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Newsletter of the Cornish Association of New South Wales

PROGRAM



Zoom Keskows - **Seasonal Online
ZOOM 'tea & cake' chat
sessions**

Winter wonderland – end of July

Spring has sprung - Late Sep/ Early Oct

Time and Zoom link will be emailed a week prior

Events for Planning so far

Christmas / End of Year Lunch – November,

Our 49th AGM - 2nd March, 2024

FESTIVALS 2024

31st Australian Celtic Festival
 Glen Innes, NSW
 - *The Year of Ireland and Mannin* -

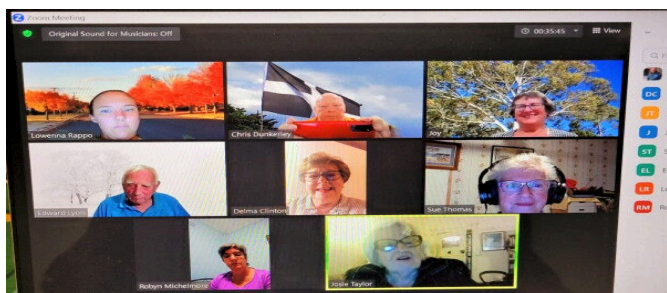


**Thursday 2nd –
Sunday 5th May,
2024**

Yes, we Cornish will plan to again be there!
*Saturday morning is our parade in town, and the
 26th Cornish stone ceremony is on Sunday
 morning.* More info later this year.

Previous Events:

Autumn Zoom Tea & Chat



Our latest seasonal Zoom get-together had 8 online and 9 apologies. Good to catch up, and there was some informative discussion. Feel free to join us for our winter session.

Australian Celtic Festival, Glen Innes *Pictorial Record*

The Festival was held over the weekend of 4-6th May. It was the Year of Scotland, so our Cornish activities were more low key than last year. Nine (9) CANSW members attended.



Friday morning first catchup – Chris & Joy Dunkerley, Barbara Tom, David Wilks, Donald Tom.



Our Committee member, David Wilks, in Cornish Hunting Tartan Kilt, presenting the Cornish flag at the official opening. Kernow bys vykken!

Previous Events continued:

Saturday sees a dawn ceremony, at the Standing Stones, with flag raising. Joy Dunkerley raised the Cornish flag.



Here is one of our Deputy Presidents, Pamela O'Neill, with the flame at the Dawn Ceremony, on Tynwald Hill.

This is followed by the street Parade through Glen Innes, with societies, clans, bands, and much more taking part.



Before the parade – lovely to have Dorothy Kitto, all the way from SA, and David Renn (Breton) joining us.



Ten Cornish marchers, David Wilks, Neil Endean, Joy Dunkerley, Mr Curnow, James & Josephine Polmeer, Cherie Patterson, Chris Dunkerley, Sue Thomas, Dorothy

Kitto, plus David Renn (Breton) plus some Cornish from among the crowd – and guide dog 'Jenkins'.



Above: Ready for the commemorative march from the Cornish stone, at Sunday's 25th Cornish Stone Ceremony.

Below: President Joy addressing the crowd at the ceremony (next to Mayor Banham) at the Gorsedd Stone.



Below: The dynamic duo, who made things happen over the weekend – Joy Dunkerley and David Wilks.



Committee News:

Bank account balance at 1/5/23: **\$7,701.39**

"I had a great time at the Celtic Festival representing the Association and as a Guardian of the Stones. Lovely to meet up with our members, and some other lovely Cornish people. Amazing that Dorothy Kitto makes it from SA, and headed back to the KL. Sorry to the 9 CANSW members known to be at the Kernewek Lowender that for the first time in over 35 years I can't make it – hope you had a great time. Thanks to David Wilks for his great contributions at GI. Remember 2025 is our year again, and our Assoc. 50th. Hope to catch up with some on our next seasonal Zoom session." Joy Dunkerley, President.

MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR 2023/2024

If you are recorded as NOT a financial member (and receive your newsletter by post – you will have an X below)

A form is enclosed to renew for this year.
***For those getting your newsletter by email
– a reminder will be sent.***

MEMBERS MILESTONES

VALE Russell Cocks Bard D.Ua
Evelyn Russell Cocks b. 1929 – d. 2023 (94th year)



Russell's family have been so kind as to let us know that our friend, founding life member, and true Cornish gentleman Russell Cocks

passed away on Wednesday 3rd May, 2023 after a short period of palliative care.

