



Cowethas Kernewek Loundres

London Cornish Association Newsletter



www.londoncornish.co.uk

Summer 2016

In putting together this newsletter, I was amazed to see how many Cornish events have taken place in London over the past couple of months. Two of the events arranged by the LCA recently have been given a new look – the Dinner became a Lunch and the Family History Day incorporated the AGM and Trelawny Lecture. Introducing major changes brings some anxiety but the feedback has been so positive that we are encouraged to establish these as new traditions.

By far the most exciting news we have had recently was that telling us that Sir David Brewer, Past President of the LCA, has been appointed a Knight of the Garter by the Queen. This is a well-deserved honour and one of which we at the LCA are tremendously proud. You can read the announcement at the bottom of this page.

We have also learned that Carole Vivian from Pelynt has been presented with a St

Piran Award since our last newsletter. This award is given to people who have provided outstanding service to their church, parish or wider community. Carole is an historian who has worked hard to promote local churches through talks, books and concerts. Some members will recall her coming to talk to the LCA several years ago and I can remember going on a fascinating tour of Trelawne with her as the guide when Dehwellans was held in Looe. We offer her our congratulations.

You will see that several people have contributed items to this newsletter – for which many thanks. This has made my job so much easier and has resulted in a much more interesting (and fuller) newsletter. Please keep up the good work and continue to send your items in.

Kernow bys Vyken

Dates for your diary ...

Midsummer Lunch

2nd July 2016

12 noon

In Richmond

Family History Day

15th October 2016

10am

Shaftsbury Ave,
London

A 'Proper Job': Past President of the LCA becomes a Knight of the Garter

We were thrilled to hear the recent announcement that our Past President, Sir David Brewer, has been appointed a Knight of the Garter. The following announcement was made on the www.royal.uk website.

Appointments of Knights Companion of the Most Noble Order of the Garter

Published 18 May 2016

The Queen has been graciously pleased to appoint Lord Shuttleworth, KCVO and Sir David Brewer, CMG, CVO, JP to be Knights Companion of the Most Noble Order of the Garter.

The appointment of the Knights and Ladies of the Garter is in The Queen's gift (i.e. without Prime Ministerial advice). Appointments to the Order of the Garter are therefore in the same category as the Order of the Thistle, the Order of Merit and the Royal Victorian Order which are also in The Queen's gift. Today's announcement brings the number of Companions to twenty-three (out of a maximum of twenty-four).

Sir David Brewer, CMG, CVO, JP (born 28 May 1940) was Lord-Lieutenant of Greater London from 2008 until 2015. Sir David also served as Lord Mayor of London between 2005 and 2006.

The appointments are effective from 23rd April, 2016.

We offer our sincere congratulations to Sir David. This is a proud moment for the LCA and a well deserved appointment.



Sir David (L) with current President, Sir John Trelawny and Chairman, Francis Dunstan

Further details of these events can be found on page 2

Deadline for the Summer Newsletter is

5th August

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.

Midsummer Lunch on the Thames at Richmond

Date: Saturday 2nd July

Time: 12.15pm

Venue: The *Waterman's Arms*, Water Lane., Richmond

(Nearest tube station – Richmond on the District Line. From Richmond to the riverside area takes about 13 minutes to walk.

If you are coming from further afield, there are other options via Waterloo, Vauxhall and the Overground.)

There are benches and lots of grass if you want to just relax afterwards.

As this is a Saturday in summer, Richmond is likely to be busy – so we will need to book. If you are even thinking of coming please let Francis Dunstan or Jackie Trembath know. Their contact details are as follows:

Francis Dunstan – Email: lca@francisdunstan.plus.com
or Tel: 01494 531703.

Jackie Trembath – Email: jackietrembath@sky.com or
Tel: 020 77386795

Later in the afternoon, there is to be a barbecue at the London Cornish Pilot Gig Club boathouse, to which we are invited.

Family History Day

Date: Saturday 15th October

Time: 10am – 4.30pm

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

(nearest underground stations – Holborn or Tottenham Court Road)

At this event:

*Jolanta Jagiello will speak on *The Work of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission**

Sam Drake who is Cornish and currently studying for a PhD at the University of London will talk about his research which focuses on 14th and early 15th Century Cornwall, exploring subjects such as lordship and lawlessness, King Arthur and the Black Prince, piracy and the Hundred Years' War. He will also refer to the social and economic interactions between Cornwall and London in this period.

Gill Rifaat will bring photos, books etc relating to the Cornwall Community in Mexico. These will be available to view during the lunch break and Gill will be happy to answer members' questions.

More details of the programme for the day will appear in the Autumn newsletter.

Dates for the 2017 Family History Days are 22nd April and 14th October.

News of Past Events

A new way...a great success: Annual Anniversary Dining Event 2016

For 129 years, the LCA has held an Annual Dinner. In 2016, in response to requests from many of our members who did not want to be travelling late at night or have to pay London prices to stay over, we celebrated our 130 Annual Dining Event with a lunch instead. The decision to change such a long-standing tradition was not taken lightly and involved lots of soul-searching and agonising.

Of course the risk one takes when planning a lunch on a Saturday is that it could clash with important sporting events – and this year we hit the jackpot with an important rugby match – England vs Wales. Fortunately, one of the guests, a keen rugby supporter, found a good solution – during breaks, he would dash through to the hotel bar to catch up on the score, then come back and share the news with the others. Another of our members was able to attend the lunch because fortunately, the results of fixtures during the week meant that her team ended up playing on Sunday instead of Saturday. Apart from sport, there was one other unfortunate double booking – member Ben Gilby had organised a special conference at Royal Holloway which looked at the historical, social and political links between London and Cornwall and we are sure would have interested some of our members.



The lunch was held at the same central London venue we have used for the past few dinners. There were daffodils in abundance, sent to us from the Cornish flower growers who have supported us for so many years - Caerhays, Tregothnan and Fentongollan. On entering the room, members and guests were greeted by large table arrangements and the wonderful smell which accompanies massed daffodils. On the catering side, the food was, as always, delicious and beautifully served.

The Principal Guest was Councillor Dora Dixon-Fyle MBE, the Worshipful Mayor of Southwark. In thanking the LCA

of behalf of the guests, she revealed that she had been born in Sierra Leone, a country which was particularly badly hit by the recent Ebola virus. She gave special thanks to Cornwall and individual Cornish people for the tremendous help they gave her country during the crisis.



Our Principal Speaker at this event was Tom Varcoe, Philanthropy Advisor of Cornwall Community Foundation. He gave an inspiring speech in which he talked about how a near fatal illness 10 years ago changed his outlook and made him determined to do something to help others. He became involved with the Cornwall Community Foundation which provides support for communities in Cornwall. The support they provide ranges from an emergency storm fund to events for the elderly and workshops offering creative opportunities for young people. It also promotes small businesses with separate 'catalyst' funds to encourage start-ups. .

Following Tom's speech, 'One and All' joined together with true Cornish spirit to sing *Trelawny*.

Was this event a success? We had lots of positive feedback and an email from one of our guest perhaps sums up what others felt. He wrote...

Just to let you know again how much I enjoyed yesterday's lunch and thought it was a very well-organised event with an excellent choice of menu and service. I do hope that Council will feel that the "experiment" of holding dinner at lunch-time was successful and can be repeated in future years.

My sincere thanks to everyone who had a hand (or two) in arranging it.



Family History Day and AGM/Trelawny Lecture

The Family History Day in April had a new look. Following the decline in attendance at the AGM and Trelawny Lecture over the past couple of years, Council took the decision to combine this event with the Family History Day. With 55 people in attendance, this proved very successful.

In the morning session, Paul Holden, House and Collections Manager at Lanhydrock delivered the prestigious Trelawny Lecture in which he shared the fascinating stories of the house and the Robartes-Agar family. The afternoon session started with a short AGM after which Debbie Kennett spoke on '*DNA for Beginners*'.

The following report by Carol Goodwin provides an outline of the Trelawny Lecture given by Paul Holden:

We were delighted to have for The Trelawny Lecture, a talk by Mr Paul Holden of the National Trust on Lanhydrock House, near Bodmin, and the history of the Agar-Robartes family.

Lanhydrock is situated on the edge of Bodmin Moor and set within the densely wooded Fowey Valley. At the heart of this living and working parish are nine hundred and eleven acres of land, once a thriving monastic farming community allied with Bodmin Priory but now managed by the National Trust. The 15th century church, dedicated to St Hydroc (to the west of the house), remains a tangible reminder of the past and present spiritual needs of the community.

