

CORNISH ASSOCIATION OF VICTORIA, INC.

> NEWSLETTER No. 141

> > May 2022

Corporation Reg. No. A0008264A

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dydh da' ('G'day'),

Futures II: A successful and sustainable future for our Association CAV



Your Committee met recently and decided that it was judicious to review what we do; who we are and how the CAV is travelling in 2022 In 2018 the association conducted a review known as CAV Futures I. Now it's time for CAV Futures II. The reason? In spite of our best efforts to continue meeting during COVID-19 lockdowns and restrictions using the Zoom technology, our membership and attendance at meetings are still declining. In December last year we only had 20 members attend at Oakleigh with 15 via Zoom. At our recent March meeting we had only 13 CAV members at Oakleigh and 17 on Zoom. This was the lowest attendance at Oakleigh since 2014 at least. I do apologise to our members who experienced technical difficulties with Zoom at our March meeting this year. Technical issues are to be expected from time and we have been lucky with the technology so far. Stick with us as we sort these issues out. I've been on Zoom for other presentations at other organisations and no matter how slick the organisation is, technical difficulties like we experienced still occur. It was the CAV's turn in March. My philosophy is to keep calm and carry on. Technical issues aside, I know all 13 of us who were there in March were very disappointed with the attendance, but still today, we see this as an opportunity to perhaps make some changes to our operation for a successful and sustainable future. Without evolving into the way we met during the lockdowns via Zoom, I believe the CAV might have come very close to ceasing to exist in 2020. Thankfully we weathered that storm. Now it's time we recognised that change is upon us once again and we must continue to evolve: to keep calm and carry on. I don't want to convey 'doom and gloom' in this message at all, but the facts are that we had 315 members in 2016 down to just over 200 in 2022. Attendances at meetings are well down too. We had an average monthly attendance of 52 in 2016, down to 34 in 2021 (including Zoom). From March 2020 to December 2021 the average attendance where Zoom Only was available was always 25-30+ including 56 at our AGM in October 2020 and 42 at our AGM in 2021. Sadly, if our most recent numbers persist, then it's clear that the rent we currently pay for our meeting place will no longer be viable or

We have much to consider.

sustainable.



CORNISH ASSOCIATION OF VICTORIA INC.

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Fees: Annual renewal notices have been sent to all members.

Membership:

 Single:
 \$40.00

 Family:
 \$60.00

 Life Single:
 \$400.00

 Life Family:
 \$600.00



Saturday 21st May 2022 Dr Margaret Bullen will be our speaker: "A personal history of a Curno and a

"A personal history of a Curno and a small window into the history of Curnow."

Zoom details

Time: May 21, 2022 01:30 PM Melbourne <u>https://us02web.zoom.us/</u> <u>j/86862540891?</u> <u>pwd=eXdPc1VIcHhGSHBmMVVJOU1</u> <u>MzU2IZdz09</u>

Meeting ID: 868 6254 0891 Passcode: 555025 Dial in: +61 3 7018 2005 Australia

Saturday IIth - Monday I3th June - Portarlington Celtic Festival the Geelong Branch will be having a stall during the Festival and would be pleased to say hello to any visitors.

Saturday 18th June - TBA

Saturday 16th July - Annual General Meeting - please see last page for more information concerning the AGM.

PASTY DRIVE

Marcus Curnow is planning to continue with the Pasty Drives and we will let you know when they are about to commence. Home delivery in Melbourne region will incur a cost.

You can look at the Aussie Oggie (<u>https://aussieoggie.com/</u>) online shopping menu to decide on your order.

Marcus's number is: 0421 076 804



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: 0417 160 658

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 19th July 2022

Articles for inclusion 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 Tid Bits are sourced from the Cornwall Council, BBC Cornwall, Pirate FM News, Falmouth Packet, CornwallLive, Kresen Kernow This situation is difficult, I know, for all of us to deal with.

We are not the only organisation to be going through tough times.

Some organisations didn't meet at all for three years and are living with the consequences.

We, as the CAV, either do nothing or move forward.

We can only move forward, in my view, by understanding that, like it or not, change is upon us.

Our members are voting with their feet and we have to listen.

I believe that many of our members are apprehensive about returning to Oakleigh because of COVID-19.

As someone with an immune system that is compromised together with my age bracket, I share and understand that apprehension with the current numbers the way they are.

Some of our members are also of an age now where attendance at Oakleigh has become difficult, even if they live in Melbourne.

We need to listen.

It would appear that the data shows our members generally prefer to meet via Zoom rather than in person.

Is this the case?

What do members think?

If this was not the case surely our numbers at Oakleigh would be higher.

This is a difficult thing to comprehend for us, as pre-COVID, we always enjoyed having our lunch together, and participating in afternoon teas and chats after our meetings.

But things have changed.

How do we respond?

We need to seek new members. We knew that in 2018.

Maybe we should consider being part of local festivals, like Portarlington, and perhaps we should take the opportunity to have a festival about the Cornish Miners at Castlemaine to perhaps attract new members.

Maybe we could work with the Castlemaine Historical Society, where our Library is now housed, on such a festival?

We should have membership forms and leaflets available to invite new members at these festivals. There must be other local festivals and/or markets where we could set up a table and show our wares including selling pasties as an attraction? Ballarat, Bendigo and other places across the Victorian Goldfields come to mind.

We now have an opportunity to review where we are as an organisation prior to our AGM in July. You will see we have given notice of a discussion about the future operation of the CAV in the notice of our AGM in this Newsletter.

Together with you, our members, we should now consider a range of options for the future upon which to base our new program. I think we could even have a forum for members, perhaps on Zoom, to consider future options.

The future options for our consideration are many and varied.

There are three main alternatives each with options:

- i. Do we do nothing and carry on?
- Do we meet together socially either at Oakleigh or elsewhere a few times a year and have our speakers program on Zoom Only?
- iii. Or do we meet using Zoom Only?

If I had to choose between only these three, I would favour the second option. But that's just me.

We need to have time for you to tell us what you think. We need to have time for your new President and Committee to consider the best course of action in July.

