

# The Cornish Association of Victoria Inc. Ballarat Branch

A.C.N. A0008 264A

## August 2019 Newsletter

# Onen hag oll

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**Saturday 3rd August** - Brian Shanahan will speak about the Celtic Nations



**Saturday 5th October** - Alan Ballard will share photos from a trip to Cornwall

**AGM**

With the absence of our Chairperson, Keith, due to illness, Jim Hocking took the chair for the AGM. Reports were delivered from the Treasurer, Ian, and Librarian, Wendy (in absentia - read by Lorice Jenkin).

Treasurer's Report showed a very healthy bank balance.

Opening Balance \$1091.84

Closing Balance \$2446.33

Librarian's Report

A variety of items have been added to library. Folders of the families spoken about on the cemetery tour have also been added. It is pleasing that the resources are being borrowed, *My Cornwall* being the most borrowed.

The Chairperson's report is included below.

It has been my privilege to occupy the chair of our Branch for the past year. I thank you, one and all, for that and for the spirit of amity among us. The members of the committee deserve special mention. But Ian, who has been our treasurer despite his

illness, and Lorice as Admin. Secretary have made outstanding contributions,

We are a group of people who share an interest in Cornishness that is far more than the simple DNA and genealogy of commercial organisations. Alongside that family tree stuff we think of the stories inherent in family trees.

In "Who Do You Think You Are?" we are given tasters of such things but the unrecognized factor are the professional researchers who know where to look.

For Television programmes the cost of this research is hidden but for real people employing professors and professional genealogists is often too much. I think ordinary folk would flourish with a bit of advice about where to start and how.

We do get occasional requests for help from people outside Ballarat seeking local connections, but I wonder if we should advertise that wider sense of Cornishness.

A case in point was our cemetery tour which brought a good response from people otherwise unknown to us, including a man from China.

The cemetery tour I deem to be a success along with our St Piran's Day Bus trip to Rupanyup Museum and our Christmas Lunch at Barklys. There were members who made special contributions to each of these and I thank you all, including the donors who made up the costs.

We have had a good year, again I thank you *One and All* (onen hag oll)

Keith Lanyon

Meetings are held on the even months at Skipton Street Uniting Church Hall, cnr Darling and Skipton Streets, Ballarat. Meetings begin at 2.00 pm and are followed by a shared high tea.



Neil Thomas, the President of the CAV, conducted the election of Office Bearers and the following people were appointed to the various positions for 2019-2020.

Neil thanked all committee members for their work in previous times and for undertaking another year of service.

- Chairperson *Keith Lanyon*
- Administrative Secretary *Lorice Jenkin*
- Treasurer *Ian Jennings*
- Committee Members
- Wendy Benoit*
- Di Christensen*
- Robyn Coates*
- Bev Hocking*
- Jim Hocking.*
- Joy Menhennet*
- John Mildren*
- Lenice Stuchbery*

Following the AGM, Neil Thomas presented a slide display on his trip to Cornwall during 2018. Neil was able to attend three festivals:- The Padstow Obby-Oss, Trevithick Day at Camborne and the Helston Flora Day and he showed slides of these well attended events.

His adventures at Trevithick Day included visiting the "Cornish Embassy", a double-decker bus in Cornish Colours, where he sat a test to become a "Cornish Citizen".

Fortunately he passed.



We saw slides of the Old Bodmin Gaol which is now being developed by a Russian entrepreneur who plans to make the prison a convention centre, a restaurant and also up market accommodation.



Lanhydrock (left) and Trecice (right), National Trust properties were visited, both having wonderful

gardens. Lanhydrock is an opulent Victorian mansion once owned by the Robartes family, while Trecice is from the Elizabethan era and was once the seat of the Arundell family.

Neil showed slides of a church which his Michell ancestors had attended - St Euny, at Redruth. Following his attendance at worship, he met the church historian who mentioned how many Cornish emigrants came back home to Cornwall. Neil told him he wasn't aware of this, which prompted the man to show him a grave of someone who had returned and much to Neil's surprise the grave was of a woman, Catherine Tonkin, whose husband, was the mayor of his home town of Geelong in the "Colony of Victoria".

