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Newsletter of the Cornish Association of New South Wales

PROGRAM

Kernewek Lowender 50th YEARS



Online ZOOM Sessions

'Spring has sprung!' October

'Long hot Summer!' January '23

To be advised! Zoom link will be emailed a week prior



End of Year Lunch – November, 2022

Planning is underway for an end of year / Christmas lunch. Tentatively Thursday 10th November around Circular Quay. Pencil that in - but confirmation and more details will be provided later.



FESTIVALS 2023

30th Australian Celtic Festival

Glen Innes, NSW
- *The Year of Scotland* -



**Thursday 4th –
Sunday 7th
May, 2023**

Yes, the Cornish will be there !

*Saturday March in town, and the 25th Cornish
stone ceremony is on Sunday .*

Other Dates for your Diary:

CANSW 48th AGM – Sat 4 March 2023
(plus informal lunch, talk on the Bards of Cornwall, and a fun get together)

**COPPER COAST
CORNISH FESTIVAL**
Kadina • Moonta • Wallaroo

kernewek Lowender

COPPER COAST CORNISH FESTIVAL

15-21 May, 2023

- ✓ Celebrating Copper Coast Heritage
- ✓ Swanky – Traditional Cornish Ale
- ✓ Cornish Pasties
- ✓ Cornish Ceremonies and Activities
- ✓ Food, Music and Entertainment
- ✓ Exhibitions and Competitions

SOUTH AUSTRALIA **GOVERNMENT OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA** **COPPER COAST COUNCIL**

Committee News:

Bank account balance at 30/6/22: **\$7,468.09**
2022 Half Year accts: Income \$760.50 [Donat. \$35, Subs (34) \$510, Sales \$215.50]; Expenditure \$250 [Newsletter \$192.50, Misc \$57.50]
- result \$510.50 interim surplus.

"I hope those who may have been affected by heavy rain or flooding are now OK. Lovely to chat again to a few, even via Zoom or telephone. I hope those getting the last printed newsletter enjoyed it in colour (as of course emailed copies always are). With 27 photos and so many members in them, it was worth the extra cost just that once. See you next Zoom in Spring?"
Joy Dunkerley, President.

Membership Subs NOW Over due:



Please note that for 13 members this for 2022/2023 are now over due, from 6th March. Still \$15 per household.

Those receiving the Newsletter by post should note the **month/year on their envelope**. We will follow up others by email.

PAST CANSW EVENTS



Winter Warmup Zoom – 10 July

Thanks to the 8 people who joined in, with some nice chat over a cuppa - and nice to have ex Southern Sons' member Frances Cairns with us. A shame that the wild weather along the east coast prevented some getting in online. We learnt that 3 of us have had Covid recently, so that is a reminder that it is still very much around and to take care. We hope more will join for our Spring (has sprung) cakey tea Zoom session in October.

Frances provides a community and family historian service: *"I have been tracing my family history for over thirty five years and after many years, I undertook University study in order to turn professional. It requires diligence, perseverance, imagination, care, skill and labour to undertake research of records in Australia and overseas for people interested in tracing their family roots. Results are not always what clients are looking for and they are often disappointed. On the other hand, sometimes I can uncover hidden secrets which are a delight to them. I hold a Graduate Certificate in Family and Community History obtained from Charles Sturt University, Wagga Wagga, NSW and have paid subscriptions to Family History sites, belong to many organisations and Facebook groups which add to my exposure to sources and assistance. My interest in Cornish history comes from my Paternal Ancestral line. Henry John Winn Dyer was born in Truro 1842 and came to New South Wales in 1870. He married Helen Braddock at Newtown in 1872 and died at Dulwich Hill in 1916. I have traced the Dyer line back to 1776".* You can follow this up with

