



Cowethas Kernewek Loundres

London Cornish Association Newsletter



www.londoncornish.co.uk

Spring 2019

The Piskeys crept in – but a happy outcome ensued

Welcome to the Spring 2019 edition of the LCA newsletter.

You will notice that our last newsletter – and now this Spring issue – look different to those from the past. Apart from an increase in the font size in future (sorry to those who struggled with the Winter copy!), this will be our new format.

Two big changes were introduced with the winter newsletter – the introduction of coloured pictures in the hard copy, and the reduction in page size. While the coloured pictures were planned, the change in size was not. Some time ago, Council did discuss this as one of the options for dealing with increasing postage rates but a final decision to go ahead was never made. Clearly impatient with the lack of progress and making the most of a change to the printing process, the Piskeys got involved! Newnorth Press has been printing our newsletter for many, many years but beginning with the Winter issue, part of the process is now being undertaken by another company. The advantage for us is that we can have coloured pictures in the printed copies as well as the online version. When this change was introduced in December, the part of the message from one printer to another, which said 'print as A4' was apparently intercepted. We are sure the piskeys were behind this! And, they seem to have done us a favour. From a distribution point of view, packaging up and posting the smaller publication is very much faster and all the feedback about the size has been posi-

tive. The only 'complaint' was about the size of the font. We apologise for that as we had not anticipated the original copy would be shrunk by half, and therefore did not prepare for it. That is easily corrected, and this issue is going off with a larger font size – so hopefully all will be well from now on.

About the time you receive this newsletter, we will be celebrating St Piran's Day with a cream tea at a London hotel, and just two weeks later, following the success of our Annual Dining Event last year, we will return to the same hotel where we look forward to another excellent meal and a very enjoyable afternoon.

You can see our social programme for the coming months on page 2. This includes LCA events as well as other London events with Cornish interest. We are sure there is something for everyone – from pub lunches to stimulating lectures and, for those with sporting interests, some chances to cheer on Cornish players at rugby matches. We hope to see many of our members at these events.

We would love some feedback on our programme and suggestions for future activities – and of course, are always happy to have help with organising and running events. Please do send your comments to the Editor at the addresses on the back page.

In closing, I would like to remind you that you can keep up to date with LCA news and events via the website - www.londoncornish.co.uk. Please do keep an eye on it.

Dates for your diary ...

Family History Day, AGM and Trelawny Lecture - 13th April, 10am-4.30pm

Rugby Union Match – Cornish Pirates vs London Scottish RFC - 13th April, 3pm

Mid-Summer Lunch 6th July, 12 noon

July events tbc:

County Finals day at Twickenham Stadium (with luck it will involve Cornwall!)
Sunday 2nd June

Get-together with London Cornish Pilot Gig Club

Rosyer Lecture at City Lit

Further details of these events can be found on page 2

Deadline for the next Newsletter is

5th May 2019

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

Forthcoming events

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

Family History Day, Trelawny Lecture and AGM – 13th April

Time 10am – 4.30pm

See details on the next page.

Mid-Summer Lunch – 6th July

Time: 12 noon

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

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

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

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

Join us for an informal lunch in pleasant and welcoming surroundings. And afterwards, why not visit the Temple Church nearby.

More Cornish events to interest you...

Rugby Union Match – Cornish Pirates vs London Scottish RFC

When: Saturday 13th April

Time: 3pm

Venue: The Athletic Ground, Twickenham Road, Richmond TW9 2SF.

Join other supporters to cheer the Cornish Pirates on. Enjoy the Match! Come on the Cornish Pirates.



Found in a Windsor charity shop!

And with luck, another rugby match with Cornish interest...

County Finals day at Twickenham Stadium (may involve Cornwall!)

When: Sunday 2nd June

Time: tbc

Venue: Twickenham Stadium, Whitton Rd, Twickenham TW2 7BA

Rosyer Lecture at City Lit

The Rosyer Lecture takes place in July each year when an eminent Cornish speaker gives a lecture with a Cornish theme.

