



**CORNISH ASSOCIATION
OF
VICTORIA, INC.**

**NEWSLETTER
No. 133**

MAY 2020

Corporation Reg. No. A0008264A
Newsletter Registered by Australia
Post as Print Publication
No. 100001610.

CONTENTS

- President's Report pp 1 & 3
- Notices for Members and
Birthday greetings p 2
- Recent Happenings p 4-5
- Memories of Baldhu pp 6-8
- A touch of humour p 8
- News from our Country Cousins
pp 9-11
- Reminiscing p 11
- Agan Kernow Project p 12
- Pasty Orders p 12
- Cornish Easter Cakes p 12
- Robert Malachy Serjeant p 13
- The Black Death p 14
- The 'Obby 'Oss p 15
- Cornish Tid Bits p16

**PRESIDENT'S
MESSAGE**

'Dydh da' ('G'day').
It's a sign of strange
times that we have
our May CAV
Newsletter and yet



we haven't met since February!
I hope that all of you are fit and
well and that you're coping with
the isolation and social distancing.
Unless miracles occur it appears
that our May CAV Meeting and
most likely our June CAV
Meeting will not occur.
We will, of course, keep
members posted about the
resumption of our meetings and
this will occur when the current
restrictions on gatherings are
lifted. Be assured that your
Committee is monitoring the
situation and whilst we would
like to get back to normalcy, we
will take no risks with your
health by rushing back our
gatherings too soon.

Someone asked me what would
happen if we couldn't meet in July
when we would normally have
our AGM?
Please see June Whiffin's report
on page 2. Be assured that we
have been given an extension
regarding our AGM until later in
the year.

As I write this, the United
Kingdom has 148,000 confirmed
COVID-19 cases and more than
20,000 deaths, including 68 in
Cornwall.
So we in Australia should count
ourselves very lucky compared
with our British and Cornish
cousins.
I read an interesting story
recently about three hotels in
Cornwall that have offered
rooms for patients who are
recovering from operations or
COVID-19 but are not strong
enough to return home. By taking
them to the hotels the NHS has

been able to free up as many as
120 beds at the Royal Cornwall
Hospital for 12 weeks.
Hotels involved include the St
Moritz Hotel at Trebetherick, the
Carnmarth Hotel in Newquay
and Penventon Hotel in Redruth.
Good on them!

Back here in Oz, life is a bit
different though, isn't it?
Out here in Doreen, the guy
across the road washes his car
three times a week and the
fellow a few doors down mows
his lawns twice a week!
The kids in the street mostly see
their grandparents through
flywire screens, but all the
neighbours are helping each
other out in lots of different
ways. It's what a community does
in a crisis: one and all!
We try to walk every day, except
when it's raining. When someone
else approaches its like the
parting of the Red Sea as we all
try to keep our 1.5 metre
distance!
The hardest thing is dealing with
the relative isolation from our
elderly parents, kids and
grandkids.
So far all is OK so we consider
ourselves very lucky. We have
mastered the 'HouseParty' app
and have had two virtual birthday
parties playing games with the
app online.
This way we get to see everyone
online and sing happy birthday
with a virtual cake! It's not the
same but it's sufficient.
Using Facetime on our iPads we
had a virtual lunch recently with
some of our friends, which was a
very civilized way to spend an
hour.

Lyn and I have a number of
projects in the garden as well as
getting on with things around the
house that we've put off over the
last few years. We've just picked
the last of my Zucchini and Lyn

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Annual General Meeting 2020

An extension of time for us to hold our 2020 AGM was lodged with Consumer Affairs Victoria at the end of March. Hopefully we will be able to advise the usual AGM details in the August newsletter in accordance with the Incorporations Act.

June Whiffin
Secretary

Birthday Greetings

Wishing Stephen Amos a very happy 80th birthday which he celebrated on 13th April.

Stephen is a very early member of the CAV and is proficient in the Cornish Language and a Language Bard of the Gorsedh Kernow.



Pastoral Care

If you know of someone who is unwell, celebrating a special birthday or just needs a cheery greeting, please let Evelyn Jones know the details so she can be in touch.

Evelyn's details are:
Ph: 03 9725 0286
ejo65074@bigpond.net.au

CAV NEWSLETTER

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

If you have an email address, please consider having your newsletter emailed.

For distribution contact The Secretary.

Deadline for contributions for the next issue:
Saturday 18th July 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 -
robyncoates@hotmail.com

Please mark - Article for CAV Newsletter.

CORNISH ASSOCIATION OF VICTORIA INC.

OFFICE-BEARERS:

President:
Ken Peak
Ph: 0400 309 469
pkicons29@bigpond.com

Past President:
Neil Thomas
Ph: 03 5278 3250
neilt3@gmail.com

Secretary:
June Whiffin
Ph: 03 9877 2968
jwhiffin@bigpond.com

Treasurer:
Rod Phillips
Ph: 03 9807 1950
rodphil@optusnet.com.au

Pastoral Care/Welfare:
Evelyn Jones
Ph: 03 9725 0286
ejo65074@bigpond.net.au

Ballarat Branch (Adm. Sec.):
Lorice Jenkin
Ph: 03 5332 2920
lajenkin@bigpond.com

Geelong Branch (Adm. Sec.):
Ruth Taylor
Ph: 03 5241 4617
drltaylor@bigpond.com

CORRESPONDENCE:

The Secretary
19 Monash Grove
Blackburn South 3130

SUBSCRIPTIONS:

The Treasurer
5 Virginia Street
Mount Waverley 3149

NEWSLETTER EDITOR:

Robyn Coates
Ph: 03 9478 6135/0419 551 320
robyncoates@hotmail.com

Fees:

Membership:

Single: \$40.00
Family: \$60.00
Life Single: \$400.00
Life Family: \$600.00

| ROSTERS | Door | Afternoon Tea |
|-----------------------|------------|---------------------------------------|
| For when we meet next | Ted Curnow | Frances von Kalm Felicity Sigmonnt |
| | Ted Curnow | Marjorie Barrett Helen Law |
| | Ted Curnow | Penny McGuire-White Max Procter |

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

made them into portions of savoury 'Zucchini Slice' that we've put in the freezer for a rainy day. If you would like Lyn's recipe let me know. I've done the same thing with pasta sauce and lamb stew.

Thanks to Marcus Curnow we've still got a few pies and pasties in the freezer, so we are stocked for the winter!

I've planted my winter veggies this year and I've got Silverbeet, Onions, Potatoes, Carrots, Peas, Broad Beans, Swedes and Turnips. We won't be self-sufficient but it all helps. When we are inside Lyn has her porcelain painting (as well as knitting baby clothes for our soon to be born grandson) and I have my family history 'annals'. This keeps us from mischief. How are you all coping with the isolation? Perhaps members could share their stories of life amid the lockdown? I'm sure some of you have some interesting ideas on how you are using your time. Send me an email and let me know.

