



**CORNISH ASSOCIATION
OF
VICTORIA, INC.**

**NEWSLETTER
No. 132**

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

'Dydh da' ('G'day').

I hope you all had an enjoyable
Christmas season.

Here we are in another new
year.

To me it seems like yesterday
when we entered the new
Millennium and it's hard to
believe that was twenty years
ago!

2020 will see us continue with
our efforts to provide a varied
and interesting program for our
monthly meetings.

There are some exciting new
developments being discussed to
promote the CAV and to boost
our membership.

It is a promising sign for the long-
term future of the CAV.

I will keep members posted on
these developments.

Over the Christmas break all of
us watched our TVs in horror, as
parts of Queensland, southern
NSW, parts of Kangaroo Island in
SA and East Gippsland in Victoria
were all aflame with mega-
bushfires.

Our thoughts and prayers are
with the families of the 24
Australians who died as a result
of these fires; not to mention
those that lost their homes and
livelihoods.

Almost a billion animals also died
in the various blazes across
Australia and the Red Cross put
out a call after Christmas for old
blankets, old luggage and water
for the animals that survived.
I was particularly heartened
when, like many of us, we took
some of our old blankets and
luggage to the Whittlesea Depot
to see that so many folk had also
heeded the call.

A truck was being loaded with
our offerings and was to proceed
to the fire zone that evening.

Well done Red
Cross and well
done people of
Whittlesea.



Sadly two people
who were
integral to the
foundation of the
CAV are no longer with us.

I would firstly like to
acknowledge Bill Whitford, who
died in late November aged 87.
Bill was the first President of the
CAV in a shared capacity.
He was a Bard and was involved
in organising festivals and
performed in 'Miracle Plays' as
well.

On behalf of the CAV we send
our condolences to Bill's family.

On January 12th, CAV stalwart
June Parrott also passed away.
A day earlier she had turned 93.
June was a much-loved
foundation member of the CAV
and she was an active Committee
member for many years.
June was also actively involved in
the Geelong Branch, was its
President, Vice-President of the
CAV in 2001-2002 and was a
Bard of the Gorsedh Kernow.
I could not attend her funeral but
I know that many CAV members
attended her funeral on the 21st
January. See page five of this
newsletter for a further Tribute
to June.

Vale June Parrott.

I spoke with former CAV
President Robert Gribben just
before Christmas.
Robert was in hospital in
December having surgery to
repair a detached retina.
I can report that Robert was
making excellent progress and
the prognosis regarding his vision
was good.

(continued page 3)

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CAV NEWSLETTER

The CAV Newsletter is published in February, May, August & November and distributed via email and in some cases by mail.

For distribution contact The Secretary.

Deadline for contributions for the next issue:

Saturday 18th April 2020

Submissions are welcome at any time but **must be received by the deadline date.**

Please use plain text font size 12, without formatting.

Photos and tables should be included separately - not as part of a document.

Acknowledgment of source is required.

The email address for the CAV Newsletter - please note change of address:

robyncoates@hotmail.com

Please mark - Article for CAV Newsletter.

Dates for your



Saturday 15th February

The Welsh on Victoria's Central Goldfields with Peter Griffiths

Thursday 5th - Monday 9th March

St Piran's Festival in Ballarat - if you need a Registration please contact Robyn Coates.

Closing date for Registration is 21st February.

Saturday 21st March

Sir Edward Nicholls - you can take the boy out of Cornwall with Jill Beard

Saturday 18th April

The Kokoda Track - Courage, Sacrifice, Mateship and Strength with Helen Dwyer

Saturday 16th May

The Blewetts of Penzance, Builders, and their disastrous encounter with 'Marvellous Melbourne' (1850s to 1890s) - Filling in the Gaps with Helen Morgan

Saturday 20th June

TBC with Neil Thomas

| ROSTERS | Door | Afternoon Tea |
|----------|-----------------|------------------------------------|
| February | Brian Tresidder | Felicity Sigmound |
| March | Brian Tresidder | Marjorie Barrett Helen Law |
| April | Brian Tresidder | Penny McGuire-White Max Procter |

If attending afternoon meetings, please bring a plate to share for afternoon tea.

He was in fine form and I wished him well on behalf of everyone at the CAV.

Since our last Newsletter, I can report that in October Dr. Fay Woodhouse talked to us about: 'Separation, Gold and Prosperity - Victoria after the Gold Rush - 1851-1858'.

Fay is an Honorary Research Fellow in the School of History and Philosophical Studies at the University of Melbourne. It was a very interesting and wide-ranging talk.

In November, I know we enjoyed the 'pub quiz' together with a series of 'playlets' associated with the Cornish Language put on by our Language Group. I know people enjoyed the afternoon getting to know our language a bit better and engaging in a lot of light-hearted fun. Well done to Stephen Morey, Janet Woolhouse, Peter Trevorah, Marjorie Barratt and the rest of the Language Group.

I attended the Annual Geelong Branch Christmas Dinner on 20th November, which was well organised and a great night as usual.

The speaker/singer was Marie Goldsworthy who managed to sing a song in Cornish. Marie is also keen to learn Cornish.

Our December meeting was well attended with a luncheon enjoyed by all in attendance. I was particularly pleased as we welcomed back Tren and Betty Harvey. I had met them in November at my mother's ophthalmologist clinic in Epping. I was wearing a Cornwall shirt and we struck up a conversation. I invited them to our Christmas lunch and I was so glad to see them there.