When: Date still to be confirmed. The information will be included on the LCA website and in the Summer newsletter.

Get-together with London Cornish Pilot Gig Club

When: Date still to be confirmed. It will be included on the LCA website and in the summer newsletter.

Venue: Richmond boathouse.

New Members

We welcome the following new member who has recently joined the LCA:

Rosemary Bennett from Ickenham

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

The Membership Secretary

Chynoweth
1a Dunwich Rd,
Bexleyheath
Kent
DA7 5EW

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

FAMILY HISTORY DAY
Incorporating the AGM and Trelawny Lecture

13th April 2019
10am to 4.30pm

We are delighted to have for our Trelawny Lecture:

Paula Martin, CEO Cornwall Air Ambulance Trust who will speak about The Trust and the work of the Air Ambulance.

During the lunch break, the **Annual General Meeting** for members will take place.

We have pleasure in welcoming for the afternoon session, Speaker **Dr Alan Kent**, the well known author. His talk is entitled *'The Topsy Turvy World of Cornish Festivals'* – talking about Obby Oss, Colperra on the Lizard, Flora Day, the Black Prince Flower Boat Procession, Tunes in the Dunes, Saints Days, tea treats, etc.

Come along and enjoy a truly interesting and informative day in friendly company!

Venue: Bloomsbury Central Baptist Church, 235 Shaftesbury Avenue, London WC2H 8EP

Getting there: The nearest tube stations are Holborn and Tottenham Court Road.

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

This fee includes a pasty and saffron cake lunch and a cream tea. Vegetarian pasties can be provided if ordered in advance.

Contact: Gill Penny [g.n.penny@btinternet.com] OR Carol Goodwin [chynoweth@hotmail.co.uk].
020 7240 0544 (only for urgent messages on the Day)



News of Past Events

Pre-Christmas Lunch – 8th December 2018

A group of 22 members and friends met up early in December for a pre-Christmas warm-up. For a change, we met up at the Old Bank of England pub, an interesting place with the most amazing interior which includes the original old bank counters.

We were thrilled to welcome Del Clinton, from the Cornish Association of New South Wales to our group. She was en route to Truro where she was part of a concert of *Carols of the Cornish Diaspora* which took place at Truro Cathedral shortly before Christmas. It was good chat to her and to get news of our cousins 'down under'.



Some of the members who attended the pre-Christmas lunch. CANSW member, Del Clinton is 2nd from the left.

New Year's Lunch – 12th January

One of the most popular events on our social programme is the New Year's Lunch and this year, 26 members met at Penderel's Oak to welcome in 2019. We were pleased to welcome new member Rosemary Bennett.

It was, as usual, a convivial event, with lots of opportunity to chat with other Cornish folk over a good meal. A good start to the New Year.

Seen in the CANSW newsletter

'Miners wives abroad in the early days, craved for the flavouring (saffron) and it was customary for their Cornish relations to send a weekly package with the West Briton, to their friends. Life, to the exiles on the Rand and elsewhere, would have lost its savour without either of them.'

'Old Cornwall' magazine, vol 6, no. 10, Spring 1966.

Condolences

Tony Wakeham – It was with great sadness that we heard of the death of Tony Wakeham at the beginning of February. Tony's great ambition as he got older was to go back 'home', and he realised this dream just a couple of weeks ago when he returned to St Austell.

Tony was a member of the LCA for many years, during much of which he served as a popular, hard-working and valued member of Council. He frequently organised and ran events and regularly represented the LCA at the dinners of other Cornish Associations and at events such as Cuntelles Kernewek. He was a deserving recipient of the *London Cornish Shield* which was given to him by the Cornish Gorsedh in 2013 for his *'Invaluable contribution to L.C.A. work'*. Several members of the LCA watched with pride as he accepted that award from the Grand Bard.

The LCA has lost a stalwart supporter and a great friend and his death has left a very big gap in the lives of many of his friends. We offer our condolences to his family in Cornwall.



