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■ ■ Est. 1962 ■ ■
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N e w s l e t t e r

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

Cornwall's Brexit dilemma

Within a couple of days of the shock result of the British referendum over leaving the European Economic Union hundreds of thousands of British voters had put their names to a petition asking for a second chance. It seems that the voting on the day was decided on emotion which, in the cold light of morning, looked reckless.

Cornwall was no exception. 77% of Cornish voters turned out for the referendum and the result on 23 June was 56.5% leave to 43.5%



remain. It was not surprising that Cornwall had voted to leave. Its fishing industry has had a long-running battle with European boats fishing in local waters. The picture shows boats sailing across Mounts Bay flying "Vote leave" flags.

But, wait a minute, wasn't it the EU that granted special Protected Geographical Indication to the 'Cornish Pasty' stopping inferior products being passed off as genuine Cornish pasties? Wasn't it The Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities that granted Cornwall national minority status under European rules?

Cornwall has benefitted in the past from European money, receiving grants such as £26 million that went into the funding of the Eden Project, £132 million for ultrafast broadband as well as contributions to railway line upgrades and the university campus in Penryn.

Cornwall Council and the Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Local Enterprise Partnership (a body set up by the British government to stimulate economic growth in the area) were quick to send a message to the national government. Sandra Rothwell, chief executive said, "We have a clearly evidenced economic need, we have very clear plans of what we want to do. We have been delivering that plan on the basis of investment up to 2020. That plan needs to continue."

European financial backing is now likely to dry up.

Let's hope the British government, once outside of the EU or even earlier, can continue to recognise the particular needs of Cornwall and maintain the cultural and financial support.

St Ives referendum

St Ives Town Council held a referendum on its Neighbourhood Development Plan. The single question was whether to ban the building of new second homes by people with other residences outside of the town. The average property price in St Ives is currently £325,000, 76% above the UK average and the quaint Cornish town has been nick-named Kensington-on-Sea after the affluent district of London where, no doubt, some of the wealthy holiday-homers have a town house.

Does the issue sound familiar? St Ives attracts so many buyers from outside Cornwall that about 25% of its houses have no permanent residents and are inhabited only for short periods by holiday makers. There are so many that the owners have trouble finding people for their holiday lets. Nevertheless, demand from outsiders is still so high that property prices are forced up to levels that locals can't afford.

The vote only got a turnout of 47% but over 83% supported the ban. That is only the beginning. Basic economics would tell you that if the demand for homes in St Ives is high and the



ability to build new homes is limited then the buyers will turn to existing homes and continue to push up house prices. If only the less wealthy locals –

people who are going to occupy the houses full time - can build new homes, the new construction will be lower quality, cheaper houses if any willing developers can be found.

The outcome for St Ives may be a shot in the foot. An application for a judicial review has already been lodged against the ruling on the basis that, if it is to be enforced, there will have to be intrusive monitoring of who lives in a home

and for how long. Government ministers are also said to dislike the trend and may step in to oppose such moves. Other local councils are closely watching developments.

Thanks to Judith Hellyar, member Taranaki, for sending a collection of newspaper clippings that inspired the above story. I'm always grateful for any source material so please send in any news or interesting reports you hear or see.

Trelawny's army strikes again

The huge band of rugby supporters from Cornwall was dubbed Trelawny's Army after the crowds wearing all sorts of clothing in gold and black who flooded out of Cornwall in April 1991 to watch Cornwall defeat Yorkshire in the counties final at Twickenham. The occasion was made remarkable because the stadium - home of British rugby and holding 60,000 - was filled to capacity, an achievement usually only seen for international games.

Cornwall has featured in the last four national finals of the Counties Championship. They won in 2015 but on 29 May this year Trelawny's Army struck again. Cornwall beat Cheshire 35-13 to bring the Bill Beaumont Cup back to Cornwall. It was the fifth time Cornwall had taken out the championship but the first time they had achieved back-to-back victories. Pictured is jubilant captain, Kyle Marriott, holding the Bill Beaumont Cup.



The relatively inexperienced Cheshire conceded a try after only 70 seconds and another 9 minutes later. At half time Cornwall was leading 18-10 and cemented a convincing win in the second half finishing with four tries to Cheshire's one.

Large crowds turned out to congratulate the Black and Golds on an open-top bus parade through the streets of Truro a couple of days after the match.

Cornish cricket

The Cornish country cricket team may not be in quite the same league as their rugby-playing comrades but, at the time of writing, it is leading the Western Division of the Unicorns Counties Championship. The competition was previously known (perhaps more informatively) as the Minor Counties Championship. It is a three-day competition split into two divisions, each with 10 sides. Six matches are played by each side and the divisional winners play off to decide Champions.

In their last game, the Cornwall XI beat Wiltshire by four wickets in a rain-affected match played in

Corsham on the edge of the Wiltshire Cotswolds.

There is a limited-overs version called the MCCA Knockout Cup which Cornwall won in 2015 after taking out Northumberland by 7 wickets.