The husband's name was William Barrow who was mayor in the late 1850s.



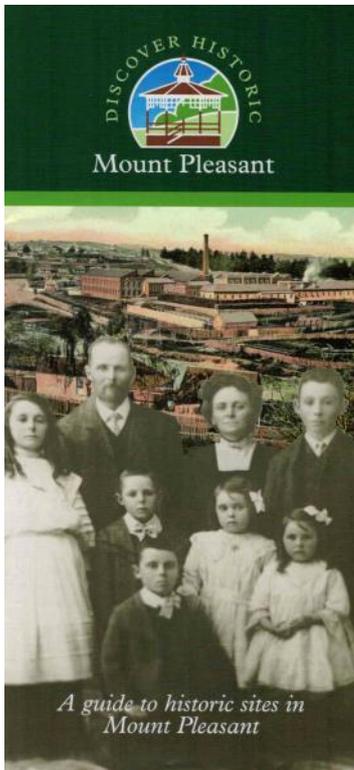
We all enjoyed visiting Cornwall with Neil and there was much chatter over High Tea.

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**Kernewek Lowender** - Robyn and Arthur Coates, Wendy Benoit (and David Smith), Glen Bray (and Keith Stodden) were part of the Victorian contingent who attended

Kernewek Lowender. These photos were included in the Yorke Peninsula Country Times - the local newspaper.





## Discover Historic Mount Pleasant

This brochure details historic sites around the Mount Pleasant area - it is divided into two sections, with each taking about an hour to walk - a shorter time of course if you drive.

A display of information is currently located at the Ballarat Observatory and is currently open Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday afternoons between 2.00pm and 5.00 pm.

There are a few steps at the entrance and to the second level.

## Celebrating 150 years and 150 stories of the Women who shaped and built Ballarat.



On 10th June 1867, the Ballarat New Cemetery was opened. A project that began in 2017 is still continuing and is looking for submissions. The aim was to bring to life the stories of the many women who have contributed to the life of Ballarat. While much has been written about the famous men of Ballarat, the lives and achievements of its women are not always as well known – and although there is a growing body of work now being undertaken by historians in this area, the everyday stories often remain untold.

Graves which are unmarked, names unknown and burial records only tell us of their role in society, as mothers, daughters, wives, widows or spinsters. They do not tell the story of how they lived or their contribution.

The goal was to collect 150 stories and share the lives and contribution of the many female leaders,

visionaries and pioneers who rest in Ballarat's old and new cemeteries – and most importantly discover the many untold stories held by families and friends within the Ballarat community.

Currently there are about 25 women listed on the website. Well known figures identified by the Cemetery Trust to date include entrepreneurs Eleanor Lucas, Matilda Thompson and Mary Sutton, artists Helen Noonan, Gertrude Healy, Alma Matthews and Rosalie Bonighton, educators Mother Bonaventure and Mother Hilda, political activists and politicians such as Aileen Palmer, Mary Morrison, Jessie Scott and Karen Overington, and health care reformers Alice Pittard and Helen Gardiner.

You can contribute in two ways - by writing and including a copy of a photograph or by submitting online.

If you are submitting online here is the address: <http://www.ballaratcemeteries.com.au/story-submission/>

If you wish to submit by writing, here is the address:  
 'Women who shaped Ballarat'  
 Ballarat Cemeteries  
 1250 Doveton Street North  
 Ballarat Vic 3350

## BALLAARAT Locomotive

Did you know that the first locomotive in Western Australia was made right here in Ballarat in 1871? Ballarat was a leader in manufacturing and heavy equipment in Victoria with many clever foundries and builders, such as Phoenix Foundry. The "Ballaarat" was built by James Hunt of the Victoria Foundry and Ironworks in Armstrong St for the Western Australian Timber Company and was designed by Mr Jonathan Robinson, general foreman of the Victoria Foundry.

