

July/August 457 -- mls Gortheren / mls Est 2021

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

**Kowethas Kernewek  
Mordir Nowydh**

**N E W S L E T T E R**  
**L y t h e r - n o w o d h o w**

**Tall ships**

Last November [Falmouth](#) celebrated the fact that it had been chosen by Sail Training International as a host port for the 2021 annual tall ships regatta. Sail Training International is a youth organisation which promotes connecting young people internationally by offering training courses on sailing ships. The tall ships races require that at least half of the crew on each vessel must be between 16 and 25 years old. A tall ship is generally a large, classic sailing vessel (think Onedin Line) but there are more technical rules for ships taking part in the races.

Usually, more than 100 ships gather for the race start with the host port providing support services and special events to mark the occasion. Falmouth harbour, one of the largest deep-water harbours in the world, is the perfect setting for these majestic ships to show off and be seen by the public. The 2021 regatta was to have taken place on 17-19 August but in mid-July it had to be called off due to uncertainty about Covid-19. The decision was a blow to the town, local residents and all the people involved in making preparations.

However, not all was lost. The world's tallest luxury cruise ship carried out 'dress rehearsals' sailing into Cornwall's harbours ahead of fare-paying cruises around the UK.



The Golden Horizon, run by Tradewind Voyages, is a square-rigged five-mast cruise liner that's said to be an almost exact replica of the famous 1911 French sailing ship, France II. Its billowing sails will have made a dramatic entrance into Falmouth Harbour on 3 July with a second visit a week later. It visits Falmouth again in August when its itinerary will include calls into [Fowey](#) and [St. Mary's](#) on the Scilly Isles as part of a 10-night cruise around the British south coast and islands.

The ship is classed as a clipper, steel-hulled,

2,000 tonnes in weight, over 160m long by 19m wide, sports 42 sails. Built in Split, Croatia, Golden Horizon was launched in 2019. It has a crew of 159 and can accommodate up to 330 passengers in impressive luxury.

**Cornish potato cakes**

Nelson member, Warren Grenfell, was an early adopter of our new Facebook group and posted this picture of potato cakes, cooked in his grandparents' recipe.



He says, "My grandfather came to Christchurch from [St. Just](#) in 1874 with his parents and 10 or 12 siblings.

"My grandmother gave me his recipe, many years ago. Originally, they may have used dripping rather than butter and no baking powder, as essentially it was a way for the poor to make potatoes go further. Measurements need not be exact.

"Either use leftover mashed potato or cook and mash potatoes with a little milk and allow to cool.

"Measure by volume about a third of plain flour to the amount of mashed potato in a bowl and rub in softened butter with your hands until it looks like breadcrumbs. Add to the cool mashed potato with a good teaspoon of baking powder, salt, pepper, and mix well. A little chopped parsley can be added (optional).

"With floury hands form the mixture into patty shapes about 1/2 inch thick. Can be rolled out and shapes cut with a glass if preferred

"Fry slowly in a little butter till golden brown, turning halfway through. Make more than required as they can be frozen easily on a tray after forming into patty shapes and then bagged for later use. They will keep well for months. Thaw them before cooking."

Yum!

## ScoMo at G7

Scott Morrison (ScoMo), the Australian Prime Minister, was invited to attend some of the G7 Summit in Carbis Bay. What he did afterwards got him into trouble at home.

Mr Morrison has Cornish ancestors and took the opportunity to do some 'full-immersion' research into his roots. His sixth-great grandparents, John and Jane Roberts, lived and died in [St. Kevern](#). ScoMo went to visit their grave and, while in the village, dropped into the Three Tuns pub to get some "proper English pub grub" and wash it down with some local beer. In his efforts to gain an in-depth taste for Cornish life, he also visited the Old Quay House in [Hayle](#) and Jamaica Inn at [Bolventor](#). The press photographed him in physically close to pub staff without a mask. From the viewpoint of Australians subject to travel and social restriction his side-trip appeared to be a 'pub crawl' and a holiday. It did not go down well.

William was born in 1755, the youngest son of John & Jane Roberts, and was a naughty boy. He stole "five pound and a half weight of yarn" from a [Launceston](#) trader in 1786. He was caught and tried at [Bodmin](#) Assizes and was probably held in custody at Bodmin Jail which had been built only a few years earlier. Again ScoMo provided the press with unfortunate photo opportunities when he visited the jail that has recently been reincarnated as an historic tourist attraction.

William Roberts was later held in prison hulks off the shore of Plymouth before being transferred to the Scarborough, one of the First Fleet of 11 ships to sail to Australia. The fleet left Portsmouth in May 1787 and arrived in Sydney Cove on 26 January 1788. The date of the First Fleet's arrival, seen as the start of Australia's colonisation by white settlers, is now celebrated as Australia Day. It is highly controversial and has been branded as "Invasion Day", with Indigenous groups campaigning to change the date of the national holiday. That is another reason why some Australians did not like their Prime Minister celebrating his origins.

