



Registered Charity No. 247283

NEWS | EVENTS | REPORTS

Lyther nowodhow mis Ebrel / April newsletter

Dydh da oll,

I hope you have all had a good month. It was very cheering to see the OCS banners represented at Truro St Piran's day parade, and hear how many OCS celebrated St Piran's Day in some way. There are some photographs and reports included below.

Spring Meeting - At the recent FOCS Spring meeting there was a useful discussion concerning the relationship between the Federation and Old Cornwall Societies. We also went on to talk about many of the things that the Federation achieves by all of us working together. It was suggested that we bring these together in a [FOCS benefit document](#). This is also on the website with other relevant documents in the [OCS Members Area](#) page.

Cornish Wrestling Association now Federation affiliates - We are very pleased to say that the CWA have now joined FOCS as affiliates. This cements a strategic relationship which dates back decades. Cornish Wrestling is a typically Cornish sport which the Old Cornwall movement seek to support. The Federation looks forward to working with the CWA over the coming years. Later this year we hope to publish a new book on the history of Cornish wrestling so watch this space.

Passmore Edwards Bicentenary - For the Autumn journal, journal editor Terry Knight is hoping to create an assemblage of photos and reports showing how OCSs celebrated the 200th anniversary of the Cornish philanthropist John Passmore Edwards's birth in Blackwater. It would be wonderful to have your event included! Please send your items for inclusion to Terry on publications@oldcornwall.net

Kernow bys vyken
Nev Meek
president@oldcornwall.net

Lewydh - Keffrysians a Gowethasow Kernow Goth
President - Federation of Old Cornwall Societies`

Hwarvosow a-dheu / Upcoming events

A selection of upcoming events in OCS and Federation calendars:

8/4/23

2.30 pm

St Martins Community Hall, East Looe

Speaker: Dr. Ken George.

Subject: The Fall and Rise of the Cornish Language.

Refreshments available. All welcome.

Visitors £2.

13/4/23

6.45 pm

Cury Village Hall



**Cury & Gunwalloe
Old Cornwall Society**

Meeting at
Cury Village Hall
Thursday 13th April

Doors Open: 6.45pm
Meeting Starts: 7.00pm

This month Cury & Gunwalloe OCS host



Alan Cox
Talking about
Cornish Lighthouses



Saviour of ships and sailors around the Cornish coast

Refreshments & Raffle

All are welcome, ample free car parking space

All enquiries to Priscilla Oates on 01326 240887

17/4/23

7.15 pm

The Billiard Room, Landithy Hall

On 12th April 1947, while being towed to a ship breaker's yard on the River Clyde, HMS Warspite was driven onto rocks off Prussia Cove. Come to hear the whole story at:



Madron
Old Cornwall Society



Martin Brockman

will tell the story of



'The grounding of the Warspite'

Monday 17th April at 7.15pm

The Billiard Room, Landithy Hall, Madron



Nearby car parking.
Tea and pasty will be available to purchase.
Donation for casual attendance appreciated.
Annual membership £10.00

23/4/23

9.30 am

Domellick car park



O.C.S.
(Old Cornwall Society)
St Denys & District



**GOSS
MOOR**



**SPRING
WALK**

**AN HAL
GORS**



**KERD
GWENTON**



ON SUNDAY 23RD OF APRIL AT 9.30AM
From Domellick Car Park
Wear Wellies / Sturdy Footwear



See the Church on the Hill!
Walk the Tramway across the Moor



Hear the Cuckoo?
Smell the Gorse!



A SPRING OUTING AT THE HEART OF CORNWALL!

Exploring Hayle

Trevor Smitheram, President of Hayle OCS is offering to do guided tours around Hayle to include the history of the town, Harveys, and the foundry, between April and October.

If your society would be interested in joining Trevor, he can be contacted by email at smitheram@btopenworld.com

Don't forget to "like" or "follow" the [Federation of Old Cornwall Societies'](#) Facebook page which shares upcoming events.

