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Newsletter of the Cornish Association of New South Wales

PROGRAM



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

Winter Zoom – 3pm Sunday 30 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:

Kernewek Lowender

The 50th Cornish Festival – *Kernewek Lowender*
– was held in late May on the North Yorke
Peninsula of South Australia, centred on the
towns of Moonta, Wallaroo, and Kadina. Nine of
our members are known to have attended



Bruce & Debbie Champion with banner & flag



Josephine & James Polmeer, all tartan & flags



Cornish Language Taster Session, Moonta

Dressing of the Graves, Moonta: Thanks Robyn Michaelmore



MOONTA CEMETERY WEDNESDAY 16 May 2023
- CITATION FOR CHARLES WILLIAMS

Charles Williams' father, Thomas, was a printer from Cornwall who took his young family to London, where Charles was born in 1847. After Charles' mother, Jane, died from cholera in 1848, the children returned to Truro to live with their maternal grandparents, Thomas & Ann Rapsey.

It is believed that Charles may have worked as a stableman or labourer at "Trelagossick" near Veryan on 200 acres farmed by Matthew Langdon. It appears Matthew's daughter, Caroline, & Charles "ran off" together to Swansea where they were married & two sons, Henry Charles 1867 & Octavius 1869, were born. At the time of their marriage, Charles' occupation was given as "furnaceman at spelter works" (spelter is an alloy of lead & zinc used in household items such as tableware & candlesticks).

The 1871 census records the family living at Veryan Green, & Charles' occupation as agricultural labourer. A third son, Albert was born in 1872 but died aged six months. Caroline & her brother, Matthew, also died in 1872 (possibly from an

epidemic), & Caroline & Matthew are buried together in the Veryan churchyard.

On 4 August 1872, Charles married Sophia Coombe at St Austell, Cornwall & Charles' occupation was listed as miner. Charles & Sophia had two children in St Austell; Walter in 1873 & Minnie (later Mrs GE Box of Broken Hill) in 1875. On 25 March 1876, Charles & Sophia (both listed as aged 30) & the four children, Henry (aged 8), Octavius (aged 7), Walter (aged 2) & Minnie (1 year) boarded the new vessel, *Northern Monarch*, at Plymouth. They arrived at Port Adelaide on 12 June 1876 after a fine voyage. Charles & Sophia had three more children in South Australia, Emily, Florence & Charles Walter.

Sometime between 1876 & 1883 the family re-located to Moonta Mines. In June 1883, 2 year old Florence died from whooping cough. A month later on 23 July, ten year old Walter was killed when the wall of an old house where he was playing with some other boys, collapsed (ref article Wallaroo Yorke Peninsula Times 1883).

Charles lived a short life, dying aged only 39 years on 6 April 1885; the cause of death given as Bright's Disease (kidneys) & convulsions. His occupation given as stableman & his residence as Moonta Mines. Octavius was tragically killed in a mining explosion in Broken Hill in 1892; his name is on the Miner's Memorial.

Charles' widow, Sophia (aged 43 years) remarried William James Ralph on 27 February 1889; a well known & highly respected veterinary surgeon in Moonta. They lived in Ryan Street, Moonta. Sophia died in January 1916 at the home of her daughter, Emily (Mrs Leo Simms). Charles, Sophia & young Walter are buried together in Moonta cemetery (Row 12, East 296). Henry Charles, the eldest of Charles Williams children, married Mary Ellen Curnow & had six children & moved to Broken Hill about 1893.

[Robyn, and SA Cornish Bard Lilian James are both descendents.

[KL 2023 Photos by Robyn & Arthur Coates, Brian Dean, Bruce & Debbie Champion, Robyn Michaelmore]

Committee News:

Bank account balance at 30/6/23: **\$7,794.59**

Half Year result: Costs \$427.90 [Function \$22.50, Newsletter \$125.40, Operating (incl. AGM) \$280], Deposits \$770 [Donations \$185, Subs \$585] , result \$342.10 interim surplus.

"Good to her of our travellers to SA. *I hope to catch up with some of you on our next seasonal Zoom session on Sunday 30 July.*" Joy Dunkerley, President.

