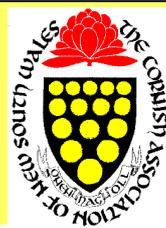


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Newsletter of the Cornish Association of New South Wales

PROGRAM



Seasonal Online ZOOM 'tea & cake' chat sessions

Colours of Autumn – 7 to 8pm Thursday
27th April (special trial evening one)

Winter wonderland – end of July

Time and Zoom link will be emailed a week prior



FESTIVALS 2023

30th Australian Celtic Festival

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



Thursday 4th –
Sunday 7th
May, 2023

Yes, the Cornish will also be there !
Saturday morning is our parade in town, and the 25th Cornish stone ceremony is on Sunday morning. Lots of other Festival activities at:
<https://www.australiancelticfestival.com>
Please contact Joy if you are going, especially if you still need accommodation – we have some available!

Kernewek Lowender

Full program and bookings are available

**COPPER COAST
CORNISH FESTIVAL**
Celebrating 50 years
Kadina • Moonta • Wallaroo
15-21 May, 2023

<https://www.kernewek.org>

A number of members are known to be going. Please let Joy know, to enable participation in the Moonta parade and perhaps a meetup.

Previous Events: AGM & St Pirans

Thanks to those members who were able to come on 4th March to join in for an informal lunch, our 48th AGM (report over page) and a Saint Piran's Celebration.



Also welcome to new members and a guest. We heard about St Piran and his journey and miracles. We learnt about the Gorsedh and Bards of Cornwall. Stumped by Pamela's challenging quick quiz. Three lucky door prizewinners. Time to chat over lunch and over tea / coffee.



Previous Event continued:



Above: Poppy Rappo, a winner of a lucky door prize.

Below: Pamela O'Neill, winner of a lucky door prize



Committee News:

Bank account balance at 8/3/23: **\$7,305.69**

"I enjoyed seeing some of you at the AGM over lunch and at the meeting. See our reports later. Thank you to those who have re-joined the Committee for this year.

I hope to see some more members and friends in Glen Innes at the Australian Celtic Festival, and at the Kernewek Lowender, both in May. Please let me know if you are coming to either." Joy Dunkerley, President.

**MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR
2023/2024
fell due from the 5th March, 2023**

IMPORTANT: Renewal forms sent out with the this newsletter – paper copy receivers to those now due – enclosed in this mail. Those who are already recorded as financial will not receive one. An email will also be sent to those now due who are getting the newsletter electronically. Us receiving the form, by post or email helps ensure our records are up to date. Please also let us know of address or email changes as they occur.

AGM 4 March, 2023

Our 48th AGM was attended by 15 members, with 19 apologies. Thanks for your continued interest.

COMMITTEE for 2022/23

Elected Office Bearers:

President - Joy Dunkerley of Sawtell (0428 617 830) joy.dunkerley@gmail.com.au

Secretary - Chris Dunkerley (0409 393 059; Ph 02 6699 2967) Sawtell ;

kevrenor@ozemail.com.au

(also Editor + Celtic Council, membership)

Treasurer - Joy Dunkerley (+Celtic Council)

The other 10 Committee members elected:

General -

- Jane Donnelly (0433 385 633) of Wareemba janedonnelly27@gmail.com

- David Wilks of Teralba (0432 534 409) davidnrose@optusnet.com.au

- Bruce & Debbie Champion of Constitution Hill (029636 6880) virdgeo@icloud.com

- Sue Thomas of Barrington (02 6558 4132) (+ Celtic Council rep.)

Council) thomascornwall@bigpond.com

- Cathy Olds of Mereweather (0438 613 373) cathyolds@hotmail.com

Specially appointed from those Committee elected at the AGM, to a role to assist the President as needed:

Deputy President – Del Clinton of Elderslie / Sussex Inlet – (Email: delclinton@hotmail.com Ph: Elderslie: 02 4658 1925)

Deputy President – Pamela O'Neill of Glen Innes (0498 859 049) pamaladh@gmail.com

Deputy President – David Evans (02 4360 2107) of Pretty Beach adevans@tpg.com.au

Other Ex Officio members:

(Celtic Council reps) Chris Dunkerley (DP), Joy Dunkerley, Sue Thomas
Others may be co-opted by Committee.
Family History interest contact: Doreen Davis,
email: doreen.davis11@bigpond.com

MEMBERS MILESTONES

VALE

Des Ellery d. 24/1/2023

His daughter has informed us that Des sadly passed away on 24th January. Though not seen at many meetings, so not so well known to most, he and his wife Merrie (who died in 2021) of Camden were keen members for many years and enjoyed our newsletters. Rest in peace.