I am sure that there are other options you might think of, so we seek your feedback. If you are amongst the 20% of our members that have experienced Zoom meetings and/or been to meetings at Oakleigh, please let us know what you think.

What do CAV members want? Why don't people come to Oakleigh anymore? Is it COVID-19? Is there something wrong with our speakers program? How much is it that the CAV is a social group or a group that promotes Cornish heritage and/or genealogy? Have we got the balance wrong? How can we make what we do better?

These are some of the questions that come to mind. We can add other questions to these sorts of enquiries. Have a think and if you have something to tell us I invite you to talk to a member of the Committee and/or send me an email at: pkicons29@bigpond.com or ring me on 0400 309 469.

CAV Meeting at Oakleigh on May 21st

For the present your Committee has decided to soldier on and see what the May Meeting brings at Oakleigh.

So if you are undecided, please try and make the effort to attend if you can.

We will also continue with the May meeting as a hybrid meeting and we will include a Zoom option for our country cousins.

I'm looking forward to the presentation on May 21st from Dr Margaret Bullen: "A personal history of a Curno and a small window into the history of Curnow." Margaret says:

"Meeting a genealogist (the CAV's own Helen Morgan) who was happy to embark on a journey down the rabbit holes of my family history was a great moment for me. Just how convoluted are those rabbit warrens was an eyeopener, but I am extremely gratefully for having been given back family I thought I had lost. Rocks that signal times in the annual calendar or maybe, mark a chiefly burial, tin mines and clay resources are some of the tangibles of Curnow's story. Ship builders, customs officers and smugglers are a few of the characters that people the narrative. Margaret Bullen was born in London but her father's mother's name was Curno and from an early age she knew that Cornwall was God's own country and the world really stopped and began at the Tamar."

Margaret has attended a couple of CAV meetings recently via Zoom as our guest.

New Committee to be elected in July at the AGM

I also urge members to consider joining your Committee at our AGM in July.

We need some extra hands to implement any changes agreed to as well as to keep the association running. We need your help. If you can help – even in a small way – please contact our Secretary, Brian Rollason or myself.

I believe that 2022 will be a time of review and then renewal for the Cornish Association of Victoria as we move into a new COVID-normal era, making use of technology to further enhance our objectives.

'Oll an Gwella'

Ken Peak - President Cornish Association of Victoria

Update re the Agan Kernow book

A number of members have enquired about the Agan Kernow (Our Cornwall) book. As you are aware the book was edited and made ready for publishing last December. Your Committee has now agreed to self-publish the book.

This comes after a lengthy period of seeking a publisher who would invest in the book and market it at no cost (or as little as possible) to the CAV. There are publishers who have already said it's too big a project for them to take on.

So far, every book publisher in Cornwall has wished us well on our 'great read' but have declined, saying they are too small.

So, I have sent hard and soft copies of the manuscript to bigger publishers in the UK and Australia. Some told me I needed to have a literary agent before they would even contemplate looking at the book.

Some have declined, but for other larger book publishing corporations, the process will take up to two months for them to even get back to us. Some Australian publishers indicated that the genre perhaps didn't suit their 'brand'.

There are, of course, many places we could take the book to get printed in Victoria and we have already received a quote and begun discussions as a result.

The key is always in the marketing, which will now be up to us.

I did not want the book to financially disadvantage or be a future financial burden to the CAV.

All authors will now receive a copy of their edited contributions to the book with an explanation of our current intentions.

We have now received a quote on the cost of printing the manuscript as a hard cover book. There may be a number of options to consider that may help reduce our costs.

What we will need to do shortly is to advertise the book as far and wide as we can and take pre-paid orders for it, as was done with the Howard Curnow book.

We will advertise the book in Cornwall, of course, and with our sister organizations in NSW and South Australia as well as those in the United Kingdom, the United States, Canada and New Zealand.

There is much to be done.

If you can help us please let me know.

I know I'm biased but the book would make a great Christmas present or that special volume to keep on your coffee table or on your bedside table.

We will let all members know how to order once we have all the information.

Thanks for your understanding.

Ken Peak



gan Kernow

Meetings

Shauna Hicks was our February speaker. A former member of the CAV, Shauna now lives in Queensland.

She has written numerous family history guides and is a well-known speaker at conferences, seminars, workshops, and genealogy cruises in Australia and overseas.

Shauna has been tracing her own family history since 1977 and the topic of her presentation was 'The Cornish in Queensland' with particular reference to the Trevaskis and Rosewarne families.

James Henry Trevaskis was born in St Hilary and married Ann Semmens from Perranuthnoe in 1859 and with their three young children - James, Nicholas and Annie - arrived in South Australia in 1864.

Sadly, Ann died in March 1865, in Moonta, leaving a husband and three young children.

In September 1865, James married Elizabeth Rosewarne in Wallaroo.

A daughter Dorcas Trevaskis was born in June 1866.

Dorcas was the great grandmother of Shauna.

Between 1866 and 1868, the family travelled to Copperfield in Queensland where a son John Trevaskis was born in 1868. How they travelled to Queensland is unknown – it may have been by coastal vessel to Rockhampton or it may have been overland.

James Henry Trevaskis is unaccounted for between 1869 and 1873 and Ann is left with five young children. It is assumed that he died and either his death was not registered or cannot be found in the registers.

In December 1873, Elizabeth married George Guy – the marriage certificate suggests Elizabeth is a widow and George Guy was born in Madron. Three sons – James Henry, George and Christopher William – were born at Copperfield. With diminishing supplies of copper and the attraction of gold, the family shifted to Charters Towers.

George Guy died in 1894 and Elizabeth Guy died in 1905.

Throughout the presentation Shauna had weaved photos from various libraries to show the communities, and sometimes the conditions, in which the families were living.

In her research, she had used online birth, death and marriage registrations from various states and also the SA State archives to track down shipping arrivals.

She reminded us to re-visit databases regularly as more and more records are digitized but to also check record parameters when we cannot find a family member, as not all have been digitized. Purchasing birth, death and marriage certificates, although expensive at times, did reveal many secrets – however the information on these certificates is only as good as the knowledge of the person providing the information and over the years correct names and some details can be confused or lost.