MEMBERS MILESTONES

WELCOME – NEW MEMBERSHIP

Phil & Jean Oates of Orange

Interests: Cornish miners in Central West NSW – Orange / Cadia / Ophir. Family name interest is Bennetts of Redruth.

VALE Sad to report that we have had advice that our long term “silent” member **Dolores Reseigh** has passed away. Silent as her shift work and location made it hard to get to Sydney meetings over the years. She always renewed and enjoyed her newsletters and news from “home”.

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

Chris Dunkerley is now out of hospital after a 26 day stay, and at home. Eating well. Surgery went well and he is on the mend, though recovery is months, and ongoing medical matters will linger. Thanks for your concern and support. He looks forward to seeing some of you on Zoom.

Congratulations to all those with birthdays or anniversaries during July and August.

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

QUOTE

“Cornwall, I believe, at present has the worst roads ... a great part of which are in intolerable, remaining in just the same situation as the deluge left them, and those that have been improved, are still so extremely narrow and uneven, that they are almost inaccessible to all kinds of wheeled vehicles” – Gentlemen’s Magazine 1754 [from Hamilton Jenkin 1945] Ed. One could ask – what has changed? ..

SOME CORNISH SURNAMES – a series

Ross – The Cornish variant, from *ros*, heath. Ross marriages recorded in 7 parishes from 1600-1812.

Sara – Chirgwin suggests from *ser*, woodworker.

Sellick – possibly from a personal name - *Salac*

Snell – From *snel*; quick / active / speedy.

Sobey – Name recorded 113 times in 1963 registers. See also Scobey.

Tilly / Tilley – Possibly from *tylly*, pay/worth. Placename: Pentillie, St. Mellion.

Toman – possibly from *Tomen*, earth bank/dyke.

Tresawna – From *tre-saunyaw*, homestead by deep clefts in cliffs.

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 Cleer’s Well

The Cornwall Heritage Trust recently celebrated the acquisition of their 13th historic site, St Cleer’s Well, by reviving the annual tradition of dressing the monument.



In spite of rain, the event had a truly joyous atmosphere. The artwork created by the children from St Cleer Primary School for the event was wonderful, as was the vibrant array of posies they laid at the well as part of the ceremony. After the blessing, readings in Cornish and English - and a rousing (if a little damp) rendition of Trelawney - the morning was rounded off with Cornish dancing back at the school – the perfect, raucous end to the festivities! The Cornwall Heritage trust spokesperson said, “We’re so proud to now be looking after St Cleer’s Well and are very

grateful for the support of local people throughout the process.”



St Cleer (Cornish name: *Ryskarasek*) is a civil parish and village in east Cornwall. It is situated on the southeast flank of Bodmin Moor approximately two miles (3 km) north of Liskeard.

This medieval holy well and wayside cross is a Scheduled Monument and also Listed Grade One – a demarcation earned by only 2.5% of listed buildings, which Historic England (sic) defines as warranting “exceptional interest”. Thought to date from the 15th century, it is the only example of a well house with an open porch-like design in Cornwall. Its pillars, arches and capitals are carved with simple mouldings and patterns which are also unusual in Cornwall at this date. During the medieval period, holy wells sometimes functioned as sites for baptism but they were also revered for less tangible reasons, such as folklore beliefs in the healing powers of the water. According to Historic England, St Cleer’s had the reputation for “*curing the lame, the blind and the insane*”.

FEATURE STORIES

The Gorsedh and Cornish Bards (Part 1)

From a talk given by Chris Dunkerley in 2022 & 2023 – Reproduced in 4 parts

Dohajeth da! Good afternoon - you know me as Chris Dunkerley, but I have another much treasured name – *Kevrenor*. That is my name given in Cornish when I was inducted as a Bard of the Cornish Gorsedh at the Open Cornish Gorsedh

ceremony at Poldhu in 1988. The name means ‘builder of links’

A reasonable starting question would be ‘what is a Gorsedh - or Gorsedd as it is in Welsh & English, or Goursez in Breton?’ ‘How did they start?’ ‘What is their modern role?’

A Gorsedh is both a community of Bards (also called a circle or college) and the named form of their main meetings (being either open ceremony or meetings closed to the public). There are three such communities, one in each of the Brythonic Celtic speaking nations – Wales, Brittany and Cornwall, which communicate, share fellowship and cooperate - but are in practice independent and have unique characters. Before I dwell on that of Cornwall I will give brief mention of the Welsh and Breton.

