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

N E W S L E T T E R

L y t h e r - n o w o d h o w

Meet your president



At the national biennial general meeting held in Christchurch on 8 May, Judy Wright was elected the new National President.

Born and bred in Hayle, Cornwall, Judy once lived in Christchurch and joined the Branch there.

Since moving to the Wairarapa she has continued her branch membership and regularly sends 'News from Cornwall' consisting of entertaining and often humorous items gleaned from the internet and other sources. She makes the trip back to Christchurch whenever she can and, as at the BGM, she presented her news in person.

The meeting also agreed that the new National President and the National Secretary should work together to develop the Association's on-line presence. This will potentially include a new, more attractive website and a Facebook Group. The hope is that it will reach a wide audience and attract new members. The Secretary reported that there are now only 82 people on the membership list. Another resolution was passed authorising the purchase of audio-visual equipment by the Association. The president and secretary were asked to investigate the best gear to buy. It would be held and used by the Christchurch branch but made available for other meetings.

Other business considered at the meeting included the financial statements that are attached. The national Association is in a strong position with over \$12,000 in the bank. The surplus of income over expenditure for the year was \$2,108 thanks, in large measure, to the generosity of members' donations.

Members at the meeting agreed that the national subscription should remain at \$10 per annum with the option of life membership at \$100 (equal to ten years' subscriptions).

Apart from the new president, other office bearers remained the same.

There were traditional pasties for lunch before the meeting, made by

Cornish Pasties NZ based in Cambridge in the Waikato. Susie Martinson, owner of the pasty company,



generously donated some of the pasties which come highly recommended if you are passing through Cambridge. Go to 19 Victoria Street, see them on Facebook or through their website <https://www.cornishpastiesnz.com/>. They don't just sell traditional Cornish steak pasties but have a range of other recipes as well as saffron buns and more.

See more about activities in Christchurch later.

We are on Facebook!



As reported above, one of the ideas discussed at the national meeting was to set up a Facebook group for NZ Cornish to help recruit new members. During the first Covid lockdown, one of the people along my street set up a neighbours' group which has been effective in getting to know people you wouldn't otherwise meet. We have even co-ordinated getting a new road sign put up to improve traffic safety at the intersection with the main road.

The group is easy to find – just search in Facebook for NZ Cornish. Anyone can view and 'like' the contents, but you need to have a Facebook account to join the group and make comments.



It would be great if you could 'like' the group and the posts. I will be tracking how many views and likes there are in our group.



Don't have a Facebook account? It is easy to set one up and it is not necessary to disclose any more personal information than you are comfortable sharing. Facebook has had some negative press over privacy but it is a popular and effective way of communicating and

spreading small snippets of news.

Even if you don't have a personal Facebook account, please mention it to friends and family. They may prefer to connect with Cornwall online rather than turn up to meetings at first. Once 'hooked', you never know, they may decide to join the Association and come to meetings.

TV & film

I have noticed a recent rash of TV programs based in Cornwall and news articles covering film production in Cornwall. With travel restricted by Covid, it may be that British media are taking advantage of one of the most picturesque areas of the UK.

First to pop up was an article in Cornwall Live that filming had begun for the prequel to Game of Thrones (GoT) titled House of the Dragon. Activity had been spotted on the seaward side of [St Michael's Mount](#) that looked like a film set. There was some doubt about what was going on due to the secrecy of the location. Then GoT stars were seen locally and the cat was out of the bag. GoT attracted a record international viewership over its 73 episodes. It has a broad, active fan base and has won multiple awards despite some controversy over some content. With such commercial success it was only a matter of time before spin-off programs hit the screens.



Not only is Warner Brothers going to Cornwall to film, but Cornwall has sent one of its own to Hollywood. Jake Moyle from [St Austell](#) has danced since he joined Funky Feet dance school at the age of 12. At 18 he enrolled at the London Studio Centre and graduated three years later with a BA degree in performing arts. In 2019 he moved to Los Angeles to progress his career. He has appeared in films such as Rocketman, Mary Poppins Returns and Mama Mia! Here We Go Again as well as various music videos and TV programs. His impressive credentials also mean that he has travelled the world and rubbed shoulders with famous actors like Miley Cyrus, Meryl Streep and Pierce Brosnan.



Now 28, Jake appreciates that dancing careers are short and highly competitive. He says, "It's come down to my work ethic and the support from my family who are back in Cornwall. I love the routine of training and gym work – some people find that difficult but I love it. If you're a dancer you've got to do it, not just to look good but for the stamina."