Speaking of using your time during the lockdown, I refer you to the article on page 12 about the 'Agan Kernow Project'. Given the current restrictions regarding social distancing during the COVID-19 crisis, there is now no excuse not to contribute a story to this project now that we all have a lot more time on our hands.

Come on folks: as the days get shorter and colder, what better way to while away the time proactively than to write down a story or two about your Cornish ancestors and/or your memories of visiting Cornwall.

They don't have to be long stories and I have developed a series of questions to help you make a start.

We hope to have these

questions posted on our CAV website shortly. Your stories don't even have to be typed – just send me what you have and I will gladly edit them; it will give me something else to do!

In relation to the CAV Library that's currently stored in plastic tubs in the shed, I had a number of informal discussions earlier in the year with historical associations located within the Central Victorian Goldfields about the storage and maintenance of our Library. Your Committee endorsed the idea regarding my informal discussions be held over the Christmas period.

No decisions have been made, as the COVID-19 crisis has meant that any official meetings have been put on hold. A number of organisations on the goldfields were contacted, but the keenest interest has been from the Castlemaine Historical Society (CHSI).

June Whiffin and I have spoken with a curator and archivist at Castlemaine and their representatives even visited the shed on the Monday following our February meeting. They are still keen. I have been to the CHSI a few times and they looked after my requests for family history information very professionally. There's a lot of water still under the bridge, but it appears they have a new portable building with a compactus as well on their site in Castlemaine so they will have enough room, which is opportune for us.

They are talking about curating our material possibly as a stand-alone collection, which is positive and, if it goes ahead, we should be able to advertise that as a plus. We will also talk with them about special CAV member access too. As I say lots of 'ifs and buts' but I know after speaking with them that they are very keen to access

our material. The CHSI Committee (and/or their reps) want to meet with us at our next Committee meeting (COVID-19 crisis pending) to talk about a memorandum of understanding. At the moment these things won't be moving too quickly. In any case, our Library is perfectly OK where it is. I gave the Committee and our members an undertaking that I would try to ensure that we kept our Library material together, so that our materials were not 'cherry-picked' by other libraries and/or historical associations. Our discussions so far are in line with that undertaking. I will keep members posted about our future discussions.

We have been informed that CAV language stalwart Marjorie Barrett has been in the Alfred Hospital with a recurrence of her respiratory illness. We wish her a speedy recovery and our thoughts are with her family at this time.

Since we last met I can also inform members that our Newsletter Editor and Committee member, Robyn Coates, underwent surgery on her back on 24th March. The surgery went well and Robyn is slowly getting back to normal with the bonus of being pain free. Here we are six weeks later and she has produced another great Newsletter. Well done, Robyn! We wish her well with her three month recovery.

Well that's all from your President's rather untidy desk. I hope that as soon as we are able, that the CAV can meet again very shortly. In the meantime stay safe and well.

'Oll an gwella' (All the best)

Ken Peak
President

Recent happenings

It seems so long ago that we last met - it was three months ago in February or perhaps March for some people who met in Ballarat for the St Piran's Festival.

Val Goldsworthy reminds us of our February meeting in this report.

Peter Griffiths was our February meeting speaker. A resident of Lake Wendouree, (Ballarat) Peter told members it had taken him twenty years of research and writing to produce his impressive tome, *The Welsh on Victoria's Central Goldfields - A Dictionary of Biography*.

Peter's book contains biographical entries for more than 620 Welsh-born men and women who lived on the Central Goldfields between 1851 and the early 20th century.

In 1851, when gold was discovered there were just 377 Welsh in Victoria; 2326 were recorded in 1854; 6055 in 1861 and peaking in to 6614 in 1871. Estimates are that about half of the 1871 total was on the Central Goldfields.

Many of the men hoped to make fortunes and return to Wales, however few managed to do so. Certainly some miners sought wives in Wales due to the few available Welsh women in the Goldfields area. One problem of course was that many of the men spoke only Welsh.

Peter related short biographies of a few Welsh-born men who made their mark on Victorian history.



Robert Lewis (1816-1884)
Robert Lewis and his sister Margaret, arrived in Melbourne in August 1853.

An early partnership with another Welshman, Evan Rowlands, in the production of aerated water varieties led to his rapid financial success.

Lewis served as Councillor for the Municipality of Ballarat from 1859 and as Chairman in 1862. He was Mayor of the Borough of Ballarat West in 1863 and of the city of Ballarat in 1872-72 and 1880-81. In 1864 he was elected to the Victorian Parliament as member for Ballarat West.

This tireless man was inspired to involve himself in the establishment of the Ballarat Hospital and the

Ballarat Benevolent Asylum.

Other interests included the Mechanics Institute, the Ballarat School of Mines, the Ballarat Orphan Asylum, the Water Commission and the Ballarat Gas Company. He was also Superintendent of Sunday School Teachers at Christ Church Cathedral.

Isaac Daniel (1829 - 1883)

In September 1857, Isaac Daniel, with his wife Henrietta and infant son arrived in Melbourne aboard the *Miles Barton*.

Also on board were Isaac's sister Mary and her husband Thomas Griffiths.



The families left for Chewton.

Sadly Henrietta and Isaac's young son died in February 1858 and his wife Henrietta died in March 1858, just ten days after giving birth to another son, who also died young.

Isaac worked as a miner at Chewton and Castlemaine and moved to Maldon in 1863.

He joined the Welsh Independent Chapel and was able to preach in the Welsh language.

In November 1867, he married Elizabeth Jones.

A son born in 1869 died aged seven months but happily another son and two daughters were born and all three lived into their eighties.

Isaac became a shareholder of the South German Reef Tribute Company in 1879 and later Chairman of Directors.

In August 1883, he suffered a heart attack and was unable to work but lived on the sale proceeds of his shares. In May 1888, he suffered another heart attack and died.

Rev. Zerubabel Davies (1806-1877)

Rev. Zerubabel Davies was ordained a Baptist Minister in 1825 and combined preaching with school teaching.



Following emigration to Victoria in 1852, with his wife Margaret and four children, Davies and another Welsh Baptist Minister, Abraham Parry Jones, preached at the (English) Baptist Church in Collins Street on Sunday afternoons. The first Welsh sermon in Melbourne was delivered by Davies in December 1852.

From about 1858, Davies and his family lived in

Pleasant Creek (Stawell) where he resumed his teaching career as Head Teacher at the Church of England School and was a lay preacher for the Anglican Church.