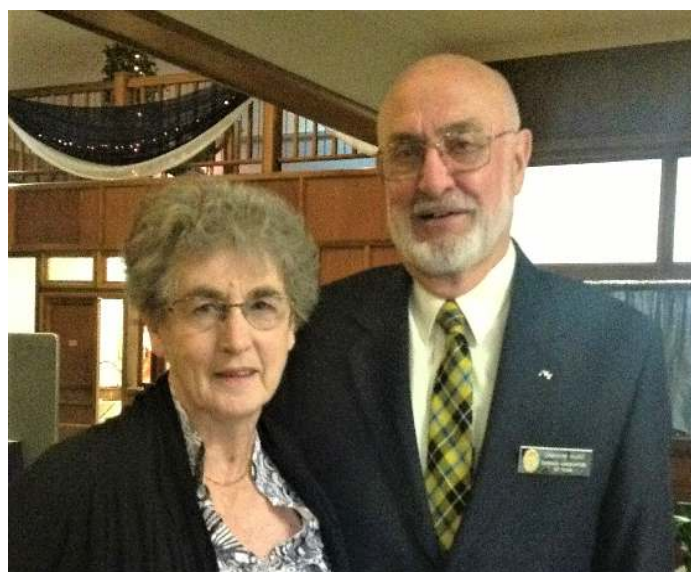
her via: Frances Cairns Ph: 0408 415 748 Web: www.familyfascination.com.au

MEMBERS MILESTONES

VALE

Graham Hunt 14/5/39 - 10/6/22

It is sad again to have to include a member obituary in our newsletter. This time our long term member and former Committee member, Graham Hunt, aged 83. Graham, a retired surveyor and active historian, joined during our heady Family History Group days but he and his wife and fellow member Roslyn (below) continued their involvement, and were regulars more recently at our lunches.



Ros wrote "It is with great sadness that I have to tell you that Graham passed away on Friday, 10th June. He had been suffering from Parkinson's disease for a long time now and it progressively got worse. He couldn't swallow and had to be fed through tubes etc. His tubes were removed in palliative care and he passed away peacefully after a couple of days. We have many happy memories of our times we spent with all the Cornish group and our trip to Cornwall. Best wishes to everyone, from Roslyn Hunt". Some members were able to view Graham's 27 June funeral through internet streaming. Sadly missed - and our condolences to Ros and their children and wider family.

Our best wishes to members who have non virus health problems, or have been having ongoing medical procedures. Get well soon too to those whom we know have had Covid-19, and the awful flu that is around.

Congratulations to all those with birthdays or anniversaries during July & August. Poppy Rappo turns 8 on 27th August and she has already recently been on a visit to Cornwall – is she our youngest member? Let us know who is.

Please still let us know of your good news, special events, or of those who are ill.

CARDS and LEAFLETS

The best way to bring new members into our group is by personal contact. Do you know we have CANSW contact cards, and also leaflets eg. 'What Do These Names Have In Common', and 'Cornish Recipes'? The leaflets are for placing on noticeboards, or handing to interested people that you may speak to.



The Cards likewise are to hand on, but you can write your own message or contact details.

-Included in this post out of the Newsletter are two cards for your use.

-Those receiving it by email however will instead have attached a copy of the 'names' Flyer file, for passing on by email or printing out yourselves to give to people.

If however anyone wants a quantity of any of these posted to you, please let the Secretary know.

QUOTE

"Under the terms of a licence granted to J. Polmarke, he was to expound the Word of God in the said church at St. Merryn in the Cornish language" – John de Grandisson, Bishop of Exeter, Register, 1339.

SOME CORNISH SURNAMES – a series

Allen – From a personal name: Allen (Breton), Alun (Welsh). Parish name St. Allen.

Angrave – Alternative derivation, from old personal name: Cornish *An-gref*, the strong one.

Angwin – Chirgwin suggests an alternative derivation, from Angevin (from French), a refugee from Anjou or Angers.

Annis / Anniss – Still found near Plymouth and Falmouth areas. Possibly from Enys, island or isolated place.

Anstey - Still found near Plymouth and Falmouth areas. (See Anstice). Possibly from *an stros*, the low ground. In 1327 Thomas Anstros lived in St. Austell.

Bassett - Chirgwin suggests from *bassya*, become shallow or lower – hence short of stature.

Beskeen – Alternative derivation, from *bos-cun*, abode of dogs.