Shauna found many articles on TROVE – in newspapers and gazettes but also digitized books which were online.

Advertisements in books gave an insight into the people and places and books often held detailed maps of the areas where relatives may have settled.

Newspaper Obituaries often gave details which were unknown to family researchers. Inquest reports and wills and probate files often filled in missing information – even advertisements for claims on personal estates can hold details.

Another source of information is in what Shauna labelled chain migration where siblings in families travelled to Australia.

Families in Australia stayed in touch with their families in Cornwall and in Shauna's research she knows that siblings of James Trevaskis, Elizabeth Rosewarne and George Guy all came to Australia. Shauna reminded us that most Cornish families settled in locations where there was mining so online cemetery databases in those areas can often show family names.

The presentation was very informative and most people would have gleaned some suggestions to follow through in their own research.

In March, Ted and Beryl Curnow travelled from Ballarat to Oakleigh for Beryl to share her presentation 'Reflections: Living in Cornish Culture -2003-2005'.

After 30 years working in various appointments as a Methodist/Uniting Church Minister, Ted had investigated the possibility of a short term appointment working for the British Methodist Church but at the time none were available. Out of the blue, Ted was offered a position at very short notice (six weeks) for an appointment in Cornwall.

Hastily organizing themselves, they travelled via Singapore to London where they under took orientation at St Albans along with other ministers from USA, Canada and Australia.

Hiring a car they drove to Cornwall, on a public holiday weekend, and the journey took them nine and a half hours and introduced them to queueing!

They had been told their accommodation was a bungalow not aware that a bungalow in the UK meant a single storey detached home – in their case with three bedrooms.

The home had been furnished by the local congregation but they needed to buy their own car and white goods. Fortunately, they could purchase these from the last minister who had returned to Australia.

Located near a railway line, Beryl enjoyed the trains rumbling past on their way to Scotland and London each day.

A novelty was the mail coming through the slot in the front door.

The streets and lanes were very narrow and they became very used to reversing out of their garage and along country roads, yielding to the larger vehicle.

Highlights of their time were shown using wonderful photos:

 Special Church services – particularly Harvest Festival where great care was taken in arranging the generously donated fresh produce and canned and packaged goods.

- Remembrance Day although Australia had been involved in the Wars, it was a long way from the action. Cornish people experienced evacuees from London and many families were involved in action during the war. The church service which Ted led involved many community groups and they and the congregation then processed to the War memorial for another service.
- The generous hospitality of the community they were served lots of pasties!
- Food different names for vegetables Beryl introduced pumpkin soup to people
- The Cornish rugged coast and its beauty
- Different animals hedgehog in the garden; pretty robins chewing on the cotoneaster berries; seagulls which never seem to sleep.
- Seasons which are very defined colours of autumn; storms and rain in winter; the amazing colours of spring in all the gardens plus bluebells and lily of the valley; the wonderfully vibrant floral hanging baskets of summer. Summer was a concern as people didn't seem to be proactive about caring for their skin.
- Weddings not only were the churches decorated inside, on window sills and the ends of pews, but also at the entrance to the church.
- Farming vegetables; dairy farms; fishing industry; flower farms
- Yearly events the Royal Cornwall Show similar to the Melbourne Show; Guy Fawkes night with bonfires.
- Lifeboats with Cornwall surrounded by sea, the RNLI is an integral part of most communities and is very active
- Christmas the holly floral decorations and wreaths; the Mousehole lights; Tom Bawcocks eve; Carol Singers
- Festivals St Piran's Day at Perranporth; Padstow May Day with 'obby 'oss; Trevithick Day; Helston Flora Day.
- Christmas Lunch at a church member's home watching the Queen's Christmas Message
- Meeting the Earl and Countess of Wessex, Prince Edward and his wife Sophie

Although a reluctant starter, Beryl now has a greater appreciation of the people and their country.

We did have a few technical difficulties on the day but Beryl soldiered on with a most entertaining presentation which was enjoyed by all.

The Cornish Diaspora 1857-1900: Newlyn East to Daylesford

Peter Gardner (CAV member 900)

From 1830 onwards production in the copper mines of west Cornwall was generally declining, both in yield and tonnage, and thus employment was reduced in them. Mines that were able to do so changed over from copper to tin production. In large mines like Dolcoath employment dropped from 1600 in 1818 to 590 in 1838. (Barton D.B. Copper Mining in Cornwall and Devon) During the 1840s the East Wheal Rose at Newlyn East was the major lead mine in England and a major employer in West Cornwall. More than 1200 miners and surface workers were employed here for most of the decade.

Despite the calamitous flooding of this mine in 1846 leading to the deaths of 39 miners there were always more miners seeking jobs there than there were positions available. The decade was known in Cornwall as the "Hungry Forties" which culminated in the potato famine and exorbitant grain prices in 1847. As a result there were food riots across Cornwall which were avoided at Newlyn East by the East Wheal Rose management buying and distributing grain at wholesale prices.

The decline in the East Wheal Rose production began in 1849/50 and fell steeply in 1851 coinciding with the discovery of gold in Australia. In the census of this year my great great grandfather Richard Angove was listed as miner of Newlyn East. My great grandfather Sam Angove, then aged 13, was listed as a 'lead dresser'' or mine surface worker.

Gold was discovered in many localities in and around Daylesford in 1852.

For the first few years the recovery of gold was by shallow alluvial mining with the miners rushing from one new find to the next. This resulted in a transient population and this situation continued until about 1860.

Gradually the mining changed to deeper alluvial mining (deep leads) and then hard rock mining resulting in a more stable population.

Maddick in his 100 Years of mining in Daylesford stated that in 1857 Richard Hocking and party were searching for a deep lead under the township.

Besides Hocking he listed as members of the party the Tonkin brothers, Barkla, Tippett, and Clogan. They may have been joined later in the year by Richard Hocking's first cousin Richard Angove* and his brother-in-law John or James Pooley. I suspect that this party all, or mostly, came from Newlyn East and that numerous relations, friends and contacts of Richard Hocking followed him to Daylesford – a number of whom settled there on a permanent or semi-permanent basis. Sam Angove and his brother John arrived in Daylesford in December 1863.