He invested in a number of Mining Companies and was also the proprietor of the *Pleasant Creek News*.

Joseph Jenkins (1818- 1898)

Joseph Jenkins' 25 years in Victoria are recorded in his remarkable *Diary of a Welsh Swagman* - the original diaries are now held in the State Library of Victoria. (see note below)



Joseph was born on 27 February 1818 at Blaenplwyf farm, Llanfihangel Ystrad parish, Cardiganshire, Wales, son of Jenkin Jenkins, farmer, and his wife Elinor.

Joseph was educated locally and from an early age took an interest in poetry (which he wrote in Welsh and English), literature, philosophy and current affairs.

His marriage to Elizabeth (Betty) Evans, daughter of a relatively wealthy farm owner, on 31 July 1846 at the parish church, Aberayron, enabled him to move away from his parents and acquire the tenancy of Trecefel farm near Tregaron; there were nine children of the marriage.

During the next twenty-two years he became an innovative and successful farmer.

Joseph Jenkins arrived in Melbourne in December 1868 and he worked as an itinerant agricultural labourer for sixteen years.

Later he worked for the Maldon Council as a street sweeper.

He was also a regular attendee at the Annual St David's Day Eisteddfod in Ballarat, winning prizes for the Englyn (a special form of Welsh verse) for thirteen years in succession.

In November 1894, Jenkins sailed for England re-uniting with two sons and a brother.

He was still keeping his diaries until his death in September 1898.

Note:

After Joseph Jenkins' death in 1898, in Wales, the diaries were stored in the attic of his daughter Elinor's farmhouse and, it seems, were forgotten until seventy years later when they were discovered by his great granddaughter, Frances Evans.

His grandson, William Evans, thereafter published an 'Abridged and Annotated' version of the Australian diaries as *Diary of a Welsh Swagman 1869-1894*.

A Victorian man, Peter Bristow, became interested in the original manuscripts and pursued the possibility of having them returned to Victoria. This subsequently led to their purchase by the State Library of Victoria

William Thomas (Billy) Jones (1844-1911)

William was born 1844, Aberystwyth, Cardiganshire, Wales and arrived in Ballarat in the early 1860s, where he worked for a time with Rowland and Lewis, aerated water manufacturers, possibly due to his connection with Robert Lewis, who was from the same area in Wales.



A friend gave him 200 mining shares (the donor being tired of paying 'calls') which shortly after soared in price.

Elated at his success, Jones began trading as a mining share broker in Ballarat.

In April 1878, Jones wed Isabella Scott Barry at the Congregational Parsonage in Williamstown.

They returned to England for a period and then returned to Victoria where Jones became a broker at the Melbourne Stock Exchange.

Jones was prominent in the racing industry, owning the 1889 Melbourne Cup winner, *Bravo*, and co-owning *Newhaven*, winner of the Victoria Derby and Melbourne Cup.

He also won several good races during his time in England.

Billy Jones died at Heigham Hall, in Norwich, in November 1911 aged 67 years.

His usual address was listed as 17 Stratton Street, Mayfair.

His British estate was valued for probate at more than £100 000 (about £12 million today), whilst property in Victoria was valued at more than £21 000 (about £2.5 million today).

His beneficiaries were his wife (who died twelve months later) and his two sons, Gordon Lloyd Jones and Russell Lloyd Jones.

MEMORIES OF BALDHU, CORNWALL

as told by Richard James DATSON aged 82 years
(1987)

"I can vividly remember the scarred landscape left by the mine workings which were once gentle moors with criss-crossed hedged country lanes, fields of hay and grain and little streams where we used to catch trout.

Pheasants, rabbits, flowers and birds were in abundance and the thatched roof cottage dotted the hillsides.

Baldhu or 'dark mines' was a small hamlet near Truro where we lived on a small farm.

My father Albert Bailey DATSON had died when I was four years of age and my mother struggled to bring up four children and continue to run the farm. It was called 'Moor View', a small farm of five or six acres, just below St. Michaels Church, with a lovely view of the moor covered in heather and bracken. We picked blackberries to earn extra money and I can still remember the blackberry tarts my mother made, topped with thick clotted Cornish cream.

My uncle James DATSON had been a Mine Agent at the nearby Wheal Jane mine and bought the farm 'Vine Cottage' from Lord Falmouth when he retired from the mine.

It was about 27 acres and was a half a mile below St. Michaels Church and about the same distance to the Wesleyan Chapel on the hill.

It had a large house built on the side of the slope looking towards Bissoe down the valley with a large apple orchard at the front of the house.

The fields were close together with the old mine shafts fenced around to prevent anyone falling down them.

It was only about five minutes' walk between 'Moor View' and 'Vine Cottage' and between the farms there was a gully about 60 feet deep, where the land had sunk due to the subsidence of an old mine tunnel.

We lost a field of potatoes when the settlement occurred; caves were formed which became the home for many foxes.

James's son, Ernest, took over the farm when his father became too old to work the land and it was eventually sold to the mining company, who demolished the houses and the land used for the tailings dam of the rejuvenated Wheal Jane mine.

The Wesleyan Chapel at Bethel was the focal point of our life on a Sunday.

I remember my mother speaking of the Rev. Haslem, the Vicar of St. Michaels Church and of Billy Bray,

the 'Kings Son', a reformed drunkard who built the chapels at Bethel and the 'Three Eyes' at Kerley Downs, near Chacewater, aptly named as it only had three windows.

We used to gather at the crossroads and walk between the chapels to sing as a choir each Sunday. We had 35 people in our choir and there was also a male choir at Baldhu.

Both the Wesleyan and Anglican churches were packed with people each Sunday and the peal of the bells in the old church tower at Baldhu could be heard as far away as Chacewater.

As children, we often played around the Wheal Sperries villa, which we called the 'count house'. It had a large walled garden that was covered in grape vines.

Often gypsies camped for several days around the area and people complained that washing and other household items seemed to magically vanish.

Bissoe, a small hamlet down the valley was a very busy place.

There was Fallocks foundry which manufactured and repaired mining equipment; the stamp heads, gears, etc, the Arsenic Works (where James Henry DATSON was the foreman), the Ochre Works, carpenters shops, tin works and the blacksmith shop, which employed eight to ten blacksmiths and shod the mine draft horses and other horses that worked on the surrounding farms.

We found lots of flint fragments around Bissoe from ships which came up the river from Falmouth to the port of Devoran and unloaded it as ballast to take on the tin and copper ore.

As the tin tailings extracted from the mine eventually washed down the valley as sludge, the river slowly silted up and the port was abandoned.

The chimney of the old Arsenic Works is all that now remains of a once bustling community.

