



Cowethas Kernewek Loundres

London Cornish Association Newsletter

www.londoncornish.co.uk



Summer 2018

Welcome to the Summer edition of the LCA newsletter.

Looking back to the time since the last newsletter, it is hard to believe it is only 3 months – and what an amazing 3 months it has been for the Association.

We started the quarter with a bit of a challenge when our eagerly awaited St Piran's Day tea at the South Bank was seen off by the *Beast from the East*. Fortunately, since that disappointment, things have gone very well. Our first big event after the cancelled St Piran's Day Tea was our Annual Dining Event (now a lunch) which was a great success. We had a new venue and the largest attendance we have had for several years. On this occasion, the attempt by the weather to interfere failed and, despite heavy snow early in the morning, everyone made it. This was such a happy event with great food and companionship.

Just a month later we gathered for the April Family History Day, which included the annual Trelawny Lecture. This year it was given by Eric Bush, the Cayman Island's Representative to the UK and EU. His talk on the Cornish connections with the Islands was illustrated with many glorious photos of sunshine, blue seas and white sands! You can read a report on the lecture in this newsletter.

All seemed to be going so well for the LCA it was hard to imagine things could get even more exciting. This year is Prince Charles' 70th birthday and to mark this happy event, there was a special 'Patronage' garden party at Buckingham Palace. He is patron of over 400 organisations from the *Red Squirrel Survival Trust* to the *Marine Rescue NSW* charity in Australia – and of course, the London Cornish Association. Four members of Council were very privileged to attend the Garden Party on a beautiful sunny day in May where we met many interesting people from a range of charities as well as the armed forces. I was fortunate to be standing next to a firewoman from Hampshire while waiting to go through the security process and we were able to

share experiences of firefighting as I was, at one time, a volunteer 'firewoman' with a fire brigade near Johannesburg. Everything about the event was memorable – from the delicious food to the beautiful gardens, but the highlight undoubtedly came when the Royal Party was walking down to their special tent for a cuppa. En route, they chatted to several pre-selected people. We were thrilled, however when the Duke of Cornwall broke rank and came over to talk to us and a couple of people near us!

About the time you get this newsletter, our Chairman, Carol Goodwin will be representing the Association in a special Patronage Parade at the Royal Cornwall Show. Sharing the day with her will be a past Chairman, and the London Cornish Association's representative at the Old Cornwall Society, Priscilla Oates (who is currently President of the OCS).

It has been an amazing couple of months and our profile has certainly been enhanced by all these 'happenings', but it is not over yet. We still have a couple of pub lunches to enjoy before we go off for our summer break. We hope members will take advantage of the opportunity to hear Bernard Deacon talking about *Cornwall's First Golden Age: From Arthur to the Normans* at the Rosyer Lecture after our lunch early in July and after our Midsummer Lunch in July, we hope to link up with the London Cornish Pilot Gig Rowing Club for an afternoon of entertainment and chat next to the Thames.

Before I end, I would like to say a very big 'Thank You' to those who have contributed to this newsletter either by writing articles or by alerting me to items of interest. The end result is a newsletter of 16 pages – something we haven't seen for a while. So, thank you and keep up the good work.

All that is left to do now is to wish those of you in the northern hemisphere, a wonderful, restful summer while, to our cousins in the south, keep warm and enjoy the quieter days of winter.

Dates for your diary ...

Lunch at Penderel's Oak
7th July
12 noon

Rosyer Lecture
7th July
2.30 for 3pm

Midsummer Lunch
14th July
12.15pm.

Further details of these events can be found on page 2

Deadline for the Spring Newsletter is

5th August

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



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

Forthcoming Events

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

Lunch before Rosyer Lecture - 7th July 12 noon

Venue: Penderel's Oak, Holborn

This will be an opportunity for members who are going to the Rosyer Lecture at City Lit to gather for a pub lunch beforehand. Those attending the lecture will then be able to go on to the City Lit together in time for the lecture at 3pm. (About an 8 minute walk)

Please note: The lunch is not only for those attending the lecture. If you are unable to go to the lecture, you are still welcome to come along to the lunch.

If you are planning to attend either the lunch or the lecture, it would be helpful if you could contact Carol Goodwin so that she can book tables at Penderel's Oak and let the organisers of the Rosyer know approximate numbers. Her details are:

Tel: 0208 303 9054 or

Email: chynoweth@hotmail.co.uk.

29th Rosyer Lecture – 7th July 2.30 for 3pm

Rosyer is the bardic name of one of the former members of the City Lit. Cornish Society. Each year a lecture is given in his memory.

Venue: City Lit Society, Room 106, City Lit, 1-10 Keeley Street, London WC2B 4BA

Admission: Free

Bernard Deacon, will deliver this year's lecture on *Cornwall's First Golden Age: From Arthur to the Normans*.

Midsummer Lunch – 14th July 12.15pm

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

As Richmond is likely to be busy, we will need to book for lunch. Please let Carol Goodwin know if you are coming. Her details are::

Tel: 0208 303 9054 or

Email: chynoweth@hotmail.co.uk.

Later in the afternoon, there is to be a get-together at the Richmond Rowing Club/London Cornish Pilot Gig Club boathouse, to which we are invited. The boathouse is about a 5 minute walk from *The Waterman's Arms*.

(The nearest tube station is Richmond on the District Line. It is about a 13 minute walk to the pub. If you are coming from further afield, there are other options via Waterloo, Vauxhall and the Overground.)

Family History Day - 13th October

Advance warning...Our next **Family History Day** will be on **October 13th**. Please put it in your diary now.

More details will appear in the Autumn newsletter and on the website.

General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)

On 25th May 2018, new European privacy regulations came into effect and the London Cornish Association needs to comply with them.

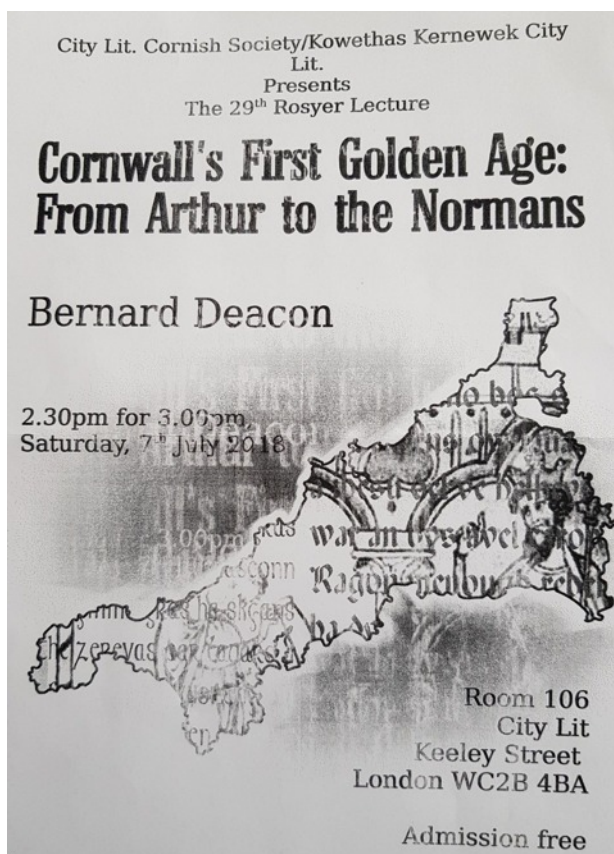
The LCA keeps the names, addresses and email contacts for all its members. These are used only for contacting you and for mailing out newsletters. All records are kept safely to protect their privacy and are never passed on to any 3rd parties.