TV3 recently screened a documentary, Wild Cornwall – Out on the Edge, filmed by Ian McCarthy. He had learned his trade working for the RSPB Film Unit for four years before going freelance and working largely for the BBC Natural History Unit filming on many of the blue-chip blockbuster series, often with Sir David Attenborough. The Wild Cornwall programme



was very atmospheric and covered a wide range of species over all the seasons of a full year. There were stunning shots of creatures like chough (pictured), dolphins,

falcons, reptiles and butterflies. It delivered a message that wildlife may not always be visible, but it is all around us. You just have to be patient, skilled and know where to find it.

McCarthy is based at his studio in [Fowey](#) and, as he narrates Wild Cornwall, he often refers to the fact that, although he has filmed at locations around the world, capturing the lives of Cornish animals felt like "coming home".

Although the programme is no longer available on TV3's on demand channel, Three Now, you can see excerpts and a short trailer on Facebook, You Tube or the Cornwall Wildlife Trust website.

Cornwall also featured on Prime TV in May with a two-part miniseries hosted by Simon Reeve. Reeve takes a not-so-romantic look at Cornwall as Covid-19 lockdown restrictions are lifting. In the first episode, the tourism businesses he visits are struggling but a China clay pit offers some commercial hope. The second show is more optimistic and reports on sustainable agriculture, lobster farming and ends with the release of beavers in an experiment that hopes to show their potential environmental benefit. Those of you with a Sky TV subscription may be able to watch Cornwall with Simon Reeve on demand.

Return of Beavers

We generally think of the dam-building animals as being residents in North America, but they were once found across the UK and northern Europe too. They were hunted to extinction there hundreds of years ago for their fur to make hats.



The Cornwall Wildlife Trust has set up a Beaver Project involving the release of a pair of beavers into a special enclosure on Woodland Valley

Farm near [Ladock](#). The project is being run on strict scientific grounds in collaboration with the Universities of Exeter, Southampton and Plymouth. Water flow and quality was measured over many months before the beavers were introduced to establish a base line. It is hoped to show that the beavers will be highly beneficial to the local environment. The pools created by their dams are expected to slow down the flow of water increasing local water resources for times of drought, creating wetlands for other species and purifying the water at the same time.

Truro development funding

Cornwall is occasionally graced by a visit from the British Prime Minister. Some, like Theresa May, have come in their official capacities. Others, such as David Cameron and Harold Wilson, would holiday there. Boris Johnson, the reigning PM, recently went to [Truro](#) to announce a £23.6 million grant to transform the city. His previous visit in 2016 was during his Brexit campaign. The announcement this trip goes some way to replace the funding provided to Cornwall by the European Union, one of its poorest socioeconomic areas.

101 towns submitted bids for a share of the UK government's Towns Fund of £3.6 billion. The Truro organisers consulted with local businesses and the wider community to come up with a plan to support their application for £25 million. You can see the full application at [trurotownfund.com](#).

The Truro Deal, as it is called, places emphasis on plans to revitalise the city's once-thriving waterfront. The city is built on the confluence of the Kenwyn and Allen Rivers which flow into the Truro River. The river will be dredged to improve navigation and there will be ferry terminals, berthing facilities and pontoons, boardwalks, bridges and commercial services. It intends to create new jobs and homes, build new tourist attractions and turn Boscowen Park into a 'go-to destination' giving Truro a national reputation as a city in bloom. Another element of the plan is a state-of-the art building called The Hive on the edge of the city centre that will act as 'a blueprint of how innovation, enterprise and education will weave together in the future'. Finally, there will be green travel links between key city locations like Truro College, the city centre and the Royal Cornwall Hospital at Treliske. Call me cynical, but coming just before the G7 conference it sounds like buying support and a lot of hype.

The total project is budgeted to cost £81.5 million. Additional funds to top up the central government's contribution are coming from Cornwall Council, Truro City council and other

community bodies.



November/December 2018).

G7

We should keep our eyes out in TV news reports for views of [Carbis Bay](#) where the G7 Summit is being held from 11 to 13 June.



The cost and inconvenience of security for the event is causing

controversy. Over 5,500 police officers will be on duty to keep the world leaders safe. Almost all of them will be coming from outside Cornwall which causes an accommodation problem. 4,000 hotel rooms were booked for the summit so 3,000 'up country' police officers are going to be housed in a cruise liner moored off the coast of [Falmouth](#) for 10 days. The liner usually takes holiday makers on cruises around the Mediterranean. The force was keen to make it known that "The vessel will remain static, moored in Falmouth, used for a 10-day period, with only the accommodation, catering and other essential facilities in use." There will be no holiday atmosphere on board [yeah, right!].

Roads will be closed and the railway branch line from [St Erth](#) to [St Ives](#) will be closed and replaced by buses throughout the event. The closer to a G7 event, the greater will be the security and disruption to daily life. The chief superintendent of Devon & Cornwall Police has reassured residents that the main town centres will remain "largely open" and that he hopes road closures "will not be for more than 4 days".