The old Wheal Jane mine was close to our Chapel and did not have an engine house like many of the others, just a head frame and hoist drum which was electrically operated.

Tin ore was drawn up by the cars and then transported by horse drawn carts to the crushers. My friends and I explored the workings after the mine had closed and found many remnants of the mining era - picks, shovels, broken drills, candle holders and old tallow candles used by the miners underground. They used a special clay to stick the candles onto their hats.

I can remember the sound of the ore being crushed by the stampers at the plant, appropriately named

Twelveheads down the valley.

By this time the Great Western Railway had been built and there was a large viaduct (bridge) across the valley linking the railway to Falmouth.

There was also an extension of the Bissoe railway from Devoran almost to the Tresavean Mine, which together with the Dolcoath mine were still operating when I left for Canada in 1928.

Most of my grandfather's family had worked and lived in the area:

* James Henry DATSON was the foreman of the Arsenic Works at Bissoe.

* William Thomas DATSON emigrated to the U.S.A. and returned to marry Edith ROUSE, whose family owned the Flour mills at Bissoe and processed the wheat, barley and oats grown in the area. They lived at Coombe, near Hicks Mill on the other side of the Bissoe valley.

* Albert Bailey DATSON, my father who emigrated to Jackson, California, U.S.A. and returned to Cornwall to marry and live at 'Moor View'.

* Joseph DATSON who emigrated to the U.S.A. and never returned.

* Frederick DATSON who to the U.S.A. and never returned.

* Ernest DATSON who emigrated to the U.S.A. and returned to live at Baldhu.

* Emily Jane DATSON who married Bill TANGYE, a tin miner and they emigrated to California, U.S.A. where their children Lottie TANGYE and Norman Datson TANGYE were born.

The rest of this family returned to Baldhu, while Bill went to work in Africa.

He later returning to Cornwall to live on a small farm near the Wesleyan Chapel at Baldhu.

Norman also attended the Baldhu school and he was blinded and lost several fingers on a Guy Fawkes day at school.

There were several of us boys there when it happened. Norman got some dynamite caps and fuses from his home.

I suppose his father used them in the mine for blasting rock.

Norman later took up basket weaving and had a store on the main road at Wheal Sperries villa, close to St. Michaels church.

Uncle Bill Tangye often spoke of the "Dolcoath mine which went out three to seven miles under the sea. He used to say that it was very hot and wet down there.

I also remember another Mr. DATSON, the old shoemaker with a long beard at Bissoe who made work boots for the miners.

His son, Searle also worked for Mr. Gerrans the butcher.

Searle was killed in World War I as a member of the Duke of Cornwall Light Infantry.

My sister Dorothy and my niece Inga are my only remaining family living in Cornwall.

Dorothy, who used to broadcast on Radio Cornwall, is now in a nursing home and is still sprightly at the age of 81 years.

Inga and her husband Roy operate a creamery at Scorrier, near Redruth.

I often wish that I could visit Cornwall again, but as time waits for no man, these are some recollections of a times long since past".

Postscript: Richard DATSON died in Sault Ste Marie in 1988 aged 82 years.

All his family still live in Canada.

The Wheel Jane mine is long closed, but remnants of the tailings dam and the desolate surrounding area were still apparent in my visit to Cornwall in 2016.

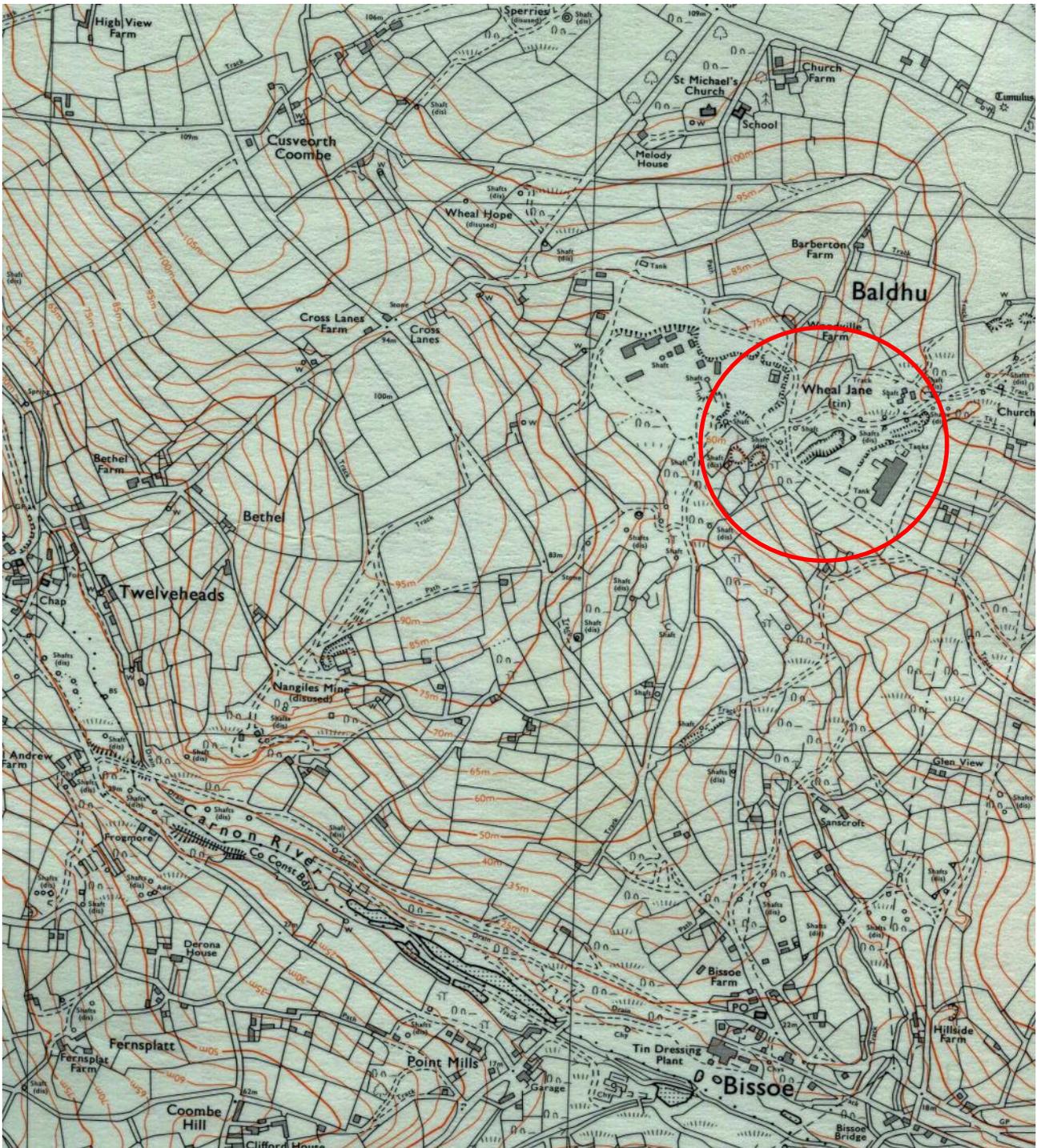
Peter Datson (CAV 289)

Photos:

1. Moor View circa 1915



2. Baldhu – map of area – 1973 showing Wheal Jane tailings dam - located under the name Baldhu



A TOUCH OF HUMOUR

An American, from West Virginia, on holiday was coming across the Torpoint Ferry into Cornwall for the first time.