Our best wishes to all members who have health problems, or have been having ongoing medical procedures. Chris Dunkerley started 9 weeks chemotherapy on 14th March for recently diagnosed stomach cancer, prior to surgery about June.

New Members – a delight to give a very big welcome to two (2) new household memberships, sisters, who were at our AGM.

Jill Beard of Langwarrin (Vic.)

Interests: Tresidder, Michell, Nicholls and Newton – all of Gwennap parish.

Margaret Tresidder of Ermington

Interests: yes - Tresidder, Michell, Nicholls and Newton – all of Gwennap parish.

Congratulations to all those with birthdays or anniversaries during March and April.

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

AGM REPORTS

CANSW Treasurer's Report 2022

The financial Statement of Accounts has been completed. A copy was circulated with your January / February Newsletter. A document is available showing itemised transaction listings.

The Statement consisting of the Income & Expenditure Statement and a partial Balance Sheet was prepared in accordance with the Rules of Association, signed by me as Honorary Treasurer, and circulated to and adopted by the Committee as at 8 January 2023. It is submitted for formal receipt by this AGM

meeting. I therefore move receipt, and in so doing make the following report:

2022 was back to a normal year financially. However, though fees were again levied at \$15 some 21 members have not paid fees for 2022, which impacted income. Thankfully Del's efforts at Sales, particularly Glen Innes helped.

The gross operating result thus was a surplus for the year of \$534.90

Income for the year 2022 was \$890.50 and expenditure \$445.60

In the indicative partial Balance Sheet our current Assets increased by 8% to \$7,522.49 while Liabilities were \$280 (consisting of an un-presented cheque dated 7/11/22 to RELC for the 2023 AGM, which has now been presented in 2023) – current net worth at 31/12/22 therefore was \$7,242.49.

The current account (bank) balance at 31/12/2022 was \$7,472.49

We are still in an excellent state financially, despite unpaid fees. The Committee has retained the membership subscription fee at \$15 for at least another year.

CANSW President's Report 2022/2023

Thank you for the honour of being President for the past year (my 16th). Our activities now are limited, however we held our AGM in March, the great roll up at Glen Innes for the Year of Cornwall was wonderful, some members gathered at Circular Quay in November for a casual lunch, and we had 4 seasonal Zoom sessions (with mixed results).

Some personal highlights have been representing the Association at Glen Innes for the Celtic Festival, and the contact with some members by phone, email, and even face to face during the year. Welcome new members.

Thanks to Del Clinton for organising the lunch, and all the extra effort at Glen Innes and extras as our lunch. Thanks to members of the Committee for their dedication, cooperation, support and friendship.

It is our 48th anniversary on 16th April. I give thanks to those who started the Association, those who have kept it going, and ask that you all to help give it a future – target - make 50th! Your ideas for our activities help (let the new Committee know). Keep on the lookout for new

members – personal contact is the best recruiter. Thank you.

Joy Dunkerley 4/03/2023

Secretary's Report 2022/23

It was my 37th year as Secretary, and 42nd as a member! As well as the AGM, we had two Committee meetings (by Zoom) and email / phone contact. We also had four Zoom meetings on the seasons for members who can use it. Feedback welcome!

As reported in the Newsletter, our membership number is down to 57 financial households. 78 in total covering nearly 120 PEOPLE, but alas you heard that 21 of these are financial. 45% of our households are from outside of Sydney itself, so we must think as a state-wide organisation. We obviously want more new members, and active ones, to remain a viable association – I can send you flyers and cards to use with interested people.

Our key communication, Six (6) newsletters were again issued during the year; plus a number of Emails. Input from members is very welcome.

Continued contact with fellow Cornish Associations in Australia, and world-wide was kept up. Thanks to all those who contribute, and special thanks to Del with the Sales and function ringing around. Thank you to all the Committee, and particularly to Joy, for their support and patience.

Chris Dunkerley 04/03/2023

QUOTE

"... the Cornish are a starng and unquenchable race – today they are capable of loyal friendliness and often of gracious actions, but we must not forget that we are meeting the descendants of folk that still have a leaven of paganism in their blood." - R. Thurston Hopkins, *Cornwall*, 1952.

SOME CORNISH SURNAMES – a series

Ince – From *enys*, island, isolated place.