Some of the family names so far identified from the Newlyn East connection and known to have definitely come to Daylesford include Angove, Hocking, Eade, Goldsworthy, Jewell (all first cousins).

Other possible family connections to the goldfields (but not necessarily to Daylesford) include Trathan, Lanksbury (related through Trathans & Angoves) Tippett, Pooley, Ellis (Angoves) Nicholas and Opie (Eade). Other possible family names of individuals to Daylesford from Newlyn East include Tonkin, May, Pollard, Sampson, James, Andrew, Paul, Hattam, and Martyn.

Families from other, or unidentified, localities in West Cornwall and connected to the Newlyn East families either in Daylesford, or sometime previously, include Roberts, Dunstan, Lawry, Jenkin, Pascoe, Moyle, Opie, Wellington, Pope, Ford, Thomas, Hosken, Ellis, White, Rodda, Harvey, Trembath, Williams, and Paul/Paull. This list is only a brief survey and by no means exhaustive.

I assume that the naming of the township of Newlyn is somehow connected to this part of the Cornish diaspora, but have not been able to establish any direct links.

The last connection my immediate family had with Daylesford was the burial of my great grandmother Annie Angove (nee Roberts) in 1936. The Daylesford cemetery has more than thirty of my relatives buried here, nearly all in unmarked graves. I understand that direct descendants of my great, great grandmother Miriam Roberts, buried in Daylesford in 1874, are still living there, as there also must be many other descendants of some of the families listed here.

* Richard Angove died of typhoid fever on the Lamplough rush (just south of Avoca) in 1860. Surnames of his Lamplough party include Spargo, Clark and Thomas.

The National Archives - UK- TNA

I am probably talking to the converted, but have you searched the National Archives website recently? It's quite amazing what you can find! This week I found four family wills and was able to download them at no cost.

This system was introduced during the initial COVID lockdowns and has continued. So now is a good time to take advantage of this free service as it could change at any time.

However not every document you find is free to download - some have not yet been digitised so you will have to pay.

There is a limit of 10 to download per day and 100 in a 30 day period.

Today I have searched a few parishes in Cornwall and found many wills, but sadly none belonging to my families

St Just in Penwith

There are 1255 records of which TNA has 111 and of those 40 can be downloaded. Some are easy to read and others not so easy

The abstract gives a few details of the person so you can easily decide whether to download it or not. Three names I found -

*William Taylor - will proved 22 May 1811

*Constance Row - proved 13 May 1807

*William Oats, Yeoman - will proved 11 December 1800

<u>Falmouth</u>

There are 9551 records.

TNA holds 4161 of these and 3505 are able to be downloaded

*Insured - Sun Fire Office-held in London

Metropolitan Archives - Henry Job, Falmouth, Cornwall, Mariner

*Will of Joseph Scantlebury - proved 17 December 1782

*Will of Jane Bellhouse - proved 28 September 1824

St Austell

5465 records.

TNA holds 526 and 160 of these can be

downloaded

*Will of James Perrow - proved 17 September 1802

*Will of Richard Veale - 16 April, 1803

*Catherine Rendell-proved 5 February 1803

Even though you cannot find an ancestor, the names of the record are most interesting - it could be

someone your ancestor had dealings with or someone in authority in their parish. It is fascinating to scroll down the list and see ma

It is fascinating to scroll down the list and see many names and the brief extract, hoping to find an ancestor.

If TNA does not hold the record, it is likely to be in the Cornwall Record Office or another record office elsewhere in the UK.

Website - www.nationalarchives.gov.uk

Log on to the website and go to Explore the catalogue

In top right hand corner it states Log In or Register Here you can open a free account.

Happy searching

Di Christensen



Online Parish Clerks for Cornwall (OPC)

The Cornish OPC Project is continually updating its records and it is worthwhile checking back regularly to discover what has been updated.

This link takes you to the Resources Page - <u>https://www.opc-cornwall.org/Structure/</u> <u>resources.php</u>

When you are on this page, scroll down to find a list of links to other Useful Web resources

This link takes you to the Search the Database section -

https://www.cornwall-opc-database.org/searchdatabase/



TROVE - Newspapers and Gazettes

The digitised collection of newspapers and Gazettes found at the National Library of Australia are also being updated regularly.

https://trove.nla.gov.au/



Did you know that it is free to become a member of the National Library in Canberra? https://www.nla.gov.au/getalibrarycard/

This allows you to access hundreds of online resources including newspapers from other countries via the eResources section.

Cornish in Bendigo

Rob and I were proud to represent the Cornish in Bendigo and the Cornish Association of Victoria in Glen Innes during the last weekend in April.

The weather was very kind to us this year and as it was the Year of the Cornish it was good to see the Cornish colours and tartans on display.

We had warm weather for the Street Parade on the Saturday and we were well received by the good crowd lining the streets.

On Sunday we took part in the Cornish Ceremony walking from the Cornish Stone, which is part of the Standing Stones in Glen Innes.

Rob gave a welcome speech on behalf of the CAV and the Cornish in Bendigo at the Cornish Ceremony.

Leanne Lloyd





Photos Leanne Lloyd and Fay Binns

Geelong

Our bi monthly meetings have continued this year.

We are planning to once again have a stall at the National Celtic Festival this year.

Due to Covid restrictions there has been no festival for the last two years. The festival will take place over the long weekend in June (June 11 to 13) at Portarlington.

Looking forward to meeting up with members and guests at the festival.

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

> Neil Thomas. Chairman Geelong Branch of the CAV

Ballarat

The Ballarat group has met three times this year - in February, St Piran's Day in March and in April.

The February Meeting saw thirteen people bring Cornish or Family treasures.

<u>Les George</u> – showed a sampler which had been embroidered by his great grandmother Elizabeth Hall, in May 1858, in Ballarat.

<u>Robyn Coates</u> – also showed an embroidery sampler which had been completed by Elizabeth Jane Hicks, when she was just nine years old, dated January 29th 1846, and living in Cornwall.

<u>David Pratt</u> - Diary of William Carvosso who was born in Mousehole.

<u>Ted Curnow</u> - showed a lamp in the form of an Engine House which he had bought in 1990 following a Curnow reunion in Cornwall.