Upon seeing some seagulls, he said to the man next to him, "Them's durned pretty burds."

The man said, "Them's gulls."

"Well", said the American, "Gulls or boys, them's durned pretty burds."

It was hay time and the top-heavy cart coming from the field had overturned in the lane. Its young driver looked at the fallen load in dismay.

"Cum in fer a dish o' tay", said a motherly soul to the boy as he stood there. "We'll give 'e a 'and gettin' it right after. You'll feel more like loadin' again after a drink and a sit down."

"Faather won't like un," said the boy doubtfully.

"Faather won't know nowt 'bout un," said the woman comfortingly and led the boy, still reluctant, into the house to join her family.

Half an hour later, all emerged to view the situation, the lad thanking the lady but repeating that his father wouldn't like it at all. "Rubbish," she said, "I'll deal with your faather. Where's 'e to?"

"Under the 'ay", said the boy.



NEWS FROM OUR COUNTRY COUSINS

BALLARAT

St. Piran's Festival, Ballarat March, 2020

On Thursday 5th March, Jenny and I drove through heavy rain most of the way to Ballarat for day one of the St Piran's Day Festival in Ballarat, so it was a relief to find the rain had cleared by 11 o'clock in time for the St Piran's Flag raising Ceremony at the Town Hall.

The Ceremony was conducted by Wendy Benoit, Vice Chair of the Ballarat Branch of the CAV and Councillor Mark Harris, gave the welcoming address on behalf of the Mayor of Ballarat.



There were some 50 people in attendance proudly displaying their Cornish scarves, windcheaters etc. It certainly aroused some interest in passers-by who must have wondered what was going on!

The ceremony was followed by a traditional pasty lunch at the Skipton Street Uniting Church Hall and the chance to catch up with old friends from SA and NSW who had made the trip to Victoria.



An excellent display of pictures etc. from previous festivals made a great backdrop and after lunch, Victorian CAV President Ken Peak gave an in depth talk on the extensive research he has done on his family tree.

On Friday morning we assembled back at the Church at 9:00am and boarded a coach which conveyed us to the historic town of Creswick. Along the way Jim & Bev Hocking provided a running commentary about points of interest.

On arrival at Creswick, we were joined on the coach by local historian Val Lawrence who filled us in on the rich history of Creswick as we drove around the town.

We learnt that Creswick was named after the three Creswick brothers who leased the 'Bean Bean' Run in 1842. When James Esmond discovered gold in August 1851 in Creswick's Creek, a great wave of immigration began and by 1854 Creswick had a population of 25 000.

We had a walk around the Creswick Cemetery where the gravestones of several Cornish men and

women had been conveniently flagged for us to find and we stopped briefly at the site of New Australasian Mine No. 2 where Australia's greatest mining disaster occurred in October 1882.

Twenty-two miners were drowned when the mine was flooded from the adjacent Australasian Mine No. 1.

Another stop was the attractive bluestone church of St Johns built in 1861.

It has beautiful stained-glass windows and a grand pipe organ relocated from the Barkly Street Methodist Church.

The Church was the baptismal venue of three times Premier of Victoria, Sir Alexander Peacock.

Interestingly, the Roman Catholic Church of St Augustine across the road was where WW2 Prime Minister, John Curtin was baptised.

This was followed by a visit to the historic Havilah Lodge which has ornate hand paintings on the walls.

A Lodge member was there to explain the history and significance of the various symbols and furniture.



Some of us visited the Creswick Woollen Mill whilst others chose to have a leisurely lunch in the Town Centre.

The tour concluded with a visit to the Creswick museum housed in the Town Hall. The displays were excellent.

Saturday was largely taken up for a good number of us with the Bardic Ceremony rehearsal at the Skipton Street Church in the morning and later the very successful Bardic Ceremony held at 2:30pm in the South Gardens, Wendouree Parade just across the road from picturesque Lake Wendouree.



This was followed by afternoon tea for Bards, family and friends at the Skipton Street Uniting Church Hall.

During the day, Jenny and I also managed a brief visit to the magnificent display of begonias in the Robert Clark Conservatory.



Saturday night saw us all gather in our finery at 'Barkly's' Hotel where we dined in style and joined in the applause as Lenice Stuchbery cut a beautifully decorated St. Piran's celebratory cake.



We were then treated to an interesting talk by Dr. Phil Roberts on Ballarat's 'Avenue of Honour,' the first Avenue of its kind in Australia and possibly the world.

The Avenue was to honour all those men and women from Ballarat and District who enlisted in WWI.

We learnt that the driving force behind the establishment of the Avenue of approximately 4 000 trees and the construction of the impressive 'Arch of Victory' monument was the 500 'Lucas Girls' who worked at the clothing firm of E. Lucas & Co.

The Sunday Worship Service was held in the Skipton Uniting Church and was led by Rev. Ted Curnow with Beryl Curnow assisting.

The Order of Service was conducted in a format similar to that which our Cornish ancestors would have experienced in Chapel worship in the late 1800's. We all sang with great gusto the good old Wesleyan hymns Ted had selected.

After the Service, we enjoyed a light lunch in the Church Hall and then a short talk by Max Duthrie about the Mount Pleasant area of Ballarat, an early enclave of the Cornish.

Max explained that Mount Pleasant was settled in

the early 1850's by Cornish Miners and their families who viewed the area as an attractive refuge away from the hurly burly of the diggings. Following his talk, Max conducted a driving/walking tour of Mount Pleasant, showing us various points of interest including the site of the first day school which was conducted in a large tent that also served as a chapel and Sunday School for the Cornish Wesleyans.



In the evening, we had our final get together at the Ballarat Leagues Club where we all enjoyed each other's company over the meal and then said our farewells.

Seventy-eight people registered for one or more events over the course of the festival and there were twenty-one Bards.

All in all, it was a most enjoyable and successful Festival.