We managed to sing three Carols in Cornish and we all had a great afternoon.

On 23rd December (Tom Bawcock's Eve), a number of us attended the 'Beer and Carols' evening put on by Marcus Curnow, pastor of the Newmarket Faith Community of Essendon Baptist Community Church.

It was a great evening in support of local community organisations that sustain the 'Flemington People's Pantry'.

This organisation provides support for more than 90 families in need and is a very worthy and wonderful cause. Marcus and Samara helped our group to sing the 'Tom Bawcock' song. Marcus had even made a 'starry gazy pie'!

Thanks to Ted and Beryl Curnow, Neil and Marilyn Thomas for helping me with the singing. The song went over well.

(As an aside congratulations to Ted and Beryl who recently celebrated their Golden Wedding)

On Saturday 15th February 2020 we look forward to hearing Peter Griffiths talk on: 'The Welsh on Victoria's Central Goldfields'.

Throughout the year we hope to hear from a number of CAV members tell their stories.

At our last meeting, I remember asking those present who had been to Cornwall or who had an ancestor come out to Australia from Cornwall.

Of course most folk put their hands up. For every hand there is a story lurking. The stories don't have to be long and they don't have to have a PowerPoint presentation and/or photographs.

I remember one of the best talks I have ever heard about Cornwall

was at the AGM in July 2019 when we heard from Penny McGuire-White.

Penny spoke about her memories as a young girl of Penzance during World War 2.

It was a poignant talk, as she took us back to a wartime tour of the streets and familiar parts of Penzance that many of us know and love.

I was literally taken back in time and could picture these places and how they might have looked so long ago now.

Penny has sent me her notes from that talk. So I am announcing the 'Agan Kernow Project' (Our Cornwall).

I want as many members as possible to put together their stories and send them to me for editing.

I think it would be great to publish a booklet of these short stories about our ancestors or stories about our time spent in Cornwall.

I think it would be a great read. See page five of this Newsletter for details.

Don't forget the St Piran's Day Festival 5th- 8th March in Ballarat beginning with a flag-raising ceremony outside the Town Hall to commemorate St Piran's Day as well as the Bardic Ceremony on the Saturday.

Loads more activities for all the family.

I hope to see as many CAV members as we can attending our functions and joining in the special bond we all have in our Cornish heritage.

'Oll an gwella' (All the best)

Ken Peak

Recent happenings

A most enjoyable lunch took place in December for our final meeting of the year.

With a mixture of Carols and Quizzes plus a scrumptious two course lunch, it was a fun afternoon.

A Complimentary Life Membership was presented to Gwen Phillips who celebrated her 90th Birthday in January and a Certificate of Appreciation to Max Procter was also presented.

Both seen below looking elegant in their Christmas bon-bon hats



The 'Agan Kernow Project' (Our Cornwall)

How many of you have a story about Cornwall?
All of you do, I know.

Penny McGuire-White recently spoke about her memories as a young girl of Penzance during World War 2.

It was a poignant talk, as she took us back to a wartime tour of the streets and familiar parts of Penzance that many of us know and love. Penny kindly sent Ken her notes, which will be written up as part of the 'Agan Kernow Project'. He has two other contributions as well.

Stories can be short, they can be funny but best of all they should be told from the heart. We all have funny stories or perhaps not so funny stories from holidays in Cornwall. Then there are the vignettes of our ancestors coming out from Cornwall to Australia.

Everyone has a story of our ancestors and what they did. Even if you don't think it's interesting I am sure that there will be many who will be fascinated by our stories.

These stories should not be lost; they should be written down on behalf of the 'Cousin Jacks and Jennys' who literally helped forge our nation.

We want as many members as possible to put together their stories and send them to Ken Peak for editing.

We think it would be great to publish a booklet of these short stories about our ancestors or stories about our time spent in Cornwall.

We think it would be a great read.

From time to time we will also get members to share their stories with us on a Saturday.

It will be fantastic and it's something everyone can be involved in.

Send you stories marked with 'Agan Kernow Project' to:

Ken Peak
President,
Cornish Association of Victoria
15 Shorthorn Crescent,
DOREEN 3754

Phone: 0400 309 469

Email: pkicons29@bigpond.com

VALE

June Margaret Parrott

11th January 1927 - 12th January
2020

June was a member of the Cornish Association of Victoria from its beginning and held membership number 17.

She was an Honorary Life Member, was Vice President 2001-2002 and served on the committee for many years.

June acted in many Cornish Miracle Plays performed by members of the CAV.



She played a key role in the establishment of the Geelong Branch of the CAV and was its first Chairperson.

June had visited Cornwall fifteen times and had attended nine Gorsedh ceremonies in Cornwall, as well as Bardic Ceremonies in Victoria and during *Kernewek Lowender* in South Australia.

She had published several family histories including Elizabeth Anne Tremayne: her Higgans, Tremayne, Andrews and Parrott Families.

June was made a Bard in 1999 at Hayle and took the Bardic name *Gorvyrghwyn an Garrek* (Great-granddaughter of Angarrack).

This was from her Great Grandmother, Elizabeth Ann Tremayne - born in Angarrack in 1832 - who lived to be 104 and whom June knew as a child.

She was able to trace family members in over thirty villages in Cornwall, back to at least the 15th Century.