The estate passed into private hands at the Dissolution of the Monasteries and was acquired in 1621 by Richard Robartes, later 1st Baron Robartes. Between 1634 and 1651 John Robartes (2nd Baron and later 1st Earl of Radnor) undertook an ambitious building programme to create, what was then, the grandest mansion in Cornwall. Surrounding his seat was an impressive formal garden, a vast sporting park and an extensive and widely scattered Cornish estate which provided the next generation Radnor's with agricultural and mineral wealth.

Being absentee landlords the house and estate were neglected during the early part of the 18th century. However its fortunes recovered first, in 1758, when the Cheshire based Hunt family inherited and again in the 19th century when it passed through marriage to the Agar-Robartes family. During this time the parkland was remodelled, new formal gardens were introduced and an ornamental drive was created to connect the house with the railway. After a fire in 1881 the house was refurbished by the architects Richard Coad and James M MacLaren into, what Lord Robartes described as, a 'modest and unpretentious family home'. And this is how we see the house today as an eclectic mix of Jacobean and Victorian architecture incorporating best practice in the fields of 19th century country house planning, technology and fashion. Today the property remains a social record of the Victorian age.

Raised to the peerage in 1899 (by which time the family boasted nine children) their high-Victorian/ Edwardian zenith was short lived, a consequence of the financial collapse of agriculture and mining and the death of the son and heir during the Great War. This generation, like their predecessors, were renowned as benevolent landlords, charitable employers and philanthropists. In 1953 the 7th Viscount Clifden gave the property to the National Trust. The male line eventually died out in 1974 but their kind

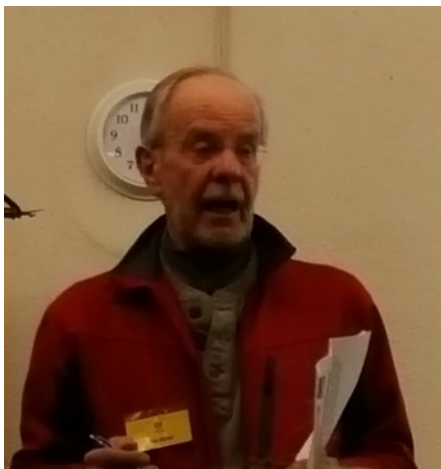
and compassionate nature is still fondly remembered within the parish today and remains central to our spirit of place.

A thoroughly enjoyable and interesting talk and a good choice as the *Trelawny Lecture*.

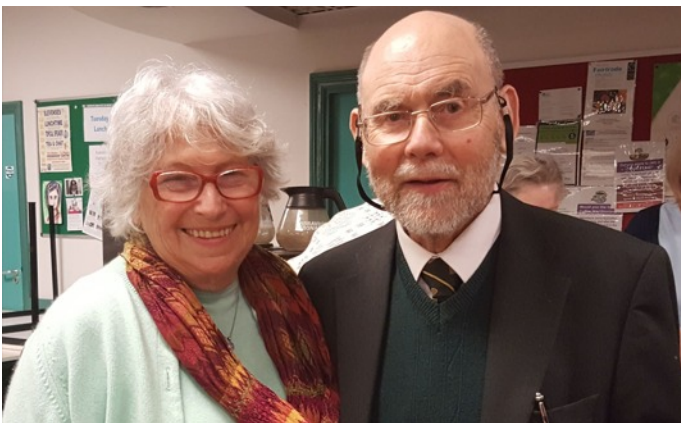
We were privileged to have two members of the *Toronto Cornish Association* – John Webb and Sue Cox - with us at this event. John gave a short presentation on the TCA telling us about, amongst other things, the flag raising ceremony the Association organises at the Toronto Town Hall every St Piran's Day.

At the end of the talk, they kindly presented us with a copy of the book *Cornish Emigrants to Ontario Volume II* which was compiled by members of the TCA. More details of this book can be found elsewhere in this newsletter.

If any of our members would like to read this book, please contact me at the address on the back page of this newsletter.



John Webb tells us about the Toronto Cornish Association



Sue Cox of the TCA and Chairman Francis Dunstan

The report on the talk about the mining landscapes of West Penwith which was given by Peter Stanier at the October Family History Day was inadvertently omitted from the Spring newsletter. It is therefore included here.

Report on the October Family History Day talk by Dr Peter Stanier 'Botallack and Levant: Mine Landscapes in West Penwith'

The second of the October [2015] Family History Day speakers was Dr Peter Stanier, an industrial archaeologist

and a well-known authority on mining. He comes from Liskeard but, as he amusingly told us, his only claim to personal family experience of Cornish mining is through a 2X Great-Aunt who married into an important mining family.

His introduction covered a brief history of mining in Cornwall from its earliest days through to its decline in the second half of the 19th century and its eventual demise in the 20th century. This long history has left a legacy of a mining landscape unique to Cornwall with its immediately identifiable engine houses, its mining villages and Methodist chapel and now recognised by UNESCO. To help us understand the reasons for the landscape features of mining he gave us a brief overview of the minerals found – mainly copper and tin, but also zinc, arsenic lead and silver - and a short history how they were worked and processed. He described the vertical pattern of lodes and the shafts and levels excavated to access the ores; the problem of water in the mines and the adits built to drain them; the processes involved in extracting and bringing the ore to the surface and refining it once above ground. Each of these activities has left a legacy in the landscape which changed over time as technological developments rendered some features redundant and others supplanted them.

Peter noted that much of the landscape reflects the gradual introduction of processes and machinery through the late 18th and 19th centuries. First water power and water wheels were replaced with steam, which in its turn was succeeded by more modern sources of power, principally electrical. As the mines went deeper, pumping engines and the buildings to house them appeared in the landscape. Many are still visible today albeit without their engines and usually roofless. Originally, ores were brought up to the surface by horse whims which were largely covered by timber housing which has now disappeared, but the central granite stone of the horse round may still be visible. The winding engines employed later and in larger mines were housed in stone buildings, and like the engine houses can still be seen, roofless and empty. Stamps to crush the ore, originally powered by water, were later driven by engines, and housed in more substantial buildings that have survived. The small water-powered blowing houses used charcoal for smelting and built near water, were later replaced by smelting houses across the districts. Calciners, used to burn off the arsenic, also appeared in the landscape.

Thus gradually the typical characteristics at the head of the mine developed - the solidly built engine house, the less sturdy boiler houses, the whim or winding engine house set a little further back from the shaft, the characteristic round chimney stacks, the pools where water to feed the engines was collected, the dressing areas where the ore is refined, the mining offices such as the count house, often surviving through being converted into houses, and the 'Dry' in the larger mines where the men changed into and out of their working clothes. Many of these features have decayed or disappeared over the years, but as their significance has come to be increasingly recognised, those still in existence are now being retained where possible.

In explaining the mining landscape Peter concentrated on the St Just area where the mines go under the sea and containing the mines of Botallack, Levant and Geevor as well as a variety of smaller ones such as White Wheal Owl. He drew upon a wide range of pictorial, photographic

and map illustrations associated with these mines in order to illustrate his points, providing us with snapshots through time of the development and decline of mining in the area. He compared early and later 19th century maps and sketches to show how even at a comparatively early point there were residual features of an earlier mining landscape. He drew on historical and 20th century literary sources, such as the writings of R.M. Ballantyne and Wilkie Collins to provide accounts of mining in their time and to indicate the importance of Cornish mining in the wider culture. He presented slides illustrating existing mining features in the landscapes, many of them in a ruined state and partially hidden by the undergrowth. These visual aids clearly brought to life the mining features he referred to in his talk. Peter also mentioned the contribution of Cousin Jacks to mining across the world and the mass emigration associated with the decline of mining in Cornwall. He finished his talk with slides showing Cornish mining features in areas as far apart as Australia, the Virgin Islands, South Africa and South America.

Whether or not one had mining ancestors and was personally involved in the subject, this was an informative and engaging talk which captured the long history and the cultural importance of mining in Cornwall and its expansion across the globe. It fully described the development of the surface features associated with Cornish mines over time and provided us with a comprehensive guide to what might be seen if we ventured into the mining landscapes still evident today.

Gill Penny.

Visit to The Imperial War Museum

Mary Timmins kindly arranged the visit to the Museum on 2nd June to meet at 11 am. Regrettably only four people came, namely: Mary and Ray Timmins, Francis Dunstan and Carol Goodwin.