Tony featured in a mural under the Elephant and Castle roundabout.

Hilary Thomas – We were also saddened to hear of the death of Hilary in May. She had been a member of the LCA for several decades. Our thoughts are with her family and friends.

Francis Julian Williams CBE – owner of Caerhays Castle passed away in January. He and his family have had close links with the LCA for a long time: his son is a trustee of the Association and for many, many years, Caerhays has sent daffodils to be used on the tables at our Annual Dining Event. We are sorry to hear of his passing and send our condolences to the Williams family.



Do we have your correct contact details?

Please let us know if you change your address.

Contact the Membership Secretary on
lca@londoncornish.co.uk or at

Chynoweth
1a Dunwich Rd
Bexleyheath
Kent
DA7 5EW

From Johannesburg to Cornwall: St Stithians' singers join Duchy's World Choral Festival

Cornwall International Male Choral Festival – venues across Cornwall

May 2nd to 6th



The Duke of Cornwall Singers from St Stithians College, South Africa, will sing alongside St Stythians Male Voice Choir at the 2019 Festival. (Photo by INTERKULTUR)

Young singers from a South African Methodist college will be making a voyage of discovery as well as a journey half way round the world when the Cornwall International Male Choral Festival bursts across the Cornish scene from the 2nd to 6th of May.

The Duke of Cornwall Singers from St Stithians Boys' College and the St Stithians Boys' Preparatory Barons will learn more about the heritage of their school, in Johannesburg, which was named after the 1859 birthplace of one of its benefactors - Albert Charles Collins originally of Stithians, Cornwall.

During the Festival they will get to sing alongside their namesake St Stythians Male Voice Choir, one of 28 Cornish choirs among the 60 of all ages and nationalities taking part in the largest event of its kind in the world – with its 50 concerts and competitions in more than 40 venues right across Cornwall.

'We are very excited to bring our boys over to Cornwall to take part in this great festival,' says St Stithians' Head of Music, Yvette Schoeman. 'It will be a wonderful experience not just to be meeting and singing with other choirs from around the world, but it is particularly significant for us to be in the very place which gave our school its name and so much of its culture and heritage.'

'So many international choirs have strong links with Cornwall,' says the Festival's Artistic Director Gareth Churcher. 'Just as the 19th century Cornish miners and their families took their skills and technologies across the globe, so they also took their vibrant music and culture.'

'Alongside the sheer joy of sharing the wonderful male voice tradition with thousands of people during the Festival, our visitors are often overwhelmed to see the Cornish Mining World Heritage Sites as the engine houses here are exactly the same as the ones built by Cornish miners all over the world.'

As well as South Africa, international choirs will be travelling from Australia and Canada, Russia, Lithuania and Croatia, Finland and the Netherlands, while another 22 choirs will be descending on Cornwall from England, Scotland and Wales.

This is the ninth biennial Festival and the event has rapidly grown in stature and reputation on a world stage. The 2017 Festival was a huge cultural and economic success for Cornwall with more than two thousand singers performing for more than forty five thousand people in venues from the Minack Theatre to St Michael's Mount and from Mevagissey to Bude.

British composer, conductor and singer Bob Chilcott – himself described as a contemporary hero of British Choral Music – says the Cornish event,

'has become a vital part of the choral festival landscape here in this country. It is an important showcase for choirs from all over the world and gives strong voice to this genre of singing. I am very happy and honoured to be able to show support for the great work of this festival.'

The big change this year is that owing to major building works at the Hall for Cornwall, Truro Cathedral will be hosting all the international concerts and competitions which have previously been shared with HfC.

Full details of the 2019 Cornwall International Male Choral Festival including films and photos from previous events can be found on the Festival website www.cimcf.uk. Festival concert tickets will be going on sale on March 1 2019 via the CIMCF website and also Cornwall Riviera Box Office – www.crbo.co.uk - which also has information about its local box offices within various Tourist Offices around Cornwall.