The locomotive cost was £780 and it was completed and shipped to Melbourne and then to Busselton Western Australia.

It was the first 3'6" gauge locomotive built in Australia. The engine worked for 15 years hauling Jarrah logs from around Yoganup to the mill at Lockville near Wonnerup 8 km east of Busselton, WA.



## **Everett Mark Rickard**

Everett Rickard was referred to as an only son, but it did not start out that way.

His parents, Cornishman, Mark Rickard, and Ballarat-born, Annie Eddie Kent, had suffered the loss of their first-born, Joseph, when he was only six years-old.

Their second son, Everett Mark, was born at Maryborough, Victoria, in October 1896.

Mark and Annie eventually had four surviving children, Everett, his older sister Elizabeth, and their younger sisters Selina and Elva.

As with many Cornish immigrants, the Rickard family had a strong connection with mining – they hailed from St Austell, an area of Cornwall that was once noted for the greatest tin mine in the world. Mark and two of his brothers were mine managers – between them they oversaw the workings of mines that included the Chalk's No 3 claim near Maryborough, the Royal Standard Mine at Talbot, and the All Nations Extended Mine at Beaufort. It was mining that brought Mark Rickard and his family to Ballarat when he took over the Central Plateau Mine in Sebastopol – the last working quartz goldmine in the area.

An accident in the mine on 22 May 1907 could potentially have been catastrophic. Mark Rickard was descending a rise from the 1,100-foot level, when he slipped on the ladder and fell nearly 20-feet. He was a big man – weighing about 20-stone – and the impact caused compound fractures to both his legs.

Nearly three months later, Mark was still struggling with his injuries, with a delay in surgery to his severely damaged left leg. Given the ramifications of this occurring in 1907, the effect on his family was significant.

Life, however, needed to go on for the children. Young Everett, who received his early education at the Redan and the Sebastopol State Schools, continued going to school. As a family they worshipped at the Rubicon Street Methodist Church, which was only a short walk from their home at 1008 Ripon Street.

After completing his primary education, Everett graduating to the Church of England Grammar School. By this time the school had already established a long history. In 1911, the new site on the corner of Howitt and Forest Streets, in Wendouree, was ready for the first boys to attend. Everett's examination results in December 1913, with passes in arithmetic and algebra, gave a clear indication where his career lay.

The future certainly looked bright for Everett Rickard when he completed his time at the Grammar School. He took a position as ledger-keeper at the Ballarat branch of the English, Scottish and Australian Bank. He had joined the church choir at Rubicon Street, and was secretary of the Sunday School. He had also found the girl he wanted to spend the rest of his life with.

World events were about to intervene and prompt very adult decisions from a very young man.

When Australia awoke to the news that Britain had declared war on Germany, on 6 August 1914, few were surprised. Many had anticipated it with a fervour that might today seem almost inexplicable. Everett, however, was too young to be contemplating enlistment without parental consent. His physical stature also precluded him somewhat under the initial AIF recruitment guidelines. He was determined to do his bit, and, when the requirements for enlistment were lowered, he secured his parent's permission on 8 February 1916. Without hesitation, he presented himself at the Ballarat depot.

Doctor A B Campbell conducted Everett's medical examination. He found that the prospective soldier only just passed the minimum height requirement at 5-foot 2½-inches. His weight was recorded as just over 9-stone, but he had a good chest expansion of 34-inches. The doctor noted that his pulse rate was 88 beats per minute, which could well have indicated that Everett was feeling rather nervous.

Having three years military training with school cadets was an added bonus, and Everett was passed fit for active duty. He was duly sworn in on 14 March and immediately joined the 14th Training Battalion at the Ballarat Showgrounds Camp. Everett was to spend nearly six months in the Ballarat Camp, three of which were taken up by training with the Army Medical Corps. He also had a bout of influenza and tonsillitis that landed him in the Ballarat Clearing Hospital for five days. After transferring to Royal Park, he was finally allotted to the 16th reinforcements to the 22nd Infantry Battalion.

