cornish Cousins*, which took place in November, was a great success. Fifty people with Cornish links, gathered for an exciting programme of talks and outings. With its theme, *'If Picks and Shovels Could Talk'* the emphasis was on the history of the area and the impact of the Cornish settlers who came to Gold Hill when gold was discovered in the early 1800s.

Members of the **Cornish Society of Greater Milwaukee** were saddened to hear of the death of Jean Jolliffe who was a co-founder of the Society and who once served as President of the Cornish American Heritage Society. She was also a Bard of the Cornish Gorsedd.

The **Southwest Wisconsin Cornish Society** will celebrate St Piran's Day with a pasty lunch. At this event, they will hear about the programme for the 2018 Cornish Fest, more about the Cornish Gathering in 2019 and *'the truth about the Mousehole Cat'*.

Canada

At their Christmas party in December, members of the **Toronto Cornish Association** enjoyed *'sumptuous food'*. This was followed by a Cornish quiz, and then *Barbara* read *'a tale her Cornish Grandfather read to the family every Christmas and was never able to complete without breaking down into fits of laughter.'*

In February, members will hear a talk on the Fox Family of Falmouth. This is presumably the same family that supported the suffrage movement (see page 9). Members will celebrate St Piran's Day, as usual, with a flag-raising ceremony at the City Hall in Toronto.

Australia

In December, Cornish folk from Bendigo, Geelong and Melbourne joined members of the **Ballarat Cornish Association** for their annual Christmas lunch. This was a happy event and *'was a great opportunity to spend time with 'old' friends as well as making new friends.'*

The Association will mark St Piran's Day with a shared lunch. This will be followed by a talk by Neil Thomas from Geelong.

The choir of the **Cornish Association of South Australia** put on their Christmas concert in December, followed by an afternoon tea. They will celebrate St Piran's Day with a picnic at the War Veteran's Home, where they will be able to check on how their Gallipoli pine is doing.

The **Queensland Friends of Cornwall** has been quite active since its change in status. They have enjoyed a couple of meals together and joined their Celtic cousins for a Christmas party in December. They will celebrate St Piran's Day at a beach venue.

The Christmas party of the **Southern Sons of Cornwall** was greatly enjoyed by members. In February, they will hold a lunch and their AGM. Their annual Art Trophy competition will be judged at the same time.

In October, the **Christchurch Branch of the New Zealand Cornish Association** held a meeting in conjunction with the St Albans community choir to celebrate Christchurch Heritage Week. They sang songs from many countries, including Cornwall.

One of the Association's members, Heather was admitted as a Bard in 2017.

UK

At the end of November, members of the **Thames Valley Cornish Association** got together for a Christmas gathering in High Wycombe where they enjoyed a delicious meal and some rousing Christmas carols. In January, sixteen of them met up again at the Stafferton Lodge in Maidenhead for their new year's lunch. It was a good chance to spend time together and catch up on news. Planned forthcoming events include a picnic, theatre outing and lunch.

Mem Sec's Meanderings...

Here we are again into another year and, of course, as usual, I have been meandering back and looking at my books where, this time, I found in the *Kelly's Directory of 1897* the following articles about various Cornish towns. (All the grammar is as in the book!). These in fact are only small parts of the historic information for each of the towns ... some of it goes on and on!

On opening the book I saw the following:

REDRUTH is a market and union town and parish called Dredruith, or Druid's town, with a station on the West Cornwall section of the Great Western railway, 9 miles west-south-west from Truro, 10 miles north-west from Falmouth, 10 miles from Helston, 18 miles north-east from Penzance and 311 miles from London. It is a petty sessional division of Penwith East, rural deanery of Carnarath, archdeaconry of Cornwall and dioceses of Truro.