If you no longer want us to keep these details for you, please let us know and we will remove them from our database. This will, however mean we will be unable to contact you in the future. If we do not hear from you, we will assume you are happy to continue to allow us to hold your contact details.

Condolences

We were saddened to hear that long-standing member **Josephine Broughton** had passed away in November 2017. Our thoughts are with her family and friends.

Many of us knew **Dorothy Sweet**, a member of Bournemouth Cornish Association. We were sorry to hear that she passed away recently. Our thoughts are with Bill and her family, as well as the members of Bournemouth.



News of Past Events

St Piran's Day Celebration

Following our very successful St Piran's Day tea at the South Bank last year, we decided to repeat the event in 2018. Everything was planned and we were all ready: the splits, jam and clotted cream had been bought and the committee was checking the final details to ensure it would be a good day - when the *Beast from the East* struck with all its might! Roads and pavements were covered in deep snow and many train services stopped running. Since several of those who were planning to attend were cut off because of the Beast's handiwork, we took the decision to cancel the event. A great disappointment. However, we hope to organise another event to make up - possibly at the hotel where we had our Annual Dining Event, which serves delicious cream teas, complete with Rodda's clotted cream!

132nd Annual Dining Event

For several reasons, the Dinner Committee decided that our Annual Dining Event for 2018 would move to a new venue - the Imperial Hotel in Russell Square. A change like this is not undertaken lightly, but it turned out to be a good move. We were treated like royalty and the feedback from our guests was very positive.

After a period of fine weather, we were suddenly hit by snow storms on the morning of our lunch. We were very worried that this would mean that some of our guests would not be able to get to the venue. It is a tribute to everyone's Cornish spirit that not one person dropped out. Fifty guests attended, several coming from as far as Cornwall, Plymouth and Bournemouth. They arrived safely, but some did have difficulties getting home again afterwards. We really appreciate the fact that they made the effort to join us.

As they entered the room, the guests were greeted by the abundant display of Cornish daffodils on the tables. Once again, we owe our thanks to those flower growers who have supported us for many, many years - Tregothnan, Caerhays and Fentongollan. They always send enough blooms to enable each guest to take some home afterwards as a reminder of a pleasant event.

An LCA past chairman, Priscilla Oates, brought us greetings from Cornwall, after which she said the grace. Then, everyone settled down to enjoy a really good meal.

Our Principal Guest on this occasion was Councillor Mary May, Chairman of Cornwall Council, who also brought us Cornish greetings and news from the County.

We were very grateful to Aubrey Lane from Bournemouth who stepped in to help us as MC - and a 'proper job' he did too, keeping everyone in check and everything running smoothly.

This was a very happy event but someone who meant a lot to us was missing - our past Chairman, Francis Dunstan. He was a wonderful host at our dining events and a great raconteur whose stories were always a highlight. Although he couldn't be with us this time - for the first time in many, many years - he was in our thoughts. In the tribute to him which Kath Slatter read, we heard so much about his very interesting life, especially the early

years which few of us knew about. This gave all who knew him a chance to reflect on a life which gave so much to so many people.

After the dinner, we received some wonderful comments from guests - both written and spoken - which proved to us that this had been a very happy and successful event. Here are just two:

Margaret and I had a lovely time at the London Cornish Annual Lunch and we were so impressed by the meticulous work which the organisers had obviously done. Everything was fine from the speeches, the Master of Ceremonies, the individual menus to the flowers. It was all done in the very best Cornish tradition. I think Francis - and Lord St. Leven [a previous trustee of the LCA], would have been proud of you all. (Barbara Hosking)

We thought the whole event was lovely. The hotel is ideal and for us a good location as we just pop down on the tube. So many friendly 'Cornish' faces. What more could we want? (Elizabeth Wood)



Guests enjoying a good meal and Cornish camaraderie



Kath Slatter read a tribute to Dr Francis Dunstan

Family History Day 21st April

This year the Trelawny Lecture was given by Eric Bush JP. It was on the Cayman Islands and their link with Cornish families and culture.

The Cayman islands comprise three islands in the Caribbean with a population of 65,000. At first sight it would seem unlikely that there were many connections with Cornwall, but the lecture revealed some very interesting links.

The first settler on the islands was from Cornwall. It is known that he had gone to Jamaica in 1654 with Cromwell's Army in the Anglo-Spanish war. Instead of returning home he had settled in the previously uninhabited Cayman Islands. His surname was Bawden. This name has been corrupted over the generations into Bodden but it remains an important name in the Islands. The exact roots of Bawden in Cornwall are still being researched.

So what connections with Cornish culture has this led to? First some of the dialect of the Islands is similar to that used in Cornwall e.g 'directly'. A food speciality on the Islands is a 'patty' which bears a remarkable resemblance to the Cornish Pasty. There is also similarity in music with a fiddle being an important instrument to accompany singing and dancing. A fiddle is certainly not an instrument one would normally associate with Caribbean music.

There are more modern links. The Islanders are very proud of their rugby team which has in the past qualified for the World Cup. There is a Cayman brewery and we all know that this is something which is important in Cornwall.

This linked into the afternoon lecture given by Simon Fowler on Researching Brewery and Brewing Ancestors.

The afternoon lecture was equally informative and of direct interest to me as I have several publicans on my family tree. Simon started with history of brewing and pointed out the large workforce that was needed in the past. These included maltsters, coopers, draymen, office workers as well as brewers. It was very labour intensive.

Unfortunately there are very few records of these workers and they are difficult to find. The records of Redruth Brewery are held by the CRO, but the records of many smaller firms were often thrown away when they were taken over. If you know where your ancestors worked, then Simon suggested various ways of trying to track down information.

These included 'Discovery Catalogue' to find out where any records are held, trade and company magazines, newspapers, in particular the British Newspaper Archives. There is also a Brewery History Society from whom you can make enquiries.

For tracing pubs and publicans, Simon suggested looking at records of the Licensing Sessions, usually held in local record offices. Licences were issued to publicans by the courts until fairly recently. Again newspapers may provide some information as there may be article on special events or incidents that occurred.

Simon has written a book '*Researching Brewery and Publican Ancestors*'. So this could also be helpful in your family history research.

Jacqueline Martin

London Cornish Association Annual General Meeting 21st April 2018

The 2018 AGM was held after the lunch break on the Family History Day – 21st April. LCA President, Sir John Trelawny, was in the Chair. The following is the report for the year 2017/8 which was presented to the members who attended.

AGM Report

Just a year ago, our Chairman Francis Dunstan led the proceedings at the AGM. Who would have guessed that just weeks later he would become ill and pass away? His absence today leaves a real gap – it is the first AGM he has missed in decades!

2017/8 has been a challenging year for the LCA. Faced with the loss of an inspiring and hard-working leader, Council had to look to its future and make decisions about the best way forward. The support we received from our President, Sir John Trelawny was invaluable during this process. We are now confident of a good future for the LCA.