The Museum is situated in Lambeth Road, London and was founded during the First World War to make sure that we never forget what it is like to live in a world torn apart by conflict. Since then, the Museum has spent a century recording the way in which war continues to impact on the lives of service personnel and civilians. From the fighting front and the home front, there are collections of weapons, uniforms, vehicles, flags, maps, medals, films, audio recordings, photographs, diaries, letters etc. that give a sense of how war looks, sounds and feels. The collection covers 5 floors.

It was the School Holidays so was exceptionally busy but not too bad to be able to see all that is there. The only problem was that there was so much to see – too much for one visit! Our feet were feeling tired too! I must say, however, that there were plenty of seats on the floors to take a break.

Those of a certain age would be able to reminisce on the old TVs, laundry equipment (an old mangle!) and rationing that were on Level 1. There was the story of a family with 10 children that lived in South London and what they lived through during the Second World War and afterwards.

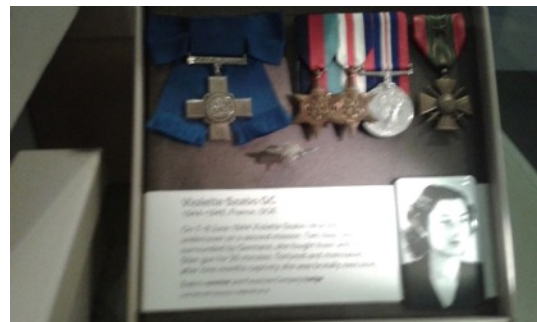
Rather than all four keeping together, we split up.

I am very interested in the Special Operations Executive (which is in the Secret War section). The SOE agents were created to take the fight back to the Germans. It

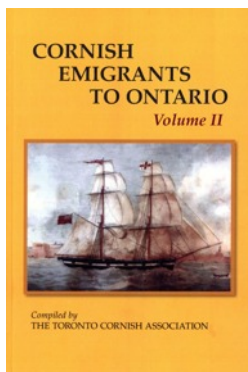
actually operated around the Globe, supporting resistance movements and mounting subversive operations behind enemy lines until it was disbanded in January 1946. One of these agents was Violette Szabo – in the accompanying not-so-clear picture taken from my smartphone - who was the first woman awarded the George Cross. She was captured by the Gestapo on her second mission, tortured and sent to Ravensbruck concentration camp where she died in 1945.

A definite MUST to go again to the Imperial War Museum - and it's free!

Carol Goodwin



A display focusing on Violette Szabo



CORNISH EMIGRANTS TO ONTARIO
Volume II

Compiled by THE TORONTO CORNISH ASSOCIATION

Cornish Emigrants to Ontario Volume II

Compiled by The Toronto Cornish Association
Edited by Ann Crichton-Harris and Barbara Gardner-Bray
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Cornish people left Cornwall in large numbers in the latter half of the 19th and the early part of the 20th centuries when the mining and fishing industries at home hit hard times. They set off for several countries, including Canada where Ontario was a popular destination.

This second volume of the *Cornish Emigrants to Ontario* looks at the histories of several of those migrant families. Their stories have been told by members of the Toronto Cornish Association, and what an interesting collection it is, It ranges from the Sleemans who established a brewery (which still provides liquid refreshments for TCA events!) to the aviation pioneer, Leonard John Trip.

The many illustrations and easy style make this an interesting read.

We are most grateful to the TCA for giving us a copy of the book, personally presented by their member, John Webb who joined us at the Family History Day in April.

News of Other Cornish Events

Cornwall Club London Event

Kernow Bys vicken

Now there's a good start for a report on a Cornish event held on the 11th May 2016. A meeting with two short speeches, some excellent Cornish food served by the Cornish boys and maids who prepared it, (served on outside cricket bats) a Prize Draw for a special weekend in St Mawes, later auctioned (what excitement!) and a collection of Cornish supporting people, all together in a wonderful venue, i.e. at 2 Temple Place, London, down on the Embankment. The LCA was well represented by Graham G Norton, Dr Barbara Hosking, (accompanied by Miss Margaret Hyde), Mrs Deborah Hinton, our Past President Sir David Brewer and Lady Brewer, and myself.

The organisers of this splendid event were *The Cornwall Club**, a group under the banner of the Cornwall Community Foundation and present were the Hon Evelyn Boscawen, (Chairman of the Cornwall Community Foundation), Tamas Heydu (Development Director) and Thomas Varcoe. (Philanthropy Director). The latter was the Principal Speaker at the LCA Annual Dining Event, a special Luncheon in March.

It was wonderful to meet those who may well become the Good and Great of the future namely the members of the London Cornish Pilot Gig Club, (Chairman Lenny George and Secretary Peter Chalkley) with their crew. Also, members of the Wrecker's Wednesday, a London based Cornish Club, (bringing back memories of the LCA Trelawny Club for young members of years past) and the young Cornish Chefs

We were given a preview of a scheme to be launched on 19 May 2016, called the Second Home Owners Scheme which encourages people who love Cornwall to donate one week's rent per annum (or the equivalent if not rented) of a second home in Cornwall.

So, all in all, *One and All* enjoyed an excellent evening. I encourage readers to have a look at the websites of the organisations mentioned above, and find out what Cornwall is doing in Philanthropic and cultural terms and to see if you can help.

**The Cornwall Club, an initiative of the Cornwall Community Foundation, is designed for those who love Cornwall and want to participate in the effective support of the county. There are many people living away from Cornwall who still want to help Cornish causes. The Cornwall Club is a simple scheme aimed at achieving exactly this. All monies received are ring-fenced and used to help urgent need and crisis at the discretion of Cornwall Community Foundation.*

Dr Francis E Dunstan

Cornwall Connections Conference

Saturday 12th March saw a fascinating day of discussion as the first Cornwall Connections Conference, a joint initiative between the Faculty of Geography & Earth Sciences at Royal Holloway, University of London and the Institute of Cornish Studies, was held.

The event was the first time that the ICS had been involved in a conference outside of the territorial borders of Cornwall. The day examined historical, social and political links between London and Cornwall. It also celebrated the unmistakable sense of *difference* between Cornwall and metropolitan centred England.

The day began with a presentation by Dr. Lesley Trotter, an associate of the Institute of Cornish Studies. Her paper was entitled *Cousin Jacks and Cockneys*, and examined the history of migration between Cornwall and London. Among the points raised in the presentation was the fact that, in 1871, most of those moving to London were over the age of 20, and so unlikely to have become domestic servants. It was also noted that the occupations of those moving to Cornwall from London mainly worked in the fields of military (some retirees), managerial jobs, education and the clergy – all areas which would have varying degrees of power over the native Cornish.

Tom Fidler, a MPhil student at the ICS presented a fascinating paper called *Great Western Railway – Bridging Cornish Communities To London*. This work is to form part of Tom's PhD studies which commence next year, linked to the theme of Border. The paper revealed that it was not until 1859 that a Cornishman was able to travel the length of his own territory, and the impact that the coming of the GWR had on opening Cornwall up for business. With the opening of the bridge across the Tamar, Tom highlighted the fact that this led to Plymouth becoming a metropolis of the West, with workers travelling into the city from Cornwall. A question was raised as to who got the best financial outcome from this – Cornish workers able to work in Devon, or Plymouth and the wider county where extra revenue was generated.

The third presentation was from Dr. Garry Tregidga, Director of the University of Exeter's Institute of Cornish Studies. Entitled *Metropolitan Catalyst? The Celtic Revival and the London Cornish Association*, Dr. Tregidga looked at the influence that the LCA had in terms of creating a large group of exiled Cornish in London who could come together and form a large marketing tool for Cornwall. By the end of the 1890s, over 400 people would be attending the LCA's events. Whether or not the LCA recognised its potential was questioned as, unlike other Celtic groups, they were not particularly politicised. The future relevance of the LCA was also briefly discussed in relation to the lack of young blood coming into the organisation.

Before lunch, I presented a paper entitled *London Cornish RFC: A Political Statement or Just Another Rugby Club?*

Condolences

It was with great sadness that we heard that member Fred Hancock's daughter died of cancer in March. Fred had been supporting her in her home in her final days. Our thoughts are with Fred and the rest of his family as they deal with this new sorrow – Carol's death comes just months after her mom and Fred's wife Barbara passed away. Our thoughts are with the family and their friends at this sad time.

Drawing on Social and Cultural Geography theory from the likes of Vidal de la Blache, Paasi and Niezen, I charted the history of Regional Identity theory and the pull of indigenous groups/diaspora in keeping important facets of native culture together. Looking at the history of rugby in Cornwall and its status as a strong identifier of 'national identity', I linked this theory to the necessity of the formation of a rugby club for Cornish exiles.