In particular, I would like to thank organisers Robyn and Arthur Coates and Wendy Benoit as well as Bev and Jim Hocking, David Smith, Les George and others from the Ballarat Branch of the CAV who helped with transport, catering, setting up chairs etc.

Finally, I should also mention that we missed our good friend Noel Carthew whose car was damaged beyond repair on the way over from South Australia. Fortunately, Noel was not hurt but, in the circumstances, had to return home.

Derek Trewarne

BENDIGO INTEREST GROUP

Although the Dahlia & Arts Festival was cancelled due to Covid-19 restrictions, Bev Hanson from the Eaglehawk Heritage Society approached me to ask if I would be prepared to still attend their 1.00 pm to 4.00 pm opening on the Sunday afternoon.

As I had already been approached by a person on our Cornish in Bendigo Facebook page who indicated that she would be travelling up to Eaglehawk to have some research done and that she had already booked and paid for overnight accommodation I decided to join Bev at the Old Court House building to offer my research files and the Eaglehawk files to this visitor.

She left very well provided for and with lots of local information and family information from my Cornish Pioneers of Bendigo database.

Bev advised that this would be the last opening for the Eaglehawk Heritage Society as the Bendigo Council had advised her that after Sunday the building was not to be opened as the restrictions began to move to the next stage.

At the moment, Rob and I are unable to attend the Dahlia & Arts meetings due to current meeting restrictions, but we are corresponding via email with other members and executive.

It has been decided to use the 2020 logo for the 2021 festival to save additional work and to ensure that we are not on the back foot going in to the 2020 festival countdown. Here is the logo which will be slightly modified and will also have some additions to reflect the festivals 50th year in 2021.



On a lighter note – I tried to find some items about similar events in Bendigo to what is happening here now.

The Bendigo Independent – Wednesday 16th October 1918 – page 7.

Out and About

“Spanish ‘flue!’ she screeched just to thrill us,
Is it dangerous? Say will it kill us?”
And retaining our nerve
We made haste to observe,
“No one knows till we find the bacillus.”

Leanne Lloyd

GEELONG

Like Ballarat, the Geelong Branch is now waiting for the COVID 19 restrictions to be lifted so meetings can be scheduled.

Unfortunately the Portarlington Celtic Festival has been cancelled for 2020.

REMINISCING

Greetings Dear Friends

In March 1997 Libby and I were privileged to be given an underground tour of the South Crofty Mine. Six months after this photograph was taken South Crofty closed and thus ended over 2000 years of mining in Kernow (Cornwall)

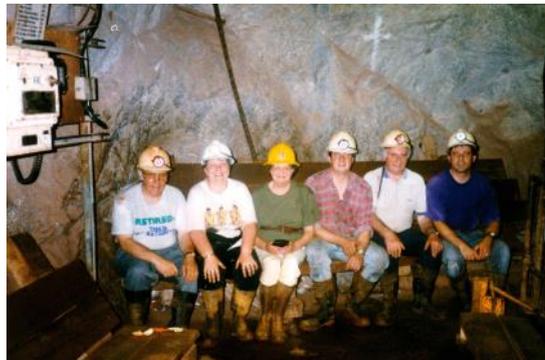
Our guide for the day was Mark Kazmarak and we walked (or slopped) for over two miles at the bottom (400 fathoms) watching the miners at their work.

Over the intervening years there have been many discussions regarding reopening it but all to no avail.

I can assure you at 400 fathoms and in the heat and slopping through the water, climbing ladders etc it was no picnic BUT what an experience!

In the cage they did not gently let you down they dropped you!

It was lovely to see the sunlight again after two plus hours down the mine.



Photograph taken at the bottom from left to right: Tom Luke, Libby Luke, Elaine Hicks, Clr. Graeme Hicks, Dr. Desmond Hicks, and Dr Nigel Hicks.

Look at the colour of our Gum Boots.

Definitely one of the great experiences of our lives and all are members of our family.

Kernow Bys Vyken

Tom Luke

Footnote:

In April 2017 Strongbow announced that it has filed an NI 43-101 Technical Report and Preliminary Economic Assessment for the South Crofty mine. In October 2017, following successful water treatment trials, Strongbow announced that it had received a dewatering permit from the UK Environment Agency allowing the discharge of up to 25,000 cubic metres of treated water per day into the Red River.

The granting of this permit means South Crofty is fully permitted to work towards a production decision.

By early 2018 the funding was in place for the construction of a water treatment plant with work commencing that spring.



The 'Agan Kernow Project' (Our Cornwall)

Given the current restrictions regarding social distancing and our relative isolation during the COVID-19 crisis, there is now **no** excuse not to contribute a story to this project especially as we all have a lot more time on our hands.

Come on folks: as the days get shorter and colder, what better way to while away the time proactively than to write down a story or two about your Cornish ancestors and/or your memories of visiting Cornwall.

They don't have to be long stories and Ken is developing a series of questions to help you make a start.

We hope to have these questions posted on our CAV website shortly.

Your stories don't even have to be typed – just send Ken what you have and he will gladly edit them.

You recall that at our February meeting Ken asked you how many of you had a story about Cornwall?

All of you put your hand up as he recalls.

We remember Penny McGuire-White who, in 2019, 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 a number of other contributions as well, but he still wants more.

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 we are 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 Jack's and Jenny's' 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 its something everyone can be involved in, especially these days in our relative self-isolation.

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

CORNISH PASTIES

Last year Melbourne Members during winter were fortunate to be able to order Pasties and other Pastry goods from the Aussie Oggy Pasty Company in Ballarat and these were delivered by Marcus Curnow.



Marcus is happy to deliver goods to Melbourne on 16th May - delivery cost is \$11 per order.

If you are interested please contact Marcus on 0421 076 804.

CORNISH EASTER CAKES

6 tbsps butter

1 ½ cups plain flour

2 tbsps currants

3 level tbsps caster/superfine sugar

1 egg, beaten

pinch of cinnamon

Cream the butter and sugar together in a mixing bowl.

Stir in the cinnamon, flour and currants.

Add the beaten egg and mix ingredients to a stiff dough.

Turn onto a lightly floured surface and roll out until quite thin.

Cut out into round biscuit shapes.

Place on a well-greased baking tray, use a fork to pierce the biscuits a few times to prevent curling.

Sprinkle with a little sugar, and bake for 10 minutes at 180C.

Posted by Daisy May on Facebook Downunder Page

YARROWEE HALL - A PIECE OF HISTORY FOR SALE IN REDAN, BALLARAT



Robert Malachy Serjeant was the former owner of this home located in Redan, a suburb of Ballarat, and it is now for sale.