The LCA Council members for 2018/9 are:

President: Sir John Trelawny
Chairman: Carol Goodwin

Treasurer: Jackie Trembath
Facebook and Cornwall in London Facilitator: Chris Richards
Website Facilitator: Carol Goodwin
Membership Secretary: Carol Goodwin
Newsletter Editor: Liz Broekmann
Secretary for Public Relations:

Graham Gendall Norton

While the members of Council are responsible for the overall running of the Association, we appeal to our members to help with tasks from time to time – such as helping with catering at Family History Days or getting involved in organising an outing. If you are able to do this, please speak to any member of Council.

Although there have been some challenges during this year, there are several events to look forward to in the coming months: members of Council have been invited to a garden party at Buckingham Palace in May and the LCA has been invited to be part of parade at the Royal Cornwall Show which will include members of the various organisations of which Prince Charles is patron. Both events form part of the celebrations to mark his 70th birthday.

Our **social programme** for the past year has included two Family History Days (including today), and pub lunches in July and November as well as in January to welcome in the New Year. Our Annual Dining Event in March was held at a new venue and we were very encouraged by the number of people attending – the highest number we have had for several years.

We planned to hold a repeat of the very successful St Piran's Day cream tea we had last year, but the *Beast from the East* intervened, compromising transport and safety. Hopefully we can re-schedule sometime later in the year.

The **Family History Group** holds Family History Day Conferences in April and October each year and this year, has continued to provide good calibre speakers on a variety of interesting subjects. We welcome suggestions for new speakers from our members.

The April FHD Conference now includes the AGM and the Trelawny Lecture. This year's Trelawny Lecture will be given by Mr Eric Bush, JP, from the Embassy of the Cayman Islands. Mr Bush will speak on the '*The Cayman Islands and its links with Cornish Families and Culture*'. The other speaker this April will be Simon Fowler who will speak on '*Researching Brewery and Publican Ancestors*'.

One of the speakers for the 13th October event is Ben Gilby who will talk about '*The Cornish Language*'. He is based at Penryn Campus, studying for a PhD in Cornish Studies.

One of the biggest challenges facing the FHG is the cost of running the conferences. The major expenses are the venue and the cost of speakers. To make these events cost effective, we need to increase the number of attendees. We advertise in the newsletter, on the website and in various family history magazines. Any help in getting more attendees by personal contact would be most appreciated.

The **LCA website** has led to the recruitment of several new members this year. To make it easier for potential

members, we have now included an application form on the site which can be printed off and sent to the Membership Secretary. The newsletter (one issue behind the current one) is also available.

The website has been invaluable in publicising our events. It also enables us to promote impromptu activities when opportunities arise and provides a platform for notices and reminders. It is a good site which is regularly updated – so do keep visiting – www.londoncornish.co.uk.

Hard copies of the **Newsletter** are sent to 200 members while a small number, as well as several organisations (Cornish media, MPs, the Cornish Gorsedd and overseas associations) get the pdf version. The advantage for them is that the pictures are in colour! We are grateful to members who submit items for inclusion and encourage others to send in their pictures with captions, short reports on events or descriptions of interesting things they have seen or done.

The LCA now has its own **Facebook page** - <https://www.facebook.com/LondonCornishAssociation/> - which provides another tool for publicising and promoting the LCA's news and events.

Do keep an eye on both the website and the Facebook page and keep up to date with LCA news.

Although we have lost a few members this year, we are very happy to report that, for the first time in several years, the **membership of the LCA** has increased slightly and now stands at 218. We welcome the following new members who joined in 2017/8: Chris Richards, Alton Morgans, Jenifer Poynter, Peter Chalkley, Barry and Anne Dell, Matthew Trevai, Nicholas & Fiona Orford-Williams, Jenny M Headlam-Wells and John Hosking.

Sadly, several of our members have passed away. We offer condolences to the friends and family of: Peter Williams, Francis Dunstan, Norman Bunney and Fred Hancock. We also remember Lady Carol Trelawny who, when her husband, Sir John Trelawny was President of the LCA

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2018 - TREASURER'S REPORT

Income and Expenditure Statement for the year ended 31st March 2018

	£	£
Bank Account Balance March 31st 2017		7029.76
<u>Income</u>		
Subscriptions	2535.00	
Donations	314.99	
Surplus Annual Dinner and Family History	119.58	
Interest Received	<u>15.48</u>	
		2985.05
<u>Expenditure</u>		
Printing Newsletter and Leaflets	965.00	
Insurance	746.00	
Postage, Paper and Envelopes	685.16	
Expenses, Publicity and Special Events	269.20	
Website	<u>31.20</u>	
		2696.56
Surplus of Income over Expenditure		288.49
Bank Account Balance March 31st 2018		7318.25

Treasurer's Notes

At the end of the year our bank balance had increased compared to the previous year end and we had a surplus of income over expenditure.

Our main source of funds is from the annual membership subscriptions at the current rate of £15 and donations that members feel able to make for which we are grateful.

The Annual Dinner and two Family History days held during the year covered their costs and contributed to our income.

Due to our loss of Francis Dunstan we had to amend our bank mandate and we also updated it.. We are now able to make payments by bank transfer or debit card rather than just using cheques.

Jacqueline Trembath (Treasurer)

New Members

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

Jenny M Headlam-Wells who lives in London NW5
E. J (John) Hosking who lives in London NW6

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

Pasty Memories

In the Spring 2018 newsletter, member Tony Wakeham shared some of his pasty memories from childhood with us. In response, two members have sent in some of theirs, which we share with you:

Jenny Bray remembers taking pasties on days out – but they came with some cautionary words from Mum! ...

In the fifties we used to go on the train to Padstow for the day. When I say 'we' I mean us kids.

Mum would make us Pasties and we would walk the couple of miles to St. Kew Highway Station. We would spend all day climbing the rocks, fishing in the pools and just 'nosing around'.

There were only two rules: *'Swim before you eat and be home by half past five'*.

Member Lorna Leadbetter shares her memories of pasty traditions in her home...

Friday was always 'pasty day' in our household; it would take an event of momentous proportions to prevent Friday morning and lunch-time from being devoted to the making and eating of pasties. Mum would make a start immediately after the breakfast things had been washed and put away, and the beds made. The first task was to make a large amount of pastry in a white enamel bowl. This was followed by peeling and chopping the vegetables (potato, onion, turnip (aka swede)), and cutting the beef (skirt steak) into small pieces. During school holidays my sister

and I (or '*the two maidens*' as we were called) were expected to do our share of this preparatory work.

Then she might take a quick break for a cup of coffee (Camp) before embarking on making the pasties, most of which were of varying sizes according to the age/eating capacity of the recipient. Each pasty was completed before the next was started; first a ball of pastry of the requisite size was rolled and trimmed, then the filling arranged on the top half, taking care to leave an edge for the crimping; pepper, salt and several small pieces of butter were added and, occasionally and depending on the likes and dislikes of the eater and the time of year, a few sprigs of parsley or a few garden peas. Carrots were an absolute no-no, being for stews not pasties. Then the lower piece of pastry was folded carefully over the assembled ingredients, and the pasty was closed by crimping the edges together, in Mum's case three-quarters of the way from the back edge. Now everyone knows that a pasty has to have a small outlet in the top to allow the steam to escape when cooking. No ordinary slit with a knife or pricks with a fork for Mum – she took this opportunity to personalise our pasties! With a sharp knife she would carefully cut each one with the initial of the eater – M for my father, I for herself, L for me, J for my sister, T for Uncle Tom and A for Aunt Bessie (A being easier to cut with the knife than B).