Jenner – Chirgwin suggests from *jynor*, engineer (but this is doubtful). [Key revivalist

for the language, and establishment of the Gorsedh – Henry Jenner (buried at Lelant)].

Kinghorn – From *kyn-hoern*, iron chief.

Kneebone – Chirgwin suggests alternative derivation – from *carn-ebol*, colt corral!

Lander – Chirgwin suggests from *lan-dar*, oak enclosure.

Lee – not exclusively Cornish, but where it is possibly from *leg*, flat stone.

Lethaby / Lethby – noted 140 marriages in 17th & 18th C., mostly east Cornwall. Possible from *leth-va*, milk place or dairy. See also Laity.

Mankee – Possibly from *men-ky*, stone dog.

Marshall – Possible from *margh* + ?, horse doctor or vet, but this is doubtful.

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 Anne's holy well at Whitstone, North Cornwall (halfway between the towns of Bude and Launceston)



[Photo: Christopher David Osborne]

It is thought to date from 1309 although the surrounding well house probably dates from the 15th century and was restored in around 1883. The water is reputed never to have failed; the greenery growing within the well would suggest that the water level does indeed remain constant. As with many other holy wells located by churches, the well water was used in baptisms. A weird 'face' appears carved into the back wall. There are suggestions of a pagan past. Throw in a pebble to make a wish.

NEWS

Perantide Celebrations

St Piran's Day, the 5th March, and the Perrantide period surrounding it, is now acknowledged and celebrated not only in the Duchy but around the world. St Piran is the 6th Century Celtic saint, whose exploits are told - with unconventional sea-going vessels, talking animals, having a tippie or two, foiling local tyrants, and somehow rediscovering tin (mined in Cornwall for about a millenia when he arrived). Arrived from where is also a mystery – Ireland, southern Wales, even Brittany, no one knows. His reputed oratory at Perran in the sands attracts pilgrims, less religious than proud of their Cornish background. Cornish saint of Tin miners, and now considered the national saint, 'his' flag– a white cross on a black background, the flag of the Cornish people. Flown more and more and wider and wider. Whether it be pasty lunches in Australia or North America, dog food pasty tossing in California, parades to his oratory or through more and more Cornish streets, pub song shouts across Britain, lectures, drinking and shenanigans – Piran is remembered.

Saint Piran, and companions, on the way to the oratory – 2023 (Photos: James Knott)



Many familiar Cornish faces, at the St Piran's oratory parade and gathering 2023 (Photo: James Knott)



St Austell St Pirans Parade [Photo: Michael Bunnely]



Notable Cornish, people of Cornwall, and of the diaspora

John of Cornwall, John Trevisa and Richard Pencrych

A number of websites on the Cornish language include the ironic fact that English was seriously endangered by the 13th century, but was saved from a threatened extinction by large publications such as the Polychronicon, produced in English by three Cornish-speaking scholars:

John of Cornwall, John Trevisa and Richard Pencrych.

Within 50 years of their contribution, English had replaced French as the official language of the

Court, and it was saved to enjoy its future world wide success.



John of Cornwall (above) possibly called in Latin Johannes Cornubiensis or Johannes de Sancto Germano was a 14th century scholar and teacher, author of the English grammar *Speculum Grammaticale*. He is not to be confused with the twelfth-century theologian John of Cornwall who authored the *Eulogium ad Alexandrum Papam III*.

John of Trevisa was born at Trevesa in the parish of St Enoder in mid-Cornwall, and was a native Cornish speaker. He was educated at Exeter College, Oxford, and became Vicar of Berkeley, Gloucestershire, chaplain to the 5th Lord Berkeley, and Canon of Westbury on Trym. He translated into English for his patron the Latin *Polychronicon* of Ranulf Higden, adding remarks of his own, and prefacing it with a *Dialogue on Translation between a Lord and a Clerk*. He likewise made various other translations, including *Bartholomaeus Anglicus' On the Properties of Things (De Proprietatibus Rerum)*, a medieval forerunner of the encyclopedia. A fellow of Queen's College, Oxford, from 1372 to 1376 at the same time as John Wycliff and Nicholas of Hereford, Trevisa may well have been one of the contributors of the Early Version of Wycliffe's Bible. The preface to the King James Version of 1611 singles him out as a translator amongst others at that time: "even in our King Richard the second's days, John Trevisa translated them [the Gospels] into English, and many English Bibles in written hand are yet to be seen that divers translated, as it is very probable, in that age". Subsequently, he translated a number of books of the Bible into French for Lord Berkeley, including a version of the *Book of Revelation*, which his patron had written up onto the ceiling of the chapel at Berkeley Castle.