Biddick – Possible masculine form of *Budhycca* (English female version Boadicea).

Biscombe / Buscombe – Possibly from *bos-cum*, abode in the valley.

Bonney / Benney / Binney – Bonney found mid & east Cornwall, and Benney/Binney mostly in the west. Possible from Penney, from Cornish *penna*, chiefest.

To be continued [These names came from the Appendix to 'A Handbook of Cornish Surnames', by George Pawley White, 2nd ed. 1981.

HOLY WELLS

St Euny Holy Well

At the foot of hill of Carn Brea, and not far from the Church of Redruth (no not that Redruth), is a well dedicated to St. Eunius. A stone cross formerly stood near it. Euny was a holy man, part of the wave of such who came to Cornwall from c. 500AD. Now it is a rugged little well, with no regular building. A moor-stone covers it, and round is a sort of curb of rough granite, with an iron bar running along. At the back is a newer stone, bearing the date 1842.



There used to be ascribed to the water the virtue that whoever was baptised in it would never be ignominiously hanged.

Ancient Cornish Places

Caer Bran Ancient Hill Fort

Cornwall Heritage Trust says it is proud to have purchased Caer Bran – an important multi age hillfort site near Sancreed, which contains archaeological remains from both the Bronze Age and Iron Age periods. The purchase allows the Trust to protect the nine hectare site from possible development and intensive agricultural use, recognising its importance as a site of unique Cornish heritage. CEO, Cathy Woolcock said: “We are excited to have been able to add Caer Bran to the collection of sites across Cornwall that we manage and protect and which are all accessible by the public for free. Cornwall Heritage Trust seeks to preserve and strengthen Cornwall’s heritage and educate current and future generations about the heritage significance of the landscapes we live in; Caer Bran will help us to do this.”

Traditionally considered to be an Iron Age enclosure, recent research shows that Caer Bran actually had origins in the Bronze Age, with the construction of three ring cairns set within a hilltop enclosure. These can still be viewed at the site. Re-enclosure of the monument took place in the Iron Age with a more substantial bank and ditch, and this

continuity shows the importance of Caer Bran to the people of the local area.

Caer is Cornish for ‘fort’ and *Bran* means ‘raven’ but, Caer Bran could also mean the “fort of Bran,” which is a reference to Bran the Blessed, a mythological Celtic king. CHT Chairman Lt Col Richard Trant said “Caer Bran is a property which, as an example of Iron Age presence in Cornwall, has great archaeological importance. Equally it gives sanctuary to some wonderful flora and fauna, our natural heritage, that the Trust will also protect and nurture. Caer Bran is a jewel of a site which compliments our adjacent sites in West Penwith.”



The outermost bank of the hillfort is up to 4.0m high, fronted by a wide ditch, in places some 2.0m deep, with a slight counter-scarp bank to the north-east. The older inner rampart is a less substantial earth bank, having been extensively robbed of stone. The external diameter of the enclosure is approximately 115m, while the interior space is some 60m across. It is likely that the character of the landscape around Caer Bran has changed little over the last three thousand years, and the rough ground would have provided seasonal grazing for livestock from local farming settlements – including Caer Bran itself.

Other features in the landholding include medieval clearance heaps, as well as a number of post-medieval banks on the perimeter of the associated land. A post medieval track, delineated by two stone-faced earth banks,

crosses the area in a NNW-SSE direction, and goes through the middle of the hillfort and one of the ring cairns. There are also considerable mine workings within the Trust's ownership. These include an area to the north-west of the hillfort, which comprises lodeback pits, shafts and spoil heaps, while there are numerous prospecting pits dotted across the area. Documentary evidence of this mining activity is scant but there is a record of a Caer Bran mine. Also, to the south-west of the monument, there is a twentieth century stone quarry. It is important to note that the hillfort and ring cairns are protected as a scheduled monument."

