

May/June - 432 - mis Me/mis Methewen 2017

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Est. 1962
Founder: Cliff Trevelyan
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NEWSLETTER

L y t h e r - n o w o d h o w

National meeting

The national biennial meeting was held in Christchurch on Saturday, 6 May 2017. There were 37 members and guests and a further 13 sent their apologies. The reports of the president and the secretary/treasurer including the annual accounts are enclosed with this newsletter.

Val Moore was returned to the position of national president and Nick Bartle remains secretary/treasurer for the next two years. As recorded in his report, he is taking over the distribution of newsletters, sale of membership badges and is also Association librarian. A booklist will be included with the next newsletter. A resolution was passed at the meeting to keep the national subscription at \$10 per annum. This is included in branch subscriptions for those lucky enough to a member of one of our branches.

Ava Stevens

It is with great sadness that I have to pass on the news that Ava Stevens passed away on 2 June after a short illness. Ava was as founding member and has been a stalwart of the Taranaki Branch for a long time with her husband, Laurie.

Laurie was president of the Branch for a number of years and, supported by Ava, played a key role in rejuvenating its fortunes. Ava was the Branch's longest serving office holder having recently been re-elected vice-president as you will see later in the report on the Branch's AGM.

Keskalar Gwir (sincere condolences) to her family and the members of the Branch who are all sure to miss her.

Subscriptions

National members; annual subscriptions for the year to 31 March 2018 are now due. A form is enclosed for you to complete and return to me or, if you prefer, send me the same details in an e-mail. If you are in any doubt whether or not you have paid your sub, don't hesitate to get in contact. Thank you to those members who gave so generously last year. Donations are always gratefully received.

Branch members; please see your local treasurer.

Lions rugby tour

24-year old Jack Nowell has been selected by Warren Gatland (himself a Hamilton lad) in the 41-strong British and Irish Lions squad currently touring New Zealand.

Born in Newlyn, Nowell attended Mounts Bay School and began his stellar rugby league career as part of the Cornish Pirates junior section. He has turned out for Redruth, Plymouth Albion and his current team, Exeter Chiefs. He has represented England at the under-18 and under-20 levels and was first selected to

represent England in 2014 Six Nations Championship. His 23 international appearances have been interrupted by various injuries but the 11 tries he scored in those matches (including a hat-trick against Uruguay in the 2015 Rugby World Cup) were enough to earn him the place in the Lions squad.



"I'm so excited and it's reward for all that hard work that people have put into me over the years" he said. "I can't tell you how much I'm looking forward to it. It's [New Zealand] the ultimate place to go and play. [The All Blacks] are the No. 1 team in the world, so it's going to be a massive test for all of us going out there."

Off the pitch he is known for his extensive tattoos, rat-tail hair style and scruffy beard which he seems to have tidied up for his Lions photo.



Even if you are a died-in-the-wool (black, of course) All Blacks supporter, you could manage a small cheer for Cornwall (if not for the Lions) when Jack takes the field.

Murder on the Scillies

Questions have arisen over the death of Josh Clayton on the island of Tresco in the Scilly Isles.



Tresco, 30 miles off the Cornwall coast and just two and a half miles long by one mile wide, is home to around 150 permanent residents but the population rises from March to October with seasonal workers servicing the tourist industry. The island and all of the buildings are owned by the Duchy of Cornwall and leased to the Dorrien-Smith family. The Dorrien-Smiths live in Tresco Abbey, built in 1843 by their ancestor Augustus Smith and surrounded by magnificent gardens. A few times each summer Tristan Dorrien-Smith, now 20, opens up his private party venue in an isolated south-eastern corner of the island. It is known among the young seasonal workers as “the Shed”.

In September, 23-year-old Josh Clayton was working his second summer on Tresco as bar manager at the Ruin Beach Cafe and went to a party at the Shed on 12th with more than 40 others. It is uncertain when and how Josh left the party in the early hours of the morning but he did not get home. Later that morning a friend, who had gone to the party with him, found some of his belongings on a path close to the Shed and, in the bracken, his mountain bike with the chain off and saddle twisted. The nearest beach, Pentle Bay, is renowned for its calm, shallow waters and locals find it hard to believe somebody could drown there but 10 days later Josh’s body was washed up on rocks on the nearby island of Teän.