She represented Cornwall on the organising committee of the National Celtic Festival during the years it was held in Geelong.

June had been the Convenor of the Cornwall Discussion Circle at the Genealogical Society of Victoria, meeting monthly for many years and in 2009 she was presented with The Medal for Service to that society.

She also received a certificate for 65 years' service to the Girls Guide Association.

In 1982 June appeared in the Who's Who of Australian Women.

She was the Australian Vice President of the one-name PARROTT Society for nearly 30 years.

Originally June studied to be a Primary School Teacher but with more extensive qualifications, June's teaching career was mainly spent in Teacher Education at Geelong State Collage and Deakin University School of Education.

She travelled widely and presented papers at Congresses of the International Society for Education through Art in Paris, Adelaide, Edmonton, Rio de Janiero, Brisbane and Hamburg.

Her other interests were growing Australian native plants, collecting art and genealogy.

We extend our sympathy to her family and friends.

VALE

Bill Whitford

25.08.1932 - 26.11.2019

William Henry Whitford was born in Melbourne and qualified as an industrial chemist before undertaking teacher training and later becoming a School Principal.



He, with his wife Lois, was very involved in the establishment of the CAV and Bill was one of the early Presidents and also the Public Officer.

They were both involved in the organization of several Festivals and Miracle Plays.

Bill was made a Bard (*Res Wyn - White Ford*) at Roche Rock in 1991 for services to Cornwall.

He was involved in the organization of the first Bardic ceremonies to be held in Australia.

VALE

Vanessa Eve Beeman - former Grand Bard

Vanessa Beeman visited Australia in 2007 with her husband Rob and many lifelong friendships were formed during that visit.



They spent time in Victoria in Melbourne, Ballarat, Bendigo and Castlemaine before travelling to *Kernewek Lowender* in South Australia.

Gladys Grigg writes:

They were truly interested in the real Australia and spent time travelling to South Australia from Melbourne camping along the Great Ocean Road.

They especially were interested in our bird life, particularly our blue wrens, and were stunned at the boldness of the kookaburras at Puffing Billy. Vanessa was so unaffected. I think that was her greatest charm.

Vanessa was not born in Cornwall, but in Nairobi, and she spent most of her childhood with her family in Tanzania.

Whenever they returned to the UK, they stayed with her paternal grandfather, Sidney Hocking, who was proudly Cornish and had Henry Jenner's *A Handbook of the Cornish Language* amongst his many books on Cornwall.

Later, she studied prehistory at Manchester and Liverpool, and for a Post Graduate Diploma in Education in Wales before teaching at a school in Truro, going on to a post with the Federal Department of Antiquities in Nigeria, and afterwards to teach at Ahmadu Bello University in Zaria.

In 1986, she and husband Robert returned to Cornwall to be near her parents, and she and her father joined Hilary Shaw's Cornish Class in Penryn. The language was a fascination from the beginning, and she and her father Dr Kaspar Hocking became Bards in the same year in 1993, at Bude Castle.

Vanessa served as the Gorsedh Competitions Secretary, Deputy Grand Bard 2003-2006 and Grand Bard 2006-2009.

We extend our sympathy to her husband Rob, her sister Shelagh, family members and friends.



Seen with her dad and sister.

Photo courtesy of Libby and Tom Luke - who were related to Vanessa via their Bolitho line.

CHANGE OF EMAIL ADDRESS

Late last year our ISP had great problems with emails so I have changed my email address for all newsletter articles to robyncoates@hotmail.com
Could you please update your records?

ROOTS WEB MAILING LISTS

For those of you who have used the Roots Web Mailing lists, it is sad that they are no longer going to function.

You like me have probably been reading that some groups are going to try to transfer to another platform which would be wonderful. and several groups have already established new groups. Keep checking with your group for updates.

From Roots Web:

Beginning March 2nd, 2020 the Mailing Lists functionality on RootsWeb will be discontinued. Users will no longer be able to send outgoing emails or accept incoming emails.

Additionally, administration tools will no longer be available to list administrators and mailing lists will be put into an archival state.

Administrators may save the emails in their list prior to March 2nd.

After that, mailing list archives will remain available and searchable on RootsWeb.

As an alternative to RootsWeb Mailing Lists, Ancestry message boards are a great option to network with others in the genealogy community. Message boards are available for free with an Ancestry registered account.

Thank you for being part of the RootsWeb family and contributing to this community.

Sincerely,
The RootsWeb team

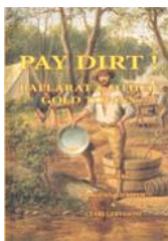
TWO INTERESTING NEW BOOKS

Two new books of interest to researchers were launched recently.

“Pay Dirt” edited by Dorothy Wickham and Clare Gervasoni to celebrate the 21st Anniversary of Ballarat Heritage Services was launched at the Old Colonists Club, a wonderful old building, which is open during Ballarat Heritage weekend, the last weekend in May.

“Pay Dirt” is available through BHS Bookshop on line:-
<https://www.ballaratheritage.com.au/bookshop/>

It covers four major themes - Faces, Places, Spaces and Traces with contributions from distinguished authors and historians, including Clare Gervasoni,



Dr Val Noone, Dr Michael Taffe and Dr Dorothy Wickham.

In the chapter of “Mysterious Marks and Masons” I found some gems in relation to Cornwall.

