

March/April - 431 - mls Meurth/mls Ebril 2017

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■ ■ Est. 1962 ■ ■
Founder: Cliff Trevelyan
Trevelyan an Tynnoweth

N e w s l e t t e r
L y t h e r - n o w o d h o w

Celebrations

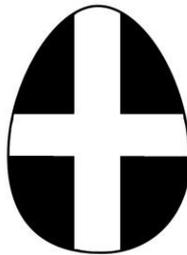
St. Piran's Day was on Sunday 5 March, of course. I hope you all managed to mark the day in some way.

Easter is coming up soon so I wish you

Pask Lowen! - Happy Easter

The word for egg in Kernewek is 'oy' which is really easy to remember. In the spirit of the season here are some egg-related Cornish phrases:

- | | |
|--------------|-----------------|
| Oy Pask | Easter egg |
| Oy chokolet | Chocolate gg |
| Oy ownek | Golden egg |
| Oy friys | Fried egg |
| Ow skramblys | Scrambled egg |
| Oy bryjys | Boiled egg |
| Gwynn oy | Egg white |
| Melyn oy | Egg yolk |
| Oy da | Good egg |
| Oy neth | Nest egg |
| Yar hag oy | Chicken and egg |



Notice how the spelling and pronunciation of 'oy' softens before the 's' of skramblys.

Melyn translates as yellow and gwynn is white. Yolk is 'yellow egg' and follows the same logic as white egg/egg white.

The plural of 'oy' is 'oyow' so to ask for 6 free range eggs, you would say "Hwegh oyow frankres, mar pleg".

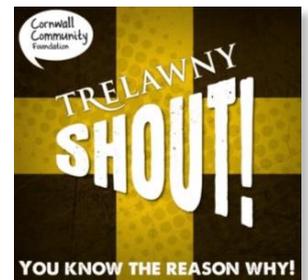
St Piran's Day

Although the legend of St. Piran could date back as far as the 5th century it was only in the late 19th and early 20th centuries that usage of the flag and the 'traditions' around the legend began to develop as part of a general Celtic revival.

Today no self-respecting Cornish town goes without some form of celebration on the day. Some town councils have begun to give their staff the day off work as a public holiday and a number of schools in Falmouth area give parents the option of taking their children out of school for the day. Moves are afoot to extend the public

holiday across the whole of Cornwall.

In 2017 the Trelawny Shout, in its third year, was given a higher profile and aimed to spread the celebration beyond Cornwall as well as raise funds for the Cornwall Community Foundation. The Shout is based on Cornish people going to their local pub on St Piran's Day, Sunday 5 March, having a drink to wash down a pasty or some starry gazey pie, donating some money and, at 9:00 p.m., taking part in a community sing-along of the Cornish anthem, Trelawny. The concept was to link Cornish folk over a wide area at a co-ordinated time.



You can be forgiven for not joining in at the appropriate time. 9:00 p.m. in Cornwall on Sunday 5th would have been 10:00 a.m. on Monday morning 6th March here in NZ - possibly not the best time for easting pasties, drinking beer and singing at the top of your voice!

Notice of national meeting

As I announced in the last newsletter the 2017 national biennial meeting is being held on

Saturday, 6 May 2017
at the Methodist Church on the corner of
Chapel Street and Harewood Road,
Christchurch
starting with lunch at 12:30 p.m.

All members and guests are welcome but please let us know if you plan to attend, if there are any issues that you would like discussed or if you would like to volunteer for office. Contact Val Moore or Nick Bartle. Details are at the top of the page.

Mineral riches

Once famous for tin and copper, Cornwall's rocks may be sitting on other modern-day 'high tech' mineral wealth. During the heyday of Cornish mining it was known that there were high levels of lithium in the water found in many mines but there was no commercial use for it

then. Some of the old mines were forced to close down because of hot salty water seeping through the rocks and causing flooding.

Today there is a growing demand for lithium in rechargeable lithium ion batteries found in many modern devices but particularly cellphones and electric cars.



