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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

## Val Moore 1943 – 2018

It is with great sadness that I have to report the death of National President, Val Moore. Val had lived with cancer for 30 years but the disease overtook her on the morning of Monday, 26 February and she passed away in Christchurch hospital. Val left her husband, Bruce, and two sons with their families which included three grandchildren.

A service to celebrate her life was held on Thursday, 1 March at St. Pauls' Anglican Church where Val and her family had been long-serving and dedicated members of the congregation.

Actually born in Devon, Val trained as a teacher and came to New Zealand as a young woman to take up a teaching position in Christchurch. After meeting and marrying Bruce, they had two spells living in the UK the first and longest was spent mainly in Roche in Cornwall where Val taught at the local school but Cornwall had been her adoptive 'home' long before that.

Val was a very active in the community, not only in the church and Cornish Association. She was also a member of the St Albans Community Choir which has been mentioned in many reports of the Christchurch Branch. In all three organisations Val was known for her organising, planning, baking, preserving and general enthusiasm.



I would like to put on record how indebted The New Zealand Cornish Association is to Val. Her lively character, especially over the years she was president, made the Christchurch branch what it is today – vibrant and fun to be with.

Her influence also extended across the national body. She was vice president for years and then took over the national presidency in 2015. She was our most fluent if not the only speaker of Kernewek. She always made the effort to travel and attend our national meetings or help organise them. She took a welcome active part in proceedings usually adding a considerate or diplomatic touch to her input.

In 2000 Val was made a Bard of the Cornish Gorsedh reflecting her commitment to Cornwall and the Cornish in New Zealand. She took the bardic name of Scolares Godolphyn, meaning pupil of Godolphin, a reference to Reverend Kenneth Schollar who was her Cornish mentor and a past National President of the Association.

It's a cliché to say she will leave a gap in the Cornish community in New Zealand that will be hard to fill but I don't think that anyone could take Val's place and the Association will be the poorer for it.

Meur ras (thank you) Val, for everything you did for us. Powes yn kres (rest in peace).

## Henry Jenner

Henry Jenner played a pivotal role in the revival of the Cornish language and in the recognition of Cornwall as a Celtic nation.

In its latest newsletter MAGA Kevren, the Cornish Language Office of Cornwall Council, announced the release of a new short film about the life of Henry Jenner. Two versions of the 16 minute film made by Charlie Fripp and John Gray are available online at:

<http://www.dasserghikernewek.org.uk/jenner.html>

One version is purely in Kernewek but the other provides English subtitles. It includes a scene of the 2017 bardic ceremony of the Gorsedh and features our own Heather Mitchell.

Jenner was born in St Column in 1848 to Henry Lascelles Jenner, curate to the rector of St Column Major. The Jenners were not Cornish and it was only his father's posting in the church that resulted in young Henry being born in Cornwall. A conversation around the dining

table one day is credited with sparking little Henry's interest in the Cornish language and Celtic culture in general.

In 1871 he got a job in the Department of Ancient Manuscripts in the British Museum where he developed his interest in ancient languages. It gave him access to valuable manuscripts. While working as a Keeper of Manuscripts he found, in 1877, a 41-line fragment of early Cornish verse on the back of a charter dated 1340.

Throughout his life Jenner was active in the sphere of Celtic nations and languages. In 1903 he was made a bard of the Breton Gorsedd. There have long been ties between Cornwall and Brittany. That same year he founded the first Cornish language society, Cowethas Kelto-Kernuak.

In 1901 Cornwall made an attempt to join the pan-Celtic Conference but the decision was postponed on the basis that there was insufficient evidence of a Cornish language. Jenner made a second application in 1904 at a meeting of the Welsh Gorsedd in Carnarvon with an impassioned speech to show that Kernewek was a living language. He even read out a telegram in Cornish to prove his point. His bid was successful and Cornwall took its rightful place with the other Celtic countries such as Brittany, Wales, Ireland and Scotland.

In 1904, he published his "Handbook of the Cornish Language" which provided the basis for a wider revival of the language. Jenner based his version of Cornish on 'where it had left off'. His ideas on spelling and pronunciation had been influenced by f Cornish as it was spoken by its last semi-speakers in West Cornwall in the 18th century. Dolly Pentreath of St. Ives was supposedly the last native speaker.

Later the language revival favoured mediaeval Cornish. The complication of two



versions of the language in such a small population of scholars and speakers caused disagreement and controversy delaying the progress of the revival. In more recent years, a unified approach to Kernewek developed with the advent of the Cornish Language Office.

After over 40 years Jenner retired from the National Library and, with his wife Kitty, returned to Hayle, her home town. It was a busy retirement because in 1912 Jenner was elected librarian to the Morrab Library in Penzance. He also became President of both the Royal Cornwall Polytechnic Society and of the Royal Institution of Cornwall.