My second great grandfather, William Henry Lovell emigrated from Falmouth to Ballarat and was a mason and builder.

Whether one of the masons’ marks carved into the wall of the Yarrowee creek was his I do not know but it is interesting to contemplate.

Further into this chapter is a photo of a painting in the church in St Just in Penwith, where my great grandfather, James Hicks Eddy, was baptised before he and his parents emigrated to Ballarat in 1853.

“Mining Mud & Medals” is a project of the Victorian Interpretive Projects Inc, and compiled by Yvon Davis.



This book seeks to highlight the role of the men who served in the Australian Army Tunnelling Corps during World War One, especially those from the Ballarat electorate.

Members of the Australian Mining Corps were commonly known as “tunnellers”.

They worked continuously in wet and muddy conditions, under constant enemy threat in often narrow tunnels under No Man’s Land.

There is a list of over 160 men from the Ballarat electorate who enlisted as tunnellers, however as origins of parents were not mentioned, I could not find any of Cornish descent.

Di Christensen
January 2020

FIRE MESSAGES FROM OVERSEAS

We have been greatly encouraged by the number of Cornish friends who have phoned or emailed expressing their concern and sending us all their thoughts and prayers in the news of the devastating fires in Australia and keen to know if we are affected .

Seems Sky News have a steady stream of update news over there on the Aussie fire situation .

Bill Curnow, USA, Cornish Association of Victoria member sent this comment in his email this week. “Australia’s ongoing bush fires and the resulting loss of lives and property are simply horrendous. Prayers go out to all who are impacted, particularly the fire fighters on the front line.”

Beryl and Ted Curnow

NEWS FROM OUR COUNTRY COUSINS

BALLARAT

A very enjoyable luncheon was held at *The Barkly* corner of Main Road and Barkly Street on Saturday 7th December.

Keith Lanyon, our Chairperson extended a warm welcome to everyone with best wishes for the Christmas season.

Visitors from Melbourne and Geelong joined us for a most pleasant meal and afternoon with lots of chatter and renewing of friendships.

At the conclusion, Jenny Burrell presented a posy of flowers to Robyn Coates in appreciation of her work on the Newsletter.



St Piran's Festival

The Ballarat Committee has been busy organizing its St Piran's Festival 5th-8th March, during the Ballarat Begonia Festival.

The activities begin on Thursday 5th (St Piran's Day) with the raising of the St Piran's Flag in Victoria Square, in front of the Ballarat Town Hall. A Cornish Pasty lunch follows at Skipton Street Uniting Church Hall with afternoon activities.

A coach tour of Creswick has been organized for Friday with an optional visit to the Woollen Mills.

The South Gardens on Wendouree Parade, near the Tramway Museum, will be the venue for the 34th Assembly of the Bards of Gorsedh Kernow in Australia in the afternoon of Saturday 7th March. (For those who have never been to a Bardic Ceremony, here is your opportunity - only a short distance from Melbourne or Geelong.)

A Dinner will be held at The Barkly, corner of Main Road and Barkly Street, in the evening.

A Service of Worship, led by Rev. Ted Curnow, will be held at Skipton Street Uniting Church on Sunday morning, followed by a light lunch and then a walking/driving tour of the Mt Pleasant district of Ballarat.

In the evening, we will gather for an informal meal at the Ballarat Leagues' Club, corner of Mair and Humffray Streets, where we will say our goodbyes.

Registration closes on 21st February 2020.

It would be wonderful if many of our members could join in for all or part of the activities.

For more information please contact Robyn Coates on 0419 551 320 or robyncoates@hotmail.com

BENDIGO INTEREST GROUP

In October, Rob and Leanne Lloyd attended the Eaglehawk Fire Brigade Presentation night to once again present the Cornish Association Encouragement Award.

It was the 28th year of this award and it is presented to a young Brigade member who has shown leadership and commitment to the Brigade in all areas.

The 2019 recipient was Matthew Heard and it was with great pleasure that Rob and I were able to be at the Dinner to once again hand over this award.

Leanne Lloyd



GEELONG DINNER

During November, our branch hosted our annual dinner. Guests were welcomed from Melbourne and Ballarat.

Following an enthusiastic singing of Trelawny, CAV president, Ken Peak delivered a Grace in Cornish and English and spoke of his family's Christmas traditions.

Vice President of the CAV, Brian Rollason proposed a Toast to the Cornish.

Brian spoke of the ramifications for Cornwall and the Brexit deal, pointing out that Cornwall has little industry and is relatively poor and has been well served by being in the European Union.

Peter Mundy, a Geelong member and a Bard of the Cornish Gorsedh responded to the toast. Peter had visited Cornwall and displayed photos from his trip. Recently Peter had located a lost relative and they enjoyed walks together around the coast at Mullion. Peter has an ancestor who was the captain of the lifeboat at Mullion.

The Guest Speaker for the evening was Marie Goldsworthy, a past secretary of the Geelong Branch.

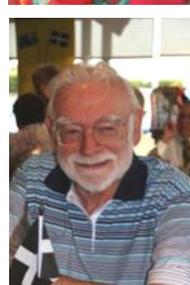
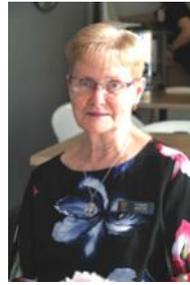
Marie was armed with a guitar and a recorder. Among musical items Marie spoke of her Cornish ancestors, names included Martin, Hocking, Angove and Goldsworthy. Some of her ancestral families split up with some going to the US, Australia and Mexico. One couple married at the Primitive Methodist Church in Ballarat which was a tent at the time. Marie even had the audience attempting to whistle in one of her songs.