St Petersburg Boys Choir launching the 2017 Festival at St Michael's Mount

More Cornish war memories...

In the Autumn newsletter, Graham Pearce mentioned in his *Meanderings* that he was on the beach at Hayle in September 1942 when the gas works at St Ives was bombed. Margaret Bunney responded by saying that she was in the sea at Porthminster Beach, St Ives that day. Now Barbara Hosking has sent in her story of that day. She writes:

I too was machine-gunned in September 1942. My school friend Mary and I were not on a beach. We were weeding cabbages on a nearby farm. We saw a plane approaching rather low and then we saw the German markings and at that moment the plane opened fire on us. We dived into the hedge as it moved off towards the beach.

We were a bit shocked but mainly furious with such malice.

Do any of our other readers have similar memories?

Cornwall on film

Cornwall has, for many years, been a popular venue for film makers. We are all aware of films such as *Ladies in Lavender* and *The Shell Seekers* and the TV series *Doc Martin* which is filmed in Port Isaac. It seems that now there is a resurgence in filmmakers wanting to use the county for filming. and recent productions filmed, at least in part, in Cornwall include:

Fisherman's Friends, which is due for release on 15th March. It tells the story of the Cornish singing group's rise to fame and the effect they had on other people. The film focuses on some of the key events in their journey to success but ends before the terrible accident in 2013 in which two of the singers were killed. While broadly following the story of the group, the director has taken some artistic licence by bringing in the fictional character of a cynical London music executive who has little faith in the singers.

The original Fisherman's Friends band was made up of several fishermen, a shopkeeper, a potter, an engineer and two builders. It started performing in pubs during the 1990s.

Bohemian Rhapsody, a film about the rock band Queen was released in October 2018 and has been seen and enjoyed by many people. I wonder how many of them know about the Cornish link to Queen!

Although Roger Taylor, the band's drummer, backing vocalist and lyricist was born in Norfolk, his family went to live in Cornwall when he was just 7. After they moved to Cornwall, he started at Bosvigo Primary School. His musical talents were evident from early on and he was enrolled at Truro Cathedral School where he sang in the choir.

When he was 13, he won a scholarship to Truro School. He showed interest in drumming but the school had no equipment for him to use. During this time, he joined a band, the *Cousin Jacks*, where he played rhythm guitar. He later joined another band, the *Reactions* which was made up mainly of Truro School boys and where he was the lead singer.

After school he moved to London to study and there he continues to live today. However, despite being away from Cornwall, he retains an

affection for the county and has a home on the Helford River which he visits regularly.

Series 5 of **Poldark** completed filming in Cornwall recently. This is expected to be the last series of the Cornish drama. As yet, there is no indication when it will be screened.

The literary world loses a Cornish treasure

Well known author, Rosamunde Pilcher, died at home near Dundee in early February, aged 94.

Rosamunde was born in Lelant in Cornwall and went to school in Penzance and Cardiff. After school, she completed a shorthand and typing course which led to her getting a job with the Foreign Office at its wartime base at Woburn Park in Bedfordshire. She then went on to join the Women's Royal Naval Service. After two years in Portsmouth, she was sent to Ceylon and it was while she was there that her writing career really got going.

She returned to Britain in 1946 and married Graham Pilcher, a Scot who had family ties in St Ives. The couple moved to Dundee and it was here their four children were born. In between her family responsibilities she carried on writing, mainly short romance novels. Her first major novel was *The Shell Seekers*. When this was published in paperback, it became the most popular paperback book in the world and was translated into more than forty languages.

Cornwall was the backdrop for most of Rosamunde's stories.

Jamaica Inn helps others – then gets its own reward.

The TV news at the end of January was full of pictures of the incredibly heavy snow which fell in Cornwall. As the snow fell, particularly on Bodmin Moor and along a section of the A30, many motorists were forced to abandon their cars. About 140 made their way to the Jamaica Inn – a pub made famous by Daphne du Maurier in her book of the same name - to get shelter.