It was around this time that Everett proposed to Louisa May Lawson and their engagement was made official, if still kept somewhat private. They were both so very young, but it was a promise that they both meant with all their hearts.

On 2 October 1916, Everett, and his best mate from Ballarat, Aubrey Cowell, embarked together from Port Melbourne onboard the troopship *Nestor*. The trip to England took a speedy six weeks, and,

on 16 November, the *Nestor* docked at Plymouth harbour.

Christmas 1916 was spent in England, and the New Year was well under way before Everett finally sailed for France. He eventually joined the 22nd Battalion near Bapaume on 23 March 1917. During training, Everett had been instructed in the use of the Lewis gun. As a weapon, it was used to great effect by the Australian troops. Its mobility added to its lethal capabilities, but it also made the gunner a prime target. It was a dangerous assignment. Upon joining his unit, Everett was immediately allotted to the Lewis gun section of D Company in the battalion.

The 22nd Battalion was selected as part of the Australia attack at the Second Battle of Bullecourt on 3 May 1917. Although Everett hadn't been with the battalion long, he had already been adopted by the more experienced men. They had given him the nickname of "Sammy," which was probably due in no small part to his dark complexion, brown eyes and dark hair. These were times of political incorrectness, when "Sambo" was generally shortened to the more familiar "Sam" or "Sammy".

So it was that at Zero Hour (3:45am) on 3 May, under cover of a heavy barrage, the men commenced their attack. They were approaching their second objective, when Everett was hit in the back by machine-gun bullets, the force of which spun him around and into the barbed wire. Several of his comrades attempted to help him, but every effort to move him resulted in excruciating pain. He begged Private Edward Carroll not to leave him, after Carroll had tried unsuccessfully to carry him out.

Private Fred Hedley, who was with Everett in the Lewis gunners, said that, *'...On the eve of May 3, I came across him lying wounded. I carried him back to the barbed wire, thinking the SB's [stretcher-bearers] might pick him up. He was badly wounded – one through the shoulder the other through the hips from the back. He seemed to be paralysed in the legs. He could not walk, and he screamed when I was carrying him...there is no chance of him being taken a prisoner, as the Germans never got back where he was lying, and the SB's did not get out to where he was left for five days, I am sorry to say, but I think Sammy must have died where I left him. There was a barrage put up just as we left there and he may have been blown to pieces...'*

Harold Milne was crawling back to the Australian lines when he came across his wounded friend. He could see that Everett was in a very bad way – he

could not move and *'looked to be sinking fast.'* *'...He did not know me when I spoke to him, although I had known him for nearly two years...'*

It must have been heartbreaking for Milne to have to leave his mate behind. He was the last to see Everett Rickard alive.

According to military procedure, and until his fate could be confirmed, Everett was marked as "wounded and missing in action, France".

Several harrowing months of uncertainty were to follow for the Rickard family. In a letter (dated 6 September 1917) to the Minister of Defence, Senator G. F. Pearce, Mark Rickard wrote,

*'...On the 5th of June last I received official notification from the Defence Department that my son had been reported wounded and missing on 3 May 1917, but I have not heard anything further from the Department. By the Expeditionary Mail delivered yesterday I received letters from my Son's acquaintances at the Front sympathising with my Wife and myself on the death of our Son. This has naturally upset us, and we are now anxiously awaiting some definite news from the Department. I would therefore be glad if you through your Officers can supply us with any further news regarding our Boy...'*

The Defence Department responded by requesting copies of the letters and details of the informants, to which the anxious father replied, *'...I have not the original letters you refer to, and I cannot give you the regimental description of the informants. I can only state that in forwarding their sympathy they were acting entirely on hearsay. I am however very anxious to obtain any possible tidings of my Son, and if the Defence Department can assist me, I will be much obliged...'*

The reply that Mark Rickard received was unfeeling and bureaucratically dismissive in its insensitivity,

*'...I have to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated 22nd instant, concerning your son...who is officially posted "Wounded and Missing" 3/5/17, and to state no further information has come through, and, in view of the fact that the authorities abroad are employing every possible means in endeavouring to trace those members of the Force so reported, it is regretted no further action can be taken by the Department, without the production of definite authentic evidence at variance with the official advice...'*

A Court of Enquiry was held in the Field on 26 November 1917, and the finding was that Everett Rickard had been killed in action on 3 May 1917. The news was then finally conveyed to his anxious family on 30 January 1918.