This first batch of pasties could now be put into the oven, so that they would be cooked and ready to eat when the men came in from work in the fields. The next job was to make the '*Sunday pasty*', which as its name indicates would be saved for Sunday tea-time. One huge pasty (bigger even than Dad's) was sufficient for us all, and would be cut into slices and eaten cold, with whatever pickle, sauce or salad items were available. Once in a while there would be insufficient beef to make a traditional

pasty so on those occasions Mum would use egg and bacon as the filling as well as potato and preferably parsley instead of onion. These pasties were tricky to seal and when the potato and chopped bacon had been laid on the base they had to be partially crimped from both sides before adding the eggs through a gap in the edge. The eggs weren't beaten but were added whole and then the yolks broken with a knife so that they spread into the other contents.

You might think that Friday morning's work was now over, except for cooking and serving the pasties. Not so – there were other pasties or tarts to be made, according to time of year and availability of fillings. Soft fruits and rhubarb from the garden were made into tarts in summer, and apples into tarts in the autumn, but this was also the time of year for 'sweet pasties', with a filling of chopped apple, dried fruit, sugar and a small amount of spice, later to be eaten, hot or cold, with cream of course. At Christmas time we had mincemeat pasties, and at other times of the year and in the absence of any other fillings we had jam pasties. All pasties that were intended for sharing rather than for individuals were decorated with fork pricks as the steam vent.

Finally there was the 'flat pasty' also known as the 'pastry pasty', so called because it was flat and made only of pastry, ie. it contained no filling, traditional or otherwise. To make this desirable object, all the pastry that remained would be shaped into a ball and rolled flat, then gently folded in half, taking care not to press the two layers together, and the edges were not crimped. When baked to a golden brown it was removed from the oven and allowed to cool, then sliced in half length-wise and cut into slices, and served, usually at tea-time on Saturday, liberally spread with jam and cream, in other words it acted as an alternative to splits or scones. The flat pasty was much appreciated not only by the family but also by any Saturday visitors who might pop in to see us, including the 'boy' who was later to become my brother-in-law. I'll leave the last word to him as he summed up Mum's many pasty-making skills as 'andsome'.

Ancient Duchy of Cornwall ledgers found during a house clearance.

When an antiques dealer bought a box of 1930s items during a country house clearance he was in for a big surprise. Amongst the collection of royal memorabilia was a medieval manuscript which was subsequently identified as a rare set of accounts, drawn up for Richard III and showing one year's receipts from the land and property in Devon and Cornwall which made up the Duchy of Cornwall. The year they cover is 29 September 1482 to 29 September 1483. In this year, the Duchy's profits amounted to about £500.

Apart from the accounts, the document also lists the names of the bailiffs who supervised work on each manor and who acted as the link between the serfs and their lords.

The document went to auction in March and was sold for £20 000, substantially more than the expected figure closer to £6 000.

GORSEDH KERNOW - The Celtic Spirit of Cornwall

Let's celebrate real Cornish cultural identity says Grand Bard of Cornwall

"Newquay is a town very close to my heart which has a proud place in Cornwall's story. Although it has been a major tourist destination for more than a century it still maintains a proud local tradition of celebrating its Cornishness through culture and heritage while extending a warm welcome to those who come from elsewhere."

With these heartfelt words in mind Merv Davey, *Telynyor an Weryn*, Grand Bard of Cornwall and passionate Cornishman, prepares to deliver his short address to Newquay's townspeople and visitors on behalf of the bards of Gorsedh Kernow who will gather in the Killacourt for their annual Proclamation ceremony on Saturday 21st April.

"Despite the obvious importance of our culture and heritage it is constantly under threat" the Grand Bard will say, "and yet more and more we realise that these are essential for our own future sustainability."

The Grand Bard is expected to challenge once again the status quo by calling on HM Government to honour its commitment to the protection delivered by legislation. He will also urge Cornwall Council to recognise more fully the role of culture in our future lives.

"The importance of the work-life balance is universally recognised within many sectors" the Grand Bard will say, "and we know that culture and environment are key factors in helping people to achieve this balance and therefore the key to sustainability, a sense of well being and community."

Proudly representing the town, the Mayor of Newquay, Cllr Margaret North will welcome Gorsedh Kernow and formally invite the gathering of blue robed bards to hold their bardic ceremony and Esedhvos Festival of Cornish Culture in Newquay later in the year.

"Newquay is a symbol of modern Cornwall where we respect and celebrate the past at the same time as embracing the new and the opportunities of the future," Merv Davey will say, "and on behalf of all my fellow bards I am delighted to accept this kind invitation from the Mayor and townspeople of Newquay."



Source: Newsletter of the Cornish American Heritage Society

Our Day at Buckingham Palace

22 May 2018

2018 is the year in which Prince Charles, the Duke of Cornwall, and Patron of the LCA; turns 70. To mark that event, a Garden Party was held at Buckingham Palace for representatives of the over 400 organisations of which he is Patron. This included those in the UK but also several from overseas. Four members of the LCA Council were privileged to attend.

It started with a visit from the postman!



Dressed to impress! - Past Chairmen Dick Richards and Liz Broekmann and current Chairman Carol Goodwin (on right)



Time for a cuppa



Prince Harry talking about Charles' passion for the environment just before a bee stung him!



The birthday boy broke ranks and came to talk to us!



'One of Ten Remaining Cornish Speakers':

Ben Gilby

An important early reference to a Cornish language speaker came in an extract from *'The Cornishman'* Newspaper on 2nd February 1888 which identifies William Copeland Borlase as being 'one of ten remaining Cornish speakers'. Borlase was the Great Great Grandson of renowned Cornish historian Dr. William Borlase, and he later became the Liberal MP for East Cornwall (1880-1885) and St. Austell (1885-1887). According to Lake's *Falmouth Packet & Cornwall Advertiser* (1894: p 3), he wrote an article entitled *'The Land of a Lost Language'* in the Christmas edition of *'English Illustrated Magazine'*. Interestingly, Rev. W. Jago, writing in *The West Briton & Cornish Advertiser* on 10th October 1889 believes that Borlase 'himself has not pretended to this accomplishment (of speaking Cornish)' [p 7].

However, if Borlase was indeed a Cornish speaker, one therefore has to ask, who would be the other nine suggested by *The Cornishman*? My preliminary newspaper research can identify potentially five of these individuals through mentions of people speaking Cornish in the pages. Henry Jenner is one, with John Hobson Matthews another. The third is likely to be Louis Charles Richard Duncombe-Jewell of Liskeard (1866-1947). Duncombe-Jewell founded the Cornish Celtic Society (*Cowethas Kelto-Kernuak*), and at the Pan Celtic Congress of 1901 called strongly for Cornwall to be identified as a Celtic nation.

Georg Sauerwein (1831-1904), a German publisher, polyglot, poet and linguist who wrote two poems in Cornish, and Dr. Charles Picquenard (1872-1940) are likely to be the other two individuals. Picquenard, from Quimper, was a doctor, professor, poet and writer in French, Breton and Cornish. Additionally, he was one of the founders of the Goursez Vreizh. Therefore, the question remains, who are the other four people likely to be?