Jenny Burrell - a blue and white porcelain cat bought as a gift for her daughter Jane. Jenny also related the story of The Mousehole Cat, a children's book written by Antonia Barber and illustrated by Nicola Bayley.

<u>Beryl Curnow</u> - cuff links and a pin and a brooch all from the Blue Hills Tin Mine located on the north west coast of Cornwall, near to St Agnes.

<u>Lenice Stuchbery</u> - a gold ring made from a nugget found by her great, great grandfather, Richard Major Quick.

<u>Arthur Coates</u> showed a leather family photo album which had been given to his grandparents, Arthur Coates and Clara Eustice, as a wedding gift on 4th January 1893.

<u>Bev Pratt</u> shared with members a tribute to her brother, Clive Luckman, who had died recently

written by Stephen Hawke, the current President of the Genealogical Society of Victoria.

<u>Keith Lanyon</u> showed an old photographic negative on glass and a 1961 Falmouth and District Map with named farms in the district.

Val D'Angri - Val's great, great grandfather Thomas Henry Lawn was the Secretary of the Amalgamated Miners Association, who in 1901 had received an invitation to the Opening of Federal Parliament in Melbourne - Val shared memorabilia from that occasion and also from the centenary in 2001. <u>Chrissy Stancliffe</u> - a ring - believed to have belonged to her great, great grandmother, whose name was Alice Ada Pearce - she was born on 28th March 1868 - Chrissy's birth date was also 28th March. <u>Wendy Benoit</u> - had recently been given a family photo album with photos of members of her William Hicks family.

In **March**, we celebrated **St Piran's day** with a Pasty Lunch followed by a very interesting presentation by Julia Walsh - the four times great granddaughter of Henry Richards Caselli, a well known Cornish born Ballarat Architect, who was responsible for many of the 'older' buildings in Ballarat.

Scones, jam and cream were served for afternoon tea and there was much chatter amongst the members. Of course the jam went on first.

In **April**, **Ted Curnow** was our speaker and his presentation was on Celtic Christianity. Rev. Andy Phillips, a chaplain at Culdrose Naval Air Base, in 2009, had prepared a paper, 'Will Paganism be taking over from Christianity throughout Cornwall?' and also a book 'An Forth Keltek' - a spiritual pilgrimage with the Celtic saints of Cornwall, Wales and Brittany. Both were written to encourage a revival of Christianity in Cornwall. Ted shared some of Andy's thoughts and his own observations with us, in an informative illustrated Power Point presentation.

Cornish Superstitions as recorded in early Australian newspapers

Wagga Wagga Express Saturday 16 Feb. 1895, page 6 Some Cornish Superstitions

The School Board has long had its heavy hand upon Cornwall: arousing in the masses an unwholesome dread of vulgarity which is recognised in the use of such words as 'convenience' (a local version of conveyance) instead of cab, or 'bus, or waggonette. Much that was characteristic has already disappeared; but the superstitions of a people are not to be eradicated in a single generation, and one can hardly imagine a Cornishman appearing at a dinner of the facetious gentlemen who form the Thirteen Club.

Only a week or two ago a lady who was accustomed to do a deal of visiting among the poor, went to a house in the very midst of the busiest town in the county.

There was trouble there: a child had died but a day or two previously, and another lay ill.

As she reached the door a cat went past her, into the house, and the lady noticed that a big piece of black cashmere had been tied around its neck. Entering, she inquired the reason of this.

'Aw,' said the woman, 'I put that there as soon as the child was gone. The neighbours told me the cat would begin to waste away, and then die, if I didn't do it and I couldn' afford to lose she.'

This is particularly interesting inasmuch as it throws some light upon the 'reasons' inspiring one or two other curious customs of the same kind. Everywhere it is customary to tell the bees when

there is a death in the house; but in Cornwall it is sometimes deemed necessary to hang bits of crape upon the hives.

Sometimes bird-fanciers decorate the cages of their canaries in the same way under the same circumstances, while Mr. Borlase speaks of the same custom in connection with the window plants which abound in Cornish cottages.

The three instances seem to suggest that in certain cases the wearing of mourning for the dead may have been not altogether (perhaps not at all) a token of grief, but rather a sort of reminder to the Angel of Death that he had smitten once, and, in common fairness, should go elsewhere to smite again. Encore de chose gaies. (more happy things) To this day it is a sure sign that the sick man is close upon death if you see the window of his room opened. This is done to give his escaping soul an easy access to the skies. For it would seem that to these people the soul is altogether a material thing. A little while ago someone lay seriously ill in a big house which again stood in the centre of a busy town. There came a day when his case was critical, and the doctors hardly left the house.

And then it was that the cook, a curiously excellent example of Board School culture, was found in her kitchen with the door securely locked upon the inside. She could scarcely be induced to open the door; when she had done so, a rigid cross examination revealed the fact that she had made up her mind that the patient was on the point of dying and had shut her door to keep the ghost out. It was pointed out to her that even if there had been reason to believe that this particular ghost would be dreadful, the shutting of a door would be but small protection. But people don't think when their superstitions are aroused.

Some of the old customs as they now exist would appear to be but shadows of their former selves. For instance, the wells to which people used to resort for the cure of divers diseases are still visited, and, if one may judge from the condition of the wells, the visitors still leave bits of rag behind them on the surrounding twigs. But it would be hard to assure oneself that they who do this really believe that with the rags they are leaving the maladies from which they suffer.

But the belief in the evil eye seems to exist in quite a robust state.

Cases still come into the police-courts, usually of assaults committed by a rustic upon the person of some man or woman whom he believes to have illwished himself or his pigs.

But a more elaborate story came to light the other day.

In one of two semi-detached cottages in a small village among the mines there lived an oldish woman who had taken a strong dislike to her neighbour, the wife of a miner.

The miner's wife, said sympathetic rumour, was a peaceful and respectful woman she ' had trouble to live,' because of the persecutions and vilifications of her neighbour.