If you have an upcoming event you would like to share with other OCSs, please email it to Kate on newsletters@oldcornwall.net.

St Piran's Day Parade in Truro

It was a pleasure to take part in the St Piran's Day parade in Truro and see the OCS banners. A big thank you to our Banner Marshall Priscilla Oates for her work in organising this. The assembly at High Cross was enthusiastic and there were a number of addresses to the gathering from Bert Biscoe (Truro OCS), Col. Edward Bolitho OBE, grand bard of the Cornish Gorsedh Pol Hodge, MP Cherilyn Mackrory, Martin Elvey of Cornwall Council, and H.E. Josefa Gonzalez Blanco Ortiz-Mena, the Mexican ambassador to Britain, whose speech was very well received.

You can [watch CornwallLive's video of the event on YouTube by clicking here](#).

Jim Pengelley's St Piran's Marches Performed

Over the past few months there has been an ongoing project to arrange Jim Pengelley's *St Piran Marches* for brass band, to be performed at the St Piran's Day parade. Thanks to some wonderful collaboration, the marches were played at the recent Truro St Piran's Day celebrations, and the video will shortly appear on the CNMA website. Many thanks are due - to Nigel Nethersole for sparking the idea, to Bert Biscoe and Truro OCS for running with it and obtaining the funding; to FOCS (Nev Meek), Gorsedh Kernow and the Truro St Piran's Day Committee for providing the grants; to Gareth Churcher for arranging the march for brass band; and to St Keverne Silver Band for performing it and arranging the videoing. Many thanks to Tony Mansell for sending this information.

Photos: many thanks to John Jacobs for sharing his images of the Truro parade.





Mullion OCS: St Piran's Dinner

For St Piran's day, Mullion was bedecked with 36 Cornish flags, including the three churches - and Mullion OCS put on an evening and dinner which was a huge success. All were pleased that Mullion OCS President, Oscar Hill, was able to be present, and lead the Oggie Shout! Also, to have Dr Wood - both in good spirits! Many thanks to Mullion OCS Chairman Colin Roberts for sending these lovely photos on.



Bude Stratton & District OCS: St Piran's Service

The Bude Stratton & District Old Cornwall Society celebrated the Festival of St Piran with their annual service, which was kindly hosted this year by St Swithin's Church, Launcells. The service was originally written for their Society by the Rev Peter Abel, former Vicar of St James the Great, Kilkhampton, with hymns for the service researched by the organist Michael Richardson. These hymns, mainly written by past Canons of Truro Cathedral, reflect the theme of Cornish spirit and tradition. Michael had rearranged the chorus of "God, who for the world's new framing" to include as many Cornish Saints as he could fit in! The church bells were ringing a welcome and the churchyard showed signs of Spring with snowdrops, daffodils and wildflowers. Many thanks to Audrey Aylmer, Bude, Stratton & District's Archivist, who sent over this report.

Recorders' Day 2023

The recent Federation Recorders' Day was a great success, providing a brilliant opportunity to learn from external experts, and from each other.

On Saturday 11th March 2023 Recorders from OCSs across the Duchy gathered at Kresen Kernow for the annual Recorders' Day. There was a packed programme as usual. The first session was with Claire Wardle, an Archivist at Kresen Kernow, who demonstrated how various artefacts collected by OCSs should be preserved and packaged. Cathy Parkes, Senior Archaeologist with the Cornwall Archaeological Unit, provided an excellent presentation on "Protected Wrecks" with particular attention being paid to the coast around Gunwalloe. After a pasty

lunch, experienced and new Recorders shared information on their work over the last year. This, as always, was a valuable opportunity to pick up tips and ideas for future work.

Well done to Priscilla Oates who organised a fabulous day, and to all those OCSs who put forward their recorders to benefit from the experience.



Liskeard OCS - Passmore Edwards Celebration

The 24th March was the bicentenary of the birth of that great Cornish philanthropist John Passmore Edwards, and Liskeard OCS marked the anniversary in style thanks to funding from the Federation, which helped finance some of the endeavour.