At the present time, this is a question that cannot be answered with any degree of certainty. There are, however, some potential leads worthy of following up. Loveday Jenkin informed me that Reverend Leverton was using Cornish 'in the late 1800s and early 1900s...(and his) descendants have moved back to Penryn and have books and letters from that period.' The Penzance Town clerk, Thomas Cornish states in *The Cornishman* on 28th July 1887 (p 4) that 'there are four or five other persons still living in the village of Mousehole who can converse in Cornish', along with a short paragraph written in the language which Cornish has translated. Peter Jacka of Newlyn is referred to in *The Cornishman* on 28th April 1910 as having 'some little knowledge of the ancient Cornish language' (p 4).

There is also the Kelynack family. Lyon (2001) mentions a Mrs. Kelynack of Newlyn who was interviewed by Henry Jenner in 1875 (p 13) along with her husband John due their having Cornish language ability. Mrs. Kelynack, Lyon asserts, was taught Cornish by her fisherman father John Tremethick, a contemporary of William Bodinar. My own research has uncovered a report on John Kelynack giving a fisherman's cry: *'Breeul meta truja bizwandhu pemper whether all isserowed all along the line-oh'* at the 'Cente-

nary of the Old Cornish Language' in Paul (*Royal Cornwall Gazette*: 4th January 1878: p 6) and a Miss. Kelynack of Camborne is referred to when attending a Cornish saints and place name lecture given by the Reverend G.H. Doble at Redruth in the 11th June 1923 edition of *The West Briton*.

The London Cornish Association:

A fascinating article in the 21st February 1924 edition of the *Cornubian and Redruth Times* mentioning the fact that the London Cornish Association was to hold a meeting at Kings Weigh Clubhouse in Oxford Street with the Cornish language prominent in proceedings, and as well as speeches there would be 'songs in the language'. The report goes on to state 'It is thought to be the first occasion since Oliver Cromwell that real Cornish will have been spoken in London.'. A report on the events that took place appeared in the *Western Morning News* on 25th February 1924 highlighting a lecture given about Cornish by Trelawny Roberts, (the pen name of Ralph St. Vincent Allin-Collins) who also spoke Cornish as part of the event. Examination of the minute books sees that the initial idea was for a Cornish tea, with a first class concert followed by a supper. Roberts' lecture was extremely well received and a number of LCA members contacted their committee stating their wish that the LCA could provide some sort of Cornish language lessons. Trelawny Roberts was contacted and readily agreed. However, the plan had fallen apart by September 1924, when Roberts fell out with the LCA committee. Thus ended an opportunity for Cornish language classes to commence in mid 1920s London.

Breton Links:

A researcher at Rennes, specialising in Dialectology and Breton place names, Antoine Châtelier, has forwarded me a short sound clip of a ninety-three year-old native Breton speaker called Roger Allanic from Hoedic Island, off the coast of Lorient. Allanic reported to Châtelier that his Great Great Grandfather (who lived in the Napoleonic era) went to fish in Cornwall and was surprised to hear that fishermen there 'spoke in Breton' (Châtelier: 2016). At this point one can assume that this may just have been instances of local fishermen counting their fish in Cornish, but it is something to examine further.

It is known that archives in Brest, Quimper, Rennes and Vannes also contain documents related to exchanges of letters between Cornwall and Brittany in the nineteenth century, the language context of which needs further exploration. One such Breton example is Jean-Francois le Gonidec, a nobleman who published a work on Breton grammar in 1807 and a Breton-French dictionary in 1821 (see Piette: 2008). As an eighteen year old, it is known that le Gonidec:

...escaped the guillotine in Brest during the suppression of Brittany's autonomy (and) sought refuge with friends in Penzance...within a mile or so of where the last remains of the language still lingered (Berresford Ellis: 1974: p 122).

What sort of linguistic links did he have with the area, could he make himself mutually understandable in Breton to the local people? Berresford Ellis suggests not, but I

consider there to be rather too many coincidences for this to be quite so easily dismissed.

Documents unearthed in the *Archives départementales du Finistère at Quimper highlight communications between John Hobson Matthews and Francois-Joseph-Claude Jaffrennou*, editor of a Breton periodical, and co-founder of the *Goursez Vreizh* in the same year in which Hobson Matthews wrote a letter, an extract from which states:

If I do not mistake, I am the only person that has hereditary link to Cornwelsh at all. I have learned a bit from the mouth of the late Dr. Stevens, who was a cousin of my father. He learned it from his father, Andrew Stevens, who learned it from his Grandfather, Andrew Stevens from Trevegia-Warha in the parish of Towednack (Hobson Matthews: 1899a – translated into English by Alban Roinard).

Jaffrennou himself was a fascinating character, whose file in the archives of *Archives départementales du Finistère* is worthy of further exploration for wider Celtic and Cornish links. Active in the Breton Regionalist Federation and writing extensively on Breton matters, he was Grand Druid of the *Goursez Vreizh* from 1933-1955, a period during which he was arrested and accused of wanting to make Brittany an independent country within Nazi Europe (adapted from Reece: 1977).

The same archives have also revealed another piece by Jaffrennou, this time writing under his *Goursez Vreizh* bardic name 'Taldir' (Wall of Steel). In it, he talks of the Cornish 'patriots' he met at the 1904 Inter-Celtic Congress at Carnarvon. Within this list, he mentions J.D. Enys (Penryn), Sir. Trelawny (Liskeard), T.R. Bolithe - an error on Jaffrennou's part, should be Bolitho - (Trenegwaite, Madron), Peter Thurston (Redruth), J.B. Cornish (Penzance), Rev J. Percy Treasure (Cheshire) and Duncombe Jewell. Jaffrennou remarks 'there was an element...who made praiseworthy efforts to resume the broken thread of tradition' (1927: p 293).

It is also reported in *The Western Morning News* on 1st May 1924 that Trelawey Roberts, who we have already heard mention of in relation to the London Cornish Association, sent a postcard written in Cornish by an eleven year-old girl which appeared in the Breton Autonomist Party periodical *Breizh Atao* (Brittany Forever/Brittany Always) – this is another archive worth exploring to discover who the girl may have been.

A separate finding from France came within the archives of radical republican newspaper *Le Rappel*, which was founded on the initiative of Victor Hugo. In a piece entitled 'Chez les Celtes de Cornouailles' in dated 1902, Charles Hancock writes about the similarity of the Breton and Cornish languages, as well as the territories' shared history and characteristics. The periodical also contained a piece by Victor Hugo, albeit published posthumously on 28th May 1889 which mentions further links between Cornwall and Brittany (ibid). The importance of these historic cultural and trading links is perhaps summed up in a contribution from the readers' letters section of *Le Rappel* on 16th September 1903. Hugues Destrem from the Côtes-d'Armor port town of Treguier writes of the possibility of 'peasants from Cornwall coming to Brittany' if the financial hardships being suffered across Cornwall continued. Brittany would be a chosen location for these people as a result of this shared history and language roots. It appears that further documents of interest and importance are likely to be discovered within the Breton territory.