Cornish born, he was educated in the Carclaze and St Austell area, and worked with motorcycles and an engineer in the china clay industry. He and Ruth married in 1957 and emigrated to Australia in 1966. In Australia he first worked for Comalco. Russell loved things mechanical and was often fixing mowers to be used on the Byng Cemetery, and talking cars.

In 1975 they both were among founding members of the Cornish Association of Sydney (now NSW) and Russell was our 1st President. Along with other foundation members, he and Ruth were driving forces in the early decades of the Association. Russell retained either an officer or committee member position for over 40 years until going into care in 2021 after Ruth's death. He kept an interest in the Association and appreciated the newsletters.

Russell was a key mover behind the Association project to maintain and restore the Byng Chapel, built in the late 1800s by Cornish miners and farmers at Cornish Settlement (later Byng) near Orange NSW. In 1988 a Bicentennial government grant allowed significant restoration of the Chapel, still in occasion use.

He was awarded the Australian Celtic Council honour of Duine Uasal (Post nominal - D Ua) (From the Irish language - "Honoured Person") in 2002 and later that year was welcomed as a Cornish Bard at the Dewhelans (homecoming) Gorsedh at Pendennis Castle. He chose the Bardic name in Cornish of Gwythias Ertach Byng (Keeper of the Byng Heritage) – very apt.

Condolences to Robert & Salena and family, his friends, and all those who knew him as a true Cornish gentleman. His funeral was on Friday 12th May at Rouse Hill.

WELCOME – NEW MEMBER

Gary Polglase of **Kincumber**, Central Coast. Interests: Surname of 'Polglase', Breage parish, 1840s-1870s

Our best wishes to all members who have health problems, or have been having ongoing medical procedures.

Chris Dunkerley has finished 4 cycles of Chemo and goes in for stomach removal surgery at RPA Lifehouse Camperdown on 20 June, and will be there for 2 weeks or so, before many weeks of recovery and perhaps more chemo.

Congratulations to all those with birthdays or anniversaries during May and June.

Especially lovely is the **birth** of Del and Ron Clinton's 1st great grandchild, Flora, to Sam & Peggy. Note the date – 8 May - Helston Flora Day.

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

QUOTE

"One and All at duty's call; Shoulder to shoulder we stand or fall; On land and sea, where'er we be; We Cornish are ready, aye, One and All. " - Chorus to E.E.Moore's 'The Cornish Motto Song', first sung in public in 1883. [Cornish Magazine, vol. 4, no. 1, May 1961.]

SOME CORNISH SURNAMES – a series

Odgers – Possibly from a Germanic personal name, Odger – wealth/spear, but may have come into Cornish via Breton.

Old / Olds / Olde / Ould / Owles – From als, cliff, shore, strand. Found in west Cornwall

Palamountain – variant of Pellymounter (pool by mineral land) – now only found in USA and Australia.

Penaluna – Alternative meaning (from *pen-lonnow*, end of the grove. Placename Luna, St. Neot, spelt Lonow 1516, Lunna 1749.

Pentecost – Chirgwin suggests, *pen-ty-cos*. chief house in the wood.

Perrow – From *perrow*, cauldrons

Pollard – from *pol*, pool + unknown word. Place name Pollard near Helston.

Rowe / Rawe / Row - Cornish form of the first names Ralph /Radulphus.

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

HOLY WELLS

Roche Well – Roche ("roach" from Norman French); Cornish: **Tregarrek**, meaning *homestead of the rock*) is a civil parish. 60M north west of Holywell.

This monument includes a holy well situated beside a footpath in a secluded small valley of a tributary to the River Camel close to a cottage which is also called Holywell. The holy well survives as a small square structure with an arched granite roof standing approximately 1.6m high over a trough measuring 0.9m square by 0.3m deep which is filled by a spring.



The holy well was first mentioned by *Lysons* and fully described by *Courteney* in 1890 and by *Quiller-Couch* in 1894. All sources indicated that the well was reputed to have healing properties for many diseases, especially those of the eyes and that it was in use up until the 19th century.

Like many others it served a wishing well, with young unmarried girls casting pins and needles into it and from the brightness of the bubbles, discerning their good or bad fortune. It also formed the water supply to the nearby cottage. A chapel once stood nearby, although the exact location is unknown but this was removed in about 1780.

NEWS

GIGS

What an end to this year's epic World Pilot Gig Championships! Looe Rowing Clubs men won their 4th straight championship, before Helford River Gig Clubs women *Helford A'* in *Morgawer*, in secured their first ever world title! Congratulations to them and all the other crews competing on the Isles of Scilly this year.