Given that Gorsedd is an old Welsh word, with the meaning of ‘seat’ it may be a surprise to learn that the Gorsedd was not created in Wales, but rather in London, on Primrose Hill in the north west of the city in June 1792. The brainchild of a Welsh academic, Iolo Morganwg, who came originally from Llanccarfan, Glamorgan, he wanted to emphasise the fact that the heritage and culture of the Celts belonged to the Welsh, and felt that the creation of the Gorsedd was an excellent way to reflect this.



Bards from the three Gorseddow in their robes

The Welsh Gorsedd honours people who have made a substantial contribution to the Welsh language and to Wales. Its main function is to promote the poetry, literature, music and the arts in Wales. Only Welsh speakers can be admitted as members of the Gorsedd. There are three ranks of membership in the Gorsedd. Until 2012 they were, in ascending order of honour *Ovates*, who wear green robes, *Bards*, who wear blue robes, and *Druids*, who wear white robes.

Since 2012 all these ranks are treated as equal, with new members all being called ‘druids’ and with the colour of their robes reflecting the area of their contribution rather than an ascending order of honour. Their main meeting takes place with the National Eisteddfod of Wales. The current Archdruid is Myrddin ap Dafydd.

Inspired by the Welsh example during the 19th C., in 1900 Goursez Breizh, a Breton Gorsedd was established, with Ar Fusteg as Grand Druid and Taldir as Herald Bard. The Breton Gorsedd's first public ceremony was held at Brignonan, Finistère, in 1903. It has had a difficult history, particularly during and after WW2. Members of the circle wear white robes. Per Vari Kerloc'h is the current Great Druid of Brittany. Cornwall, Wales, and Brittany exchange representatives at each of their Gorsedd. In the Duchy of Cornwall a revival in interest in the Cornish language, especially through the work of Henry Jenner, Keeper of Manuscripts at the British Museum, was strong at the turn of the 20th C.. Several 'Old Cornwall' societies were formed and language revival grew. At the conference of the Federation of Old Cornwall Societies in February 1928 it was agreed that the officials of the Welsh Gorsedd be invited to hold a ceremony in Cornwall, with a view to forming a Cornish Gorsedd...



Gorsedd Kernow assembled in St Just, Sept 2019

.... continues in Part 2

For the full paper go to:
http://members.ozemail.com.au/~kevrenor/CornishBards_CANSWTalk_4thMarch2023.pdf

Our Cornish Places

Tresillian House, 2 Shaw Street, Petersham NSW

Built originally by the Langdon family from Cornwall, The Tresillian story started in 1918, with the formation of the Royal Society For the Welfare of Mothers and Babies, sparked by soaring infant mortality and the World Flu pandemic. In 1921 an Infant Welfare Training School was established at Petersham, to help train Nurses in Baby Health. The Society became known as Tresillian, the name of this home in Shaw Street. Tresillian has adapted and expanded its services to support mothers

and babies across NSW to the present day. The Petersham property was sold in the 1990s. The present owners spent \$3M in restoration in 2020 for conversion to "Co Living" 40 modern fully furnished studio apartments, with shared work spaces, spread across the 2,500 sq metre property.



NEWS

ROYAL CORNWALL MUSEUM

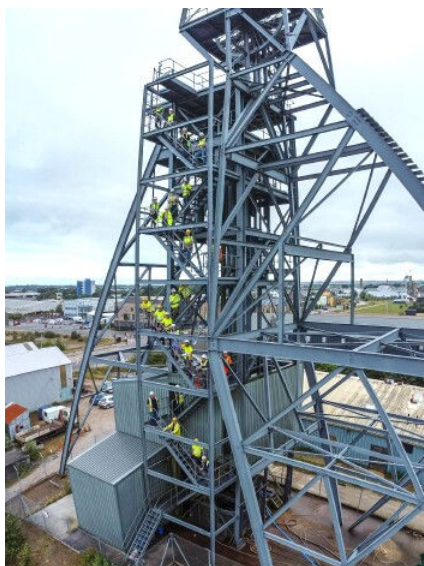


Royal Cornwall Museum (RCM) received £100,000 in transitional funding from Cornwall Council to review its business plans and find new strategic partners after missing out on a bid for council funding earlier in 2022. RCM's future now looks more settled after the Arts Council announced that the museum would receive £1,494,284 through the Museum Estate and Development Fund to go towards repairs to the building including its roof and windows, to protect the collections, public and its staff – and to help the museum achieve its goal of reaching net carbon zero emissions by 2030. 12 months ago the Royal Cornwall