At first, police treated the death as a missing person inquiry and Josh’s bloodstained clothes were disposed of without being forensically examined. Blood tests were taken from his body but found no evidence of drugs (there had been suggestion of drugs at the party). The alcohol level was about twice the legal driving limit so Josh might have been tipsy but not heavily drunk. There were no traumatic injuries to show he had been violently assaulted prior to his death.

An inquest was held in January 2017 in Plymouth. Controversially, it was suspended indefinitely by Ian Arrow, the assistant coroner for Cornwall, on the third day of hearings. New evidence came to light indicating that the police had not investigated the incident sufficiently.

The Clayton family, believing that Josh’s death may have been murder, has spent around

£60,000 on a legal team and a private investigator. They have also lodged several complaints against Devon and Cornwall Police. It was answers to questions submitted by the Claytons’ lawyer that prompted the Coroner to suspend the inquest.

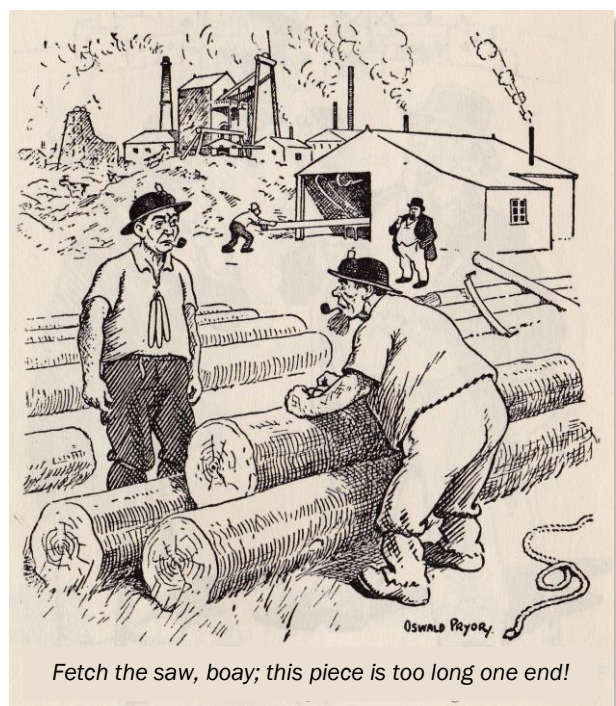
Leroy Thomas, a 42-year-old ex paratrooper, had moved from St Day to work on Tresco as a painter and decorator and had also been at the party. In statements to police, he claimed he could not recall ever meeting Josh. At the inquest he gave a different account: that he saw Josh involved in a row with other party goers and that he had been “ranting and raving” before running off into a gorse thicket and threatening to kill himself.

Police have been told to re-examine the case and are now pursuing fresh lines of inquiry. Tracey Clayton, Josh’s mother, fears it is too late to secure meaningful new evidence. She says, “This is a grip around my heart. A part of me will always be broken”.

The last murder on the Scilly Isles was in 1976, when a farmer bludgeoned his 18-year-old son to death.

In October 2015 I wrote an article about “Scilly Sergeant” Colin Taylor, who wrote a book about his five years policing the island, and reached international fame for his unconventional, light-hearted but effective communications with the public. He left the Scilly Isles in August 2016 a month before Josh went missing.

Oswald Pryor



Oswald Pryor was born in 1881 in Moonta in South Australia. Both his parents were from Cornwall and he started work in the copper mines at the age of 13. He had an eye for drawing and he captured the quirky logic – or lack of it – in the Cousin Jacks and Jennies in the area who seem more Cornish than the people in Cornwall. A frequent butt of his jokes was Cap'n H R Hancock who was mine captain when Oswald first started working. He was promoted and became surface manager of Moonta mines in 1911, a position he held until 1923 shortly before the mines went into liquidation

His book "Cornish Pasty", a book of cartoons, is in the Association's library. It is a 1961 compilation of Pryor's cartoons that were originally published in the now-defunct Sydney Bulletin. The charm of the cartoons lies not only in the artist's skill but also in his insights and ability to make quite innocent fun of his own culture. No 'adult' language needed!