MAY DAY – Padstow Obby Oss

A May Day celebration quite unlike any other, the Padstow Obby Oss is an ancient festival steeped in mystery. Each and every 1st of May, the Old Oss and Blue Ribbon Oss are let loose from their stables to roam around Padstow. A tradition that has taken place for centuries, the narrow streets of the Cornish fishing port fill with tens of thousands of people every year, all jostling for a glimpse of the famous Obby Oss...

The celebration is one of the oldest surviving festivals in the UK, famous for both its age and its uniqueness. Thought to have its origins in Pagan fertility rites, the Obby Oss is primarily a celebration of **Kala' Me**, the Celtic feast which honours the approach of summer.

Every year, in preparation for the first of May (unless this falls on a Sunday, in which case the festival takes place on Monday 2nd), Padstow's narrow streets and ancient harbour are extravagantly decorated with flowers, flags and greenery, the focus of which is a tall and

colourful May Pole. What follows is a grand procession, usually attended by thousands, in which two groups of dancers, accompanied by drums, triangles and marching accordion players, make their way through the town, one of each team dressed in a stylized recreation of a horse and wearing a striking and faintly terrifying mask. These are the Old and Blue Ribbon Osses, both of whom have stables from which they emerge in the morning and to which they return at night.



Led by teaser and trailed by crowds of followers dressed in white with red and blue sashes and a number of junior Osses operated by children, the two main Osses pretend to try to catch maidens as they pass through the narrow streets. This bizarre dance continues all day long until, at midnight, the townsfolk join together to sing Padstow's unique 'May Song';

The Blue Ribbon Oss, also called the Peace Oss is the newer of the two, created in the 19th century by members of a temperance group trying to discourage the over-consumption of alcohol during the proceedings by the Old Oss' followers. Today, family loyalties decide whether an individual follows the Old Oss,

whose stable is the Golden Lion Inn, or the Blue Ribbon Oss, whose stable is the Institute.
<https://padstowobbyoss.wordpress.com/>

TREVITHICK DAY



At the end of April each year, Camborne celebrates famous son, Richard Trevithick, and the age of steam. Steam engines and steam parade, sound stages with local bands and choirs . Street entertainers and stalls, street food, Funfair, exhibitions. Schools competition. Vintage vehicles. Stationary engines. morning and afternoon dances led by Camborne Town Band. Park & Ride on vintage buses.

A video story of Richard Trevithick
<https://youtu.be/snb6YeNJB9Y>

Helston Furry and Hal an Tow

Helston Flora day would normally be held on the 6th of May this year, but due to the Kings Coronation, Flora day this year is was held on Friday the 5th of May.

Flora day is a celebration of the end of winter and the start of spring.

The Furry Dance, is one of the oldest British customs still practised today, however the modern variant of the dance holds few

similarities with the proposed original, having been revived long after the event had died out. The dancers wear a little sprig of Lily of the Valley this is Helston's symbolic flower. The ladies wear the flower upside down on the right side and the men have the flowers pointing upwards on the left. Lily of the valley is also worn by Helstons town band who play all of the music on the day, stewards and those who are Helston born.



Traditionally the midday Furry dance was the dance of the gentry of the town, even today the ladies will dance in their finest frocks and the men in top hat and tails.

Hal-an-Tow - Tradition has it that early on Flora Day morning, youths go to the neighbouring woods to collect branches of sycamore. On there return, they are joined by other young people, dressed to represent the characters in the Hal-an-Tow song.



They tour the town, stopping at various vantage points to perform the song and act out the pageant. In the 19th Century, the Hal-an-Tow was abandoned, but it was revived again in

1930 to add its own colour and excitement to Flora Day.

ULURU STATEMENT FROM THE HEART TRANSLATED INTO CORNISH [MENEGYANS ULURU DHYWORTH AN KOLON]

As part of a project to translate this internationally important document into the indigenous Celtic languages, it is now available in Cornish and Welsh. Cornish here:

http://www.celticcouncil.org.au/files/Uluru%20from%20the%20Heart_Kernewek.pdf

The Cornish version was a joint effort between a number of Cornish speakers and learners in Australia and Cornwall Council's translation service.

Notable Cornish, people of Cornwall, and of the diaspora

[With the first referendum to change the Constitution in 2 decades coming up it is timely to remember a Cornishman who was a key part of bringing Federation and it's Constitution about 120 years ago. Change was always allowed for, but the bar set very high by the colonial interplays and British Empire context.]