After a lunch break, renowned author, playwright and academic, Dr. Alan M. Kent charted the history of representation of the Cornish on stage from the importance of the early Plen an gwary, which Will Coleman sees as "bastions of resistance". Dr. Kent brought the story up to date with details about the performance of his version of the 'Origin of the World' mystery play from the Ordinalia at Cubitt Park, London, and how important it was for the actors involved to spend a week in Cornwall, immersed in Cornish Culture and Identity. The end of Dr. Kent's paper explored the significance of the film 'Tin' which began life as a novel and was then adapted.

Dr. Ruth Heholt of Falmouth University presented a unique exploration of *The Hammer House of Cornish Horror*, which began by looking at Gothic Horror in the novels of du Maurier before focusing on two 1966 B-movies, *The Plague of the Zombies* and *The Reptile* which were both set in Cornwall, but crucially filmed in the South-East of England. In the films, Cornwall was seen as a 'wild and dangerous landscape' and a place of 'otherness'.

After a short tea break, Jeremy Gong, a PhD student at Kings College, London delivered an excellent paper called *London and The Periphery – Absence of Cornish Nationalist Violence Over The Past 100 Years*. Jeremy began by charting the history of Celtic terrorism movements from the IRA in Ireland, to Wales' *Meibion Glyndwr* and the Scottish Socialist Republic League. The absence of a major Cornish resistance movement was discussed, with reference to the movements of *An Gof* in the 1970s and 1980s and their failure to carry out larger atrocities across the border. Gong pointed out that there is a major discrepancy between money coming into Cornwall (£1,600,000,000) compared to that going out – £1,960,000,000. With this, plus income levels of over 24% lower than that across the Tamar, Gong pondered what more would need to happen before the Cornish graduated from micro-resistance movements to more typical terrorist movements.

Following this was Tim James' paper called *The Exploration of Cornish Culture By Mass Tourism*, which pointed out the consequence on the Cornish economy with the construction of the M5, and the Anglicization of many events simply attract the tourist pound. The changing of the Golowan and Tom Bawcock's Eve festivals from Methodist roots to attractions and the consequences of this were discussed.

The day was brought to a conclusion by a brilliant presentation by Mark Elton on *Wreckers Wednesday and Kernow In The City*. Mark showcased the outstanding work that his group are doing to keep the Cornish flag flying in London among the Exiles – with Cornish music, poetry and music celebrated each St. Piran's Day weekend. This has been so successful that a monthly celebration of all things Cornish has been spawned in the shape of *Wreckers Wednesday*.

It is hoped that the papers from the day will be published in the future, and that there will be other Cornwall Connections Conferences in London, and at other locations around the UK and, even the globe!

Ben Gilby



Some of the presenters and delegates from the Cornwall Connections Conference at Royal Holloway, University of London (Photo: Garry Tregidga)

Colliderscape Exhibition at the APT Gallery

At the end of March, I had the pleasure of visiting the *Colliderscape* exhibition at the APT Gallery in Deptford. The gallery is tucked away in an industrial area and stepping into it was like stepping into a haven of peace, away from the hustle and bustle of the railway and nearby busy roads. All you could hear were a range of evocative sounds which formed part of the exhibition and provided a lovely backdrop to some fascinating art works.

I really enjoyed the exhibition, which showed off the work of four visual artists. Several different art techniques were used by the artists - pencil sketches, photographs, oil and acrylic paintings and film clips – not to mention art using 3D artefacts such as mirrors and a cinema seat. And all the time, sound – from 'technical' sounds to bird song.

Cornish artist, Jacqui Wedlake Hatton contributed several works, most of them oil paintings. These were clearly influenced by her experience of living in Cornwall and showed peaceful green country scenes, primarily of trees.

I loved Jacqui's pieces which were large and bold, but was also enthralled by others which used what, to me at least, were less conventional art techniques such as photographs and film. One in particular which impressed me was *Chroma Jive* by Nicki Rolls in which two autumn leaves danced around the screen to some delightful sounds. Fortunately there was a comfortable seat nearby so I could just relax and enjoy watching them twist and turn.

Although the exhibition was fairly small, I really enjoyed it. I just wish it had been on for longer so that more of our members could have got to see it.

Lunch and the Rosyer Lecture

Last Saturday June 2nd, eight LCA members: Carol, Jackie, John (Carbis) Graham G Norton, Eddie and Val, Lorna, and I attended a special lunch at Penderel's Oak Pub in Holborn. We had a most enjoyable time with good food at reasonable prices. We were building up strength before attending the 27th Rosyer Lecture at the City Lit in Keeley Street, close by. Our LCA Member Hilary Padden, welcomed us to hear all about Cornish 'Plen and Gwarri', amphitheatres where the mediaeval Miracle Plays used to be performed - in the Cornish language of course. The lecture was given by Mr Will Coleman, who is an expert on the subject and for further information he referred to his book, copies of which were available.

Two of these Plen and Gwarri are easy to find and are well documented, at Perran Round, near Perranporth and at St Just (in Penwith). Many others are the subject of conjecture. It is said that all Cornish parishes had one, circular or elliptical in shape, and of various sizes. Equally spaced places around the circle were given special names, as in stage directions.

Finding the others is a real detective story: clues are often seen as a semi-circular part of a field hedge which otherwise follows a straight line. In tracing them the problem is the march of time and the lack of much literature on them. Will's map shows 32 places where a P & G might exist. Including Ruan Minor, Sancreed (Beacon Crescent), St Stephen in Brannel, Tresawsen, Gwithian, Kernick, Cubert near Newquay, (a road runs right through the middle of where the playing place once stood.) and Bodmin. In Cadgwith you can see the circular shape, but it's completely overgrown

The name (in various spellings and forms, occur as current place names i.e. Plain and Gwarry in Redruth, and just South of Truro at Playing Place. St Hilary parish has 'Plain and Gwarry' Lane.

That ole King Henry the Eighth has a lot to answer for. Among his many dissolutions was Glasney College in Penryn, dating from 1265. In 1549 during the Cornish Rebellion, the Cornish Language was linked to it, a quarter

of the population were killed, including 900 in 10 minutes. In Elizabeth 1st time the P & G plays were seen as a Catholic event (Popery), and the miracle plays were banned. This event really signalled the end of the Cornish Language.

I hope I've given a flavour of Will Coleman's enthusiastic Lecture and have encouraged you to look for the signs of the Plen and Gwari in Cornwall.

Francis Dunstan

St. Piran's Day Event – John Lewis

John Lewis Food Hall usually celebrates St. David's Day, St. George's Day and St. Patrick's Day but this year they decided they would also celebrate St. Piran's day, 5th March. St. Piran's day this year was on a Saturday.

There was a picture of a St. Piran's flag and someone asked why it was not in colour. The person on the stand explained it was supposed to be in black and white! There was also a sign which (I am told) said Happy St. Piran's Day in Cornish. (I do not know Cornish!)

There was a tasting of four wines from the award-winning Camel Valley Vineyard; two still wines, (Bacchus and Pinot Noir Rosé) and two sparkling wines; and of three Cornish ales from St. Austell Brewery.

They also had some free samples of Cornish clotted cream on scones. I was told this was very popular and did not last for long - they ran out of scones and then put the clotted cream on Welsh cakes instead! There was also a free tasting of Cornish cheddar, but by the time we arrived, there were only crumbs left.

I was hoping that the Cornish wines would be available to buy by the glass in the wine bar but unfortunately this was not so.

John Lewis had obviously gone to a lot of trouble for this. I will find out if they are going to repeat this next year, and, if so, it would be nice if we could give them more support.

Mary Timmins

London Cornish Association AGM 2016

Chairman's Report

Well, what do I write this year, to be different from last year and the year before? The Association is run by a small number of dedicated people with some additional members assisting. This coming year will be my fifth year as chairman and apart from a one year break, I've been Hon Gen Sec since 2003.

Other long serving members are:

Rosemary Dean (Hospital Visiting since 1992), Graham Pearce (Membership Sec since 1994), Kath Slatter (Social & Catering since 1996), Jackie Trembath (Treasurer since 2003,) Elizabeth Broekmann (Editor since 2005). We are delighted that Graham Gendall Norton (Publicity), Tony Wakeham (Visits) Mary Timmins (Visits and FHG), Carol Goodwin (Website and FHG), Dr Gill Penny (FHG) and Chris Burgess (FHG), continue to carry on the running of the Association, which is grateful to all the above for all that they do.