In 1917 Jenner met D. Rhys Phillips and together they worked towards the inaugural meeting of a Cornish Gorsedd at Boscowen Un in 1928.

Before his death in 1934, he said, "The whole object of my life has been to inculcate into Cornish people a sense of their Cornishness.

"The reason why a Cornishman should learn Cornish, the outward and audible sign of his separate nationality, is sentimental, and not in the least practical, and if everything sentimental were banished from it, the world would not be as pleasant a place as it is."

There is a link to New Zealand in the Jenner family. The career in the Anglican Church of Henry senior progressed to the point that he was named the first Bishop of Dunedin in 1866.

The appointment was at the request of Bishop George Selwyn, Primate of New Zealand and Jenner was consecrated in Canterbury Cathedral with Andrew Suter, second bishop of Nelson. Bishop Jenner then carried out a fund-raising tour in England and his enthusiasm for Anglo-Catholic 'ritual' became known here. The General Synod in New Zealand objected to Jenner who was forced to resign the see in 1871. The affair became known as "The

### Annual subscriptions

It is now time for members to pay their subscriptions. The membership year runs from 1 April.

If you are lucky enough to be a member of our Christchurch or Taranaki Branches you should see your local treasurer.

National members, you will notice that there is a renewal form on the back of the address slip in your envelope or attached to your e-mail. Please complete it and return it to me with your sub of \$10.00. Donations are always gratefully received too!

You can pay in cash or by cheque or by direct deposit into our Kiwi Bank account number

38-9003-0932058-02

Be sure to put your name in the reference fields so I can identify who has paid.

Thank you for your continuing support and don't miss any chances to sign up new members or to give a gift membership to a friend or relative.

Jenner Controversy” and formed a point in the history of the church where the authority of The Queen and the Archbishop of Canterbury over the church in New Zealand came into question.

## Cornish technology

### Goonhilly

The Earth Station, on the Lizard peninsula first became famous for beaming images of the moon landings to millions of television viewers in the 1960s. In the 1980s it carried the Live Aid concert around the world. The 32m-diameter GHY-6 antenna is now to receive an £8.4 million upgrade to enable it to track signals from deeper in space potentially including missions to Mars and beyond.



Funding for the project comes from the EU and will mean that Goonhilly will work with the UK and European space agencies as well as NASA and private space exploration companies to provide high speed data communications.

The UK's Local Growth Minister, Jake Berry, said: “It is very encouraging to see... funding to support a rapidly growing sector through public and private sector collaboration. This contract will create skilled new jobs in the local area while assuring Cornwall's place in history for its contribution to space exploration.”

### Jubilee pool, Penzance

In yet another bold and forward-looking development in Penzance, drilling has started to establish geothermal heating for a section of the town's historic and stylish public swimming pool.



The pool was built in 1935 in classic art deco style with two areas, the large deep main pool

and a small walled-off shallower section. It was in this part of the pool that I took my first strokes as I learned to swim without the help of an inflatable ring. Only the small pool will be heated with the natural energy extracted by drilling down 1.5 km into hot rocks. The pool has been traditionally filled with sea water. A heat exchanger will transfer the heat to the water in the pool from the water that has been pumped the 3 km round trip to the hot rocks.

On completion there should be nothing to show on the 'triangle' next to Jubilee Pool, where the drilling rig has been installed, other than a

manhole cover. This will provide access to the borehole 'cellar', a three-metre deep equipment chamber.

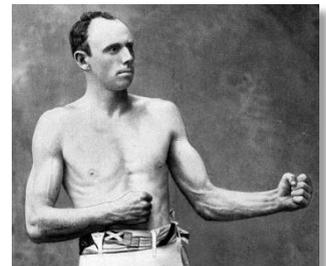
Opening is planned for spring 2019. Temperatures are expected to be sustained at 35°C and will enable bathers to soak comfortably in spa-like conditions all year round with minimal energy costs and almost no adverse environmental impact.

Modelled on the Blue Lagoon Spa in Iceland, there will be various spa packages to draw visitors to the town outside the summer season. Already the company that operates the pool is promoting it by saying “Why travel to Iceland, Japan or New Zealand to experience water heated from underground?”

Like the Goonhilly project, funding of £1.4 million has come from the European Union. Will these boosts to the Cornish economy come to an end with Brexit?

### Bob Fitzsimmons

In an article published in the Dominion Post on Tuesday, 27 March the journalist compared Joseph Parker's world heavyweight boxing title bid against Bob Fitzsimmons' contest against Gentleman Jim Corbett in 1897.



The comparison seems a long stretch. Looking at their physiques shows how far boxing had come in 121 years. Fitzsimmons weighed in at 76 kg. Parker's fighting weight is 112 kg. Fitzsimmons had worked his way up through the weight bands and during his career held world title at three different levels; middleweight, light heavyweight and heavyweight.