After seeing Redruth I decided to turn to my home town of Hayle and also to my wife Jenny's home territory of Truro. I found the following which I thought was quite interesting:

HAYLE is a manufacturing town, in the townships and parishes of Phillack, in Redruth union and county court district, and St. Erth in Penzance union and county court district, and is seated by the estuary of the Hayle in St. Ives bay, with a station on the Great Western railway, 5 miles south-east from St. Ives, 7 miles north-east from Penzance and 319 from London, in Western division of the county, hundred of Penwith, petty sessional division of Penwith East. A portion of the parish of Phillack, under the name of St. Elwyn, was constituted a separate ecclesiastical district Feb. 8, 1870, and is in the rural deanery of Penwith, archdeaconry of Cornwall and diocese of Truro.

TRURO (Tr-rhiw, the dwelling on the sloping bank or stream) is a city and a municipal borough, head of a union and county court district and a port, with a station on the Great Western railway, 250 miles from London by road and 300 by rail, 23 south-west from Bodmin, 15 west-by-south from St. Columb, 14 west-south-west from St. Austell, 11 north from Falmouth, 9 east-north-east from Redruth, 27 east-north-east from Penzance, 17 north-east from Helston, 34 south-west from Liskeard, 22 south-west from Lostwithiel, and 42 south-west from Launceston, in the Truro division of the county, western division of the hundred of Powder, petty sessional division of Powder West, in the rural deanery of Powder, archdeaconry of Cornwall and diocese of Truro. The city is situated in a valley and comprises the parish of St Mary with part of the parishes of St Clement and Kenwyn and is washed on each side by the two small rivers Kenwyn and Allen, which, after having taken their separate courses to the east and west of the town, unite with a branch of Falmouth harbour commonly called Truro creek or river. At high water the waters form a fine lake, 2 miles in length, extending from Truro to Malpas, commonly called "Mopus"; the channel is of sufficient depth to be navigable for vessels of upwards of 70 tons burthen to the town quay, in the centre of the borough. The customs port extends from the quay down the river to a line drawn from Messick point (limit of port of Falmouth) to Mylor church. The Cornwall and West Cornwall sections

of the Great Western railway join here, and also the branch from Falmouth.

As I said I found this historic information interesting, but I do not understand it all. Perhaps you do?

Now the following is from the West Briton of October 4th 1867:

THE POST OFFICE - A Parliamentary return shows the following as the number of letters delivered weekly in the Cornish towns:- Bodmin, 3506; Camelford, 149; Falmouth, 10,646; Hayle, 4,074; Launceston, 1,800; Liskeard, 3,933; Lostwithiel, 1,643; Penryn, 2,113; Penzance, 8,974; Redruth, 7,329; St. Austell, 3,330; St. Cleer, 420; Truro, 9,758.

I wonder what it is today? Particularly as so many people now communicate by e-mail and therefore do not use the Post Office's mailing.

Once more I must say, be prepared for the weather. last summer and autumn were different, with many warmer days and then, suddenly, cooler ones. Whatever the weather we will always complain! Just look at this January for instance; one minute it has been warm and dry and then we have heavy rain and in some cases snow. What does it really matter? Although we may try, we cannot control the weather, it has its own cycle of about 13 years some years more severe than others. No matter what we might try to do, it remains cyclic!

Looking at the book *A Geography of Cornwall* which was published in 1854, I found something interesting to read about the weather of Cornwall:

The air of Cornwall is moist, especially on the coast, but mild and extremely genial. Flushing, near Falmouth, and Marazion, near Penzance, have the fame of being the most sheltered and healthy spots in the county. The wet months of Cornwall are October, November, December, January, and rain falls in great abundance. The average number of fine days in the year is 114: of rainy 164: of cloudy and changeable 87. The spring is late: so are the harvests. The winter is mild: there is seldom much ice or snow, and the range of the thermometer in the west, in the three coldest months, in shelter, is from 44 to 50 degrees. The mean annual temperature at Penzance is 54 degrees. Cornwall therefore possesses one of the most equable climates in Europe.

Now those were the thoughts of 1854! Do you think it is still like this, or has it changed in the last 164 years?