Demand is set to grow and already outstrips supply pushing up global prices.

A new mining company, Cornish Lithium, is trying to do what many others have failed to do; re-start the mining industry in Cornwall. It has agreements with three other companies - Strongbow Exploration based in Canada, which bought South Crofty Mine (pictured) in 2016 and is attempting to open it again, a private mining company and Tregothnan Estate for exploration rights on its land.

Lithium extraction techniques are more like oil mining than metal ore. Bores are sunk 400 to 800 metres in the ground to tap the deep hot water springs that were responsible for closing some mines. Once at the surface the dissolved lithium can be isolated in relatively ecologically sensitive ways. An added benefit is that the geothermal energy in the hot water can be used to generate electricity as a second source of income.

With some risk of counting their chickens too early the chief executive of Cornish Lithium, Jeremy Wrathall, and the local MP are claiming that the new industry will provide a much-needed boost for the economy, more incentive for young people to train as geologists and mining engineers attracting them to live in Cornwall and bring associated industries such as battery production and recycling.

Wrathall, a graduate of the Camborne School of Mines, said the company would explore an area of about 300 sq km centred on the traditional mining areas of Camborne, Redruth and St Day. It puts the cost of this exploration phase at £5 million and is looking for investors. Cornish Lithium will be using new technology to recover the lithium from the subterranean brine. Traditionally lithium carbonate and lithium hydroxide are obtained by evaporating away the water in large lakes - like the process used by NZ salt producers, Dominion Salt, at Lake Grassmere. The new method, developed by a university in Finland, will extract impurities into organic solvents (mainly kerosene)



Cornish
Lithium

leaving lithium in a very pure state suitable for use in battery production.

You never know: we may soon all be carrying around tiny bits of Cornwall in our phones!

Figgy 'obbin

Time for a recipe...

Despite the name, there are no figs in figgy 'obbin. Back in the mining days a hogen (Kernewek for pastry) was a kind of flatbread containing pieces of pork and, perhaps, potato that was probably made out of pastry left over from pasty making. The hogen was built to withstand the rigours of being taken down a mine for crust. The figgy part of the name comes from the Kernewek for raisin "*fygesen an howl*" (*howl* means sun). Combine *fygesen an howl* and hogen, add some casual usage over 2 or 3 centuries and you can see that figgy 'obbin comes from the old language for raisin pastry -



which is pretty much all there is to figgy 'obbin.

It is a simple dessert that could easily become a

store-cupboard staple. It is a traditional Cornish dish that I have heard about a lot but it did not feature in my mother's repertoire of baking when I was growing up.

Like all old favourites, recipes vary. Modern cooks can easily pick up a pack a very nice flaky pastry at the supermarket. I suspect the following version that makes the pastry from scratch using suet comes closer to the traditional product.

8oz/220g suet	1lb/440g flour
1tsp salt	2 tsp baking powder
Raisins	Zest of a lemon
Milk	Sugar

Mix together the suet, flour, salt and baking powder. Add water gradually to form a dry elastic dough. Knead lightly, then roll out to about 1/2" (1 cm) thick rectangle and dust with sugar to taste, then cover with raisins, leaving a half inch strip of bare pastry at the bottom to seal the roll. Cover with the zest of a lemon. Starting at the top edge, work your way along, tucking in the pastry to start making a roll. Continue, working evenly and trying to keep it as tight as you can. Seal the bottom edge and ends and transfer to a baking sheet. Make criss-cross slits across the top with a knife, brush with milk and sprinkle with sugar. Bake for 30 mins at 200°C. Serve hot. A dollop of clotted cream would not go amiss!

Railways come, railways go

Our international correspondent, Gordon Grey in Probus, Cornwall has filed another report with links to the article about the Treffry viaduct in the last newsletter.

T J Treffry never completed his planned railway from Par across the peninsula of Cornwall to Newquay. However, the development he carried out had a lasting impact.