An enjoyable evening was had by all in attendance.

Our regular meetings are held at the Uniting Church, Ormond Road, East Geelong at 1.30pm. on the third Wednesday of the odd months.

Neil Thomas.
Chairman Geelong Branch of the CAV.

Some photos from the evening courtesy of Arthur Coates



VALENTINE'S DAY - 14th February



Above is a Valentine's Day Card on display at the new Kresen Kernow in Redruth. Circa 1750.

There are eight messages on the interlocking hearts. Both the writer and the recipient are unknown.

*1 So sure as the grapes are on the vine
So sure you are my Valentine
Travels by land or by the sea
You are my Valentine to Easter Day.*

*2 My dear you may believe me
I love you more than gold
There's nothing in this world I shall
From you my love infold*

*3 I wish you well and ever well
I wish you joy and health
As I could do as much for you
As I would do myself.*

*4 Render your love unto me that's all I crave
I'll be content if nothing else I have
Innumerable are the stars above
And in my heart no star like you I have.*

*5 Eight hearts in one, you here behold,
See how they touch each other's fold.
See how their points do join and meet
In love and unity so sweet.*

*6 As grapes grow on the vine
By lot you came my Valentine
But if you take it in disdain
I pray return it back again.*

*7 For you my dear I have a great desire
Your beauty I do much admire
I love your beauty most excellent best
For there I find whate'er is lost*

*8 Valentine, Valentine take nothing amiss
It was your Valentine sent you this
But if you don't your Valentine chose
Pray burn these papers, me excuse.*



Below is a story once given to me about St Valentine and Valentine's Day Cards and probably bears no truth - I know there are many myths and this is probably one!! Albeit a nice one. It was taken from a book, *The Book of the Year* by R Brasch.

The celebrations of this day go back thousands of years to ancient Rome. It was believed that birds started to mate on this day and that, therefore, it would be only natural for humans to pair off as well. The fourteenth of February became the lovers' festival. Girls wrote their names on slips of paper. These they placed into a large drum, from which the young men drew their 'lot'. There were no blanks. The girls thus 'allotted' became the ticket holder's sweetheart until the next draw.

The Roman Emperor Claudius believed that husbands did not make good soldiers. Anxious to get back to their wives, they easily neglected their martial duties. For this reason he decided to abolish the institution of marriage and, with utmost rigour, tried to enforce his policy.

Valentine, who was a Roman bishop at the time, felt that the edict contradicted the will of God and was against human nature. He therefore continued - though now secretly - to marry young lovers. But he could not do so for long. His clandestine solemnisations were discovered. Arrested, he was thrown into prison, scourged and eventually beheaded in AD 269. It is supposed that he suffered martyrdom on 14th February.

Ever since, it was kept as St Valentine's Day and was considered, a date most appropriate for declarations of love.

Tradition tells that, while in prison, Valentine had fallen in love with the gaoler's daughter, whose blindness he had miraculously cured.

In a letter he declared his passionate feelings towards her, signing it, '*From your Valentine*'. And it was his signature that gave us the Valentine card!

People came to resent the practice of having their sweethearts chosen for them - by chance by drawing names from a barrel.

They felt that their own choice should take the place of luck.

On 14th February they thus began to send cards, sets of verses or even gifts to the ones they admired. They often did so anonymously, and it was left to the recipient to guess the author or donor.

Those unable to find their own words selected them from special handbooks, published for the purpose. Some of these, such as *The Young Man's Valentine Writer*, date back to 1797.

Eventually, the printed Valentine card came into existence. The introduction of cheap postal rates added greatly to their popularity, already assured by the intriguing mystery of the unnamed sender's identity.



STRAW PLAITER

Through studying the occupations of family members on census returns, I have come across many women who were straw hat makers and one man who was a straw plaiter.

Visiting *Trerice*, a National Trust Property in Cornwall, there were some fine examples of straw plaiting. Those on display were quite coarse but had been used to make large floor coverings as seen in the pictures to the right.

The straw hat and bonnet industry had a history going back to the 17th Century but was immensely successful in the 19th century.

Its raw material was woven straw plait produced as a cottage industry by female workers and children (usually the families of agricultural labourers).

The straw was sorted and cleaned, stripped of leaves and ears.

The best stalks were the longest and straightest. The straw might be bleached or dyed, and graded by thickness using a straw-sorter.

It was then tied into bundles where it could be sold to the plaiters at the market or by a dealer, the middleman, travelling door to door.

The plaiters worked by holding a bundle under their arm and drawing out the straws one at a time to be moistened between their lips before being twisted into plait.

There is an old story that the local men preferred a 'lace gal' to a 'straw gal' because the constant drawing of the treated straw through the lips often caused small cuts, which hardened and thickened with time - making them not so sweet to kiss as those of a lace maker.

Even very young children could plait, and 'plait schools' acted as a kind of industrial crèche in villages where almost every woman was plaiting from morning to night.

The money they earned made a valuable contribution to a family's income.

There was a great variety of design in plaiting and the women would work to order, depending on what was fashionable and what hats were required.

The finished plait was pressed through a mill to make it pliable.