They had also been told that, with the exception of Fred Hedley, from Carisbrook, every member of

the Lewis Gun Section had been killed or wounded during the battle.

Private Harold King wrote the following somewhat damaged letter, to Everett's father,

*'...I have to express my deepest sympathy at the loss of your son. He was \_\_\_\_\_ wounded in a charge that we made on 3rd May, and to our sorrow we could not find any trace of him. He went into the fight with us merry and bright, and I can honestly say he fought like a \_\_\_\_\_.*

*He may have lain in a shell hole and been picked up by Fritz, or he may have died of his wounds, but he fought game to the end, and helped us to have a \_\_\_\_\_ victory over the Prussian Guard.*

*As I am a Ballarat boy and knew him pretty well, I thought it my duty to drop you a line. If I can give you any more information as to Everett I will forward it to you as soon as possible...'*

The finality of it all must have been shattering for the Rickard family, shattering, but also a relief. Although there was to be no peaceful knowledge that their 'Boy' had received a decent burial.

Like so many other Australians lost on the battlefields of the Somme, Everett would later be commemorated on the Australian National Memorial at Villers-Bretonneux.

The name of his best mate, Aubrey Cowell, who was also killed on 3 May 1917 whilst fighting with the 22nd Battalion, is engraved on the same memorial.

One of his last acts before leaving for the war seems so very typical of the true essence of who Everett was, and how he felt about his parents.

He wrote his Last Will and Testament bequeathing his life insurance policies with the Mutual Life and Citizens' Assurance Company to his 'dear Father' and to 'my dear Mother.'

At the request of Everett's parents, Louisa Lawson was asked to plant an English Ash in her fiancé's memory in the Ballarat Avenue of Honour on 20 July 1918.

Louisa, who's own brother, Robert, had been killed in action at Gallipoli, eventually married one of Everett's comrades in D Company of the 22nd Battalion, Ballarat man, Norman Coates Hammon. She never forgot the young soldier who did not return.

*'...Oh, the racked suspense of waiting;  
Oh, the miseries and strain;  
Oh, the heartbreak at the tidings  
That our dear one has been slain.*

Are we alone? No, surely,  
Some form stands at our side  
That points to cruel wound prints  
In hands and feet and side.

Some mighty, healing comfort  
That makes our tears refrain,  
And whispers, oh, so gently,  
For you, I too, was slain...'

I share this story with you from **Ballarat and District in the Great War Facebook Page**

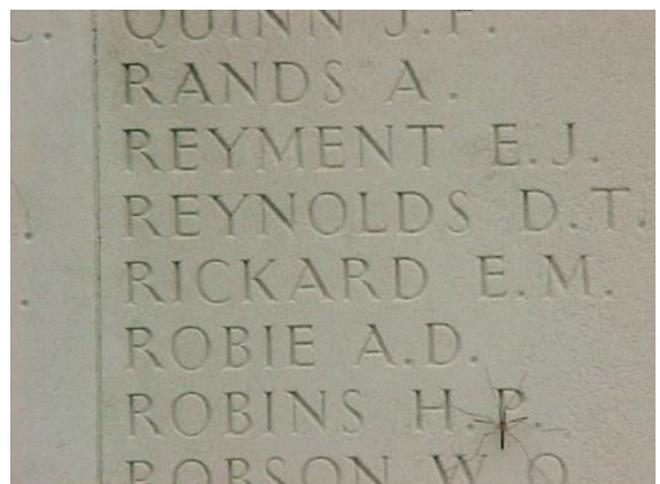
This page is an initiative of my friend Amanda Bentley .