The Cornwall Heritage Trust already owns neighbouring Sancreed Beacon, and manages the nearby ancient village of Carn Euny. These sites are freely open to the public and more information about all of them can be found at www.cornwallheritagetrust.org/visit

NEWS

Midsummer Bonfires

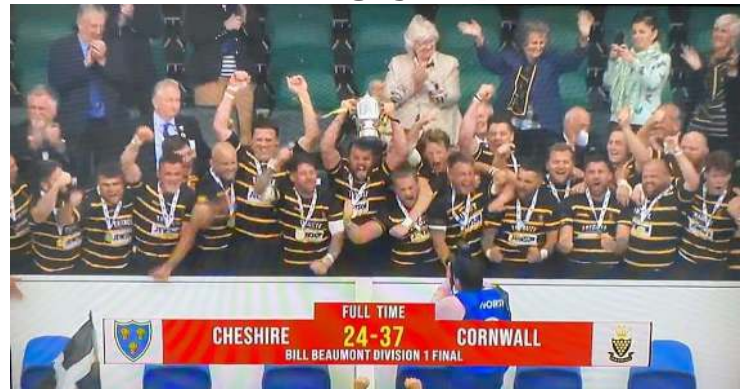


Photo: Sally Bell

June 21 was the Summer Solstice in Cornwall (being in the northern hemisphere) when the days start getting shorter and the nights longer.

Traditionally Bonfire beacons are lit on high points and hills across the Duchy on this occasion (as well as others). *Tansys Golowan* in Cornish. 2022 was no exception, though with the British Queen's a few were lit then only days before.

Bill Beaumont Rugby Cup 2022



Cornwall won all three Rugby titles for 2022 – men, women, and men u20.

Golowan Festival, Penzance (17 to 26 June)

Golowan (sometimes also Goluan or Gol-Jowan (Fair of Jowan, or John) is the Cornish language word for the Midsummer celebrations in Cornwall; widespread prior to the late 19th century and most popular in the Penwith area and in particular Penzance and Newlyn. The celebrations were centred on the lighting of bonfires and fireworks and the performance of associated rituals. The midsummer bonfire ceremonies (*Tansys Golowan* in Cornish) were revived at St Ives in 1929 by the Old Cornwall Society and since then spread to other societies across Cornwall, as far as Kit Hill near Callington. Since 1991 the Golowan festival in Penzance has revived many of these ancient customs and has grown to become a major arts and culture festival; its central event 'Mazey Day' now attracts tens of thousands of people to the Penzance area in late June.

The ancient festival was first described by Dr William Borlase in 1754 in his book *Antiquities of Cornwall*: "*In Cornwall, the festival Fires, called Bonfires, are kindled on the Eve of St. John the Baptist and St. Peter's Day; and Midsummer is thence, in the Cornish tongue, called 'Goluan,' which signifies both light and rejoicing. At these Fires the Cornish attend with lighted torches, tarr'd and pitch'd at the end, and make their perambulations round their Fires, and go from village to village carrying their torches before them; and this is certainly the remains of the Druid superstition,*

for 'faces praeferre,' to carry lighted torches, was reckoned a kind of Gentilism, and as such particularly prohibited by the Gallick Councils: they were in the eye of the law 'accensores facularum,' and thought to sacrifice to the devil, and to deserve capital punishment."

Penzance : The Penzance Golowan was one of the last examples of this practice in Cornwall until its prohibition by the Penzance Borough Council in the 1890s due to increased insurance premiums in the town and perceived fire risk. The celebrations themselves were centred on the lighting of fireworks, tar barrels, and torches on the evening of 23 June every year (St John's Eve). Towards the end of these festivities the local youths of the town would take part in the ancient serpent dance and jump or pass themselves through the dying embers of the flames.

During these celebrations it was also usual to elect a Mock Mayor or Mayor of the Quay. In 1864 it was recorded that the organising committee of the festival let off "258 dozen fire crackers and numerous Roman Candles, Jack-in-box and sky rockets". The day after these celebrations, a 'Midsummer's Day' fair took place on Penzance quay; boat rides and other entertainments were included in these celebrations.