Trevisa's reputation as a writer rests principally on his translations of encyclopaedic works from Latin into English, undertaken with the support of his patron, Thomas (IV), the fifth Baron Berkeley, as a continuous programme of enlightenment for the laity.

John Trevisa is the 18th most frequently cited author in the *Oxford English Dictionary* and the third most frequently cited source for the first evidence of a word (after Geoffrey Chaucer and the *Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society*).

Very little is recorded about Richard Pencrych, beyond being mentioned with the other two men.

PARISHES (an occasional series)

Sithney

The parish of Sithney is in west Cornwall, just to the west of Helston, its neighbouring parishes being Crowan to the north, Wendron and Helston to the east, Porthleven to the south, with Breage and (from 1846 till 1999) the former parish of Godolphin to the west. The parish church is located in Sithney churchtown.

In today's Cornish: Merthersydhni, Sithney was recorded as 'Merthersythy' in 1320, the from the Cornish language 'merther Sydhny' meaning 'St Sythni's grave or reliquary'. It was also called 'Egloseynncy' in 1623 from the Cornish 'eglos Sydhney' translating as 'St Sythni's church'. Sithney known as 'Sidinius' in Latin and 'Sezni' in Breton was a sub-Roman Celtic saint active in Cornwall and Brittany and is the patron saint of mad dogs. He was also venerated at Guissény, Brittany, and at a number of other places in Brittany.

A Breton folk story, an adaptation of a tale associated with Ciarán of Saigir, states that God asked Sithney to be the patron saint of girls seeking husbands, but Sithney said he would rather be the patron saint of mad dogs and get some rest.

Ciarán of Saigir is one of the twelve Apostles of Ireland and his identity is equated to that of Saint Piran of Cornwall.



The graveyard is quite large. The existing church was consecrated in 1497, and was built on the site of a Norman Church. It comprises a chancel, nave, north and south aisles, shallow north transept, and a south transept. The arcades each consists of six four-centred arches of granite. There is a south porch, the north porch is used as a vestry, and there is a priest's door. The tower has three stages, and is finished with battlements and pinnacles. It is 50 feet in height or, including the pinnacles, 67 feet. The belfry contains three bells. [Toponymy by the late Craig Weatherhill] The population including Boscadjack and Crowntown at the 2011 census was 841.

The Online Parish Clerk (Genealogy) for Sithney is Bill Nankivell, who can be contacted by bill.nankivello7@btinternet.com

MAY DAY from THE BARDIC MUSEUM of PRIMITIVE BRITISH LITERATURE

and other admirable rarities forming the second volume of the Musical, Poetical and Historical Relics of the Welsh Bards and Druids by Edward Jones, Bard to the Prince (p. 96)

ACCOUNT of the CORNISH MAY SONG:

The Inhabitants of Cornwall, being a remnant of the Ancient Britons, still retain some of their ancient customs, as the Welsh do. This old traditional Ballad is the source of conviviality of the inhabitants of the Town and, neighbourhood of Helston, in

Cornwall, where it is always sung and universally danced by them, on the eighth of May, when they hail the Summer with peculiar rejoicings; rural revelry, festivity and mirth. The common people call the ceremony FFYNNU, and FFODI, which Implies prosperity, and happiness: and others call it Flora-day. This custom seems to have originated from the Druids; because the fruits of the earth are then tender; and to avert their being blasted, it was usual to return thanks to God for his infinite blessings, and to rejoice at the flourishing prospect of the produce of the Earth; which was generally celebrated on the sixth day of the new moon.

The custom now is this: at break of day, the commonalty of HELSTON go into the fields and woods to gather all kinds of flowers, to decorate their hats and bosoms, to enjoy the flowery meads, and chirruping of the birds: and during their excursions, if they find any person at work they make him ride on a pole, carried on men's shoulders, to the river, over which he is to leap in a wide place if he can; if he cannot, he must leap in, for leap he must, or pay money. After this rustic sport is over, they then return to the Town and bring their flowery garlands, or summer (hawthorn boughs, Sycamore &c). Then they form themselves into various dancing groups with the lasses, and they jig it, hand in hand all over the town. claiming a right of dancing through any person's home, in at one door, out at the other, and so through the garden: thus they continue their FFODI, a prosperous song and dance, until it is dark.