Record breaking motorcycles

At an auction at a motorcycle show in Stafford, UK this 1932 Brough Superior 800cc Model BS4 motorbike, sold for £331,900 (NZ\$683,400). The price was a world record for a motorcycle sold at auction.

The machine came from the estate of Cornishman, the late Frank Vague of St. Teath. Frank had been an enthusiastic



collector all his life and had bought eight Brough (pronounced "bruff") motorbikes over a number of years in the 1950s. Frank lived on a fairly remote farm on the edge of Bodmin Moor and had let his collection lie in one of his barns on the farm apparently untouched for decades and buried under piles of dust, old machinery parts and household clutter. Many were in pieces and all were showing the ravages of time. It was some time after Frank had passed away last year that the bikes were uncovered in what was described by Bonhams, the auction house, as "the last known collection of unrestored Broughs" and "the discovery of the decade". The total received for all of the collection was £752,625.

The Brough Superior make of motorcycle is highly collectable because it is viewed as being the Rolls Royce of bikes and only around 3,000 of the machines were made over 21 years of production. Most were custom-built to the customer's needs, and rarely were any two of the same configuration. Each motorcycle was assembled twice. The first assembly was to fit all the components. Then the motorcycle was disassembled and all the parts painted or plated as needed. Finally, the finished parts were assembled a second time. Every motorcycle was test ridden (up to 100 mph) to ensure that it performed to specification and was personally certified by George Brough.

Only 10 of this particular model were made. They were unusual for their time for having a four cylinder engine (most motorbikes only had one cylinder in those days) borrowed from an Austin 7 car. It also had a double back wheel.

T E Lawrence (of Lawrence of Arabia fame) owned several Brough Superior bikes and was riding one when he was involved in an accident in 1935 and died of his injuries. George Bernard

Shaw was another celebrity enthusiast.

Eden Project in NZ

One of the potential development projects being put forward for future uses for the earthquake-devastated red zone in Christchurch is a Kiwi version of the Eden Project, Cornwall's (in fact, one of the UK's) most successful tourism attractions.

The Eden Project became famous for converting a desolate, barren china clay mining pit into a record-breaking attraction that combined leisure with education, science, arts and culture that attracted over 5 million visitors in four years. The main elements of the Eden Project are four biomes (huge greenhouses) that are themed in different climates and showcase the plants that grow there. The largest biome contains fully-grown trees and palms in a tropical rain forest environment.

The concept for Christchurch is based on water and its journey "From the Mountains to the Sea" (Ki Uta Ki Tai). The promoter of the idea as part of a



Artist's impression of the rainbow room

wider network of water-based uses for the red zone, is the Water for Life Trust which has partnered with Ngai Tahu / Ihutai Ahu Whenua Trust, engineers, architects and scientists. Concept designs produced by Lincoln University show a rainbow room, wetlands and an outdoor concert sound shell.

Described as Te Papa on steroids, if it goes ahead, From the Mountains to the Sea is expected to attract overseas visitors as well domestic tourists and generate large economic benefits for the Canterbury Region. With a construction cost of up to \$120 million the facility would also employ hundreds of local people.

Sir Tim Smit, who was the driving force behind the development in Cornwall, visited Christchurch about a year ago to see for himself the proposed location in a loop in the Avon/Otakaro River. Eden Project has already signed an agreement for an Eden Centre in the Chinese city of Qingdao and another is in the pipeline for Canada.

Water for Life Trust hopes to present its proposals to the new Regenerate Christchurch agency soon.

Cornish coins

We think we have monetary issues these days but nothing is new under the sun, as the saying goes. The British economy suffered from a shortage of currency in the late 1700s and early 1800s and the Cornish mine companies stepped in to help.

Part of the problem arose through changes in the value of copper. In the reign of George III, coins were minted to contain their face value in precious metal so silver was used to produce penny coins containing a penny's worth of metal.

When copper replaced silver from 1797 onwards, the coins had to grow in size in order to contain the right value of metal and a penny was 36 mm across which was so clunky that they were nicknamed cartwheel pennies. Then the price of copper rose making the pennies worth more than their face value and it was advantageous to melt the coins down and sell the metal. This led to a shortage of ready cash and resulted in the introduction of token coinage – coins that had a face value that had no relation to their intrinsic worth. The situation was made worse by the industrial revolution and a general move away from primary industry into factories. Employers found it hard to pay their staff and solved the problem by issuing their own tokens.

The Cornish tin and copper mines were no exception and, after all, they had a ready source of the raw material. In 1811 and 1812 the larger mine companies released quantities of tokens known as Cornish pennies to pay their work forces. The tokens could be redeemed for goods or exchanged for notes with the mine who would honour the value.

Cornish pennies were issued by Lord Dunstanville (of Basset and Dolcoath fame), John Williams (of Scorrier House and Gwennap Mines) and the various adventurers of West



Wheal Fortune. The pictured penny clearly states that it is payable at Scorrier House at the rate of 240 coins for one pound.

The designs of the coins were quite patriotic including coins with a pilchard and ingots of tin and copper embossed on one side surrounded by the words "for the accommodation of the county" with a Cornish engine house and "Cornish penny" on the other. The Rose Copper Company tokens stood out because they were issued to miners from its Redruth base stating they could be redeemed in Birmingham and Swansea with no mention of Cornwall. Most Cornish pennies were minted by a Birmingham company.