Robert Malachy Serjeant was born on 21st December 1828 at Callington in Cornwall. His father Philip Davy was a surgeon in the Royal Marines and his mother's maiden name was Elizabeth Malachy. They were married in January 1828 at Maker, Cornwall.

Philip had previously been married to Susanna Malachy in January 1826 but she died in September 1826.

Robert, his mother, Eliza Burgh (she married John Burgh in October 1836, two years after her first husband, Philip Serjeant, died in Canada, and John Burgh then unfortunately died in 1837) and his two sisters, Caroline and Susan, travelled to Port Adelaide on the *William Money* departing Plymouth on the 19th September 1848 and arrived in Australia on the 3rd January 1849.

Once gold was discovered in Victoria, Serjeant made his way to Forest Creek.

In 1853 he and his mate, Mr. Victor, were the first party in Victoria to sink through the basalt in search of a deep lead or a river bed hidden beneath volcanic rock.

In 1855, Serjeant and Victor found a very large nugget (about 500 ozs) and with his share of the sale he set himself up with the latest mining equipment, as well as beginning a lifelong interest in the share market, and in investment in local companies.

Robert Malachy Serjeant married Elizabeth Peters on 2nd July 1856 in Trinity Church Adelaide. Elizabeth was the daughter of Thomas Peters and Mary Ann Harris.

Robert and Elizabeth had ten children
Elizabeth (Eliza) 1857-1941 married s/n Sewell
Rowena Hengist 1861-1861 - lived 6 weeks

Philip Thomas 1862 -1948 South Africa
George Callington 1863-1863 - lived 7 weeks
Chryseis Elizabeth 1864-1864 - lived 6 months
Chryseis Elizabeth 1865-1865 - lived 3 months
Alfred George 1867 - 1932
Caroline Elizabeth 1869-1869 - lived 6 weeks
Mabel 1870-1870 - lived 7 weeks
Theophilus Hengist 1871-1933

The Band of Hope and Albion Consols in Redan was founded by Robert M. Serjeant. It was Ballarat's largest alluvial mining company and continued into the quartz era becoming Ballarat's greatest mine. Quartz was worked from six shafts resulting in 158,299 ounces of gold. A further yield of 246,737 ounces resulted from alluvial mining.

Robert Serjeant represented Ballarat West in 1859 as a member of the first Victorian Legislative Assembly. He was also Ballarat's first Justice of the Peace.



Robert Serjeant was a member of the inaugural Ballarat School of Mines Council. Serjeant was an active and generous supporter of the School of Mines and lectured and examined in the Principles and Practice of Mining.

In 1877 R.M. Serjeant, Joseph Flude and Henry Caselli donated the patent rights of a novel pyrites furnace to the School of Mines Ballarat. The furnace was the forerunner of the furnaces used at the Band and Albion Consols Mines, and later at pyrites works in the White Horse Ranges.

Serjeant held a position on the School of Mines Council until illness forced his resignation in May 1895, and he was elected a Life Governor in 1889.

Serjeant became involved in the early 1890s, with the formation of the Australasian Institute of Mining Engineers.

This institute was formed in Broken Hill, and had its inaugural meeting in Adelaide, in 1893. Serjeant who had been elected chairman of the Ballarat committee, chaired the first annual meeting, of the Institute which was held in Ballarat.

Robert Malachy Serjeant died in Ballarat in 1902 and his widow Elizabeth in 1905.

Supposedly in the late 1800s Prince George and Prince Albert whilst visiting Ballarat toured the Band and Albion Mine located across the road and dined at the Serjeant home.

THE BLACK DEATH

In these uncertain times we need a topic that can take our minds off our current problems. It's always a good idea to put things in perspective by considering those who are in a more unfortunate position than we are. That was exactly the position for people in Cornwall 671 years ago to the day.

In 1348 a ship from the Continent had brought the bubonic plague, later known as the Black Death, to Dorset. In the absence of handy vectors such as mass rapid transport facilities, it took several months for the plague to spread along the south coast of the British Isles. But spread it did.

Those who claim that Cornwall's 'remoteness' can somehow reduce the effects of Covid-19 are sadly mistaken.

Even in 1349 its peripheral location could not prevent the arrival of the plague, probably by boat, by March 1349. The worst wasn't over until November of that same year.

Reliable data on the spread of the disease was even worse then than now. One measure of its impact was the institution of new clergy to replace those who had died. In the decade prior to 1349 the average annual number of replacements in Cornwall was 4.2. In the year from March 1349, 85 new clergymen were required. This implies a clerical death rate of around 40%, which is quite close to general estimates of the mortality of the Black Death.

Cornwall's population fell from around 90-100 000 in the 1330s to between 50 and 60 000 by 1377. Although not all in one go. The bad news for the current 'herd immunity' advocates is that there was a second, almost equally bad, outbreak in 1360-62, after which plague became endemic for two to three centuries.

In Cornwall mortality is thought to have been highest around river estuaries on the south coast and in towns, probably reflecting trade links and population densities.

Truro in 1378 was described as 'almost entirely desolated and waste', while in 1410 it was still 'much impoverished by pestilence and death'.

Many farms and smallholdings suddenly became vacant. In Moresk manor around Truro in the early 1350s around half had no tenant, while on the poorer, upland soils of Wendron around two thirds of holdings were unoccupied. In the long-term depopulation became the norm for a century and a half.

The 45 inhabited sites in Wendron in the early 1330s contracted to just 31 by the late 1400s. Arable land reverted to waste or became pasture, prices plummeted, and tin production collapsed to 20% of its early fourteenth century peak in the immediate aftermath of the Black Death.

Yet the economy bounced back surprisingly quickly. Vacant landholdings were snapped up by formerly landless families, tin production had recovered by the 1380s, onerous feudal services tended to disappear, wages rose.

For those who survived, the late 1300s and 1400s was a time of opportunity as Cornwall's economy diversified and grew faster than elsewhere.

On the other hand the plague periodically returned. This period also saw frequent wars and occasional periods of food shortage and famine. Horsemen of the apocalypse tend to travel in groups.



Scourging was a popular remedy for the Black Death. Its effectiveness against the coronavirus is not yet known.

<https://bernarddeacon.com/2020/03/page/1/>

Bernard W. Deacon is an academic, based at the Institute of Cornish Studies; he has previously worked for the Open University and Exeter University's Department of Lifelong Learning.

MAY DAY - 'OBBY 'OSS - PADSTOW

The words of the 'Obby 'Oss songs will not be heard this year.

The 'osses will remain in their stables and Padstow will be eerily quiet as this iconic Cornish festival comes to a temporary halt, brought low by a virus. Cheer up though!

We can still remember May Day virtually, by viewing the scores of video clips and old newsreel footage available on YouTube going back to the 1930s.