Well that again is all for now. I hope you have found these *Meanderings* to be of some interest. I trust 2017 was an enjoyable year for you and I wish you all the best for this year.

As always, I ask for your support for the London Cornish Association - so please remember that new members are always welcome. If you meet someone with a Cornish connection. please do refer them to the Membership Secretary whose contact details are elsewhere in this Newsletter.

I wish you all a very good and happy 2018.

Kernow bys vyken
Graham Pearce,

Crowdy Crawn

Fond memories of pasties from member Tony Wakeham...

Pasties. When we were in our teens and going to the beach, our parents would sometimes give us cold pasties. We had half a one each with HP or ketchup sauce. Very tasty!

Do any of our other members have any special pasty memories from their childhood? Please share them with us.

St Piran's Day is near...A message from the Cornwall Foundation

You Know The Reason Why!

If those five words mean anything to you, then the chances are that March 5th does too. So how will you be marking St Piran's Day this year?

Perhaps by lending your voice to join us and hundreds of others in pubs across Cornwall as we hold the third 'Trelawny Shout' for charity.

A shout is the term used for Cornish pub singing, and there's always plenty of that going on this side of the Tamar.

But the Trelawny Shout is a little different. A hundred pubs, a thousand voices, one song, one magical hour.

What better way to celebrate the strength of our amazing communities (not to mention tipping our hats to Cornwall's patron saint) than to take part in a mass singing of the Cornish anthem, or The Song of the Western Men, to give it its proper name? Penned by Robert Stephen Hawker in 1824, the song continues to bind us today.

The Cornwall Community Foundation began the St Austell Brewery supported event in 2015 and it has grown year by year. Let's make 2018 bigger still. The CCF supports projects in every village and community in Cornwall so it is as much a part of this land as shouts and pasties and pub life itself.

The Fishermens' Friends, The Aggie Boys, Kernow King, local shanty choirs, members of male voice choirs, barber shops, folk groups and Cornish bands have all turned out. Please join them, and communities the length and breadth of the land, in 2018. Hundreds of Young Farmers from Cornwall will be leading a pre-shout on Lemon Quay earlier in the evening.

The pubs themselves will take on the challenge to raise money during the evening in whatever way they choose. And as you know, the CCF covers every parish in Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly with all the money raised staying in Cornwall.

Please do join in. Keep an eye on our website and find Trelawny Shout on Facebook and Twitter for updates. We can't do it without you!

<http://www.cornwallfoundation.com/trelawny-shout.html>

Does anyone know of St Piran's events taking place in London? If so, please do let us know about them.

Visiting Dartford? Don't forget to seek out the Cornish link...

This plaque, which was erected by the Dartford Borough Council, is outside The Royal Victoria and Bull Hotel, 1 High Street, Dartford



Source: <http://openplaques.org/plaques/1172>

The inscription on the plaques reads:

*Richard Trevithick
1771-1833
Pioneering engineer and inventor of
the world's first steam powered railway
locomotive, lodged at this hotel
from 1831-1833.
He died here on 22 April 1833 after
a short illness and is buried
in the town*

Cornwall gets its first pro cycling team

Cornwall is to get its very own elite cycling team, which will be called Saint Piran after Cornwall's patron saint. The Sponsorship Manager of the team, Will Harper, says 'We are giving young talented local riders an opportunity to perform on a national stage, live on TV with hundreds of thousands watching. Within 5 years, should sufficient funding be found, we will ride in the Tour de France with millions watching, and we will do so with the Cornish flag proudly on our jerseys.'

To achieve their goals, the team is seeking sponsorship. Visit Cornwall are supporting this initiative by encouraging Cornish businesses to get involved. They have also launched a *Just Giving* appeal. If you would like to help get this exciting project going, you can make a donation via the following link:

https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/saintpiran?utm_id=2&utm_term=JzKmndPNq

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

5th May

Please send all contributions to:

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Or email to lca@londoncornish.co.uk