Email Communication between the officers and the membership would be made much easier if members who have registered their email addresses with LCA would respond to its emails. A one word reply would do – 'received'. Significantly most of the apologies I have received for the AGM have come via email.

We celebrated the 130th Anniversary of the LCA Dinner by having a lunch instead. What a good idea! The change seems to have been well accepted. Forty eight sat down for lunch. We would have been well over fifty if some regulars who couldn't come, did. Let's hope combining this year's AGM and Trelawny Lecture with the Family History Day will prove as successful.

Monthly lunches continued throughout the year, with rather poor attendances, usually at Penderel's Oak restaurant, Holborn. However, the New Year Lunch there proved as successful as ever. These started in 1997.

You will find the other reports attached. The Treasurer's report shows a loss of only £6!! A credit to all concerned, and to our members for support.

The expense of hiring a room in London limits the LCA's activities, resulting in no social meetings with talks, as such.

Once again a decline in attendance at the Trelawny lecture / AGM proved costly as we had to pay hall hire and the speaker's travel expenses. Currently as I write, 55 attendees are expected in 2016, which means that we are likely to cover our costs. *Moral:* the more who come, the better the finances.

The Editor pleads for members to send in material for the Newsletter. Surely somebody must go on holiday, and take some photos. Send them in with a caption. We thank Liz for her long-time dedication but bemoan the fact that she has found it necessary to write most of the copy herself.

I'll finish where I started. We would like to recruit new members and encourage current members to help run the Association. The success of the updated Website is seen in that casual surfers are aiming to join us. However, personally, I must say that I feel very stressed at being Chairman (not too onerous) and also Hon Gen Sec (intense at certain times) with no Vice chairman to spread the load. There will come a time when.....Any offers?

Francis Dunstan (Chairman)

Publicity Report

Our effort was focussed on collaboration with the Cornwall Community Foundation. Its Development Director, Tamas Heydu closely collaborated with us in sending out two detailed press releases to the Cornish media, the first announcing that our Annual Dining Event would have as Principal Speaker Mr Tom Varcoe (from Fowey), their Philanthropy Advisor. This preliminary release carried detailed background information about the LCA, our current activities and our contact details.

A further release followed the event. It reported Mr Varcoe as saying what a pleasure it was to learn first-hand of the remarkable history of the LCA, that has been 'a focal point for so many people outside the Duchy for well over century', and how we co-ordinated news of the Cornish worldwide. This release was accompanied by a photo of principal guests with Sir John and Lady Trelawny, taken by the LCA's guest photographer.

The April e-newsletter of the CCF featured this event, and carried our photograph. This newsletter is sent to 3,500 recipients: community and business leaders, including County and local Councillors, the media, charitable and business organisations throughout Cornwall.

Graham Gendall Norton (Publicity Officer)

LCA Website

The website has been most useful this past year, enabling the Association to get new members and also for observers to see upcoming events. It is updated regularly, where necessary, with relevant backups.

To help potential new members and/or members who are renewing, we are looking into the membership form being added to the site. This will make the procedure much

easier. Then the form can be printed from the website and sent to our Membership Secretary. Once added, notice of new members will be given in the Newsletter.

We have a good site so please look at it as much and often as you can. www.londoncornish.co.uk

Carol Goodwin (Website Coordinator)

Family History Group Report AGM 2016

Over the past years we have had good calibre speakers with subjects perhaps varied at times but interesting all the same.

Of course with the cost of the venue etc and indeed the increasing costs of the speakers we need to promote the FH Conference Days even more. We advertise in our Newsletter and various Family History magazines as well as on the LCA website. Any help in getting more attendees by personal contact to offset the costs would be most appreciated.

Last year we had excellent speakers including, Dr Nick Barratt who is a Researcher – in particular on the TV programme *Who Do You Think You Are?*. He gave the attendees an excellent view of how the media works to obtain factual and entertaining family histories of celebrities.

Dr Paul Blake spoke on Manorial Records and Dr Peter Stanier spoke on Mining in West Penwith. (recommended by our member Sheila Henwood). We had very good feedback from the increased attendances.

The FHD Conference this April 16th 2016 includes the Trelawny Lecture – by Mr Paul Holden from Lanhydrock House. Paul will speak on the history of the House and also the Robartes-Agar Family. A short LCA AGM will be held during the lunch break. In the afternoon Debbie Kennett; will speak on *DNA for Beginners* (A recommendation by Mrs Lorna Leadbetter.)

No Speakers have been arranged for the October 15th FHD Conference as yet.

We are always pleased to hear of suggested speakers. Do let us know.

Carol Goodwin (Co-convenor FHG)

Membership Report: Changes since the 2015 AGM

Deaths - 5

Raleigh Trevelyan, descent - London
Rear Admiral John Armstrong, Fowey - London
Peter Brokenshire, St Austell – Loughton, Essex
Mrs Barbara Hancock, Bodmin - Poole, Dorset
Mrs Stella Bailey, marriage - London

Resignations - 4

Ceased membership - 4

New members – 2

Mary Watters, Cornwall - Plymouth
Sally Harrison, Cornwall - London

Present membership: 215

There are 112 members with email addresses

Graham Pearce (Membership Secretary)

Visits Report

There were two visits this year:

1) London Metropolitan Archives on 28th May 2015.

There was a tour of the Public Rooms and we were shown some original documents which related to Cornwall, in the Huntley Room. This visit followed from a talk by David Luck on 'An Introduction to the Collections at the London Metropolitan Archives' at the Family History Day in April 2015. There were 10 people on this visit.

2) The Foundling Museum on 22nd November 2015.

We were given a tour by Jane King, who had previously given us a talk about the Foundling Hospital at the Family History Day in October 2014.

There were about 13 people on this visit. Attendance by LCA members was rather poor and only made up by friends.

This year we have a visit planned to the Imperial War Museum on 2nd June 2016. Please let us know if you would like to join us.

Mary Timmins (Visits Coordinator)

Newsletter Report

The Newsletters, which are published four times a year, aim to promote the London Cornish Association by reporting on past events and publicising forthcoming activities in the hopes that this will encourage members, and any visitors who are in London at the time, to participate in the Association's social programme. We also include news from our cousins around the world as well as items of general Cornish interest which we think will be enjoyed by our readers.

The newsletters are available both as a hard copy and an emailed version (with coloured pictures!) and they are included on the LCA website (www.londoncornish.co.uk).

Copies are sent to members, to local and overseas Cornish Associations, the Cornish media and Cornish MPs as well as organisations such as the Cornish Gorsedh and four of the UK Legal Deposit Libraries.

The cost of postage is an ongoing issue with the local price expected to rise again in April 2016. Some time ago we found that if we squeezed them into an A5 envelope it was substantially cheaper. The only drawback is that it involves me having to cover the 200-odd copies, two at a time, with a bread board and 'jumping' (literally!) on each to squash them flat enough to pass through the Royal Mail's measuring slot! A laborious task but one which saves about 20p per newsletter – a total of about £44 per mailing - so worth the effort, and it reduces the need for gym membership!

Members will have noticed that from time to time, the newsletter has had fewer pages. In order to produce it, I rely on our readers to contribute information/photos/stories etc. Sadly, the amount of copy which has been coming in has dropped considerably in the last couple of years. There have also been a couple of occasions in the last year or so where we have not been able to include reports on past events because no one had sent one in. This is a pity as we usually get good feedback on our events and it would be lovely to share it with those who were unable to attend.

Having less copy has greatly increased my workload. Some people have kindly sent in 'leads' which I really appreciate but doing the research to convert them into even a short article can mean several hours of work, a challenge when I work full time. I am happy to write sections of the newsletter but in order to provide variety in both content and style, we really need contributions from our members and friends. We appeal to you to send in items of general news with a Cornish interest which could be considered for inclusion – a short item on something you have seen or attended, a photo with a caption, a report on one of our events etc etc. All would be most welcome. They can be sent to me via email or by mail. You will find both addresses on the back page of the newsletter.

I would like to end by thanking those members who have sent items in for the newsletter over the past year. Your contributions are most gratefully received. Please keep them coming in!

Elizabeth Broekmann (Editor)

Treasurer's Report

Income and Expenditure Statement for the year ended 31st March 2016

Bank Account Balance March 31st 2015	-	£7277.75
<u>Income</u>		
Subscriptions	£3104.50	
Donations	£176.00	
Interest Received	<u>£21.46</u>	
		£3301.96
<u>Expenditure</u>		
Printing Newsletter	£1105.00	
Postage, Paper and Envelopes	£786.07	
Insurance	£738.68	
Expenses, Publicity & Special Events	£341.38	
Annual Dinner, Family History and Social Events	£324.50	
Website	£2.00	
		£3307.63
Deficit of Income over Expenditure		-£5.67
Bank Account Balance March 31st 2016		£7272.08

Notes

At the financial year end 31st March 2016 the Association held a bank balance of £7272.08, a decrease compared to the previous year end with income slightly less than our outgoings.