Treffry created separate tramways, one starting at both ends - Par on the east coast; the other at Newquay. In 1874 an act passed by the British parliament arranged for the takeover of both networks by Cornwall Mineral Railways. CMR rebuilt the lines for locomotive haulage (replacing horse-drawn wagons) and bridged the gap from St Blazey to St Dennis thereby completing Treffry's plan. In 1896 the system was purchased by Great Western Railway as a strategic move to secure services to the increasingly popular destination of Newquay and points beyond. It removed any potential for its greatest competitor, the London and South Western Railway, which operated a branch line from Exeter to Padstow and Bude to extend its network further south.

The Par to Newquay line is in operation to this day and is known as the Atlantic Coast Line with several services offered by Great Western Railway from London's Paddington station with usually a change at Par. During the peak tourist season in July and August Atlantic Coast Express trains run daily direct from Paddington with limited stops to Newquay and even include an additional coach purely for luggage. With fares from £22.50 one way and a journey time around 5½ hours, it is a viable option for many travellers.

The line from Par was not the only service to Newquay. A branch also ran from Chacewater which, like Par, is on the main Paddington to Penzance line. It began life as a number of shorter lines. The main one ran from Blackwater to Perranporth but it also included a length of track from East Wheal Rose lead and silver mine into Newquay that traces its ancestry back to Treffry's early horse-drawn tramways. In fact, the first cargo of ore from the mine weighed in at 30 tons and was taken to Newquay harbour on 26 February 1849. Despite linking Newquay with



the other attractive coastal towns of Perranporth and St. Agnes and making connections into Truro, the Chacewater line did not survive the review carried out by Dr Richard Beeching. Beeching was appointed to the chair of British Railways in 1961 and by 1965 had released two reports which restructured railways throughout the UK. They were notoriously ruthless and resulted in the closure of many rural and community railway lines and stations. The Chacewater branch line closed to passenger services in 1963.

Parts of the line were given a new lease on life when Eric Booth purchased land from British Railways (an act of parliament was needed to authorise that sale too) and started work building a 15-inch narrow gauge railway from East Wheal Rose to Benny Station. Since it began in 1973 the small railway has grown and developed into the tourist attraction of Lappa Valley Steam Railway and Leisure Park. Centred around the ruins of the mine there is a range of activities to amuse tourists as well as rides on the small steam trains. Its success is borne out by plans to add another stretch of line and incorporate a new station - Trewerry and Trerise Halt.

Contact from Cornwall

From time to time I receive promotional material from people trying to sell Cornish-related products. Since the last newsletter, I have heard of three such ventures - 2 books and a CD.

- ■ The Cornish Buildings Group, which promotes the preservation of historic buildings in Cornwall, held a conference in 2015 and has recently released a book based on papers presented at the conference. Entitled 'Celebrating Pevsner' it refers to Niklaus Pevsner's volume on Cornwall that was part of his 46-volume catalogue of the historic buildings of the UK county-by-county. Details can be found at:

http://www.francisboutle.co.uk/product_info.php?products_id=136

- ■ Bendigo historian James A Lerk has self-published a book "Gold, Blood, Sweat and Fear, Bendigo's Diamond Hill and its Gullies". It documents the life and times of the communities of Bendigo including the Dja Dja Wurrung Aboriginal inhabitants, Chinese immigrants, all sorts of fortune-hunters in the gold rush and the Cornish community responsible for setting up the Wesleyan Golden Fleece Church. The author can be contacted by email at etty.lerk@gmail.com or at 8 Mackenzie Street West, Golden Square, Victoria Australia 3555, phone 03 5443 1717,

Will Keating is a musician based in Falmouth who has recently embarked on a project that involves producing and recording an album of Cornish songs written by a friend named Harry Glasson. Harry sang around Cornwall for over 30 years, however in 2009, had his voice box removed due to cancer. Since Will started gigging solo, (he also sang with Cornish male vocal group named The Oggymen), Harry has been Will's mentor and Will has re-worked some of his songs. These are links to hear two of the songs and subscribe to his fund raising to produce the CD

<http://willkeatingcornwall.com>
[Will Keating - Cornwall My Home - You Tube](#)
[Will Keating - Newlyn - You Tube](#)

At some point in the future, Will intends to come to New Zealand to tour the Cornish songs.