William Barnes

Recent unpublished research by Alan Kent has brought to light the work of William Barnes, who was a Church of England priest, poet and language scholar who lived between 1801 and 1886. Barnes, Kent writes, 'viewed positively the influence of Celtic and Anglo-Celtic languages and literatures.'

The Barnes Archive, at the Dorset County Museum reveals that Bernard Jones thought that Barnes had translated three poems which were originally in Cornish. The first of which, is believed to have come from the *Ordinalia*, and reads:

All we pray young and old,
To God always mercy with pity
That we may be preserved from the evil one
And all saved without end.

Kent believes that neither Bernard Jones or Barnes appear to have identified what the original piece of work is, but potentially the appeal to them may have come from their original rhyme and rhythm in Cornish:

Ol ny a pys yowynk ha hen,
War thu pup prys mercy gan ken,
May fem guythys rak an bylen,
Hagh ol sylwys trank hep horfen.

It is also suggested by Kent that Barnes is likely to have reproduced the version of the *Ordinalia* that Norris translated, which makes one assume that Barnes did little or no knowledge of the Cornish language himself.

The second extract that appears in Barnes' work appears to come from the poem *Delkyow Savy* (Strawberry Leaves), which was first compiled by Thomas Tonkin in 1698. The excerpt used by Barnes is:

Where are you going, little fair maid,
With your rosy cheeks and your golden hair?
I am going a-milking, sir, she said.
The strawberry leaves make maidens fair.

Cornish Version:

Pelea era why moaz, moz, fettow, teag,
Gen agaz bedgeth gwin, ha agaz blew mellyn?
Mi a moaz tha'n venton, sarra wheag,
Rag delkiow sevi gwra muzi teag.

Note the translation of the above refers to a white face and yellow hair and going to the well rather than milking. Again, it is thought that Barnes came through earlier work by Tonkin, Gwavas or Pryce.

The final extract, comprising of short two lines:

Hai down. Ho! Down derry, derry down.
All among the leaves so green. O!

Kent cannot find any record that this was either originally written or translated into Cornish, and indeed feels that the composition of this piece is 'resolutely English', although it was sung within Cornwall. However, potentially the most exciting find relates to a poem from 1877, 'A British Earthwork'. The piece speaks through an archaeologist who has excavated an area. The archaeologist goes on to imagine the lives and experiences of people who would have been around the location in the past – and they appear to be speaking a form of Cornish. Three verses end in Cornish and the third verse in Welsh. Interestingly, eight years later, Thomas Hardy's short story 'A Tryst at an Ancient Earthwork' appeared, which has close parallels with the events of Barnes' poem, although no use of

Cornish! Kent notes that, as far as he is aware, 'Cornish literary scholarship, as a whole, has failed to note this piece', and, perhaps, more importantly, that 'Cornish was not dead in the nineteenth century.'

Response to the last article on this theme

In response to Ben Gilby's article in the Spring newsletter, member Michael Bourdeaux shared the following story:

My mother (Lilian Myra Blair before marriage) was born in Porthleven in 1908. One of her earliest memories was of French fisherman coming in to port and communicating with some local fishermen in a language she couldn't understand, which she later came to believe was Breton/Cornish.

Books which may be of interest to our readers

A Cornishman Remembers: the autobiography of William Symons Julian

By William Symons Julian

Publ: Ironmaster Books

Price: £9.99. Free postage in UK, £3 overseas.

A Cornishman Remembers is a fascinating autobiography with a rich and compelling insight into Cornish life at the time of Queen Victoria, before cars, airplanes, and telephones and with hardly any medicine. Discovered a few years ago in manuscript form in the roof space of a house in Fowey, this is a remarkable piece of writing about a life from childhood to octogenarian in Victorian England. It reveals how a poor farm lad from Withiel, in very humble surroundings, decided to acquire some education whilst working on the farm, learnt a new trade, and excelled at it. Eventually his skill was so great that he took himself to London, married and built a successful business. The manuscript was written by William Symons Julian in 1924, when he was 80 years old.

Order from

IRONMASTER BOOKS

Email atb@ironmasters.co.uk

OR go to www.acornishmanremembers.com and click on BUY to purchase using PayPal.

Times in Cornwall

By Wolfgang Hildesheimer (Translated by Nicola Barnes)

Publ: Guillemot Press, May 2018

Price: £10

Wolfgang Hildesheimer (1916-91) was a German-Jewish novelist, playwright, artist and celebrated biographer of Mozart. He escaped Nazi Germany in the 1930s and moved to London, where he studied at the Central School of Arts and Crafts. From here he would travel to Cornwall, visiting St Ives, Port Isaac, Padstow and Penzance, staying in artist communities.

Hildesheimer revisited Cornwall in the 1960s, following the route he recalled from his youth with a car and John Betjeman's *Shell Guide*. *Times in Cornwall* is a conflation

of present observations and old memories, with disrupted sentences and paragraphs, exciting descriptive passages, anecdotes of the artists, characters and criminals he lived with. This is a book by an important 20th century German writer that has been completely overlooked by Cornwall scholars until now. Translated here for the first time, Hildesheimer's evocative and experimental memoir is a timely addition to the growing number of works available in English.

Order from:

Guillemot Press

guillemotpress.wordpress.com

Email editor@guillemotpress.co.uk

Big things happening at the Morrab Gardens

The Gardeners' House project launches a crowdfunding campaign

(Taken from the Morrab Garden website - <http://www.morrabgardens.org/>)



Our friends at the Gardeners' House Project have launched a Crowdfunder page raising funds to rebuild the old dilapidated stable block in Morrab Gardens, creating a wonderful community and multi-use space. The Stable Block would have had an important part in the running of the household when Morrab House was built as a private residence in the middle of the nineteenth century. It has had a number of uses over the years, and is currently the base for the garden team in the Morrab Gardens.

The Gardeners' House will provide educational and training opportunities and house the Hypatia Natural History collection – a special collection and women's archive – of books, papers and ephemera showing the engagement of women in recording the ever-changing natural world – with particular focus on gardens and gardening techniques through history to the present day.

A special archive for the Morrab Gardens itself will also be created.

The project is a collaboration between The Hypatia Trust, The Pengarth Day Centre and Morrab Gardens, and aims to raise £100k for the next step of this exciting project that will benefit the Penzance and Cornish commu-

nity as well as national and international visitors with an interest in horticulture and botany.

Melissa Hardie-Budden, Founder and Director of the Hypatia Trust says:

"Our joint project is an exciting spur to learning projects for people of all ages and talents. The Head Gardener, Joe Palmese, is an enthusiastic teacher and very hopeful that 'down-to-earth' residents and touring garden-lovers will help us to bring our ambitious plans to reality."

It will be not only a pleasure garden for rest and relaxation, but also a much-needed space for citizen science, innovative arts practice and workshop training. The Hypatia Trust specialises in book and ephemera collections focusing on the works and contributions of women to community life. The Hypatia Natural History Collection which will be accessible to all via the reading room in The Gardeners' House is a special archive, and will reveal female lives dedicated to natural history amongst the many well-known gardeners and plant-hunters of all time."

News from other Cornish Associations

UNITED STATES

Carolyn Haines is the new President of the *Cornish American Heritage Society*. In her first message, which appeared in the Winter 2018 newsletter, she wrote a message which we should all reflect on...