Once complete, it was made into bundles of lengths, to be sold back to the dealers, or sometimes to be sold at market by the women themselves.

Sourced from *Female Occupations* by Margaret Ward



FISHERMAN'S FRIENDS

Like a number of you Lyn and I went to see the film, 'Fisherman's Friends'.

It was such a wonderful and emotionally uplifting movie! Like Melbourne's weather, I think I went through the gamut of emotions in the theatre.

I laughed, I cried, as did the others in the audience.



Without giving too much away the funniest part was when they started singing 'Trelawney!!' Some in the audience didn't get why it was funny but a few of us chuckled knowingly.

It warmed us to see Cornish culture proudly on display – as well as some dialect thrown in!

For Lyn and me it brought back memories of our visits to Port Isaac in 2012 and 2014.

In 2012 we stayed in a B&B in 'Rose Hill', a small street or footpath really, which appeared in the film. I guess when you have been there it's more meaningful.

We visited an Art Gallery and saw the 'Fisherman's Friends' CD for sale and we bought it.

It was a number of sea shanties sung a *cappella* style.

Every Friday evening the group of fishermen stand on the 'Platt' (Cornish for the flat area) next to the slipway in Port Isaac and sing for the village.

In 2011 they landed a million pound deal with a record company.

One of the 'Fisherman's Friends', John Cleave, was in the Art Gallery behind the counter with his wife when we bought the CD. We saw his photo on the wall.

The shanties are so 'quirky' (our kids actually said they were horrible) that we still can't get them out of our heads.

We played the CD all the way round Cornwall and England. This was why we sang along during the film.

If you haven't seen the film we will play the DVD before a CAV meeting later in the year.

This was the best film I have seen for at least 5 years!

I was so proud to have some Cornish blood in my veins that morning!

Ken Peak

CORNISH TIDBITS

New Year's Honours recipients from Cornwall

Harry Billinge

A 94-year-old D-Day veteran has dedicated his MBE to all his mates who never came home.

Ever since returning from the battlefield, Harry Billinge has been raising funds for the British Normandy Memorial

Andrew Robert Day

Andrew is a butcher from Portscatho on the Roseland and was awarded an MBE in recognition of his services in the village.

Kim O'Keeffe

Kim is the director of nursing, midwifery and allied health professionals at the Royal Cornwall Hospital Trust (RCHT) - she was awarded a BEM in recognition of her services to nursing and the nomination particularly highlights the role she has played at RCHT.

Helen Mary Shanahan

Helen Mary Shanahan, 60, from Falmouth, is being awarded a BEM for services to midwifery.

As infant feeding coordinator with the Royal Cornwall Hospitals NHS Trust and a breastfeeding counsellor for the National Childbirth Trust, Mary has played a vital role in the early lives of many youngsters and their mums.

She is passionate about breastfeeding and ensuring new mothers receive the support they need both in hospital and in the community.

Rachel Tonkin

Rachel aged 81 from Helston received a BEM for Services to the Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI).

Rachel has not let age stop her good deeds and on her 80th birthday she served more than 180 people with tea and toast in a four-hour period at the Lizard Lifeboat Station's Big Breakfast.

Grenville George Chappel

Grenville received a BEM for valuable services to the Falmouth Community, particularly with Penwerris Tenant and Residents Association, serving as chairman for 20 years, and the Beacon Community Regeneration Partnership.

In 2016 he was elected Mayor of Falmouth - a position he held until 2019.

James Staughton

The chief executive of St Austell Brewery, James Staughton is being appointed an OBE.

James has played a pivotal role in the extraordinary growth of one of the South West's most successful independent, family-run businesses.

Paul Netherton

Paul Netherton has been the deputy chief constable of Devon and Cornwall Police since January 2017 and was awarded an OBE in recognition for his work as the national police lead for resilience, emergency planning, flooding and risk management.



Underground Tunnels at Charlestown

Visitors to Charlestown can now explore the network of tunnels beneath the Shipwreck Centre. Charlestown was a vital port during Victorian Britain and, with the decline of St Austell's copper mines the clay and stone business became the historic port's main industry from 1906 onwards. On September 19th, 1907, the Royal Cornwall Gazette reported that a clay dry was to be erected where the Shipwreck Museum now stands, and that clay slurry would be piped from Carclaze to Charlestown where it would be transformed into a saleable product.

The building which now houses the Shipwreck Museum, the Lovering clay dry and the tunnels were constructed at the same time and those exploring the passageways will be able to imagine what it was like to work in the tunnels which remained operational until 1968.

Originally built to transport clay between the Lovering clay dry and the boats waiting in Charlestown Harbour, the tunnels had fallen out of use due to improvements in road and rail infrastructure as well as the demise of St Austell's China Clay industry.

Cornwall Royal Navy pilot in fire rescues

A Royal Navy helicopter pilot based in Cornwall has helped evacuate people trapped by the recent bush fires.

Lieutenant Commander Nick Grimmer, who is currently on exchange with the Royal Australian Navy, has been flying rescue missions for the last two months.

Lt Cdr Grimmer, 35, who is usually based at *RNAS Culdrose*, has been flying troop-carrying MRH90 helicopters with Australian Navy's 808 Squadron, which specialises in disaster relief operations and has been in constant action since November aiding

those whose lives have been threatened by the fires. Over the new year, Lt Cdr Grimmer's aircraft, five aircrew and 14 engineers were called to join the amphibious ship *HMAS Choules*.