Our main source of income is the annual membership subscription which remains unchanged at the current rate of £15 for the coming year. We are also grateful for donations that members feel able to make.

Once again a decline in attendance at the Trelawny lecture proved costly as we had to pay hall hire and the speakers' travel expenses. To try and contain these costs we have incorporated the next Trelawny lecture and AGM into the April Family History Day which we hope will prove successful.

The Annual Dinner moved to a lunch this year and was very successful although not profitable. Council have

agreed to support this prestigious event to enable it to continue.

Family History days held in April and October were well attended and able to cover their costs.

Printing the Newsletter continues to be our largest expense and this year the cost of postage and stationary has risen but we feel it important to maintain contact with all our members.

In future we hope to make more use of our re launched Website www.londoncornish.co.uk to keep our members informed.

As in previous years we held our council meetings and several social events at the Penderel's Oak Restaurant so saving the cost of a meeting room or hall.

Jacqueline Trembath (Treasurer)

New Members

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

- Mrs. Sally Harrison who is Cornish by descent and living in London
- Miss Mary Watters, originally from Brane, Sancreed who now lives in Plymouth.

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
17 Trelyn Close
Barming
Maidstone
ME16 9EF

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

A note from member Yvonne Trembath

Reading in the Spring Newsletter that Liz Broekmann has been its editor par excellence approaching twelve years, I was transported back to 2005.

Priscilla Oates was our Chairman at that time and was living and working as a school teacher in Hemel Hempstead and she invited members of the LCA to have their Annual Lunch there. My late husband Ted and I were also residents (I still am) and we were on hand to assist as 'welcomers'.

We enjoyed an excellent lunch at a local inn during which Liz offered her services as our editor and the rest, as they say, is history!

Priscilla had borrowed the school mini bus and following lunch, she with her friend and work colleague Sarah, took our guests on a scenic tour of the local area before they returned home.

I'm confident I can on behalf of 'One and All' thank Liz very much for her sterling work over the last eleven years and maybe be cheeky enough to hope she will feel able to continue for many more.

'Proper Job', Liz

London Cornish Pilot Gig Club Gets a Taste of Glory

The newly formed London Cornish Pilot Gig Club has successfully navigated its way through its first appearance at the World Pilot Gig Championships that took place on the Isles of Scilly on the first May Bank Holiday weekend. Competing alongside about 150 other gigs, the London rowers, who are normally to be found training at Richmond Upon Thames, weren't as used to the Atlantic swell and choppy conditions, but managed to win their heat for a podium finish, despite coming third...from bottom! The crew saw just getting to the championships to compete as an achievement in itself, helped along by the kindness of Devoran Pilot Gig Club who lent them their gig, *Fear Not*, for the race.

Pete Chalkley, Secretary of the London Cornish Pilot Gig Club who attended the London Cornish Association luncheon in March and is originally from Saltash, said 'The setting was spectacular, the welcome from the gig rowing community incredibly friendly and the rowing was great fun. We'll definitely be heading back next year. We appeared on BBC Spotlight and are getting lots of interest from Cornish rowers in and around London. We are keen to get more people involved in the club. If you would like to get involved or know friends or relatives who might, do get in touch!'

The club has had an offer accepted to buy its first gig, *Fury*, currently owned by Falmouth, and is now busy trying to raise the funds needed. It is hoped that the gig will be launched on the Thames in the next few months bringing this unique part of Cornish culture to the capital. You can follow the club's progress at www.londoncornishpilotgigclub.org.uk and get in touch using lcpclub@gmail.com

The London Cornish Pilot Gig Club has grown out of the monthly Cornish 'ex-pat' gathering in London, Wreckers Wednesday, which will be holding a special summer barbecue event at the Richmond Bridge Boat Club on the afternoon of Saturday 2nd July. One and all welcome! More details are at <https://www.facebook.com/wreckerswednesday/>.



The London Cornish gig crew next to the gig 'Fear Not' on the beach at Hugh Town on St Mary's

In The Footsteps Of Poldark

Any members who have read Winston Graham's 'Poldark' novels, or seen the TV show, or both, will be interested to hear about our experience on the 'Poldark Walk' in Falmouth.

We met the leader, Paul Simmons, of Walkitcornwall, fetchingly clad in tricorne (despite requests from the female members of the group, the weather ruled out the full Aidan Turner 'monty'!) outside the Maritime Museum and there followed an hour and a half of entertaining and educational exercise as we followed Paul around the main sights of Falmouth, which he linked amusingly to highlights of the Poldark novels.

Despite having holidayed in Falmouth for more than twenty years, we learnt many new and interesting facts on the walk, including: the many decorative pillars and columns which adorn the frontage of many of the older shops in Market and Arwenack Streets, and which had been passed unnoticed by us before, were put in place to support the living-quarters of the families living 'over the shop'; the launching-slip of Falmouth Yacht Club was built by American troops preparing for the D-Day landings; Winston Graham sited the fateful meeting of Captain Blamey and Verity Poldark in one of the handsome Georgian houses opposite the marina and their wedding in the church in the middle of town; and, most spectacularly of all, the last trial in the UK for cannibalism (the 'Mignonette' trial) was due to be held in the old Court House in Falmouth (at the top of the High Street) but was adjourned to Truro and later London for fear of local reaction as the accused came from the area.

If anyone visiting Cornwall is interested in these walks the website is at www.walkitcornwall.co.uk.

Gill and Chris Woon

Helston Museum Preserves Its Photographic Collection

Helston Museum is currently digitising its vast photographic collection, including thousands of images of Helston and the Lizard. Supported by a £36 700 Heritage Lottery grant, this project will take an estimated 18 months.

Twelve volunteers are working with the museum's digitisation officer, Karen Bell to scan, catalogue and re-package all the old photographs.

This digitisation project has two key aims – to ensure the survival of the photograph collection and to enable public access to the images, a boon for historians and family historians. Access to the collection will be through the museum's website www.helstonmuseum.co.uk.

In addition to the digitisation aspect of the project, the museum will develop a range of activities and resources suitable for use by schools and community groups.

Preserving Cornwall's Musical Heritage

Member Lorna Leadbetter recently heard from one of her Cornish contacts who, some years ago had written a book about the village where she went to primary school and where her grandfather played in the local brass band. He had been approached by someone from the Cornish Mu-

sic Archive who are looking for information on brass bands. Lorna thought that our members might be interested in this project, and that some may be able to provide information for the CMA and so she contacted Tony Mansell, website manager for the Federation of Old Cornwall Societies, who is involved in this project. He has written the following article which explains what the CMA is and what it is doing to ensure that the musical heritage of Cornwall is preserved.

Argh Ilow Kernow (The Cornish Music Archive) Gather up the fragments that remain...

Cornwall Music Archive is an organisation formed by the Institute of Cornish Studies of Exeter University and Lowender Peran with the aim of researching and archiving Cornish music. The information gathered will reside at Kresen Kernow and be available for public use.

At this time we are particularly interested in the brass band aspect of the archive and would love to hear from anyone who has any information that may help to build this important record of our heritage.

Many bands are well-known throughout Cornwall while others are more obscure, possibly because they existed many years ago and maybe for only a few years. Well-known or obscure, we need them all. Perhaps one of your relatives was a brass band composer or the conductor of one of our many bands. Perhaps you were a player or are someone with an interest in the movement. If so then we would love to hear from you.

The sort of thing being collected is wide-ranging as the following list shows but even stories and anecdotes could help to complete the jigsaw puzzle that we are trying to build.

- Cornish brass band music: The title and composer of music written by someone from, or living in, Cornwall.
- Cornish Brass Bands: Name, date formed, photographs, names and dates of conductors, contesting activity, any major engagements with dates of newspaper reports and, if applicable, date disbanded.
- Brass Band Contests: We know about the WEBF (Bugle Contest) and the Cornwall Brass Band Association Contest but there were others in our villages and towns. Many have come to light and, with your help, we can extend the list.

Please have a good think about this and consider if you can help contribute to this important Cornish archive.