Cayman Islands

The Cayman Islands are one of the largest British Overseas Territories and are situated in the western Caribbean Sea. To most people they are a tropical island paradise famous for tourism and for being a tax haven.

The islands were uninhabited until 1658 when two men fled there after they deserted from the army of 3,000 marines Oliver Cromwell sent from



Portsmouth to invade Jamaica during the Anglo-Spanish war. That campaign, although large in size, takes a low profile in British history but came at the height of slavery, piracy and the colonisation of the Americas.

One of the deserters a Welshman named Walters or Watler appears not to have survived long. Little more is known about his companion other than his name was Bodden or Bawden and he was Cornish. The uncertainty about their names is accredited to their personal illiteracy and general lax rules over spelling at the time. Bodden must have survived and established himself because in 1700 his grandson, Isaac Bodden, was officially listed as the first inhabitant as Britain took formal control of the territory. The surname Bodden remains common on the island to this day and one of the main towns is called Bodden Town. The original Mr Bodden has been adopted as the islands' founding father.

A search has been launched to trace his ancestors and to establish stronger links between the Caymans and Cornwall which happens to be

the closest part of the British Isles to the Caribbean. Eric Bush, the Cayman Islands' representative to the UK, is offering a free trip to his homeland for anyone who can establish familial links to Bodden. He also points out many similarities between the two countries. "As we have been looking at the connection, what has been extraordinary is how similar our native cultures have been over that past 400 years or so. From aspects of both our language and dialect, to boat building, to fishing, to salvage – Caymanians have been carrying on living like Cornishmen but in the middle of the Caribbean."



There is also a culinary link.

A local Cayman specialty is the Island Pasty which looks strikingly like a Cornish pasty. The ingredients are rather

different. They include garlic, chilli, tomato and curry powder as well as ground meat which can be turkey, chicken or beef. The pastry is coloured yellow with annatto seeds. Their flavour is described as peppery with a hint of nutmeg but you can't help drawing a comparison with saffron.

Even if the Cayman authorities are not paying all your expenses, the Cayman Islands sound like a wonderful place to visit.

Taranaki branch

The Taranaki Branch held its AGM on 11 February with 17 members and guests and 6 more apologies. Amongst the usual business of an AGM the following office bearers were elected:

President	E. James
Vice President:	A. Stevens
Secretary/Treasurer:	C. Cowling
Committee:	R. Wellington
	G. Cowling
	J. Hellyar
Sales Table:	A. McGill

The branch had carried out a survey of members to gauge their support for continuing the branch. Fortunately the results announced at the meeting were in favour of continuing to meet and share in the friendship and entertainment.



The Branch has found a great new place for its meetings at the hall of the Telford Retirement Village in Merrilands, New Plymouth. The first meeting to be held there was on 13 May 2017.

Carol Cowling, secretary/treasurer, reports, "The new venue gave us the opportunity to view some DVDs on Cornwall and its surrounds. A surprise visit from Peter Galvin, a local icon entertainer, added to the afternoon with music on the accordion, poetry and a touch of the comedian.

After a year of questioning the future of our branch of the NZ Cornish Association, we have agreed to continue and will focus on making our quarterly meetings a time of fellowship and sharing. The nominal cost for the new venue goes towards the Residents' Social Club so we are adding a value there as well. The facility is a very comfortable lounge, kitchen and has the needed technology for watching DVD's etc.

It was a lovely afternoon. No one seemed in any hurry to leave so we look forward to our August meeting with optimism."

Christchurch branch

A Pasty Lunch was held on the day of the biennial National General Meeting. To set the atmosphere for Flora Day 2017, a small group of musicians led by Heather Gladstone entered the hall playing the age old tune of the Furry Dance.