*Hail bounteous may, that dost inspire
Mirth and youth, and warm desire
Woods and groves, are of thy dressing;
Hill, and dale, doth boast thy blessing.
Thus we salute thee with our early Song,
And welcome thee, and wish thee long.*

In the afternoon, the gentry of the place, take their May excursions in parties and some go to the farm houses in the neighbourhood to drink Sillabubs, Cider, Tea, &c; and afterwards, they return to the Town in a Morrice-dance (sic); both the Ladies and Gentlemen elegantly dressed in their summer attire, and adorned with nosegays, and accompanied with Minstrels who play for the dancers this traditional May-tune; so they whisk it along all through the streets, and after a few dancing essays, each gentleman leads his partner into the Assembly-room where there is always a Ball that Evening; and such Bevies of fair women, in their native simplicity, as are rarely to be seen.

There they enjoy their happy dancing til supper time; when they repair to their festive houses to their convivial repasts: thus, the night is crowned with harmony, as well as the day. The inferior classes of the people pass their evening in similar merriment at the public houses, and at other places, which is continued until midnight, with the greatest hilarity and decorum.

To welcome the summer was a very ancient custom among the old Britons, by the number of May-carols, which are still preserved among the Welsh, and indeed, it is a universal custom amongst most nations. The month of May, among the ancient Romans was consecrated to Maia, the daughter of Atlas and mother of Mercury. Hall's Chronicle mentions King Henry the eighth, and Queen Catherine going a *maying*, from Greenwich to the high ground of Shooters Hill, accompanied by many lords and ladies.

(p. 99) The Town Arms of Helston is St. Michael slaying the dragon. The common tradition is that a fiery dragon in days of old threatened destruction to the town; but that the goddess Flora, having collected such powerful odours of flowers, whose perfumes filled the air, that the monster kept aloof, and by that means the place was preserved. [Thanks to John Coombs for this old information]

Sayings - Wise words on Ageing
 "Inside every older person is a younger person wondering what happened." - Jennifer Yane

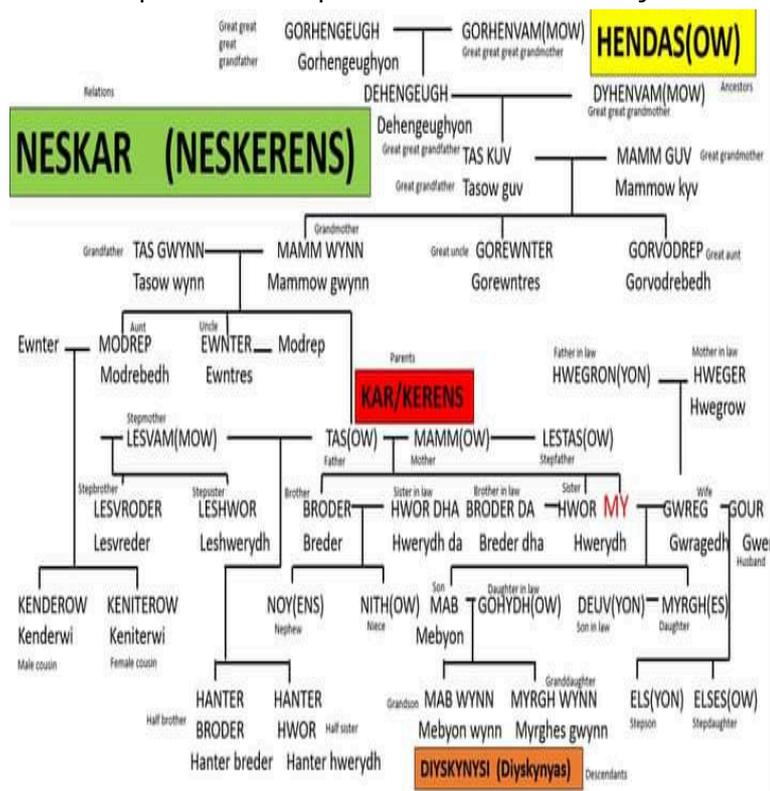


PLAS AN TAVES

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.cornishdictionary.org.uk>

In this issue you will learn about: Family tree
 Look up relationships in Cornish dictionary



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 ... Trevithick Day 25th April, Feast day of St. Enoder 27th April, St Teath 1st May + Degol Me (May Day) + Padstow Obby Oss, Helston Furry 8th May.

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 403 for the months of May / June 2023 has a copy deadline - by 8th May Contributions may be held for future use - electronic – emailed - preferred) are welcome!

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