The Inn rallied to the call, welcoming all of those who arrived. Once the inn's 36 rooms were fully occupied, the staff converted the restaurant, the bar and any empty spaces they could find into dormitories, with mattresses on the floor. Hot

food and drinks were supplied throughout the night.

The kindness of the staff at the Jamaica Inn in helping those in distress was recognised recently when Highways England gave them a *Customer Award for Services to the Welfare of Motorists*.



A Cornishman manages a Boer railway!

By Barbara Seed. From the Tywardreath News & Views, January 2019.

In 1895 a few years after the end of the first Boer War, the railway line between the Transvaal Republic and Delagoa Bay Railway, Mozambique, was opened by Paul Kruger. There was a connection with Tywardreath, Cornwall as a Philip O'Knee, who died 19 Sep 1916 aged 83, lived in retirement in the village and had been the General Manager of the Railway, as well as being the British Vice Consul, Delagoa Bay.

From newspaper reports, it seems that his role was highly colourful, with lives being in constant danger. The Portuguese Government was demanding possession and tearing up the railway and firing shots at the Engine Drivers. After the discovery of the main gold reef on the Rand in 1886 the railway was of greater value and urgency to get supplies both in and out of the area.

After the line was finished, transport became safer, quicker and more profitable. Previously, transport-riders used ox wagons to transport goods to Delagoa Bay, this meant they ran the risk of contracting malaria and encountering lions! Unlike journeying between St Erth and St Ives during the 21st Century!

The Bethlehem Pasty – contender for an award.

A pasty carved from stone by a soldier in the Middle East during the war was donated to the Museum of Cornish Life in Helston and is now in the running to be crowned *Cornish Object of the Year*.

The carving was done by Cornishman Bill Jewell when he was in Bethlehem in 1943 and was obviously feeling homesick. He kept it with him for the rest of his time in the army.

Bill was a butcher in Helston before enlisting in the Royal Scots Greys in 1941. He served in Syria and Egypt, where he remained until the end of the North Africa Campaign. He probably visited Bethlehem sometime before the Scots Greys were redeployed to Italy.

Bill took part in the Normandy landing, presumably carrying his 'pasty' with him, and ended his service in Germany in April 1946. He then returned to Helston and resumed his butchering career.

He kept his 'pasty' all his life and when he died, it was donated to the Museum of Cornish Life together with other war items – photos, medals and documents. The Museum commented on the carving:

'We love the little pasty which is plain and understated. It is an expression of what was important to a Cornish soldier very far from home in a very unreal situation. He went from being a butcher to tank battles in the desert. This pasty is no 'tacky gift' – it is both a remembrance of home and of people now gone. It is funny to think of Bill sitting in the heat carving a pasty from a bit of stone he picked up in Bethlehem, which was a small village at the time. Maybe it made him laugh that the translation of Bethlehem is 'House of Meat'. What we do know is that this pocket-sized pasty journeyed safely with Bill from Bethlehem to Helston and was treasure all his life.'

Secretary to five bishops of Truro passes away.

Jenny Gason, who died in January, was the longest-serving bishop's secretary in the Anglican Communion. She was diocesan secretary in Truro from 1964 to 2003 and during those years worked for five bishops - Maurice Key, Graham Leonard, Peter Mumford, Michael Ball and Bill Ind.

During her 40 years in the diocese, she developed an incredible knowledge of the bishopric, its parishes and its people and was always at the heart of diocesan business whether it was a gathering at the bishop's place or a reception in the cathedral.

In 1993, Jenny was created a Lay Canon of Truro Cathedral and in 1995, was appointed MBE for services to the Church and the community in Cornwall.

Jenny had Cornish links as she was the daughter of a Lieutenant-Colonel in the Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry.

Neolithic 'architecture' was widespread!

Both these Dolmen were burial chambers. It is fascinating to see how similar they are, despite being far apart.