The President then welcomed members, friends and guests who included the National Secretary Nick Bartle who was down from Wellington and Jean and Graham Harry from Cambridge.

Toasts were proposed to the Duke of Cornwall by the President, to Cornwall - Nick Bartle and to absent friends - Les Mitchell.

Everyone joined in singing "Hail to the Homeland" led by Heather on the accordion. Grace in the Cornish language was led by The President and Bruce Moore. Pasties and coleslaw were then served to the tables by the ladies of the committee.

After lunch the Biennial National General Meeting took place.

Les Mitchell gave a brief rundown on the happenings in Cornwall over the past month.

A small group from the St. Albans choir provided a selection of musical numbers. A surprise visitor was an "Obby Oss" with its teaser who

danced accompanied by the Padstow Morning Song (we were unable to establish which Oss it was, The Old or Blue Ribbon). The raffle for branch funds was drawn with 6 attractive prizes. The group then led more singing of Home from the Sea, Song for Cornwall and a rousing Trelawney complete with the Oggy, Oggy, Oggy battle cry.

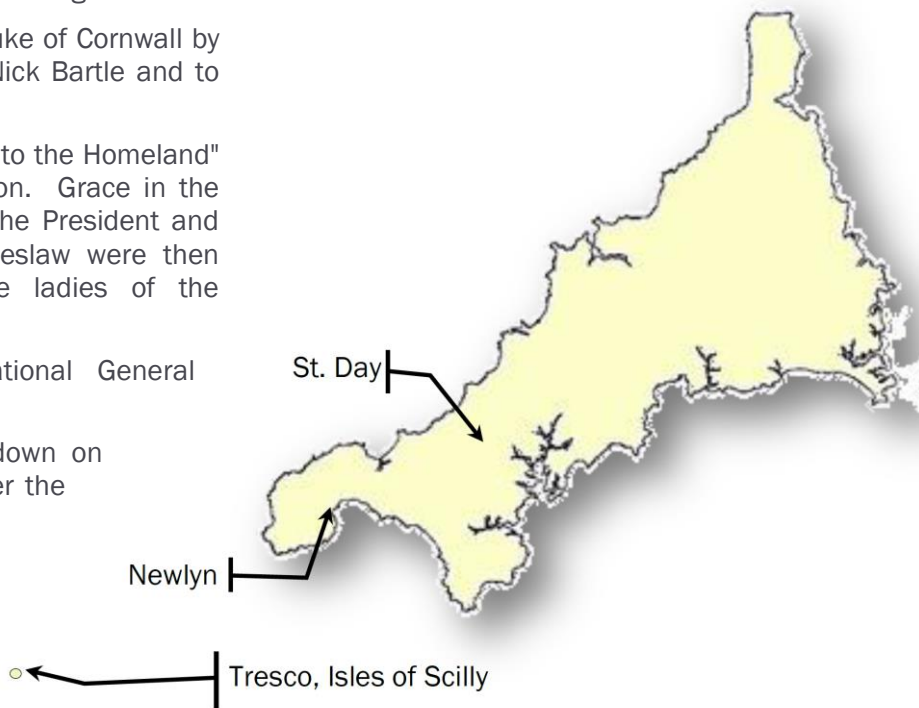
The President thanked the committee ladies for their efforts in the kitchen. This was greeted by loud applause by the attendance of 37. Then afternoon tea was served complete with saffron cake and other sweet treats.

How would you like your newsletter?

I have recently contacted the members that I have an e-mail address for asking them to let me know if they prefer an e-mailed newsletter or one on paper.

If you have received this edition on paper but would be happy to get it in digital form, please send me an e-mail to let me know your address. My address is at the top of page 1. Sending by e-mail means the newsletter goes straight to you and does not spend time getting soggy in your mail box on a rainy day. It also saves the Association the cost of postage and stationery.

Places mentioned in this newsletter



That's it for this newsletter. All the best, my 'ansomes!

Nick