Mandy spends a great deal of time researching the various soldiers and in my opinion is a great 1st World War historian and a brilliant researcher.

This is used with her permission.



Everett Mark Rickard (above) and his name recorded on the Wall at Villiers Bretonneux



## CORNISH snippets

### Dark Age skeletons at St Piran's Oratory are 'significant find'

Skeletons uncovered at an historic site have been dated to the Dark Ages, in what is being called a "nationally significant discovery".

Archaeologists said the finds at St Piran's Oratory in Cornwall are thought to confirm an early Christian presence there. The surviving building is thought to date to the 11th or 12th Century.

Tests on the skeletons of two children, excavated last year, show they date from the 8th or 9th Century.

James Gossip, from Cornwall Archaeological Unit, which led the excavations, said the skeletons of two adults and 10 children had been found to the north-west of the Oratory, buried approximately 24in (60cm) down.

The first sample, taken from the skeleton of a child buried on its side in a flexed position, produced a date suggesting burial in the 8th or 9th Centuries. The second, also a child, appears to have been buried around the same time, but more probably in the 9th Century.

It is hoped that more detailed analysis of the skeletal material, which can be used to provide information on origins, migration and diet, will add significantly to the knowledge of the early origins of this iconic site and the development of the early Church in Cornwall,

### History of St Piran's Oratory

\*The 6th Century remains of St Piran's Oratory - at Penhale Sands, near Perranporth - are believed to be among the oldest places of Christian worship in Britain

\*According to legend, St Piran was born in Ireland in the 6th Century, but spent most of his life in Perranporth

\*St Piran is the patron saint of tin miners and his flag - a white cross on a black background - represents white tin flowing from black rock

\*Two major digs were carried out in 1835 and 1843  
The remains were encased in a large concrete



structure in 1910 after a number of skeletons - including one of a large headless man - were found  
\*In 1980 the structure was removed and the site was buried in sand

\*St Piran's Trust was set up in 2000 to campaign for the ruins to be unearthed again and studied

### Museum of Cornish Life Helston - photograph collection

The link below takes you to a wonderful collection of old photos of the Helston area.

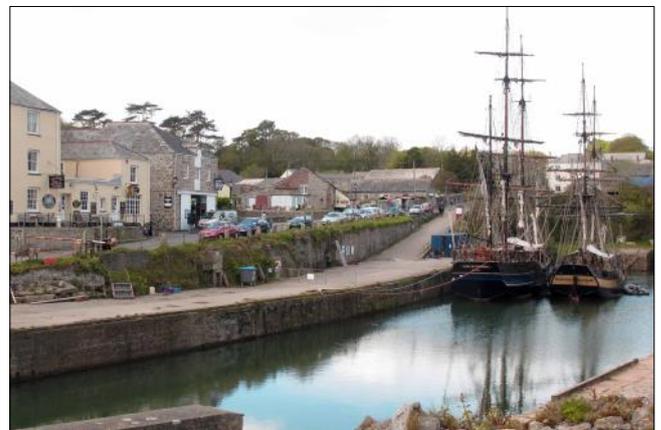
[http://photographs.helstonmuseum.org.uk/?fbclid=IwAR2l-yxE-Ey8wAmROnnYDUNQsyldkt\\_Eh7wpmHv3U0zVfnhLcfTwDZBkg2U](http://photographs.helstonmuseum.org.uk/?fbclid=IwAR2l-yxE-Ey8wAmROnnYDUNQsyldkt_Eh7wpmHv3U0zVfnhLcfTwDZBkg2U)

### New Ship at Charleston Harbour

Charleston, a Cornish harbour, has acquired a new tall ship. The crew of *Anny*, including harbour owner Rolf Munding, has been on an exciting voyage to bring the ship to her new home in the UNESCO port from Germany.