I hope as you read about the activities of Cornish Cousins around the world celebrating St. Piran, patron saint of Cornish miners (March 5), you might pause to think about our ancestors and the cultural heritage we acquired from them. Are we aware of what it means to be Cornish? Do we understand what our forefathers went through to migrate to other countries to make a living? Are we taking/making time to share such things with our children and grandchildren along with traditions?

The biennial Gathering of Cornish Cousins, which will be hosted by the SW Cornish Society of Wisconsin, will take place in September 2019 at Mineral Point, WI. Planning is underway and Cornish societies are encouraged to help make it a success by promoting it. More imminent however is the 27th Annual Gathering of California Cousins which will take place in June. During this event, there will be a visit to the Knight Foundry and Kennedy Mine, a Cornish cooking demonstration and lots of homemade pasties.

Members of the **Cornish Society of Greater Milwaukee** celebrated St Piran's Day with a gathering of 25 American-Cornish in Waukesha. Cornwall's patron saint was remembered in story, poetry, a history lesson, and food. The afternoon began with a delicious lunch of shepherd's pie, salad, and Eccles cakes. After this, the program started. Alice Lundstrom retold the story of St. Piran, asking, *'How much of it is truth and how much is myth?'* She helped us recall, through the familiar tale, how St. Piran, an heretic from Ireland, was cast into the sea with a millstone tied around his middle, and how he miraculously floated to the north Cornish shore eventually establishing the Christian church in Cornwall. His reputation as the patron saint of miners remains part of our cultural heritage. Then, Joe Trewyn, in teacher mode, led the 'class' in a survey of Celtic history, a necessary background for the study of the Cornish psyche. We had to pay attention, taking notes, because a test is threatened at the Pasty Luncheon in April. There followed selections of story- and poetry-reading by Alice Lundstrom, Kathryn Herman, Keith Rowe, Peggy Haas, and Steve Allen, demonstrating the wealth and richness of Cornish literature. Poets such as John

Harris, Jim Wearne, and Rudyard Kipling were celebrated, as were personal stories of Cornish life.

The **South Wisconsin Cornish Society** held its annual meeting in May. A pot-luck dinner got the event off to a good start. After dinner John Sharp spoke about a book he is writing on the history of the Old Darlington Road area – and hoped to have a few of his questions answered by those attending.

As mentioned earlier, the SW Wisconsin Cornish Society will be hosting the Cornish Fest in September 2018. The theme will be *Cornish Legends of King Arthur*. Events will include a semi-staged production of *Camelot*. A pop-up museum will highlight *Cornish Life* and include photos and artefacts from Cornish home life as well as crafts and postcards.

CANADA

The **Toronto Cornish Association** is making some changes to the way it distributes information to its members. They will now produce a quarterly newsletter with reports on presentations and activities, crowd crawns and visits to Cornwall and only the minutes of the meetings will be sent out monthly.

This is not the only change being looked at. Interestingly, they are also debating the need for a 'Members Only' section on their website as it was felt it would be better to make this information more widely available to help promote the Association. This is something which might well be considered by other associations with 'Members Only' sections.

In May, the Association held its AGM, followed by a presentation on *Cornish Trains*. At the end of June the talk will be on *Medieval Genealogy/Cornwall*. The Association will hold their annual picnic at the end of August.

AUSTRALIA

At their February meeting, members of the **Cornish Association of Victoria** heard two speakers. Jim Lowden talked about the different types of libraries established in Cornwall while his daughter, Bron spoke about Cornishman John Passmore Edwards, a benefactor, who established libraries in various towns in the UK.

In March, the theme of the talk was the Cornish contribution to the mining history of Bendigo. The speaker emphasised the important role the Cornish played when he started his talk with the comment - *I described the Cornish as the bones, muscles and sinews of Bendigo*.

While Ted Curnow acknowledged a number of recognised 'Little Cornwalls' on mainland Australia, he presented a case for Tasmania which he considered to be 'Australia's biggest Little Cornwall' at the April meeting.

The May presentation was on the Cornish language, featuring some of the interesting aspects of this special tongue.

In February, members of the **Ballarat Branch** of the **Cornish Association of Victoria** heard a talk by two of their members on Cornish pioneers who lived in the Ballarat area.

Visitors from Melbourne, Geelong and Bendigo joined in Ballarat's St Piran's Day celebrations in March. In his welcome address, Keith Lanyon reminded everyone about the strength of their Cornish ancestors and the contribution they made to the development of the country. Neil Thomas was the guest speaker for the day and gave a talk on the bezants which appear on the Cornish coat of arms.

At their April meeting, members heard about Alfred Rowell who was the Bandmaster of the 39th Battalion and later, the City of Ballarat Brass Band and whose father hailed from Cornwall. He and some of his siblings were put into an orphanage when their father died and it was here that he first encountered a brass band.

The **Cornish Association of South Australia** has recently enjoyed visits from members of two associations. In February, they held a picnic lunch and were pleased to have Ralph Thomas from Perth with them. It was also fortuitous that this picnic coincided with a visit to Australia by Canadian folk singers Heather Dale and Ben Deschamps, from the Toronto Cornish Association, who provided a most enjoyable musical programme.

In March, they celebrated St Piran's Day with a picnic in the gardens at the War Veterans' Home in Myrtle Bank. Although only a few members were able to attend, the pasties, salads and sweets provided were greatly enjoyed. While they were at the gardens, they took the opportunity to check up on the Gallipoli pine which was presented to the Association a few years ago.

At the April meeting, members heard a talk with the tantalising title of *Ginger beers, Engineers, Engines and other things* while the talk in May was entitled *The Cornish in Broken Hill – then and now*.

UK

In February, the Mayor and Mayoress of Bournemouth, together with some members of the **Bournemouth Cornish Association** raised a flag outside the BIC to celebrate the Birthday of Cornishman Louis Tregonwell who

was the founder of Bournemouth. Flags were also raised at the Exeter Hotel and St Peters Church. Afterwards prayers were said at Tregonwell's grave at St Peters Church.

In April, President Mike Mansfield joined the Mayor of Bournemouth at a lunch to celebrate the Founders' Day of Bournemouth.

In April, members of the **Thames Valley Cornish Association** held their first AGM since the death of their previous Chairman, Francis Dunstan. This was followed by a delicious home made pasty and saffron cake supper. Their next event will be a picnic at Castle Gardens, Wallingford in June and they are hoping to arrange a theatre outing in September.

At their AGM in March, the Chairman of the **West Somerset Cornish Association**, Peter Triggs stepped down after many years at the helm. The new Chairman is Anne Edwards, one of the founder members of the Association who has served as Treasurer in the past.

The Association held its annual St Piran's Lunch in April and their forthcoming programme includes many pub lunches. They usually meet at a pub on the third Wednesday of the month and would welcome visitors at any of these events.

Cornish Global Migration Project

The importance of the Cornish Global Migration Program (CGMP) continues to grow. The growing number of visitors to the Program, both personally and via the mails, encourages the volunteers working with the program. The success of the program depends on them having the names of all migrants from Cornwall, whether to Britain or overseas recorded in the CGMP database.

The mission of the CGMP is to build a database of all emigrants regardless of how little information is available. The main interest comes from the family historian but the data also enables anyone who has a particular interest to establish certain statistics.