The comparison also falls over when New Zealand claims the nationality of the boxers because Bob Fitzsimmons was born in Helston, Cornwall, as has been reported in NZ Cornish Association newsletters before. In fact various countries lay claim to the man. His mother was Irish and the family moved to Helston only shortly before Robert was born, youngest of 7 boys and 5 girls.

When Bob was 10 the family relocated again and took the 93 journey on board the Adamant to Lyttleton, New Zealand. They settled in Tlmaru where there were many other Cornish immigrants. Bob's father established a

blacksmith's forge where Bob eventually became apprenticed.

He took up boxing as an amateur sport in Timaru; it was only after he moved to Australia that he became professional in 1883. He later moved to the USA in 1890 and won his first world title in 1891.

Fitzsimmons who went by various nicknames including "The Cornishman" won the heavyweight title by knocking out Gentleman Jim Corbett in Carson City on 17 March 1897. Bob was the underdog and was knocked to the floor in the middle rounds but kept getting up and wore down Corbett before delivering the final blow to his solar plexus.

The comparison of the two fighters also broke down with the result on Sunday, 1 April NZ times. Parker did not manage to emulate The Cornishman by knocking out his opponent. Although the fight went the full length of 12 rounds, Parker lost for the first time in his professional career.

### Beast from the east

Bad weather continued to batter Cornwall in early March and it felt the icy blast of the storm (nicknamed The Beast from the East) that swept from the Arctic across Europe. Snow fell to sea level giving an extra-white coating to white sand beaches.

Schools were closed and the children played in the unaccustomed snow. One very sad incident proved fatal for a little 7 year old girl in Looe. Having fun in the garden of her hillside home on the afternoon of 1 March, a car skidded on the road above and came crashing down.

### Christchurch branch

The Secretary, Les Mitchell, opened the meeting on 26 February standing in for the late President, Val Moore. He welcomed 28 members and guests to what was a rather sombre occasion. Apologies were accepted from 11 other members.

Les gave a short account of Val's long commitment to both branch and nationally as President. He then proposed a toast to Val's memory which was followed by a by a silent tribute and a short prayer by guest Owyn Phillips.

Led by guests Nadine & Doug and accompanied by Heather on the accordion, we all sang An Rosen Wynn (the White Rose) and Hail to the Homeland.

Judy presented her last "News from Cornwall" followed by a pictorial Cornish quiz. She is moving to Tauranga where her husband has a new job. The Branch will miss her input greatly and wish them both the best of luck. [Perhaps this could be the beginning of a new Cornish group in the Bay of Plenty! – Nick ☺]

An enjoyable afternoon tea brought the meeting to a close.

### Taranaki branch

The Taranaki Branch held its annual general meeting at the Stratford Mountain House. There were 10 members present and eight more sent apologies.

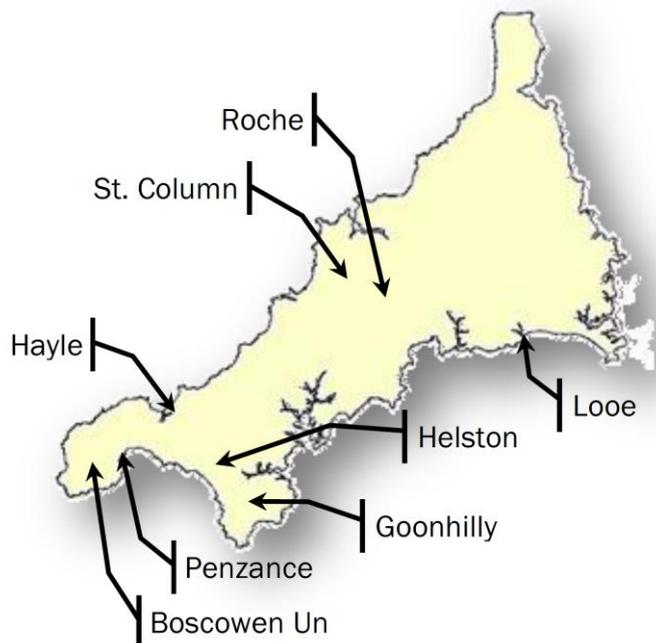
The usual business was despatched efficiently including reports from the President and Treasurer. Officers and the committee were elected as follows:

President	Elaine James
Vice president	Graham Cowling
Secretary/treasurer	Carol Cowling
Committee	Raewyn Wellington Judith Hellyar Jennifer Bosch
Sales table	Anne McGill

Future meetings are to be held at Telford Retirement Village community hall.

After the meeting everyone enjoyed afternoon tea.

### Places mentioned in this newsletter



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

*Nick*