St Peter's Eve: Porthleven and Newlyn in particular being centres for much of the celebration of St Peter's-tide because of St Peter's role as the patron saint of fishermen. St Peter's-tide is still celebrated in Porthleven however in a far more muted fashion Porthleven Petertide. M. A. Courtney in her book *Cornish Feasts and Feasten Customs* describes a delay to the Newlyn festivities in 1883 when the majority of the Newlyn fishing fleet were at sea, returning to celebrate the fire festival many days after the actual event. Mevagissey feast which occurs around St Peter's Eve continues to be celebrated.

St Just: The people of St Just in Penwith had their own particular practices, Lake's Parochial history of Cornwall (1868) states:

On Midsummer-day, in modern times, the inhabitants, of this parish were greeted with sounds resembling the discharge of musketry in different directions, proceeding from holes bored in rocks, which being charged with powder were exploded in succession; and on the same day a new flag was displayed on every mine, and the night was ushered in with noisy festivities, and bonfires blazing on many of the hills.



Modern Golowan celebrations: The modern Golowan Festival in Penzance started in 1991 as an attempt to revive many of the traditions stated above. The core of the modern festival is a long weekend which includes Mazey Eve, Mazey Day and Quay Fair Day. Thursday features a popular election of the 'Mayor of the Quay' and the Friday, Mazey Eve takes place around the harbour area of Penzance from where there is large firework display. The following day – Mazey Day is a large community and arts celebration. Schools, entertainers, community groups and others

take part in a series of processions that include music, giant sculptures and variety of other artistic activities. Contributions from musicians and artists from the Celtic nations are a regular feature as are a variety of other musical contributions. Penzance itself during this day is decorated with large amounts of greenery – mirroring the practice in the town during the ancient festival. A large number of market stalls are also present throughout the town. Mazey Day attracts thousands of visitors to the area and has become an important symbol of the identity of town amongst local people. Quay Fair Day is a celebration that is similar in many ways to 'Midsummer Fair' described in the ancient festival with the addition of popular street entertainment.

Old Cornwall Societies: The ancient Golowan celebrations were also the inspiration for the Old Cornwall Societies' midsummer bonfire celebrations. The hilltop bonfires that form a chain are currently held at Kit Hill, St Breock beacon, Castle An Dinas, and Redruth.

What happens? The festival brings the past and present together in a community celebration of the traditional midsummer Feast of St John. The festival has a packed programme of artists in celebration of music, performing arts and theatre. Events include a fireworks display on the prom, Mazey Day, spectacular parades through the streets and a host of street entertainment. Music: There's music in the streets, music in the pubs, music in the marquee and other venues around the town.

How can you take part?

The festival is one big spectacle and to say there is a lot to see and do is probably an understatement. Listen to traditional music played by the Golowan Band, don't miss Penglaz, the Penzance 'Obby 'Oss that makes an appearance on St John's Eve and you can take part in the Serpent Dances when everyone joins hands and snakes through the streets. There's also the Quay Fair where you'll find stalls selling local food, arts and crafts, the fun Mock Mayor Elections and the Summer Fire celebrations featuring a spectacular firework

display. One of the highlights of the festival is Mazey Day when the streets of Penzance are decorated with greenery and locals and school children dressed in colourful costumes process around the town carrying spectacular sculptures based on local themes including giant fish, ships and pirates.

Royal Cornwall Museum, Truro

News came that Cllr Linda Taylor, Leader of Cornwall Council, had ended funding of this key Museum of Cornish history and culture, situated in Truro, with no input from other elected Councillors. Although only a portion of its funds came from the Unitary Authority it was vital to it continuing to operate - and in the state of UK economy alternative sources are doubtful. Whether this was a 'stuff up' by the Conservative party controlling the Council or by some wierd design, there has been a huge outpouring of anger and objection, with several petitions circulating. We hope that we can bring you good news in a later edition.

Around the Associations

The Cornish Association of New Zealand is in its 60th year, in its current form. Pres/Treas Nick Bartle writes a lively and informative newsletter. One initiative they currently have is a Sixtieth Anniversary project. "To mark the occasion the President has launched a project to record where in Cornwall members can trace their connections whether it be by birth, marriage, ancestry or simply love of the place. The links will be shown on a map on our website and possibly in a future newsletter".