<https://youtu.be/JdDvOfUCfXk>

As with similar events, it's comforting to think that the origins of this festival lie in pagan fertility rituals lost in the mists of time, although in reality the 'Obby 'Oss is only securely documented from the early 1800s.

However, there are strong continuities from that time – the familiar prancing 'oss, the teasers, the parades through the town, the trance-like hypnotic rhythm of the songs.

All these seem to echo through the centuries.

But look and listen closely to the video clips and you'll notice that even Padstow's 'Obby 'Oss festival has changed over time.

The words of the songs, the times they are sung, the clothing, masks and paraphernalia of the participants, the flags flown, the flowers picked, have all undergone subtle change.

Nonetheless, the core festivity is intact.

Moreover, it survived the attentions of nineteenth century moralists and reformers committed to 'rational recreation'.

In 1844 Thomas Trevaskis, a temperance leader and Bible Christian in the district, described May Day in Padstow as 'a scene of riot, debauchery and general licentiousness – a perfect nuisance to all the respectable inhabitants of the place'.

He decided to buy off the roistering inhabitants by offering a fat bullock to be roasted annually if only they gave up their foolish ways.

The response was not exactly what Trevaskis had hoped. 'He himself drove the bullock, the best beast in his possession, but the people refused the offer and drove him out of the town, bullock and all, while certain of them pelted him with divers missiles into the bargain!'

Concerns about the 'unusual amount of drunkenness' re-surfaced late in the century. At

that time, some locals began a temperance 'oss (the blue 'oss) as a rival to the old 'oss (or red 'oss).

Transformed after World War One into a 'peace 'oss', this joined its older mate to become an accepted part of the festivities.

The crowds have also changed over time, from comprising mainly Padstonians who own the ceremony to massive hordes of gaping sightseers. Among them stroll scores of sociologists and anthropologists eager to 'explain' the festival.

Alan Kent, in the best extended account of Cornwall's festival culture, remarks that the 'Obby 'Oss is a 'reaction to modernity'.

But it was more significant as a survival of pre-modernity.

As the rough and ready festivities of pre-industrial times succumbed to the reformers and religious evangelicals in the 1800s, Padstow's 'Obby 'Oss was one of the few survivors.

Its survival is due to Padstonians' fierce commitment to their local culture in the face of condemnation from outsiders.

This was helped by the town's location on the margins of Cornwall's industrialisation.

Here, the pressures of change were less keenly felt.

By the twentieth century the place of Padstow's May Day in wider Cornish culture meant that it had become 'too big to fail'.

Since the 1960s however, there has been a more recognisably reactive aspect.

For, remarkably, Padstow is now at the cutting edge of change, of modernity, or post-modernity, in Cornwall.

Some of the highest levels of second homes in Cornwall are found in the immediate vicinity, while gentrification picked up pace when it became the first centre of up-market gastro-tourism in Cornwall.

In that sense, the 'Obby 'Oss is all about ownership, identity and belonging.

It serves as a powerful remembrance of former times and a former Cornwall, reassuring us of our place in the two Cornwalls we nowadays see around us.

<https://bernarddeacon.com/2020/04/30/let-us-all-unite-may-day-at-padstow/>

CORNISH TIDBITS

Train to be named after Captain Tom Moore

A south west train is being named after NHS fundraising hero Captain Tom Moore in honour of his 100th birthday.

The war veteran has raised over £29 million pounds for frontline workers by walking laps of his garden.

During his time in the British Army, Captain Tom was stationed in Cornwall.

Originally from Keighley in West Yorkshire, Captain Tom joined the British Army in June 1940.

His regiment, the 8th Battalion, the Duke of Wellington's Regiment, trained in Wadebridge and were tasked with coastal defence against a threatened German invasion.

Now train operator Great Western Railway (GWR) is to name a train in tribute to Captain Tom and his remarkable fundraising achievements during the Covid-19 crisis.

GWR Intercity Express Train 800025 is being named in response to requests from both GWR colleagues and members of the public, re-entering service on Thursday 30th April, 2020 – the date of Captain Tom's 100th birthday.

World War Two veteran Captain Tom, from Marston Moretaine in Bedfordshire, has now extended his challenge to 200 laps after he completed the first 100 laps 14 days ahead of schedule.

His initial £1,000 fundraising target was broken in about 24 hours and he has now raised more than £29m for NHS Charities Together.

Three hotels in Cornwall now taking patients during coronavirus

The Carnmarth Hotel in Newquay, Penventon Hotel in Redruth and St Moritz Hotel near Rock are all being used as recuperation centres.

They are being used for patients who are recovering from operations or Covid-19 but are not strong enough to return home.

By taking them to the hotels the Royal Cornwall Hospitals Trust has been able to free up beds at Treliske. St Moritz Hotel has been designated as a recuperation centre until mid June for patients from north Cornwall.

All three hotels are using specialist staff provided by Cornwall Council-owned company Corserv and the NHS in Cornwall.

More than one in three children are living in poverty in parts of Cornwall

New figures have revealed which areas of Cornwall have the highest proportion of children living in poverty.

The Government figures - based on household income - show that one in six children in Cornwall is now living in poverty, with a total of 20,488 living below the breadline in March 2019.

The figures also show that as many as one in three children are living in poverty in certain parts of Cornwall.

The part of Cornwall with the highest number for child poverty is an area of St Ives.

According to the figures, a staggering 36 per cent of children are estimated to be living in poverty in the area set just a few hundred yards back from the harbourfront, which is 92 children out of the 255 living there.

Second highest in the county is central Bodmin where 33.8 per cent of children are estimated to be living in poverty, which is 135 out of the total 399 children.

And third is the Ponsharden area of Falmouth where the figure is 33.7 per cent, which is 136 out of 403 children.

The figures include teenagers up to the age of 19 who are still living at home with their parents or carers and are in full time education or training. Charities have also warned that child poverty is only going to get worse because of the coronavirus pandemic.

Cornish towns among 'hardest hit' by lockdown

There is a warning that some towns in Cornwall are among the areas hardest hit by lockdown across the whole country.

Coastal and ex-industrial towns are 'most economically at risk' from the Covid-19 pandemic, according to new research.

This "industrial sector lockdown risk" has been calculated based on which towns have the highest proportions of workers in industries that have shut down such as retail, hospitality and arts.

The research, conducted by the Centre For Towns and the University of Southampton, shows many of the 20 worst hit are in Cornwall, such as Penzance, St Blazey, and St Ives.

In fact it shows nearly four in ten towns in the South West are in the worst affected group in the country. The region is likely being badly affected by the lockdown because so much of the local economy is based on tourism and leisure.

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