On Friday 17th March Dean Evans' information boards were displayed at Liskeard Public Rooms, and Brian Oldham, President of Liskeard OCS, presented an illustrated talk entitled 'What Passmore Edwards did for Liskeard'. It was attended by 80 people, mostly members of a wide variety of local groups and clubs, and some not so local, such as Bodmin History Group and Torpoint Old Cornwall Society. There was great feedback from many attendees on what was a very successful evening.

From March 20th to 25th there was an exhibition on the 'Life and Works of Passmore Edwards' assembled and stewarded by Liskeard OCS members. Brian also participated in a tree planting ceremony, when the Mayor of Liskeard planted trees to mark the occasion.

Congratulations to Liskeard OCS on the completion of an excellent project.

BELOW: Photos of the event from Brian Oldham.



Ivor Corkill speaks at Camborne TC's Passmore Edwards Bicentenary

FOCS Honorary Life Vice President Ivor Corkill recently spoke at Camborne Town Council's celebration of the bicentennial of the birth of the Cornish philanthropist John Passmore Edwards and sent in the report about the evening. Dean Evans, who wrote the biography of JPE, commenced the evening with a précis of the life of Passmore Edwards from his birth on 24th March 1823. This was followed by a talk by Dr Tehmina Goskar from the CUC at Tremough and the Helston Museum on her extensive research into Cornish Museums and in particular Camborne's museums. Her talk was followed by a very enjoyable live music performance by the talented musician Will Keating who has worked on and featured some of the Cornish songs written by Harry Glasson. Will ended his performance with 'Cornwall My Home'. Following a break for a pasty supper Sarah Cover explained her work restoring a painting by William Cox of St Ives harbour which had been damaged following an ingress of water. Ivor Corkell, Secretary of Camborne OCS, concluded the evening with a talk about events in the early life of JPE in Blackwater followed by the history of libraries and museums in Camborne.



Bodmin OCS celebrates Passmore Edwards Bicentenary

Earlier this month Bodmin OCS were involved in a tree planting ceremony to celebrate the bicentenary of Cornish philanthropist John Passmore Edwards. After the tree planting at Bodmin Beacon, Duncan Matthews, President Bodmin OCS, gave a talk on Passmore Edwards at The Old Library in Bodmin. The event was organised in conjunction with Bodmin Town Council, Bodmin OCS and intoBodmin (who are in the process of purchasing the Old Library and run it as a Communal Meeting Hall). Many thanks to BOCS President Stephanie Thomas for forwarding the information and photos on.



If you would like to contribute an event report to the newsletter, please email newsletters@oldcornwall.net with a summary and any photos you would like to include.

Nowodhow KKG / OCS News

Par OCS - Beavers & Cubs learn about St Piran

Many thanks to PAR OCS Chair Diana Osborne, who sent in the following:
Following a request from Par, St Blazey & Fowey Scout Group, 2 members from Par Old Cornwall Society went along to the Scout Hall to talk to the Beavers & Cubs about St Piran. Armed with various props & colourful pictures, we told them how St Piran arrived in Cornwall & how he rediscovered tin. We also asked them about what other things they thought were special to Cornwall & showed them pictures

of, amongst other things, pasties (of course) cream teas, starry gazey pie, choughs, China clay & granite. We took along our banner & talked about that too. At the end of the evening, each cub was given a Federation serviette to take home so that they could learn some Cornish words. Later this year we may take the Scouts for a walk around Par using our walking guide, The Little Town that came out of the Sea. These books are still available from the Federation book shop, priced £4.50 plus postage and might be of interest to anyone wanting to do a self-guided walk around Par during the Federation's planned week of walks in June.

Looe OCS - Thomas Bond Project

Looe OCS have been awarded a £100 grant from the Federation toward their Thomas Bond Project.