Finally, she became a 'bed-lier.' People often do become bed-liers in Cornwall if they happen to be tired, and yet are unable to contract any of the diseases commonly recognised by the medical profession. There is hardly a village but can produce someone who has proved through twenty years it may be, how delightfully the wind is tempered to the lamb thus shorn of the ordinary responsibilities of life!

But the miner's wife was most unwilling to do thus, having a husband and a family to look after. After some years the neighbour left and the miner's wife continued to lie a-bed. Then, for some reason or other ('Providence, perhaps,' said a delightful old Cornish woman, whom I chanced to hear discoursing on the subject), masons came to the next house and tore out the fireplace.

Somewhere at the back they discovered some bottles filled with filthy liquid, and holding a number of pins.

These they smashed, and then it is impossible to discover how soon, or at whose suggestion — the bed-lier discovered that her strength had come back to her.

For the first time in seven long years she arose and dressed herself; the neighbours were soon assembled, and, for their delectation, she 'danced like a girl ' in the tatey ground, loudly declaring that she had been 'bottled-up' all these years of her sickness by her former neighbour.

When her husband came home from his work at the mine, he was amazed to find her standing. in the doorway to welcome him.

It is said that there was a young man of the village, himself unfortunately a bed-lier, who, when he heard the story, became convinced that he also was laid aside because he hod been bottled up. One would like to be able to say that his friends straightway organised a search for bottles; they might have made sure of finding them, had they taken proper precautions, and bed-lying is the sort of complaint which ought to be peculiarly susceptible to the faith cure. It would only be possible — certainly it would only be tolerated — among an imaginative people.

Finally, a couple of superstitions shall be quoted whose origin seems inexplicable enough. Nowadays people in the West if you remind them of the fact, will bear witness that their parents believed all such blackberries as became ripe after the 29th September to be inhabited of the devil, and so unfit for food.

Probably, however, there are few remaining whom the knowledge of this tradition restrains from picking the fruit for just so long as it appears to be in good condition.

But about 15 years ago these was a countrywoman (still living, I believe) who did an excellent business in blackberries every autumn, and could by no means be induced to supply customers after the date named even though they assured her they would take all the risk on themselves. Now the superstition which will persuade people to sacrifice hard cash must be very much alive.

The other instance is of no earlier date than the present year of grace. It happened that a certain lady and her husband were away from home on that day. After they had come back, one of the servants exclaimed to her mistress, 'Aw, missus, I'm fine an' glad you was away Thursday.'

'Why ?' said the mistress.

'Why, if you'd been home we should surely have had some of the windows open, and 'tis a fact wellknown that if you do open the windows on the 1st o' March the house will be full of fleas for the rest of the year.'

This girl also had passed through the very excellent board school of the town.

Even now a postscript is necessary.

You must not cut the nails of a newborn babe for a long time after its birth, or it will become a thief. A child must not be weighed before it is a year old, or it will die, so said some farm labourers a few years ago, endeavouring to account for the death of the master's child, and reminding the hearer of the prohibition against the census in Israel. Neither must a woman who is about to become a mother let herself be weighed or, when the child has been born, look at the mirror.

And now for the most gruesome of the collection. An 'evil' is a gathering in the neck. The cure for it was to pass the finger of a dead man (or of a dead woman, if the patient were a man) over the place affected. Then the diseased spot was touched with a handkerchief, and this the patient dropped into the grave when the corpse came to be buried. As the kerchief rotted and decayed, the 'evil ' disappeared.

The placid old lady who had known this horrible ceremonial practised remembered also that 'fifty years ago ' her father had been unable to go out in a St. Ives fishing-boat for the simple reason that he wore a beard, and that beards were unlucky.

Laura Standard (SA : 1889 - 1917), Thursday 22 September 1910, page 3

Cornish Superstitions

Cornwall which is famous for the names of its local saints, is a country of 'charms,' 'The passing of children through holes in the earth, rooks, or trees, once an established rite, is still practiced in various parts of Cornwall, wrote Mr. Thomas Q. Couch about fifty years ago, and the same remains true to this day.

With us, boils are cured by creeping on the hands and knees beneath a bramble which has grown into the soil at both ends.

Children afflicted with hernia are still passed through a slit in an ash sapling before sunrise, fasting; after which the slit portions are bound up, and as they unite so the malady is cured.

The Ash indeed a tree of many virtues ; venomous reptiles are never known to rest under its shadow, and a single blow from an ash stick is instant death to an adder; struck by a bough of any other tree, the reptile is said to retain marks of life until the sun goes down.

Kadina and Wallaroo Times Wed. 1 December 1915, page 4

Cornish Superstitions

The mutton feast.

An old tradition says that a flock of sheep were blown from over into St Ives Bay and that the St. Ives fishermen caught them believing them to bs a new variety of fish - either in nets or with hook and line, and brought them ashore as their night's catch. "When the corn is on the shock, Then the fish are on the rock." The pilchard visits this coast in the early autumn. These are the "fish" par excellence of the Cornish, and they are thus distinguished.

'Those who kill a robin or a wren, Will never prosper boy or man'.

This feeling is deeply impressed on every youthful mind - there are few therefore who would injure either of these birds. A boy in Redruth many years ago killed a robin; the dead robin was tied round his neck and he was marched by the other boys through the town, all of them singing the above lines.

To secure good luck for a child, give the first person whom you meet, between your own house and the church to which you are taking the infant to be christened a piece of bread and salt. Such was the old idea

To wash the bands is an attestation of innocency. To call a man "dirty fingers" is to accuse him of some foul or unjust deed.

" Blessed is the bride, Whom the ran shines on, Blessed is the dead, Whom the rain rains on." If it rains while a wedding party are on their way to church, or on returning from it, it betokens a life of bickering and unhappiness. If the rain falls on a coffin, it is supposed to indicate

that the soul of the departed has "arrived safe."

It is considered unlucky to meet on the stairs, and often one will retire to his or her room rather than run the risk of giving or receiving ill-luck. This superstition prevails also in "Midland Counties.

A whistling maid and a crowing hen in one house is a-certain sign of a downfall to someone in it. Hens have been killed for crowing at night. The braying of an ass is a sign of fair weather; so is also the crowing cock.

The quacking of ducks foretells rain.