Trethevy Quoit near St Cleer, Cornwall
(Photo: Woon family)



Poulnabrone Dolmen – The Burren, Ireland

News from other Cornish Associations

UNITED STATES

Members and friends of the **Southwest Wisconsin Cornish Society** will meet in early March for a St Piran's Day pasty lunch. During the event, the winners of the Mary Benson Scholarship Contest will present their entries. The winner of the first prize, Zula Flanary, will be going on exchange to Cornwall during March.

For 20 years, the SWCS has been involved in the Mineral Point-Redruth Student Exchange Programme. In March this year, 10 young people from Mineral Point High School will head to Redruth for two weeks. During their time there, the students stay with host families and participate in activities and travel around Cornwall. Since the programme began in 1999 about 100 students have travelled to Redruth and a similar number from Redruth have been to Mineral Point.

Mineral Point has a male voice choir called the Chough Singers. Shortly before Christmas, they descended into the Bevans Lead Mine and performed Cornish songs. Their newsletter describes how *'The men, each with their hard hat with torch attached, and Cornish tartan scarves did a proper job on the songs. Their hearty rendition of Trelawny truly made one feel their Cornish pride.'*

CANADA

The **Toronto Cornish Association** held their Christmas party at the home of one of their members. There was an abundance of food, including pasties made by five members. John Webb provided a challenging quiz to occupy the members during the afternoon while Ann Burke regaled the group with entertaining Cornish tales.

At their February meeting, Lyn Rowett talked about Cornwall in the Movies, a very appropriate topic in view of the number of films currently being made in the county.

The Association will hold its annual Flag-Raising ceremony at the Toronto City Hall on St Piran's Day. This year they will be joined by the British Consul General, Mr Kevin McGurgan who has Cornish roots.

In April, the Toronto Cornish Association will celebrate its 25th anniversary with a special dinner. The speaker on this occasion will be the TCA's first President, Barbara Gardner-Bray and music of celebration will be performed by Heather Dale and Ben Deschamps. We congratulate the Association on this achievement and wish them well for the future.

AUSTRALIA

The big news from Australia is the forthcoming Kernewek Lowender which will take place on the Copper Coast of South Australia between the 14th and 19th May. This biennial event celebrates the history and legacy of the many Cornish folk who went out to work in the mines. During the festival there will be a Furry Dance and a Bardic Ceremony. The Cornish Association of South Australia is organising a seminar with the theme *'Cornish Australians who changed our world'*. The traditional *'Meet the Cornish'* pasty tea and concert will be held in the Wallaroo Town Hall.

Members of CASA held a picnic lunch for their February meeting and they have arranged a lunch to celebrate St Piran's Day.

The December meeting of the **Cornish Association of Victoria** was a well-attended lunch. Following a Cornish language lesson, members were encouraged to order their beverages in Cornish! During the afternoon, there was entertainment, including carols and a quiz. One question revealed to members that Point Nepean on Port Phillip Bay was named after a Cornishman – Sir Even Nepean.

In February, there was a talk with an intriguing title - *History and Family History - Allies or Rivals*

Members and visitors from Melbourne and Ballarat joined the **Geelong Branch of the CAV** at their annual dinner in November. During the evening, Neil Thomas presented the story of Methodist Missionary Rev. Francis Tuckfield outlining the work he did in Geelong.

The **Ballarat Branch of the CAV** will celebrate St Piran's Day with a coach trip to the Rupanyup Museum and to see the painted silos in Rupanyup. They will raise a St Piran's flag to mark the day.

In April, members of the Branch will visit the Old Ballarat Cemetery and those who have family members buried there will have the opportunity to talk about them.

The **Cornish Association of New South Wales** will combine its St Piran's Day celebrations and AGM early in March. The AGM will take place in the morning and will be followed by a lunch.