*Anny*, built in 1930, will join another resident tall ship *Kajsamoor* in the harbour.

Charlestown is a Grade II Listed harbour which once serviced the China clay industry of St Austell.



### Car wedged in narrow laneway

For those who have driven on some of the narrow roads in Cornwall, this car got stuck as it tried to turn around instead of backing back.



## Low disposable incomes

It has been revealed that households in Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly have some of the lowest disposable incomes in the south west.

Social equality charity the *Equality Trust* has called for action to address a "dangerously extreme" wealth gap.

It comes after Office for National Statistics data revealed a nearly £48,000 gap between the UK's richest and poorest areas.

The average person in Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly had £17,021 left over after tax in 2017, the most recent data available - down 0.3% from the previous year.

This is the second-lowest disposable income per head across the south west, where the average is £18,984.

According to the figures, the UK's total gross disposable household income was £1,289 billion in 2017, 1.6% higher than the previous year.

The only region where disposable household income fell between 2016 and 2017 was Yorkshire and the Humber, where it dipped by just 0.2%.

Nottingham has the UK's lowest spending money per head, at £12,445. That's nearly five times smaller than Kensington and Chelsea, and Hammersmith and Fulham (£60,343).

## £20 million secured for Cornwall's Spaceport

The UK Space Agency has agreed to invest almost £8 million in the plans for Newquay.

It will involve the horizontal launch of satellites. The council will provide up to £12 million, with another £0.5 million from the Local Enterprise Partnership.

A further £2.5 million will be coming from Richard Branson's Virgin Orbit for the project, that will be the first of its kind in Europe.

Spaceport Cornwall could create 150 jobs and enable the UK to compete for a share of the global market for launching small satellites worth £3.9 billion to 2030.

Launch from the UK will be an opportunity to inspire children and young people to take up careers in science, engineering or even as space entrepreneurs.

The funding is subject to business case and final approvals, including from Cornwall Council later this year.

## Cornwall - Nation's favourite destination

The top 10 holiday locations were voted as:

1. Cornwall
2. Devon
3. Dorset
4. Somerset

5. Northumberland
6. Norfolk
7. Yorkshire
8. Edinburgh
9. London
10. Lancashire

The top 10 landmarks to visit were voted as:

1. Stonehenge, Wiltshire
2. Buckingham Palace, London
3. White cliffs of Dover
4. Tower of London
5. **St Michael's Mount, Cornwall**
6. Tower Bridge
7. Lake Windermere, Cumbria
8. The Jurassic Coast, Dorset
9. Edinburgh Castle
10. York Minster

## Seven towns in Cornwall have been named among the best seaside spots in the UK.

The survey looked at a variety of factors including number of beaches, average temperature, family friendliness, cost of an ice cream and number of Instagram hashtags to score Britain's best coastal resorts.

The top spot went to Bournemouth - St Ives came in 6th and Newquay 7th. Bude was ranked 12th, Padstow 18th, Falmouth was 30th, Perranporth 33rd and Polperro 39th.

## Cornwall could become a mini Hollywood if Netflix has its way

A new agency designed to make Cornwall a mini Hollywood of the South West has already received interest from broadcast giant Netflix.

Off the back of success stories such as *Poldark*, *Doc Martin*, *Delicious* and the *Fisherman's Friends* movie, Screen Cornwall will be a hub for film, TV and digital technologies.

Chaired by renowned TV producer Phillippa Giles (*Rillington Place*, *Luther*, *Silent Witness* and the Dawn French-starring *Delicious*), the agency will appeal to film and TV makers not just as an ideal place for locations but also as a hub of creative talent.

As well as ensuring Cornwall's array of talented filmmakers, actors and crew can stay in the county rather than moving to London and further afield, it will also ensure industry talent moves to Cornwall.

Articles and Cornish Snippets may be sourced from the Cornwall Council, BBC Cornwall, Pirate FM News, Falmouth Packet, Cornwall Live,