In 1765 Thomas Bond was born at Looe, becoming the town clerk for both East Looe, and West Looe in 1779. His office gave him access to many historic document of the boroughs. In 1823 Bond published his "Topographical and Historical Sketches of the Boroughs of East and West Looe..." This book remains a major source of information on the history of Looe.

Looe OCS working in partnership with Looe Museum and East Looe Town Trust are now embarking on a project to mark the 200th anniversary of Bond's book. The project will include a display at Looe Museum, booklet, town trail, and guided walks.

Well done Looe OCS, we look forward to seeing the results of the project and joining you for the guided walks.

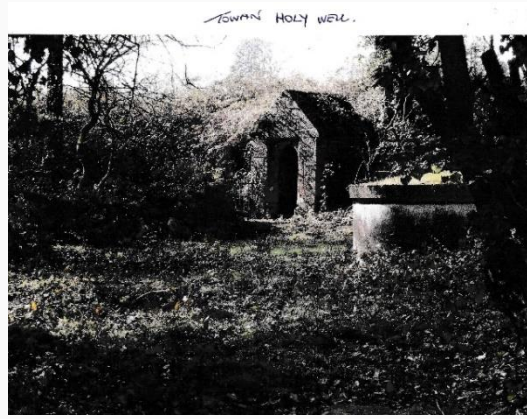
Pentewan OCS - Towan Holy Well Project

Pentewan OCS have now been awarded a £250 grant from the Federation toward their project to restore the access bridge to Towan Holy Well, near Lobb's Shop.

Towan Holy Well is a 16th Century baptistry chapel built of Pentewan stone. It is both a listed building and a scheduled monument. (Ref: HER 24066)

The site is one which has received much attention from the Old Cornwall movement over the years, with St Austell Old Cornwall Society carrying out clearance work and maintenance as far back as 1937. In recent years Pentewan OCS have taken responsibility for the site carrying out further work there in 2003-2004.

Now Pentewan OCS plan to replace a rotten wooden bridge which will improve access to the site. Well done Pentewan - we can't wait to see the result.



Trevor Smitheram and Hayle OCS - Rick Rescorla Memorial Walk

Many congratulations to Hayle OCS president Trevor Smitheram who has worked with the owners of North Quay to commemorate Cornishman Rick Rescorla, who died in the September the 11th attacks in New York. Originally from Hayle, Mr Rescorla perished after leading thousands of people to safety. The project to create a memorial walk has been in the works for over a year, and the official plaque was unveiled during a ceremony at which Mr Rescorla's son and daughter, who had travelled from America, were present. [Click here to read the BBC article.](#)



We would like to feature news and updates from your Old Cornwall Society - if you would like to share your news please get in touch with Kate on newsletters@oldcornwall.net

**Hwarvosow ha Kuntellesow Keffrysians a-dheu /
Upcoming Federation Meetings & Events**

17/06/2023 - FOCS River Camel Boat Trip (TBC)