The CGMP is a non profit organization working for the benefit of Cornwall To provide a comprehensive database, the CGMP is dependent on families recording their personal emigration information with the program. The database has about 38.000 names recorded from around the world.

The CGMP database is comprised of information submitted and should you wish to participate in the worthwhile program please contact the CGMP at:

CGMP
Murdoch House
Cross Street
Redruth, Cornwall, TR15 2BU
Or
Email: 16 cgmp@cornishmigration.org

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 lca@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 now into spring with summer rapidly approaching. You probably enjoyed this year's mid April giving us the hottest days since last August and also the hottest April for 69 years.

Did you hear of the pasty competition which was won by a pasty containing pineapple? As a Cornishman, I say that is not a pasty!

In a newspaper, I read the following limerick:

*We all love a pasty to eat,
That's filled with potato and meat,
The Yanks might have tried
Pineapple inside,
But Cornish is still hard to beat.*

On checking in a dictionary, I found the following:

PASTY: *A pastry case with a sweet or savoury filling, baked without a dish to shape it.*

But, of course, if you are Cornish there is only one pasty, the Cornish Pasty, which is made with beef skirt, potatoes, onion and swede. There is one further qualification and that is it has to be made in Cornwall! I like a true Cornish pasty, it's a proper job.

Recently I discovered a Cornish connection with the expression Nineteen to the dozen. It apparently means: Doing something at breakneck speed; derives from the 1770s when steam-driven pumps were installed to clear the water at Cornish tin and copper mines; at their optimum the pumps could clear 19,000 gallons of water for every 12 bushels of coal used."

I have as usual been meandering back and looking at my books where, this time, I found a copy of *A Geography of Cornwall*, which was published in 1854, the following bits and pieces that I thought were of some interest.

GULVAL: *Gulval was anciently called Lanestly. Between the churches of Gulval and Madron a stone serves as a foot bridge, called the Blue Bridge, bearing this inscription, 'Cnegumi Fil Enans', Enans was the first king of Armorca.*

In draining land between Marazion and Penzance men dug up an earthen pot, containing a thousand roman coins, of the emperors between A.D. 260 and 350.

In this parish is Gulfwell' or the Hebrew Brook, over which an old witch used to preside, and devine things past, present, and future, by incantation of its waters.

Boskednan Circle is the name given to nineteen upright stones in this parish.

MADRON: *The town of Penzance is in the parish of Madron, on mounts Bay: from the beauty of its situation and the character of its buildings, it is the queen of Cornwall: it is sheltered from westerly winds, and is a great resort for persons requiring a mild climate. Its fruits and flowers are many and early; tender plants grow freely in the open air.*

Penzance means the "Saint's Head" and the town takes the head of St. John the Baptist in a charger for its arms.

On browsing further through these 19th century books I found further snippets that I thought were rather interesting:

The soils of Cornwall are three, growan, shelf, and loam. Growan is a light, black, peat-earth, mixed with particles of crumbled granite; below this is often a bed of quartz, and below this yellow clay. Shelf is the most prevalent kind of earth; it is decomposed clay slate, and according to its substratum, is either a very fertile or a hungry and greedy soil. The loamy soils in the lowlands, along the river-courses, and in the valleys which run up inland, are very rich and fruitful, being full of alluvial deposits from the hills.

HELSTON: *formerly called Helleston, (the fortress on the marsh), is a municipal borough, market and union town and head of a county court district, and was formed into an ecclesiastical parish on December 5th 1845, from the parish of Wendron; it is situated on the sides of two hills rising from the Loe valley, on the high road from Falmouth to Penzance and on the river Cober. The town is of ancient date and undoubtedly owed its rise and importance to the tin mines around it, which have been extremely productive; it formerly had its castle and defences.*

DEVORAN *is a village and ecclesiastical parish, formed January 17th 1873 out of the civil parish of St. Feock, and is on Restrounguet Creek, an inlet of Falmouth Harbour, 1 mile east from Perranwell station on the Falmouth branch of the Great Western Railway. From about 1820 until 1839 this place was the site of an extensive tin mine; but the proprietors then shut up the works, and the mouth or opening to the mine has been almost completely filled up by sand and earth washed up by the tyde; on the site of the mine called 'Carnon Stream Works' is now the harbour or creek of Devoran.*

When I went to our local farm shop recently, a lady asked me a question regarding Cornwall. Did I know about a restaurant in Penzance? She then explained that as a young girl her mother had taken her to Cornwall on holiday (I didn't ask how many years ago!) and they had gone to a restaurant in Penzance called *The Lantern*, which she thought was situated in Causewayhead. She would love to go back on a visit to Cornwall. I haven't been able to find anything in the telephone directory. Could anybody please tell me if this restaurant still exists, or perhaps it has been renamed?

Well that again is all for now and I hope you have found these *Meanderings* to be of some interest. If you have any comments or queries about these snippets don't hesitate to contact me.

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

I now wish you all a very good and happy 2018.

Kernow bys vyken

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

Crowdy Crawn

Warren Williams (1863-1918) – Watercolour artist

Warren Williams was a Welsh artist and an Associate of the Royal College of Art. He painted mainly landscapes, particularly of the Welsh countryside. Many were of the area around Anglesey and Conwy. But, his paintings were not limited to Welsh scenes: his portfolio also included some landscapes of Cornwall. While trying to find out more about this artist, I discovered that many of the Cornish paintings were of fishing villages.

I was fortunate to inherit one of William's Cornish watercolours recently, a picture I have loved since a young child. It arrived from Australia in May and is now a treasured possession on my wall, a constant reminder of the beauty and tranquillity of the Cornish coast.



A Cornish coastal scene, painted by Warren Williams

Do you have links to the church in St Just-in-Penwith?

The roof of the parish church is in a dire state and in need of replacement if the ancient church building is to be preserved. All six slopes need to be replaced. In addition, they plan to replace the dilapidated heating system and create a community friendly space at the back of the church.

The church needs to raise £85,500 to contribute to the costs of the repairs. To help with this, they have set up a Justgiving page. If you would like to support them, please go to <https://www.justgiving.com/campaigns/charity/stjust-in-penwithchurch/newroofappeal>

A dignified end to a Cornish debacle!

A trawl of the internet shows that the faux pas made by Lanhydrock when it advertised cream teas with the jam on top went viral – you can even find Chinese Facebook pages with the pictures!

The staff are to be congratulated on the way they kept their sense of humour through this. The following message appeared on Facebook very quickly:



Lanhydrock National Trust

Like This Page · March 10 ·

We'd like to let you know our team will be sporting #jamfirst badges tomorrow in support of a proper cream tea. And there's no truth in the rumour that we're renaming the property Jamhydrock... #cornwall #lanhydrocknt #sconeate



Memories...

Some people think that Cornwall, surrounded by water; is an island. Others, mistakenly, think that but for the chains of the ferry coupling Torpoint to Devonport, Cornwall would float away!

Long ago, in the days when there was only one ferry, there used to be a steamer – *The Lady Beatrice* – running from beside the slipway at Torpoint to a landing stage at North Corner, Devonport, from where, after a short distance uphill, one could enjoy the excitement of Woolworths and other large shops. I can clearly remember, as a four-year-old in a push chair, being loaded into the steamer.

What age were you when the earliest event you can remember took place.

J Hosking.

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