Oll an gwella, Tony Mansell

(Bardh Kernow / FOCS Website Manager)

15 Kerensa Gardens,

Goonown, St Agnes, Cornwall TR5 0YX

Tel: 01872 552098

Mob:07812 463746

tony.mansell369@btinternet.com

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

Contact the editor on editor@londoncornish.co.uk or at the address on the back page

A Policeman's Lot is Not Always a Happy One

At our last Family History Day, member Brenda Keer mentioned her great grandfather who served as a policeman in both London and Penzance. She kindly agreed to share his story:

My great-grandfather, William Henry Green was the son of James Green and Elizabeth Lugg. He was born in 1821 and baptised at St Buryan on 21 October. He married Alice Stone 16 September 1848 at Paul Parish Church and they had six children, five boys and one girl. For over thirty years William Henry was a Borough policeman in Penzance and when he died in 1909 he was given a police guard of honour.

Prior to this he had spent three years in London in the Metropolitan Police, joining on 7 April 1845 and resigning on 4 May 1848. His referees were John Paynter Esq, Boskenna, Penzance and William Kneebone of Penzance. There are no other personal records surviving.

There is a family story that when he was staying in the police section house in London he had his watch stolen. This apparently helped him decide to return to Cornwall and join the Borough force. No records of Penzance Borough survive. However the Minute books do contain some useful information about the force. The Minute book for 10 March 1857 (DC/PEN/4) states: *Read a report from the Watch Committee stating that out of the thirteen applications for the situation of Police Officer they had appointed William Henry Green of Ludgvan aged 35.* The only other information about him states that on 28 April 1857 he was receiving 16 shillings per week.

He died at 15 Prospect Place, Penzance on 23 November 1909 and is buried in Penzance cemetery where there is a headstone naming his wife Alice (d.23 Nov 1900 aged 80 years), William Henry and their unmarried daughter Emily Jane (d. 29 June 1921 aged 66 years).

Government withdraws its funding of the Cornish language

At the end of April, the government announced that it would no longer provide funding for the Cornish language, something which it has done since 2003. The following is the response of Gorsedh Kernow which was issued at the time.

Grand Bard condemns UK Government's indifference to Cornish culture

Gorsedh Kernow is appalled at the UK Government's decision not to support the Cornish language.

Railing against the recent withdrawal of funding in support of one of Cornwall's unique cultural assets the Grand Bard of Cornwall, Dr Merv Davey, spoke of the anger and disgust being expressed by people all across Cornwall, from fellow Celtic countries and from countless Cornish cousins overseas.

A promise was made to the people of Cornwall and that promise has been broken, said the Grand Bard.

Compared to the money approved and spent on our behalf by the Government on cultural 'trips and activities' for the boys and girls in power at Westminster the £150K we are asking for is a comparative drop in the ocean.

Let's be blunt about this. This is an ideological decision based on indifference and not a financial one based on fiscal responsibility.

James Wharton MP, the Minister for Local Growth and the Northern Powerhouse at the Department for Communities and Local Government, who rubber stamped the withdrawal of the promised funding, stated in his letter to the Leader of Cornwall Council, Cllr John Pollard that '*As Cornwall continues to implement its Devolution Deal, I look forward to hearing more about the great progress that has been made and encourage you to work closely with the Department for Culture, Media and Sport to ensure the continued recognition of Cornish culture.*'

The Minister obviously felt he wanted to rub a bit more salt into the wound, said the Grand Bard, which is particularly cruel and dismissive to Cornish people. When it comes to making such statements it seems that he is just not prepared to deliver on promises made.

Ironically, some of Cornwall's representatives even took their parliamentary oaths in Cornish, but have failed to fight for the language.

The Cornish language is a great source of pride for Cornwall and is part of what makes Cornwall and the Cornish unique, said fellow bard Julian German, Cornwall Council's Cabinet Member for Economy and Culture.

Over the last five years use of the language has increased and this is reflected in street names, signage and on mainstream and social media. Just as importantly, it supports our local and visitor economy as the increase in the use of the language in marketing and tourism has proved.

The decision has also angered Malcolm Bell, Head of Visit Cornwall, who said The Cornish language is an essential part of the Cornwall brand.

The response of the Cornwall Council to the announcement was as follows:

Council condemns Government decision to cut funding for Cornish language

Last updated: 13/05/2016

Cornwall Council has condemned the Government's decision to cut all its funding for the Cornish language with immediate effect.

The Government has provided up to £150,000 a year to support the Cornish language since it was recognised under the Charter for Regional and Minority Languages in 2003. This grant has been used to support the development of the language, including funding a range of educational activities. At the end of last year the Council was asked by the Government to submit a bid for funding for the current financial year. This bid was supported by MPs, George Eustice and Sarah Newton, as well as Cornish Members of the House of Lords, Cornwall Chamber of Commerce, and the Cornwall and Isles of Scilly LEP.

The Council has now received a formal letter from the Department of Communities and Local Government stating that it was not providing any further funding to support the development of the Cornish language – despite the recognition of the Cornish people as a national minority in April 2014.

Criticising the decision of the Government Julian German, the Council's Cabinet Member for Economy and Culture, said *'The Cornish language is a great source of pride for Cornwall and is part of what makes Cornwall and the Cornish unique. Over the last five years use of the language has increased and this is reflected in street names, signage and on mainstream and social media. Just as importantly, it supports our local and visitor economy as the increase in the use of the language in marketing and tourism has proved.'*

'The Government's decision not to support Cornish with any funding whatsoever goes against the international agreements they have signed up to and that makes no sense at all. Cornwall has received funding from Government for a number of years and all we asked for was to continue at this level of funding.'

'The Prime Minister makes a point of telling us how much he loves Cornwall and the Devolution Deal highlights the Government's recognition of our unique culture and heritage. However, when it comes to backing those statements up, the Government just doesn't deliver for Cornwall.'

The decision has also angered Malcolm Bell, Head of Visit Cornwall, who said *'The Cornish language is an essential part of the Cornwall brand.'*

Cornwall Council will be working with the Cornish language, community and representative organisations such as the Gorsedh to discuss how to protect and develop the Cornish language in the future.

A Petition against the withdrawal of Government funding for the Cornish language has been launched

In 2002, Cornish was granted official "minority language" status under Part II of the 1992 Council of Europe Charter for Regional and Minority Languages (Hansard 5 Nov 2002 : Column 207W).

A petition against this decision has been launched by Dr Jon Mills and in early June, already had 8 609 signatures. When it gets to 10 000 signatures, the government will respond to the petition and if it reaches 100 000 signatures, it will be considered for debate in Parliament.

The petition will be available until 21st October. If you would like to sign it, go to

<https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/128474>

Taking Pride In Our Heritage: St Piran's Day Address By The Grand Bard

'Handle Cornwall With Care' says Grand Bard of Gorsedh Kernow

'The Cornish are an open-hearted people, but we will not be taken for granted,' said the Grand Bard of Cornwall, Merv Davey, *Telynor an Weryn*, as he addressed a substantial, flag waving crowd at Truro's High Cross today.

Celebrating St Piran's Day, the patron saint of tanners, the Grand Bard was inspired by the noisy crowd of enthusiastic schoolchildren, who with teachers and parents had joined the annual St Piran's procession alongside countless Cornish supporters as they snaked their way through the town.

'It's now almost two years since we gained recognition of our National Minority status and we must continue to consolidate and assert this identity.' said Merv Davey.

'We must learn to rise above petty definitions of Cornishness and encourage and support all those who feel that indefinable sense of place and longing to embrace our Celtic culture and play a full part.'

'We have a long history of welcoming people into our culture and we applaud all those who cherish Cornish and Celtic culture as we do, but to those who are not so bothered about our heritage we say loud and clear, 'Handle Cornwall With Care'.'

Swelled by ranks of attentive onlookers the sizeable crowd was urged to take inspiration from the Cornish men and women, some famous and many not at all famous, who have helped make Cornwall great.

'Let's be inspired by our beautiful Cornish language, still very relevant and still present, for example, as place names in our communities,' said the Grand Bard, *'and perhaps we may in turn inspire others to learn a few words and phrases as a unique badge of identity.'*

Referring to plans for a National Library and Archive in Cornwall, which was also a key point of reference for the Deputy Grand Bard Elizabeth Carne, *Melennek*, in her address to the townspeople, the Grand Bard expressed a growing sense of pride with developments in Redruth.

'I am so proud to be Grand Bard at such an exciting time in Redruth's history. We must be even more ambitious for Cornwall and ensure that we show how proud we are with our towns and communities who have helped make things like Kresen Kernow - the new Centre for Cornwall - happen.'

News from other Cornish Associations

With Apologies...