NEW ZEALAND

In November, the *Christchurch Branch* of the **New Zealand Cornish Association** held a fun afternoon which included a pictorial quiz. In December they met for their Christmas celebration. *'As tradition dictates, the entertainment included several musical items lead by Heather Gladstone, a comedy skit by Dorothy Drew and Jeanette Beaumont and a mini-pantomime. While the actors got into their costumes, Les presented an extended 'News from Cornwall' before handing over to narrator Dorothy for the 'Princess's Teddy Bear' a royal drama which ended in tragedy and had the audience in stitches.'*

UK

In February, the **Bournemouth Cornish Association** held their annual flag-raising ceremony to celebrate the birthday of Lewis Tregonwell, the founder of Bournemouth. They were joined by the Mayor and Mayoress of Bournemouth. After the flag-raising ceremony, member Jon Sweet sang *Land of my Father* and a short prayer was said at Tregonwell's grave.

Members will enjoy a lunch in March and a pasty supper in April. In May, they will challenge each other to a game of skittles.

Members of the **Thames Valley Cornish Association** met in January to welcome in the new year over lunch. A good time was had by all who attended. In February they will meet for a cream tea at Wallingford Town Hall.



Members of the TVCA enjoying their New Year's Lunch

*In January, the following notice regarding the future of the **Torbay Cornish Association** was posted on the website of the Federation of the Old Cornwall Societies website:*

Sadly, Torbay Cornish Association is now faced with the same problems that are confronting so many Cornish Associations and affecting their viability. This means that there are now some difficult decisions to make. We have received the following report from Hon Sec of the TBC, Mary Watters:

'At a Special General Meeting in January, members of Torbay Cornish Association voted to initiate proceedings towards its dissolution. After 42 years of comradeship we have regrettably decided that, because of diminishing membership, the regular monthly meetings are no longer viable. A lunch for members is being planned for the spring by our founder member, Ena Hocking to whom we owe such gratitude. She held the Chairmanship for nine years, and, as Special Events Secretary, organised the annual dinner each year until 2015 – that is 41 years! She supervised the biennial Cuntelles Kernewek gatherings at the Livermead Cliff Hotel – the venue for our final lunch – back where we started! Remaining funds will be shared between Cornish and local charities.'

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 by email at ica@londoncornish.co.uk or at the address on the back page of this newsletter.

A warm welcome awaits you at the London Cornish Association

My Meanderings

Here we are again early in a new year and so I wish you all a very happy New Year. Yes, I know these greetings are a few months late, but my wishes are still there.

I have been looking through books again. I was given one at Christmas about Cornwall and there was an article on Hayle which was very interesting to me as it was the town where I was brought up. I learned something that I should have known about the two parts of Hayle, 'Copperhouse' and 'Foundry'.

The Cornish Copper Company which ran Copperhouse faced a rival at the other end of Hayle which was the family firm of Harveys who in the middle 1800s employed over 1000 people. They produced engine boilers and steam pumping engines not only for Cornwall but worldwide.

As a child I thought of Copperhouse as being the end of the town where I lived and Foundry was the other end of the town.

I also came across an article titled 'Fascinating facts about Hayle'. It said that Jane Harvey a daughter of John Harvey, the Hayle foundry pioneer, married Richard Trevithick in 1797, Harvey's ventured into ship building in the late 18th century and their first vessel was built, in what is now Foundry Square, in 1795. But it was not until the 1830s that they built their first major ship which was a schooner named 'John Harvey'. Sailing vessels were built at Hayle until the 1860s, but for the next 20 years the yard specialised in iron hull construction before graduating to steel in the late 1880s.

One lives and learns!

In the newspapers recently there have been comments saying that Cornish pasties should be vegan, this is ridiculous as Cornish pasties contain beef, potatoes and swede, any other pasty should have its own name such as simply 'vegan pasty'. Someone was actually making Vegan Cornish pasties causing an outcry in Cornwall as Cornish Pasties have a traditional recipe as shown in the poem below.