William served seven years in custody, labouring as a carpenter. Kezia Brown had also been convicted of theft and was deported from England two years after William. They met in custody and had two children before getting married after they were released and granted land. They had eight

more children and built a successful farm, Hobby Farm near Windsor northwest of Sydney. It stayed in the family for generations.

Scott Morrison can trace his ancestry back to Edward the youngest of William and Kezia's children. Edward was born in 1813 and inherited the farm when William died in 1820 at the age of 65. Kezia spent another 34 years as a widow.

## Spectator & Listener

Media attention on Cornwall aroused by the G7 Summit even reached the NZ Listener. This was the winning entry for its regular caption contest in the June 19-25 issue. It was submitted by a woman in Hastings (not a member). Maybe I'm sensitive, but I found it slightly demeaning to Cornish people.



In its 12 June issue, The Spectator ran two articles with Cornish themes. One headlined 'Cornish pasties' reckoned that Jane Seymour was a fan. "In a letter to Henry VIII's third wife, a baker writes: 'Hope this pasty reaches you in better condition that the last one'."

The Spectator also quoted statistics that tourists to Cornwall "eat their way through well north of 100 million pasties a year. Some 20 per cent of the region's food and drink turnover comes from pasties." I am personally sceptical of the interpretation of those numbers. Although that quantity of pasties may be made in Cornwall, I would expect a large proportion are exported and not all consumed in Cornwall. Even in the home of pasties I don't think locals and their visitors are quite that fond of pasties.

The other Spectator article, with the headline 'Hot housing', addressed the impact of second homes on Cornish property prices. The writer pointed out that there were tax rules and bank policies that favoured buying properties as holiday lets and structuring them as small businesses – something locals cannot do if it is their primary home. The more popular villages, like [Mousehole](#) and [Port Isaac](#), become ghost towns during the off-season. One resident in [St. Agnes](#) made their opinion public (see picture) claiming that "Our village is dying".



## Loo with a view

Cornwall Council reviews its property portfolio regularly and sells surplus assets. One of its latest disposals was a toilet block on the cliff near [Trevowhan](#), 10 miles from Land's End.



The freehold building and 0.22 acres (890 sq m) of land were listed with a guide price of £20,000 to £25,000. Soon after it was put up for auction the local community expressed an interest in repurposing it, so the sale was cancelled to provide time for consultation and investigating alternative uses.

Previous sales of decommissioned public facilities have proved popular. A toilet block in [Newlyn](#) was listed in 2018 at £15,000 but the auction settled at £73,000. In the current hot property market demand for the Trevowhan loos (which don't even have windows) might have been even greater.

## Newlyn sea level

Another small unassuming building in Newlyn is unlikely to be on the market any time soon. A little shed positioned next to the lighthouse at the end of the South Pier performed an invaluable function for 100 years as a tidal observatory.



A hole extends through the floor of the hut down into the harbour wall forming a chamber with an inlet pipe connected to the sea. Equipment in the shed is linked to a float in the chamber and records the rise and fall of the tides. The chamber layout eliminates most of the wave movement.

The observatory was operated by Ordnance Survey, the UK's national mapping agency, from 1915. After six years, the accumulated recordings were used to establish the official mean sea level (MSL) for the whole of the British Isles known as the Ordnance Datum Newlyn. A network of highly accurate measurements was then developed to determine height above MSL for all geographical features appearing on Ordnance Survey maps across Cornwall, England, Scotland and Wales. The national role was so vital that the activities in the hut were governed by the Official Secrets Act for almost 70 years.

The building was listed as Grade II by Historic England in 2018 and is now in the custody of Natural Environment Research Council. The tide level gauge used to be checked twice every day and temperature, barometric and salinity measurements were also taken as these were

factors that affect MSL. The results of detailed calculations were literally set in concrete. A brass bolt is set in the floor and is the reference point precisely 15.588 feet (4.751 metres) above MSL.

The old mechanical recording drum has been replaced by electronic equipment. Although modern-day mapping uses satellite technology and GPS, the observatory continues to carry out its sea level monitoring. It provides an historic data series to measure tide level changes due to global warming.

## Olympics

I am conflicted over the results of the women's coxless pair rowing event at the Olympics on 29 July. The race involved rowers from both New Zealand and Great Britain. Normally my loyalties would lie with the Kiwi athletes but a complication arose because Helen Glover, the Cornish rower who was trying to make a golden come-back, was half of the British team. (See the last newsletter for details.)



The Kiwis won gold (YAY!). Helen Glover and her partner, Polly Swann, came fourth (oh no!). They were outside the medals by 2.9 seconds which must have been a big disappointment for them. Glover's comeback was said to be special because she is now a mother of 3 but is not unlike Dame Valerie Adams, a mother of two, who achieved bronze in the shotput. Glover put on a brave face and said "The reward is knowing that we crossed the line giving it our all. The frustration would have been coming away from thinking we had more, and we didn't."

## Wellington on a plate

August is a month of celebrating food in Greater Wellington. For the 13<sup>th</sup> year the region's cafes, restaurants and bars are putting on a culinary festival. I grabbed an official programme because I like my food and we occasionally treat ourselves to a meal out. Thumbing through the booklet I got to page 19 and found...