Web Site: www.nzcornish.nz

OUR CORNISH PLACES

Tregurtha Way, Glen Innes



This

lengthy paved walkway up the hill from Bourke Street to the Centennial Parklands (where the Australian Standing Stones are). It is named after John and Jean Tregurtha, who, among many other community contributions, were key members of the team that delivered both the Standing Stones and the subsequent Celtic Festival. John & Jean both had significant Cornish ancestry and became members of our CANSW, and visited Sydney for our functions a few times - as well as being part of our Cornish celebrations at the Festivals.

NEW BOOK **Agan Kernow**

The Cornish Association of Victoria has put together a collection of 76 stories written by 51 authors from 4 countries of the Cornish Diaspora. We have stories from Victoria, SA, NSW, Tas, ACT and QLD. Plus those from folk with Cornish heritage in Canada, the USA and NZ. The CAV has this book for sale NOW - taking pre-orders and payment via the CAV website or direct at:

<https://www.arcoates.com/Agan-Kernow/>

[To do this, enter the following into the Customer login boxes: Username: **post** Password: **buy** Then click on the *Login* button. This will take you to another page on their A & R Coates Events Photography site where you click on the gallery named "Agan Kernow". Now click on the 'Agan Kernow' image of the book and you will be able to purchase. Select the number of books you want and then "Add to Cart". When you go to "Checkout" you will need to complete your details, and then to "Place Order" - which will take you to the PayPal site where you can pay using either your Paypal account or opt to use a Credit or Debit Card. When multiple posted books are ordered a refund will be issued for excess postage charge.] Contact Chris CANSW 0409 393 059 is guidance is needed. You can also order copies of Agan Kernow (Our Cornwall) by sending send a cheque or Money Order payable to Cornish Association of Victoria, along with your postal details to Robyn Coates, 28 Town Hall Avenue, Preston VIC 3072. Posted books cost \$A35 each including postage and handling.

PLAS AN TAVES

This is Plas an Tavas = Language Place - Introducing you to some daily Kernewek, the ancient Celtic language of Cornwall today, to practice.

Pronunciation? Cornish is mainly phonetic!

More: <https://www.cornwall.gov.uk/leisure-and-culture/the-cornish-language/cornish-language/>

In this issue you will learn about: **At the Pub**

- A pint of strong ale, please, and a glass of cider for my wife – *Pynta cor'gwella dhymmo-vy, mar plek, ha gwedren cyder dhe'm gwrek.*

- [a toast] Your Health! - *Yeghes da dheugh!*

- More beer, please! *Moy coref, mar plek!*

- [a toast] Let us drink to Fish, Tin, and Copper! *Gwren ny eva dhe 'Buskes, Sten, ha Cober!'*

- Publican, you keep a good drop! *Tavernor, why a wyth war banna da!*

- He is drinking enough! *Eva lowr a wrava!*

- The Rattler cider is wonderfully good! *An cyder Rattler yw marthys da!*

- I've had enough, thanks! *Gallas lowr genev, meur ras!*

Silly Sayings - Unintended Church notices

"The Associate Minister unveiled the church's new tithing campaign slogan last Sunday:

'I Upped My Pledge — Up Yours.'“ :-|



CANSW Public & Members Web Pages:

Please have a look through all the pages on our web site; especially the NSW 'Sites' pages developed by our own (late) Dr John Symonds. Tell your friends! Suggested updates or new content are welcome.

www.celticcouncil.org.au/cornish/nsw.htm

Dates coming up ... *Feast day of St. Sithney 4th Aug, St. Mawgan 24th Sept, Cornish Open Gorsedh, Hayle, 3rd September.*

Editorial note: The content of this newsletter does not necessarily reflect official views of the CANSW, but rather contributors and sources! If someone is sick let me know (get-well message), or other news please!

The next Newsletter: No 399 for Sept / Oct 2022 has a copy deadline - by 9 September.

Contributions may be held for future use but more (electronic – emailed preferred) are welcome!

Nr. 398 LYTHER NOWODHOW – NSW

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