John Quick

Doctor Sir John Quick LL.D lawyer, politician, author and one of the 'Founding Fathers' of the federated Commonwealth of Australia. Sir John Quick was born on the 22nd April 1852 in the Parish of Towednack near St Ives, Cornwall, the only child of John Quick, farmer, and his wife Mary, also née Quick. [Editor has Quick Towednack ancestors, and the name is common in the parish]

Part 1

The family arrived in Victoria, Australia in October 1854 and headed for the Bendigo goldfields where John's father died of fever. Mary remarried and had four more children. Young John attended various schools until he was 10. A series of manual jobs followed—in an iron foundry, battery-feeding in a mine, in the printing room of the 'Bendigo Evening News' before, having taught himself shorthand, he became a junior reporter on the 'Bendigo Independent' and later the 'Bendigo Advertiser'. He moved to Melbourne and in 1874 matriculated. With the aid of scholarships at the university, he graduated LL.B. in 1877 and in June 1878 was called to the Victorian Bar. He continued in

journalism as leader of the 'Age' parliamentary staff.

In 1880 Quick won the Victorian colonial Legislative Assembly seat of Sandhurst (Bendigo) where he returned to live and practise law, taking his LL.D. by examination in 1882. On 24 December 1883 he married Catherine Harris, daughter of a former mayor of Eaglehawk. They lived at Edelweiss, Quarry Hill, where they raised a niece of Mrs Quick's as if she was their daughter. Quick held his seat in 1883 and 1886 but then declined the offer of a portfolio in the Gillies-Deakin ministry. He had already become a prominent advocate of Federation, having spoken in September 1882 on the issue that was to receive much of his future time and energy, when he strenuously defended a motion to hold an intercolonial conference: 'It is only by consistent agitation and discussion that a national question such as this can ever be brought to maturity'.

In October 1885 he objected to the formation of the Federal Council of Australasia—the "one horse" federation business' as he called it. Quick lost his seat after a redistribution in 1889. Although not native born he had been allowed to join the Bendigo branch of the Australian Natives' Association in an honorary capacity and, while not permitted to hold office, still did much to promote support for Federation among his fellow members. In October 1893 he established the Bendigo Federation League and was its president in its only known active years (1893, 1898, 1899).

He attended the 1893 Corowa conference which marked the start of the popular movement for Federation as a delegate from the Bendigo A.N.A. Early in the proceedings, when there were calls from the floor for practical action, Quick secured a recess and with a few others hammered out his famous resolution which set the guidelines for dealing with the Federation question: 'That ... the Legislature of each Australasian colony should pass an Act providing for the election of representatives to attend a statutory Convention or Congress to consider and adopt a Bill to establish a Federal Constitution for Australia and upon the adoption of such Bill or measure it be submitted by some process of referendum to the verdict of each colony'. Quick energetically pursued the plan, quickly drafted a model enabling bill, and circulated it to Federation leagues.

He travelled to Sydney in 1894 to promote it and, after modifications, it was eventually presented to

Premier (Sir) George Reid. Quick's pamphlet, 'A Digest of Federal Constitutions' (1896), was published by the Bendigo A.N.A. He was prominent at the Bathurst convention of 1896 before being elected second of ten Victorian delegates to the Australasian Federal Convention which framed the Commonwealth Constitution in 1897-98.

... Part 2 next newsletter



Portrait by W. B. McInnes is in the Bendigo Art Gallery.

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: Animals

ENEVALES • ANIMALS



Davas (f)
Sheep



Bugh (f)
Cow



Hogh
Pig



Yar (f)
Chicken



Margh
Horse



Gaver (f)
Goat



Kulyek
Cockerel



Goodh (f)
Goose



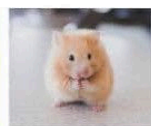
Kath (f)
Cat



Ki
Dog



Konin
Rabbit



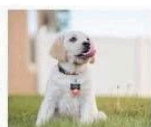
Hamster
Hamster



Peswarpaw
Newt



Pedrevan (f)
Lizard



Kolyn
Puppy



Kathik
Kitten

kernekek • english

Sayings - Wise words on Ageing

"Wisdom doesn't necessarily come with age.

Sometimes, age just shows up all by itself." - Tom Wilson



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 (the late) Dr John Symonds. Tell your friends! Suggested updates or new content are welcome.

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

Dates coming up ... Holy day/ feasts 4th June -St Petroc's Day & St Breaca (Breage). St Paul Aurelian 12th, St Samson of Dol 23rd July.



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 404 due for the months of July / August has no copy deadline as yet – it will depend on the Editor's rate of recovery from surgery.

To be advised.

Contributions may be held for future use - electronic – emailed - preferred) are welcome!

Nr. 403 LYTHER NOWODHOW – NSW

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