Developments soon set to transform Cornwall Stadium for Cornwall

The Stadium for Cornwall is finally going ahead. The stadium, which will be built at Langarth on the outskirts of Truro, will be used as a home for the Cornish Pirates rugby union side and Truro City Football Club.

It will also provide training facilities for Truro and Penwith College and fitness facilities.

The multi-use stadium will also be used for other local teams in Cornwall. Stadium partners say that it could be completed by summer 2022.

Hall for Cornwall

The theatre in Truro, which closed on 2nd June 2018, is due to re-open with a new look in autumn 2020, sixteen weeks after the new-look auditorium was originally supposed to be unveiled.

The Hall For Cornwall is being completely revamped to open up the auditorium with more seating, making it more in line with the Theatre Royal in Plymouth and other theatres in major cities as part of a £21.6m project.

There will be a 27% increase in capacity.

Cornwall's first six-star resort

The park, at Tredinnick is located between Wadebridge and Newquay.

Work on the three-year £180 million project will get under way before the end of the year.

The development will include a village with one of the world's largest treehouse hotels and a restaurant, year-round sports and leisure facilities and lakeside treehouses and villas.

The first phase will involve the construction of the hotel and restaurant, followed by the lakeside villas and a sub-tropical pool.

The entire resort is due to be complete in 2022, creating 997 permanent jobs.

New hospital

A new women and children's unit will be built at Royal Cornwall Hospital, Treliske.

The £100 million investment will see the construction of a new building between the existing Tower Block and Trelawny Wing.

This will house women's and children's services including maternity, neonatal care and gynaecology.

Bodmin Jail

Cornwall's former jail will get a brand new visitors' attraction and a 70-bed hotel.

The construction work on a £40 million redevelopment and preservation project is currently ongoing.

The site is currently closed but will reopen on 1st May 2020, when the new attraction will be completed.

The four-star boutique hotel, which is due to open in late 2020, is being built within the walls of the Grade II listed building, retaining original features including bars on the windows, original brickwork and the original guard tower.

Heliport

Work on a new £4.3m heliport at Penzance began in 2019. It will allow passengers to fly to the Isles of Scilly in just 15 minutes. The new heliport on Jelbert Way is adjacent to the previous heliport site and will reinstate direct helicopter flights between Penzance and the islands of Tresco and St Mary's.

The company is set to receive its aircraft in the early part of 2020 and the first commercial flights will be on 17th March 2020.

Eden Project hotel

In February 2017, planning permission was granted by Cornwall Council for a £8.5m 109-bedroom hotel at Eden. The Eden Project submitted an updated plan for consideration by Cornwall's planners in February 2018.

The most significant change to the design was that two buildings would now become one to allow the structure to blend in more with the landscape and more in line with the project's sustainability mission. The hotel could open in the spring of 2020.



The Film *Bait*

This 2019 film set in Cornwall has just been released on DVD in the UK and hopefully we will soon be able to buy it through Australian distributors.



Bait is a 2019 British drama film written and directed by Mark Jenkin.

Starring Ed Rowe (aka Kernow King) as a struggling fisherman, the film deals with the tensions that arise between locals and tourists in a Cornish fishing village against a back drop of second homes, short-term lets and gentrification.

Martin Ward (Rowe) is a fisherman in a picturesque Cornish village. He struggles to make ends meet fishing without a boat, while his brother Steven (King) uses their late father's vessel to offer cruise trips to visiting tourists.

Meanwhile tensions arise between Martin and the out-of-town Leigh family, who use the harbour-front 'Skipper's Cottage' they bought from Martin and Steven as a seasonal holiday home and short-term rental business.

The film has been shortlisted for many awards including two nominations at the British Academy Film and Television Awards to be announced in February.

Warrens Bakery to close St Just factory

Cornwall's 'oldest pasty maker' has announced it is to close its factory in the town where the business began. Supposedly, the operation in St Just is no longer commercially viable

Warrens has been baking from St Just since 1860, when two families joined together to make pasties, bread and scones.

Since then the business has spread all over Cornwall and has extended nationally, with 70 branches across the UK.

No timescale has been for when the factory closure will take place.

The company said it would be focussing on profitable parts of the business and growing the brand nationally. These included providing baked goods for hospitals, travel hubs and carefully chosen high streets, as well as airports.

It also said that while it would keep the Cornish pasty as its signature product.

House prices increased in Cornwall in November - new figures show.

The average Cornwall house price in November was £242,252, Land Registry figures show – a 1.4 per cent increase on October.

The boost contributes to the longer-term trend, which has seen property prices in the area achieve 3.5 per cent annual growth.

Cornish Tidbits are sourced from the Cornwall Council, BBC Cornwall, Pirate FM News, Falmouth Packet, Western Morning News, The Cornishman, West Briton, Cornwall 24, Wikipedia, CornwallLive, Kernow Matters, Kresen Kernow, Gorsedh Kernow, Cornish Stuff

Who was Tom Bawcock?

In his President's Message, Ken mentions attending a function, on 23rd December 2019, to celebrate Tom Bawcock's Eve and also the singing of the Tom Bawcock Song.

Many of us are familiar with the children's picture storybook, *The Mousehole Cat* - by Antonia Barber - which tells of the adventures of Tom Bawcock's Cat.