One of the temporary 'pop-ups' is a two-day offering by an Auckland chef, Adam Rickett, of 'Ansum Pasty Co. [I have corrected the spelling mistake in the programme.] He can't call them Cornish,



**PASTIES OF PENZANCE  
BY 'ANSUM PASTIE CO.**

of course, because of the EU Protected Geographical Indication which says you can only call them Cornish if pasties are made in Cornwall. But by choosing the name Pasties of Penzance, he is making his aspirations quite clear.

If you are in Wellington, you will be able to sample his handmade wares at 45 Tory Street from 2 pm on Thursday 12 August and from 7 am on Friday 13. I shall be going along and will report back.

For members in Auckland, 'Ansum Pasties are sold from a food truck at local markets such as the Catalina Bay Farmers Market in Hobsonville.

## Recruitment drive

At the biennial general meeting in May the falling membership was discussed and some ideas came up to recruit new members. I have already reported on the creation of our Facebook group. It now has 7 members and has introduced one new person to the Association. It's a start!

The Christchurch branch has distributed posters around libraries in its area and has taken advantage of free publicity for its meetings on community radio and newspapers. They have also generated new interest.

Please keep spreading the word as it is important to build membership to keep our Association going.

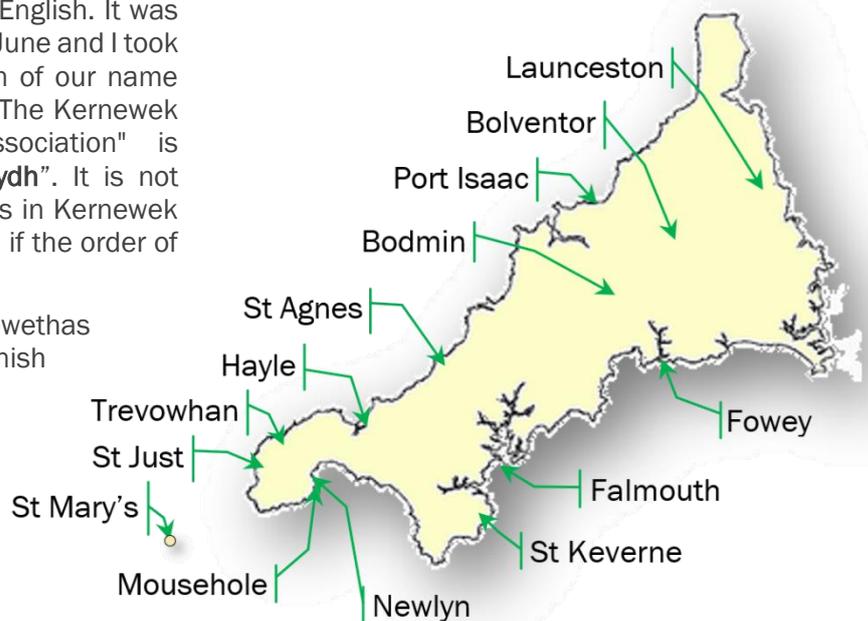
## Translation

The eagle-eyed reader may have noticed a slight change on the front page of this newsletter.

More and more you hear Māori place names mentioned on TV and radio alongside the English versions. In Cornwall, many road signs now show dual names - Kernewek as well as English. It was Speak Cornish Week from 19 to 27 June and I took the opportunity to get a translation of our name from the Cornish Language Office. The Kernewek for "New Zealand Cornish Association" is "Kowethas Kernewek Mordir Nowydh". It is not hard to work out which of the words in Kernewek match the English equivalents even if the order of the words is different:

- Association translates to Kowethas
- Kernewek is, of course, Cornish
- Nowydh means new
- Mordir Nowydh is New Zealand

I have added the translated name onto the front page under our logo.



## Christchurch Branch

The branch held a meeting on June 12.

David continued reading snippets from the Rev. Schollar's first book. This time it was about the widespread effect of Cornish smuggling.

Les' legend told of yet another curse from Psalm 109 [King David prays to God to inflict vengeance on his enemies, going into ghastly detail of what should happen to them]. This time the curse was on Admiral Sir Cloudesley Shovell who ignored warnings from his crew and wrecked an entire British fleet on the Isles of Scilly in 1707. Sir Cloudesley survived the disaster but was supposedly murdered by the islanders for his personal jewellery.

A video of one of Doc Martyn's adventures in Port Wenn was screened and much enjoyed.

The meeting on 10 July was the mid-year Christmas celebration complete with festive-themed afternoon tea.

David spoke of a new book about a little-known New Zealand member of the famous "Dam Buster Squadron" of WW2 whose funeral he had recently attended.

Les' legend was the story of Tom Bowcock and his cat who saved the village of Mousehole from starvation at Christmas in 1620.

Dorothy gave an hilarious account of making of a Christmas pudding and then members enjoyed a Cornish quiz compiled by Celia.

## Places mentioned in this newsletter

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

*Nick*