To see the new moon through glass for the first time, was said to be unlucky; you may be certain that you will break glass before that moon is out. Some persons whose attention has been called to a clear new moon hesitate.

'Have I seed her out a doors afore?' If not, they will go into the-open air and if possible show the moon a piece of gold or at all events, turn their money.

cornish tidbits

Choral Festival Champions

A choir of young Germans who first met at school and had never competed internationally before were crowned overall Champions of the 10th Cornwall International Male Choral Festival -the largest event of its kind in the world.

The Cornish sensation Celtic Male Ensemble took the prize for overall UK Champions.

It was the first live Festival since the pandemic forced the 2021 event online, with choirs travelling from Canada, Iceland, Germany and Switzerland, the UK, and Cornwall itself to perform in 40 venues stretching from St Ives to Falmouth and Newquay to Saltash.

The Festival attracted audiences of more than 30 000 across the three days with thousands more across the world tuning in for the live streaming of Gala events in Truro Cathedral.

Full details of the 2022 Cornwall International Male Choral Festival including films and photos from this and previous events can be found on the Festival website <u>www.cimcf.uk</u>

Sanctuary releases beaver to conservation project

A beaver from the Cornish Seal Sanctuary has been moved to a project which aims to improve beaver populations.

The beaver, named Hamish, was a couple of months old when he was orphaned and found in the sanctuary's woodland.

It was the first successful beaver transfer in a new collaboration between the sanctuary and the Beaver Trust.

The beaver arrived with two others, Scruff and Maple, as part of a collaborative conservation project with the Beaver Trust.

Flooded Cornish mines could heat homes

A £100,000 study will examine if abandoned Cornish mines can provide renewable and low-cost heating.

The scheme will explore whether water in flooded mines can be used with heat pump technology to warm homes.

If successful, the county's 400 abandoned mines could improve options for off-gas grid communities - which account for half the county's homes.

It could also play a role in meeting Cornwall Council's ambitions to make Cornwall carbon neutral by 2030.

The Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy awarded £67,000 to Cornwall Council,

housing association LiveWest and the National Trust to carry out a feasibility study. Each organisation has pledged an additional £11,000 to the project, which is being carried out at Geevor, Levant and Botallack mines near Pendeen. Cornwall Council said water within the mines was warmed by natural processes due to the granite bedrock and was unaffected by seasonal variations. The initial study will take place at Geevor Tin Mine and examine whether the water could heat LiveWest's housing stock in the adjacent Boscaswell Estate, and at Geevor Tin Mine and Levant Mine.

'Obby 'Oss festival returns after two years

Padstow's two 'Obby 'Osses have been parading for the first time since 2019.

The ancient tradition, believed to welcome the coming of summer, saw thousands of people line the streets cheering when the blue ribboned 'Oss appeared and the red ribboned version appeared about an hour later.

The 'Osses were accompanied by traditional music provided by drums and accordions and costumed dancers.

South West experiences social and educational inequality

Researchers at the University of Exeter discovered that people in the south west region were socially and educationally divided from many in the country and suffered from poor exam grades, low wages and limited opportunities.

Researchers discovered that just 40% of disadvantaged pupils attained a standard pass in GCSE English and Maths in 2019 compared with almost 60% in inner London.

Only 17% of disadvantaged students went on to university in 2018/19 compared with 45% in London.

The report also found:

- Low earnings and poor pay are common in many parts of the region with four of Devon's eight districts among the UK's top 25 low wage "hotspots"
- Poor mental health outcomes for both children and adults
- Teacher recruitment, retention and training are challenges for isolated schools
- Schools have on average lower levels of funding than elsewhere
- The area has long travel times to pursue further education or work which has been linked to higher drop out rates
- Fewer professional jobs are available in most areas, which has contributed to a youth exodus

The report made some suggestions to address the challenges:

- A university-led tutoring scheme targeted to disadvantaged pupils in need of extra literacy and numeracy help
- School-centred community hubs to provide support for people aged up to 21. These hubs would be coordinated by schools and tailored to specific community needs
- Flexible post-16 learning, combined with a free 16-19 travel pass, to reduce the cost and risk of pursuing further study and training
- A greater focus on disadvantage, to close the gap in schools. It includes regional schools commissioners leading a regional drive to instil best practice in schools and academy trusts; and a concerted effort to improve parental engagement.

Revival of Bank Building in Redruth

The former HSBC bank in Redruth is set to reopen its doors as a temporary home for local businesses, and then as a centre to promote cycling from grassroots to professional elite.

A grant from Historic England to Redruth High Street Heritage Action Zone (HSHAZ) scheme, the efforts of Redruth Revival Community Interest Company and Cornwall Council as the lead organisation for delivering the Redruth HSHAZ scheme with the local community, means that the historic building will be repurposed and brought back to life.

In May 2017, the HSBC closed its Redruth branch on Fore Street as part of a wider closure of 62 branches across the UK, and for nearly 5 years the building has stood vacant in the town centre.

When the building was put on the market this February, the Redruth HSHAZ team identified this as a fantastic opportunity to repurpose the building, firstly to support Redruth Revival find temporary accommodation for tenants of the Buttermarket and then, as a centre for the promotion of cycling. Redruth Revival and the Redruth HSHAZ team have been working together over the last two years to raise the funding for the redevelopment of the Buttermarket complex of buildings, a £3m scheme that will safeguard the use of these historic buildings by local businesses in Redruth town centre.

A number of tenants currently in the Buttermarket who will need to vacate the Buttermarket site when building works begin this Autumn, will be accommodated by Redruth Revival in the former bank building.

On completion of the Buttermarket project in Spring 2024, the building will then become the headquarters of the newly established Saint Piran Cycling Community Interest Company.

The creation of a hub for the promotion of cycling at all levels, from grassroots to professional elite, has emerged as a result of consultation on developing Redruth as a destination not just for retail, but also for events and activities.

It will become a centre for accessing the great network of on and off-road cycle routes and trails in this part of Cornwall, building on the success of the Tour of Britain in 2021.

Saint Piran Cycling social enterprise will transform the former bank into a hub for growing grassroots cycling, promoting participation, showcasing both performance and elite cycling to inspire the next generation.