Initially these pennies were well received but confidence wavered when rumours spread that some companies in other parts of the UK had failed to honour their tokens. The Rose Copper Company received particular attention in these rumours. The tokens were not to last due to the

spectre of forging being light weight. The Williams and Dolcoath tokens were officially called in during 1813. It appears that some makes of Cornish pennies may have lingered onto 1818 when all such coinage ceased to be legal tender.

More recently Cornish Gold and Tolgus Tin are issuing a 'gold' penny containing genuine Cornish tin to celebrate the tenth anniversary of the Cornish Heritage site. St Justin jewellery has also issued a solid tin 'penny' as part of its Poldark series featuring Wheal Leisure and 1785 along with the design elements "for the accommodation of the county", pilchard and engine house.

Christchurch branch

The branch held a meeting on 11 June with 27 members and the usual list of apologies.

President Val gave the latest in our Cornish lessons - identifying the Cornish names of some common objects.

David King spoke of his connections with Cornwall. He was born in 1925 in the St Allen Rectory near Zelah. The church had some former standing stones incorporated into its walls. As a baby, David's family moved from St. Allen to St. Teath and he remembered a steamroller tar sealing the previously shingled village roads, going on the back of his siblings' bicycles to Tregardock and climbing down a rope ladder to the beach. At age 6 the family moved again to Lezant near Launceston, cycling to school and picking and eating wild strawberries was another fond memory. The Rectory at Lezant had 28 rooms and 6 cellars. At about this time David auditioned and was accepted as a chorister at Exeter Cathedral. After his father's early death the family moved into a miner's cottage in Redruth. At the same time David's church school was evacuated to Carlyon Bay near St. Austell in 1940. On leaving school David joined the Royal Navy and his Cornish connection continued when he was posted to RNAS St. Merryn near Padstow for the rest of his service. After completing his engineering qualifications David and Olwyn immigrated to New Zealand.

Les had some news items of happenings in Cornwall since the last meeting.

A DVD narrated by the Cornish actor John Nettles was shown and much enjoyed.

The raffle was drawn and proceedings finished with afternoon tea.

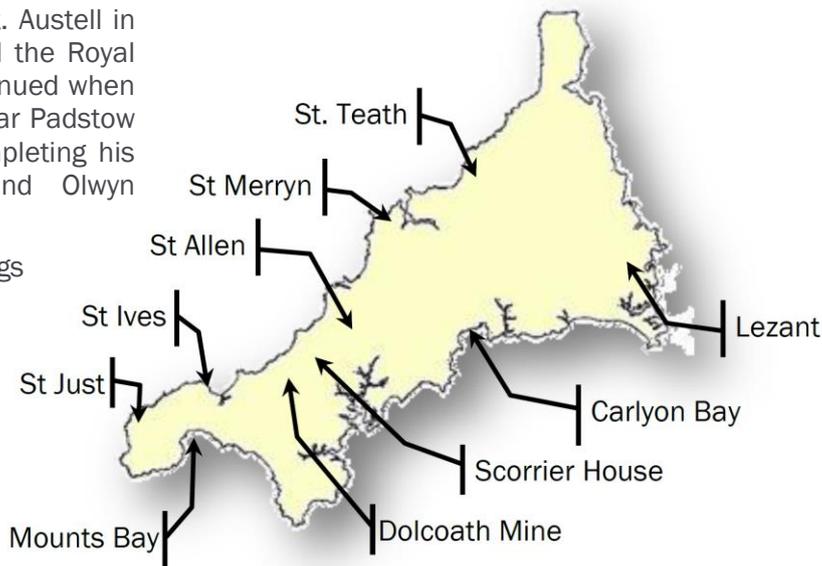
For the meeting on Saturday 9 July the President welcomed 27 members to the refurbished parish at lounge at St Pauls, Papanui after a 9 month absence due to asbestos contamination in the roof. 14 apologies were received and accepted.

The President gave members lesson No. 36 in the Cornish language series and is pleased with progress.

Member Fran Townshend told us of her "Cornish Connections." Fran's family hailed from St. Just in Penwith from where her great grandfather, Edmund Oates, and his 3 brothers emigrated to Dunedin in 1870. He married a Cornish girl Laura Dodds who he met on the voyage out. His son, William, was sent to Auckland to learn the trade of shoemaking from another Cornishman, a Mr Trenwith. William eventually founded the firm of Winstone and Oates shoemakers which traded for many years before being taken over by an American company and becoming Shelly shoes.

Les had the usual news of the month's happenings in Cornwall. This was followed by our annual quiz conducted by Les with the President acting as scorer - adjudicator. Members made up 6 teams answering a quiz of 4 sections each containing 6 questions with the final section being all about Cornwall. The questions caused much head scratching and memory searching but finally produced a close result. The winning team had a margin of 1½ points from the second place getters with third another point away. Following the quiz the raffle was drawn among and afternoon tea was then enjoyed by all.

Places mentioned in this newsletter



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