I saw this in a Cornish newspaper some years ago - a variation of 'Trelawny':

*A good crust and a tender steak
Onions, spuds and swede
The pastry tells the whole wide world
Just what we Cornish need.*

*So shall they set the Pastry Tax
And shall the Duchy bend
Here's twenty thousand Cornish folk
Who'll fight right to the end.*

*And shall the pasty live
Or shall the pasty die
Here's twenty thousand Cornish folk
Who know the reason why.*

*We'll cross you every single way
We'll not be beaten down
With one and all and medium steak
The jewel in Cornwall's crown.*

I looked 'pasty' up in *The Oxford English Dictionary* and it says:

'pasty - is a pastry case with a sweet or savoury filling, baked without a dish to shape it.'

As you see there can be any ingredients in a pasty, but you must not call it Cornish, unless it is made with the ingredients as shown above and also in the poem. Also, to qualify as a 'Cornish Pasty' it has to be made in Cornwall.

Now who doesn't enjoy a real Cornish pasty? I know I do, I think of them as a 'proper job', but I do sympathise with those who prefer vegan products. Well, they can have a pasty with those products, but they cannot call it a 'Cornish Pasty'.

Now looking through my past Meanderings I found the following from about 17 years ago.

Cornwall's future. *Looking back over the past century the rate of progress in mechanisation, transportation and communication has been so rapid that this greater use of machinery and technology has resulted in less manpower requirements --- fishing boats are much larger with their catches vastly increased, on farms a horse drawn plough is a 'thing of the past' and milking is done by machine. Among the results is the demise of mining and the decrease in both the fishing and farming industries, progress has taken these from us. But there is one great asset that Cornwall still has with its much varied and beautiful scenery, together with its history, both pre-industrial and industrial including our mining heritage. More effort should be expended in developing Tourism in Cornwall, it is an on-going industry that, if marketed efficiently, will provide the prosperity that has been lost to Cornwall. Who developed the first steam driven locomotive? Who developed mine pumping engines that have been*

used all over the World? If the Cornish could do that let them proudly take up the challenge and, as with today's Eden Project with its futuristic biospheres, let Cornwall make full use of the benefits offered from this modern industry called Tourism.

I am pleased to see that Tourism has improved over the years.

Also, in the last 'Meanderings' I asked if anybody knew about a restaurant in Causewayhead, Penzance that was, or is, called 'The Lantern'. So far I have not had any response; surely someone must have an idea?

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

As always, I ask for support for the London Cornish Association, so please remember that new members are always welcome, and refer anyone showing interest to the Membership Secretary whose contact details are in this Newsletter.

I now wish you all a very good and happy 2019. Hopefully we will have good weather now, not too cold, and we will also have a good summer to look forward too.

Kernow bys vyken

Graham Pearce – 'Pengwyth', 17 Trellyn Close, Barming, MAIDSTONE, Kent, ME16 9EF

CROWDY CRAWN

Do you know this 'song'

LCA Chairman Carol Goodwin recalls:

My grandmother used to sing to me, with the Flora Dance tune.....

*Tom said to me one day,
can you dance the Flora ?
Yes I can with a nice young man
and off we go to 'Trurer' (Truro).*

So it rhymes! Has anyone else heard this?

Music from Cornish folk harmony group

The Countrymen, a Launceston-based folk harmony group, performs and records older and more recent songs about Cornwall. Extracts from some of their recordings can be heard on

the following website:
<http://www.thecountrymen.co.uk/music/>. The songs can be downloaded or purchased on CD from the website.

Lithium mining in Cornwall gets a boost

Lithium is an important component in batteries and a start-up in the UK is hoping that the move to electric cars, which need batteries with the metal, will provide great opportunities for future business.

The start-up company, which is hoping to capitalise on the increased demand for lithium has recently secured an additional £1m to enable it to drill more sites across central Cornwall. It hopes to extract lithium from hot water brines below the surface and will also start to look for the metal in hard rock form after finding evidence that it was mined on the surface during world war 2..



*King Doniert's Stone near Liskeard, which dates back to the 9th century.
(Photo - Woon family)*

The deadline for the next issue of the LCA Newsletter is

Please send all contributions to:

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