We apologise for the fact that we have no news from other associations in this issue. My pleas for copy for the newsletter seem to have been taken to heart as, for the first time in years, we have no space to include news from our cousin!. I will endeavour to make up in the Autumn newsletter

Are you planning a visit to London?

Please remember to let us know if you are coming to London. If possible, we would love to meet you. Contact us via the LCA website - www.londoncornish.co.uk

A warm welcome awaits you at the London Cornish Association

Mem Sec's Meanderings...

Spring is here and summer is approaching.

Please don't forget that subscriptions were due on 1st April. There are still a few who have forgotten to pay, but I thank those who have paid on time and offer an extra thank you to those who generously included a donation to the Association. If you have any questions about your membership, please don't hesitate to contact me. My address and telephone number are at the end of these *Meanderings*. I never like having to write off members for non-payment of their subscription, particularly when I do not know the reason they have not paid

We are pleased to welcome two new members. They are Mrs. Sally Harrison who is Cornish by descent and living in London and Miss Mary Watters, originally from Brane, Sancreed in Cornwall and now living in Plymouth. A number of you will know, or have heard of Mary who is an active member of the Torbay Cornish Association. She was also a member of Plymouth Cornish until it folded some years ago. Welcome to both of you.

Unfortunately, five members have decided to cancel their membership and I can now report that our membership stands at 211.

Once again I ask that if you know anybody who is of Cornish decent or perhaps has a Cornish interest, you encourage them to join the London Cornish Association.

In previous *Meanderings* I have said that about 100 of our members live away from the London area, many in Cornwall and abroad.

In my last *Meanderings*, I asked if anybody would like to re-establish the Trelawny Club, which was set up years ago for members up to the age of 30. It offered activities for the younger generation. Perhaps it can be re-started with a different upper age limit. What age do you think that should be? So far there has been no response. If you have any ideas, please let me or the Secretary know.

Looking through a book recently I saw an article on the National Explosive Works at Hayle Towans where strict precautionary measures were taken in the dunes to prevent the spread of explosions from one unit to another. Security was sophisticated for its time but it was not infallible as a disastrous incident at 10.35 a.m. on Tuesday 5th January 1904 proved beyond all reasonable doubt. On that morning the whole area was rocked by an explosion. The blast actually broke glass in St. Ives church windows across the Bay and, it was claimed, was heard as far away as Dartmoor. There were about 600 workmen and woman working at the site when the explosion happened. As everyone rushed out into the open air they were confronted by a dense cloud of smoke and dust which rose from the site and drifted out to sea. When the plant managers were walking through the sand hills to assess the damage they saw that two huts had completely disappeared. Sadly, this was where four workmen died. Apart from the damage to the church windows, there was extensive damage to properties across the Bay in St. Ives.

It was interesting seeing the many articles in a book I have. Its title is *Geography of Cornwall* and it was published in 1854. If I referred continually to all the interesting items I find in this book these *Meanderings* would go on forever! I'll put the book back on its shelf, but if anybody

has any questions regarding Cornish towns and villages of that era they are quite welcome to contact me.

Do you know what the sport 'Fencing' is? Well it is non-aggressive sword fighting, a sport I have never participated in. When we were in Cornwall earlier this year and reading the 'Village Magazine for Point & Penpoll' we saw that Beatrice Abram-Moore, a local 12 year old Cornish girl and the daughter of some friends of ours in Feock, had been selected for the England under 13s sabre squad which went to Poland for an international sabre fencing competition in March. I have since learned that she came 44th out of more than 230 competitors. She is now 4th in the England Youth Championship and since returning from Poland has been travelling all over the country to participate in sabre competitions. You may ask what a sabre is. Well, a sabre is a cavalry sword with a curved blade and is also one of three categories of 'fencing'. So well done our Cornish 'sabre girl'. To me this is something new and I hope that Beatrice continues waving the Cornish flag.

A news item I read recently asked '*Do you fancy eating seaweed?*'. Well it said that the Cornish Seaweed Company in Falmouth is harvesting seaweed and supplying the supermarkets with kombu which it then explained is a type of edible kelp that has an effect on taste buds. It can be sold as flat wide strips and is sweet and salty when dry and soft and mild when cooked. Sounds tasty, I'll have to try it some time.

Another item: Do you know that there is a Pasty Museum in the Mexican town of Real del Monte? This town is about 5000 miles from Cornwall where Cornish miners settled in the mid 1800s when they helped to revive the silver mining industry. Now, many years later, there are plans to open an attraction in St. Austell which would be more than a museum. It would provide cookery demonstrations and be a showcase for food and drink products from all over Cornwall including sea food, bread, cheeses, wine and beer. This sounds like an interesting plan and I hope it develops. It will be another attraction to visit.

Enough from books and newspapers for these *Meanderings*. Perhaps I'll find something more for another time.

When writing this I suddenly remembered that it is close to Helston Flora Day. It is now quite some years since Jenny and I took part in the midday dance which we both thoroughly enjoyed. But of course this will all be over for this year when this Newsletter is printed and sent out to members. If you get the opportunity to visit Helston on 8th May next year or in a future year go along enjoy seeing smartly dressed people in the midday dance happily dancing through the main streets and in and out of the shops and through gardens.

Well that is all for now and once more, I hope you have found these *Meanderings* to be of interest and I hope that they helped bring back memories and give you some '*food for thought*'. (Perhaps seaweed?).

I hope that the weather this winter was not too disruptive for you. As I said in my last *Meanderings* be prepared for a late winter, but don't worry as summer is on its way. I think it has arrived.

I wish you all the best for 2016 and, again I ask, please see what you can do to support the future of the London Cornish Association.

Kernow bys vyken

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

Crowdy Crawn

'St Piran Stuff' Facebook Page Launched

Eileen Carter, the founder of the St Piran Trust has let us know that she has recently set up a facebook page, called 'St Piran Stuff'. The page will provide a forum for 'all things Piran' and give people an opportunity to find information, read other people's comments and express their opinions. By signing up and visiting the page, people will be able to have their say on various subjects such as the excavation of the oratory at Perranporth.

Kelly's Ice Cream Advert Scoops a First

A TV advert for Kelly's ice cream is the first ad in the Cornish language to be aired in Britain.

In the ad, which is being screened during prime time on ITV and Channel 4, an ice cream seller standing in a field says 'Yth yw gwrys oll gans clotted cream (dhyworth bughes leel) which, according to an article in the London Metro means 'It's all. made with clotted cream (from local cows)'

Kelly's, which is based in Bodmin, was supported by the Cornish Language Partnership in making this advert. The timing of this is interesting in that it coincides with the announcement by the government that it will cut the funding for the Cornish language which it has given since 2003.

If you haven't seen the ad on TV, you can look at it on *youtube* at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kFz-U2gSmGg>

Protecting and Enjoying our Cornish Heritage

Michelle Brown, former Curator of Medieval and Illuminated Manuscripts at the British Library and Professor of Medieval Manuscript Studies at the University of London has notified us of two associations which will be of interest to Cornish people who are proud of their heritage (and who isn't?)

The first is *Friends of Cornish Ancient Sites* (FOCAS), which cares for the early monuments of Cornwall, particularly the unique prehistoric landscape of West Penwith. The Friends undertake conservation and stewardship functions and promote education, understanding and appreciation.

The second association is the *Friends of St Michael's Way*, a 12.5 mile walking / pilgrimage route extending from St Ives bay / Hayle Estuary to St Michael's Mount. Since prehistory, this important route has linked the peoples of the Atlantic seaboard to Europe (avoiding the

perilous route around Land's End) and has just regained its medieval status as part of El Camino, the famed pilgrimage road to Santiago.

An exhibition of Cornish artwork inspired by the route was on display in London recently but has now been transferred to Tremenneheere sculpture garden near Penzance. This exhibition is just one of many events organised this summer to celebrate the launch of the Friends. Details of their forthcoming programme can be found at <http://www.stmichaelsway.net/>

Excavation of Cornish Burial Site Due to Begin This Summer

Last year, a mass burial pit was found near Lizard Point in Cornwall. The 207 bodies in the grave are thought to be sailors and passengers from the ship HMS Royal Anne which sank over 300 years ago.

The Royal Anne is thought to have crashed onto rocks before sinking. The bodies were buried in a nearby field as and when they were washed up on the beach.

Excavation of the grave is due to take place this summer



Source: rasmivan.co.uk

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

5th August

Please send all contributions to:

*The Editor
55 Brownell Place
London
W7 3AZ*

Or email to lca@londoncornish.co.uk