The hub will support behavioural change, keeping more people active and healthy into older age, whatever their ability, and it will encourage more people to reduce their carbon footprint.

The ambition is also to bring a programme of cycling events and international competitions, including the Tour Series, to Redruth and to attract associated manufacturers, creating employment, training, and volunteering opportunities.

Tre: a window for Cornwall

The artwork Tre, by Abigail Reynolds, is in the large library window at Kresen Kernow.

It was commissioned in 2021 to celebrate and commemorate the return to Cornwall of historic Cornish language



manuscripts, including The Cornish Ordinalia, for temporary exhibitions at Kresen Kernow.

It was unveiled on St Piran's Day this year.

Tre' – which will be situated in the large library window at Kresen Kernow - is built from a constellation of references reaching back to medieval times. These inform readings of the Cornish landscape, which focus on the circle as a form and a concept. The images in the window are disrupted by green glass roundels which have been made from sand and seaweed collected from Cornish beaches: if you look through them, you are looking at Cornwall through itself.

(Picture Kresen Kernow website - story in italics from Cornwall Council website)

International Dark Sky Park designation West Penwith

The skies above West Penwith are now officially recognised with the prestigious International Dark Sky Park Designation, awarded by the International Dark-Sky Association.

Recognised as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty since 1959, West Penwith is only the seventh area of the UK and the second in Cornwall (after Bodmin Moor) to become an International Dark Sky Park.

The West Penwith International Dark Sky Park covers the westerly section of Cornwall's Area of Natural Beauty; it stretches around the coastline from the outskirts of St Ives, through to St Just, Sennen and around Land's End to Mousehole. Inland it takes in Trethewey, Sancreed and New Mill. The International Dark-Sky Association's International Dark Sky Park Designation recognises this area as being naturally dark at night, with minimal traces of light pollution, making West Penwith one of the best places in the world to view the beauty of the night sky.

Cornwall Council supported a partnership among residents, businesses and councillors to achieve the accolade.

A Steering Group comprised of local Councillors, Cornwall Council officers, PK Porthcurno, Land's End Accommodation Providers, The National Trust, Cornwall Area of Natural Beauty Unit, Mayes Creative, Penwith Landscape Partnership and other passionate locals led the efforts for this International Dark Sky Park nomination.

A dark night sky has wide-ranging benefits. This designation means that the partnership will continue to work to:

- Preserve and enhance the dark night sky above West Penwith Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) for pleasure, leisure and to support the wellbeing of residents, visitors and wildlife
- Raise awareness of the importance of a dark night sky and encourage a reduction in light pollution
- Engage with individuals and groups, in the wider West Cornwall area, to grow an outreach and education programme for astronomy, nature, historic environment and human well-being
- Guide residents and visitors to the most appropriate locations and opportunities for appreciating the dark night sky
- Promote eco- and astro-tourism
- Inspire other designated landscape areas, within Cornwall and beyond, to appreciate and protect their dark skies, both formally and informally.

Making Space for Nature

The Council's Making Space for Nature (MS4N) project working with residents to improve 24 spaces in seven Cornish towns has been shortlisted for a major national award.

Making Space for Nature works with local communities to create havens for wildlife, planting wildflower meadows, providing pollen, nectar and shelter for butterflies and bees, and new hedges and trees to provide homes for hedgehogs and other wildlife.

The Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management has shortlisted Making Space for Nature for its prestigious CIEEM Best Practice – Large-Scale Nature Conservation Award.

These are the MS4N towns

Bodmin	Falmouth	Launceston	Liskeard
Newquay	Penryn	St Austell	

Making Space for Nature can be the start of creating bigger, better and more joined up wildlife corridors if local people can do the same in their own gardens and nearby green spaces.

The official name of Making Space for Nature is Green Infrastructure for Growth 2 which is part funded by the European Regional Development Fund with Cornwall Council and University of Exeter providing match funding.

Rough Sleeper Aid

Cornwall Council continues to deliver initiatives to help people sleeping rough on our streets, as well as those who are faced with homelessness. These include:

- 49 self-contained units available at temporary emergency accommodation sites at New County Hall, Longrock and Camborne
- Construction of 10 one bedroom modular 'move on' accommodation, with on-site support to help people on their journey towards settled, permanent accommodation
- Refurbishment of disused properties to further increase temporary accommodation
- Purchase of 29 self-contained modular 'micro homes'
- Emergency Cold Weather Provision, running from December to March and delivered by Harbour Housing
- Housing First Based on finding someone accommodation first and then wrapping around intensive support. Aimed at people with the most complex needs.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

CORNISH ASSOCIATION OF VICTORIA, INC.

Saturday 16th July 2022

Notice is hereby given of the Annual General Meeting of the Cornish Association of Victoria, Inc. to be held at the Oakleigh Baptist Church, Oakleigh, at 1.30 p.m. on Saturday 16th July 2022.

The ordinary business of the meeting will be:

- To confirm the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held 17th July 2021
- To receive the report of the President.
- To elect Officers of the Association and ordinary members of the committee.
- To receive and adopt the financial statements submitted by the Treasurer in accordance with section
 94 (1) of the Act.
- To discuss the future operation of the Association in 2022 and beyond.
- Other business, of which 14 days' notice has been given to the Secretary, prior to the meeting.

Committee Nominations

The closing date for nominations for the Committee is 6.00 p.m. 2nd July 2022, and these must be received by the Secretary, Brian Rollason, prior to that date.

Nomination Forms may be obtained from the Secretary.

In the event of an election being necessary for the position of Committee Member (a total of 13 Committee Members are allowed) voting will take place between 1.30 p.m. and 2.00 p.m.

Voting will be by show of hands, unless otherwise requested by the candidate.

Each member is entitled to appoint another member as a proxy by notice given to the Secretary no later than 24 hours before the time of the AGM.

Members nominating are invited to forward to the Secretary, a short resume of details applicable to their nomination, at least seven (7) days prior to the meeting.

This information will be made available when candidates are individually introduced at the meeting.

Brian Rollason, Secretary, CAV, 11 Kinlock Avenue Murrumbeena 3163 Email: bcrollason@outlook.com