Please contact me if you would like more information on any these.

Christchurch branch

The Christchurch branch held a meeting on 11 February 2017 with 26 members and several apologies.

This year marks the 50th Anniversary of the founding of the Christchurch branch, when a meeting in the W.E.A. rooms was called by the Rev. K. Schollar on the 27 July 1967 to elect a President and Secretary from the attendance of 14. Elected were the Rev. Schollar as President and Mrs Walsh as Secretary. There are two members remaining from that meeting.

The President read an amusing story in dialect entitled "Dolly Polglase gets an invitation to a wedding" which told of all the complications leading up to the great event.

Les had News from Cornwall since Christmas.

Frieda Looser continued telling the story of her journey around Spain last August. The trip encompassed the Cathedral of Burgos, Toledo, La Mancha, Cordoba and Seville. There was time to visit British Gibraltar and Grenada and its Palace of Alhambra before returning to Barcelona and the trip back to New Zealand.

The President thanked Frieda for her most interesting talk and pictures on Powerpoint, Frieda was asked many questions during afternoon tea.

The Branch held its 10th annual St. Piran's Day lunch on 4 March 2017. Thirty members and guests tucked into lunch with an extensive menu

like Christmas but on tables decorated with Cornish memorabilia

Les Mitchell proposed a Toast to the Patron Saint of Kernow – St. Piran.

Heather Gladstone played for all to sing "Hail to the Homeland."

The President and Bruce Moore led the singing in the Cornish language of "The Grace."

Following lunch Ian Clarke proposed a vote of thanks to the ladies of the committee for the wonderful array of food they had produced. This was greeted with loud applause.

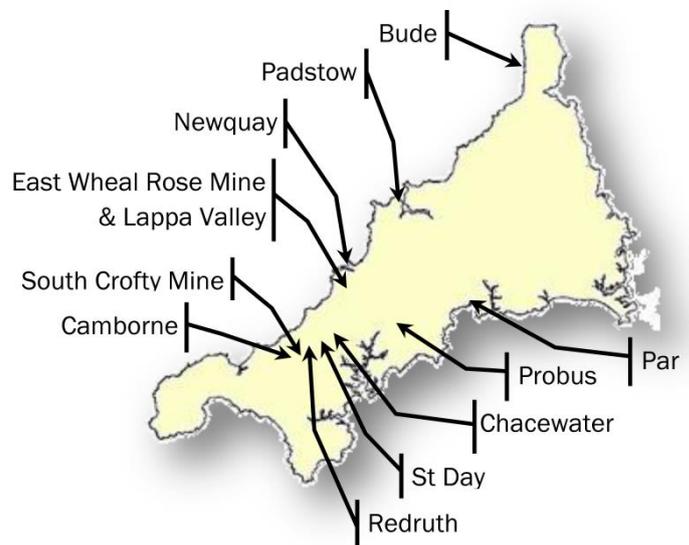
While the tables were cleared and dishes washed members were entertained by the President who read a dialect story from the book 'Peaches and Cream'.

Les had some items of recent news and happenings in Cornwall.

At the Branch's annual general meeting that followed the President gave her report of the year's activities and the treasurer presented the financial report. Office holders elected were:

President	Val Moore
Vice-presidents	Dorothy Drew, Les Mitchell, Mac Reynolds, Sister Deidre Nelson, Judy Wright
Secretary	Les Mitchell
Treasurer	Jeanette Beaumont
Committee	Margaret Swanney, Jean Piper, Joyce Doney, Heather Gladstone, Bruce Moore, Rose Donald and Adrienne Parton

Places mentioned in this newsletter



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

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