But was there any truth in the tale?

In browsing the internet I came across this article by Bernard Deacon, *Who was Tom Bawcock?*

Today at Mousehole people celebrate Tom Bawcock's Eve. Children parade, paper lanterns aloft. Traditional songs such as 'Tom Bawcock's Eve' are sung, starry-gazy pie will be eaten. This age-old festival has its roots extending deep into the past. But how deep?

The event is said to commemorate the actions of Tom Bawcock, a fisherman who set out during a severe storm just before Christmas. This storm was the latest in a series so bad that Mousehole's fishing fleet had not ventured to sea for weeks. In consequence the folk of Mousehole faced starvation.

But Tom was their saviour.

Braving the gale and, in the latest iteration of the tale (The Mousehole Cat of 1990) with the help of his cat who soothed the tempest, Tom brought home a boatload of 'seven sorts of fish'.

These were promptly baked into a giant starry-gazy pie and the community saved from a hungry Christmas.

As Alan Kent points out in the most comprehensive account of this festival (The Festivals of Cornwall, 2018, pp.323-325), Tom Bawcock's Eve underwent several revivals or revisions during the twentieth century.

The first reference to it was from Robert Morton Nance, the Cornish Celtic revivalist, in 1927.

Nance wrote that 'at Mousehole this is the eve before Christmas Eve, which was formerly kept as a feast among the fisher-folk there'.

This has been widely taken to mean that the festivity was still being kept up in the early 1900s. But the word 'formerly' would seem to add some ambiguity to that conclusion.

It's not clear whether Nance observed such a festivity or not. He was not averse to reconstructing

or re-inventing aspects of Cornish culture, as he did with the Cornish language.

It was in fact Nance who wrote the song 'Tom Bawcock's Eve' around 1910, a song he himself described as a 'conjectural description' of what might have been sung in possible earlier feasts.

Various theories swirl around the origins of the tale. Some assert that it was a product of the staunch Methodism of Mousehole, with Tom Bawcock acting as the shining exemplar of selfless commitment to community values.

This would date it to the later 1700s or 1800s. Others, including Nance, suggest an older origin in pre-Christian times.

Anyone seeking an actual person called Tom Bawcock will be disappointed.

Bawcock is not a local surname.

The word was used by Shakespeare, in Twelfth Night, The Winter's Tale and Henry V, and was a generic term for a fine fellow, an anglicised version of the French beau coq.

Tom Bawcock was the perfect moniker for this local hero. Based on the Shakespearian provenance of bawcock some claim that the tale therefore dates from the 1600s. However, as the word was used by another playwright as late as the 1850s, it could imply a date anywhere between 1600 and the late 1800s.

While the precise origins of the tale, one that no doubt shifted in its telling, remains obscure, it's likely that Tom Bawcock's Eve emerged as a local variant of widespread pre-modern mid-winter celebrations, of which Christmas is of course one.

In mid-Cornwall there was Picrous day, held by the tanners of the Blackmore Stannary on the second Thursday before Christmas.

Other miners took a holiday on Chiwidden Thursday, the last Thursday before Christmas.

It may also be significant, certainly interesting, to read that there's a traditional Christmas eve feast among Italian-American households called the Feast of the Seven Fishes.

Were there seven sorts of fish traditionally, or did Nance, aware of the significance of the number seven in the Bible as a sign of completion or fulfilment, add this element as well as the song?

But at the end of the day who cares?

As Alan Kent writes, 'origins do not matter, only the event matters.'

Cornwall: history, surnames and society, from

| Tom Bawcock's Eve | |
|---|--|
| The original wording | The poem in modern English |
| A merry plaas you may believe woz Mowsel pon Tom Bawcock's Eve. To be theer then oo wudn wesh To sup o sibm soorts o fesh! | A merrier place you may believe Was Mousehole on Tom Bawcock's eve To be there then who wouldn't wish To sup on seven sorts of fish |
| Wen morgee brath ad cleard tha path Comed lances for a fry, An then us had a bet o scad an starry gazeey py. | When murgy broth had cleared the path Comed lances for a fry And then us had a bit o' scad And starry gazeey pie |
| Nex cumd fermaads, braa thustee jaads As maad ar oozles dry, An ling an haak, enough to maak a raunen shark to sy! | Next comed fair maids, bra' thrusty jades As made our oozles dry And ling and hake, enough to make A running shark to sigh |
| A aech wed clunk as ealth wer drunk En bumpers bremmen y, An wen up caam Tom Bawcock's naam We praesed un to tha sky. | As each we'd clunk as health were drunk In bumpers brimming high And when up came Tom Bawcock's name We praised him to the sky. |

According to Wikipedia

The dialect used in the words of the song translate as follows:-

'Morgy' = Morgey: Cornish 'seadog' is still the term used in Cornwall and Scotland for Dogfish

'Lances' = Sometimes 'Launces' -Sand eels

Rauning/Running = Hungry or Ravenous

'Scad' = Horse Mackerel

'Fair Maids' = Smoked Pilchards - a corruption of 'formade', from the Spanish word 'fumade' or smoked

'bra' thrusty jades' = Bra' is short for 'brave' and 'Jade' is an old word used in England and Scotland to mean 'Wild young woman'

'Oozles' = Throats (windpipes)

'Clunk' = to swallow - Cornish ; kolennki 'swallow'

Bumpers = large glass, full to overflowing