Helen Glover comeback

We have followed Helen Glover's progress in the newsletters. She grew up in [Penzance](#) in a high-performing sporting family. Among many other successes, she has won gold in the coxless pairs at the 2012 London Olympics and again at the Rio games in 2016 with her rowing partner. Heather Stanning. She married in 2016, then, in 2018,



became pregnant with twins but tragically lost



one. In July that year she gave birth to a boy, Logan. In January last year another set of twins were born, a girl and boy, Bo and Kit.

Unlike Heather Stanning, Helen did not retire after the 2016 Olympic win but kept her options open. Having a family created a pause in her career, then lockdown provided a chance to reassess things. Glover returned to her rowing machine and began her comeback.

In April this year, Glover and her new rowing partner, Polly Swann (who had been in the silver medal-winning eight in the Rio Olympics), dominated the field at the European rowing championships in Varese, Italy, to secure gold.

Glover had originally said that a comeback for Tokyo was "highly unlikely" but is now set to be the first mother to row for Britain at any Olympic games. "Before London and Rio it was gold or nothing. Heather Stanning and I were favourites. It felt like the most important thing in the world," she said. Having children has given her new priorities. "It takes a lot of the weight off your shoulders because I've got a new most important job in the world. I've got a new perspective on the importance of sport." Lack of sleep and low iron levels (she's still breast feeding!) are big issues for training.

If there was an Olympic speciality for stamina, I think Helen would be a shoo-in.

Christchurch Branch

Activities around the formal Biennial General Meeting started with The Flora Dance with the music from Heather, Nadine and Craig. A group of 12 dancers tried their best to keep in step and in time with the music. 8 May was the traditional date for Flora Day in [Helston](#) but it had been cancelled due to viral restrictions. We in New Zealand may well have been the only ones keeping up the tradition in 2021.

Grace was sung in Kernewek before the pasties were served. Following lunch, members inspected a display of photos, certificates and memorabilia of past and

Subscriptions

It is subscription time again for the year to 31 March 2022

- ■ Branch members, please pay your subs to your local treasurer.
- ■ National members, you will see a renewal form on the back of your address slip or attached to your email. Annual subscription is still only \$10. Payment options are given on the form.
- ■ Life members, you can ignore this notice. Life membership is \$100 if you wish to upgrade.



Three current NZ Bards
L to R: Heather, Nick & Les

present Cornish Bards which had been put together by Dorothy.

Heather, Nadine and Craig entertained with several Cornish songs with the audience joining in some of the well-known ones.

David further explored the writings of the Rev. Schollar's first book. and Les told the tale of the "Curse of Psalm 109" of an errant Cornishman which brought to mind the old saying "Hell hath no fury like a woman scorned"

Wellington member, Geoff Curson, reported that he had finished the long version of the history of the Association and, if we were to progress to a printed booklet, it would need editing and shortening. Volunteers offered to proof-read the long version.

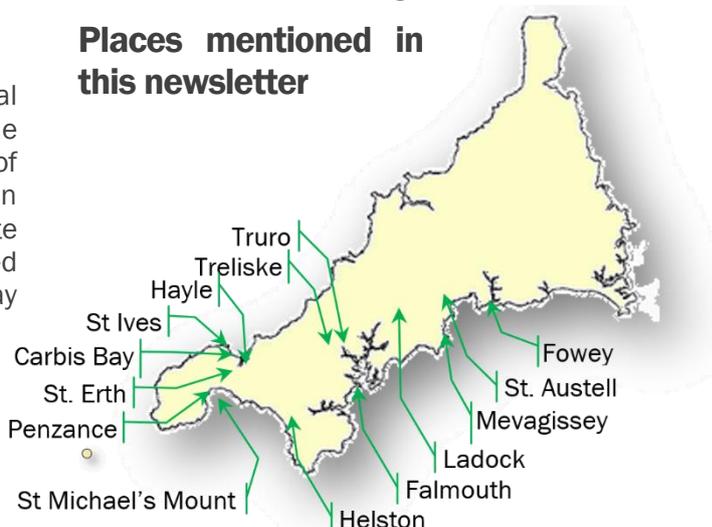
At the end of the B.G.M. Heather presented Nick with a badge of his Bardic name to mark the fact that he was the latest Kiwi to become a Bard.

Judy presented in person her visual "News from Cornwall" which was full of interesting notes of Cornish happenings over the last few weeks.

The branch President then thanked the guest artistes and the ladies in the kitchen for their efforts in making the meeting a great success.

The lusty singing of "Trelawney" followed by afternoon tea and drawing the raffle.

Places mentioned in this newsletter



That's it for this newsletter my 'ansomes. See 'ee again dreckly!

Nick