June 2023 - FOCS Executive Meeting

w/c 19/06/2023 - FOCS Summer Walk Festival

11/7/2023 - Publications Subcommittee Meeting, 10am Blackwater Village Hall

20/08/2023 - Prayer Book Rebellion Commemoration @ Bodmin

02/09/2023 - Gorsedh Kernow @ Padstow

September 2023 - FOCS Executive Meeting

07/10/2023 - FOCUS AGM

Nov 2023 - FOCS Winter Festival

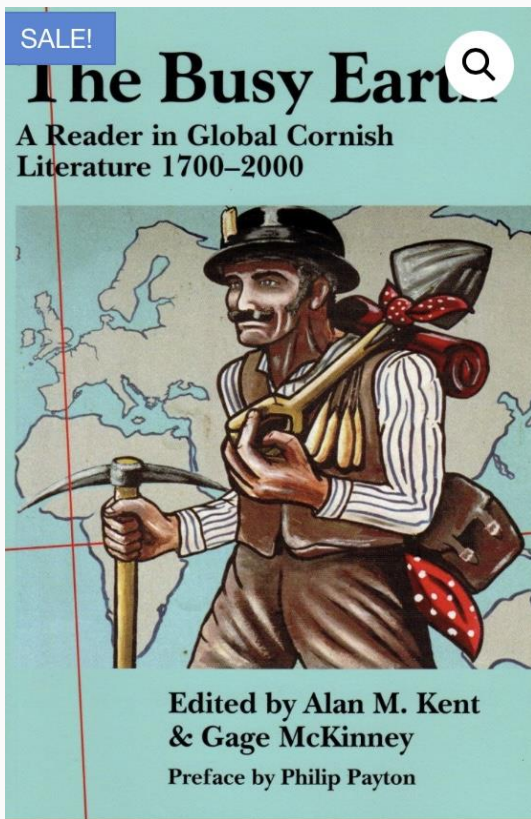
December 2023 - FOCS Executive Meeting

18/12/2023 - FOCS Carol Service - Padstow Carols at Truro Cathedral

If you would like to attend any of these meetings or join a Subcommittee, please get in touch with President Nev Meek on president@oldcornwall.net.

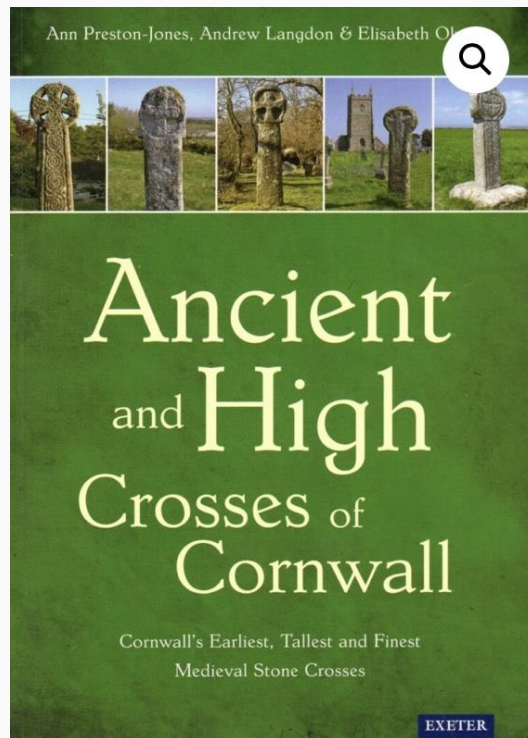
Lyverji Keffrysans / Federation Bookshop

The Federation Bookshop sells hundreds of books, CDs, leaflets and other items relating to Cornish history and culture - including music, dialect, ancient sites, and much much more.



THE BUSY EARTH: A READER IN
GLOBAL CORNISH LITERATURE

£12.50



ANCIENT AND HIGH CROSSES OF
CORNWALL, by Anne Preston-Jones,
Andrew Langdon and Elizabeth
Okasha

£19.99

[Click here to go to the Federation Bookshop](#)

Keslesek / Of interest

Cornwall Archaeological Association - 'From Your Own
Correspondents' [February Newsletter](#)

Please note, from the CAS newsletter: This is the last From Your Own
Correspondents newsletter but the team of CAS Area Representatives, led by Iain
Rowe, continues to thrive. You will still be able to read the latest stories about
their work on the CAS website at: <https://cornisharchaeology.org.uk/area-representatives-and-monument-watch/>. And if you have a query, or information,
please contact arearep@cornisharchaeology.org.uk or
secretary@cornisharchaeology.org.uk.

Thank You to the Area Reps and others for their stories over the last 6 years or so
and to the loyal readers of this newsletter!

Kestavow / Contacts

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website@oldcornwall.net - Anything to go on website, e.g. programme, posters, updates to contacts etc.

publicity@oldcornwall.net - Anything to go on Facebook etc. e.g. programme, posters.

newsletters@oldcornwall.net - Items for monthly newsletter. e.g. short news items about activity of your OCS, short news items about people associated with your OCS.

editor@oldcornwall.net - Items for Journal. See Inside front cover of Journal for guidance.