Museum faced "imminent closure" but now a new £476k grant will transform it. Read more: <https://bbc.in/3XQt4Na>

SOUTH CROFTY

The iconic headframe at South Crofty mine is due to be operating again in the summer of 2023! Sheeve wheels on the headframe will be turning again to hoist the conveyances required to access the workings with personnel and materials. Two new single drum winding engines have been purchased to wind from this shaft, both due to arrive in the northern autumn of 2023. South Crofty is a metalliferous tin and copper mine located in the village of Pool, Cornwall. An ancient mine, it has seen production for over 400 years, and extends almost two and a half miles across and 3,000 feet (910m) down and has mined over 40 lodes.



Evidence of mining activity in South Crofty has been dated back to 1592, with full-scale mining beginning in the mid-17th century. The mine went into serious decline after 1985 and eventually closed in 1998. After several changes of ownership, South Crofty is owned by Cornish Metals Inc

Nature-loving locals can visit the grounds of **St Michael's Church, Landrake**, and see hedgehogs, slow worms, the occasional smooth snake, finches, song thrushes and more – and from June, will be able to grab some groceries there, too. The cost-of-living crisis accelerated plans to develop extra food support for the village. By growing their own beetroot, radishes, mixed salad leaves, herbs, raspberries,

pears and apples, (on land that is not part of the burial area) the church can bolster their existing efforts to support people in need through their unofficial food bank.

Notable Cornish, people of Cornwall, and of the diaspora

John Quick (Part 2)

As an active member of the constitutional committee, Quick addressed aspects of the voter franchise, representation in the Senate and solutions for deadlocks. His speeches highlighted his preparedness to compromise in order to see Federation achieved, and his realization that since the people were to vote on the draft Constitution, they needed to be well informed. Quick was knighted on 1 January 1901 for his outstanding contribution to Federation, which was carried (narrowly in some cases) by all Australian colonies (NZ stayed out). That year, with (Sir) Robert Garran, he published 'The Annotated Constitution of the Australian Commonwealth', a 'monumental tome' including a valuable history of the Federation movement, which confirmed his authority on constitutional questions.

He was elected unopposed as the first Commonwealth parliament member for Bendigo, a seat he held until 1913. However, his immediate hopes for preferment from his leader and potential patron Deakin—a ministry, the Speakership, secretaryship of cabinet—were dashed. In 1905-07 he had a troubled, stormy time as chairman of the royal commission on the Commonwealth tariff which produced voluminous and inconclusive reports. Quick became increasingly critical of Deakin's close association with Labour and was an early advocate of fusion of non-Labour elements.

Early in 1909 though Deakin had Quick in mind as his possible successor and included him as postmaster-general in his Fusion ministry of June 1909–April 1910. But Quick's political aspirations had been disappointed. After his defeat in 1913 Quick returned to the Bendigo legal firm he had established with Barkly Hyett in 1892. He continued the important works of authorship which had begun with 'The History of Land Tenure in the Colony of Victoria' (1883) and 'The Inauguration of Parliamentary

Government in Victoria' (1886), followed by, with his friend Sir Littleton Groom, 'The Judicial Power of the Commonwealth' (1904).

In 1919 he published 'The Legislative Powers of the Commonwealth and the States in Australia' and in 1920, with L. Murphy, 'The Victorian Liquor Licence and Local Option Laws Abridged and Consolidated'. In 1922 Quick was appointed deputy president of the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration, work for which he was well suited; based in Melbourne, he retired in 1930.

He began bibliographical work on Australian authors which was eventually completed by E. Morris Miller and published as 'Australian Literature from its Beginnings (1940). Quick served on the committees of the Bendigo Art Gallery and the Mechanics' Institute. He enjoyed gardening and had been a prominent member of the Forest Street Methodist Church and a Freemason.

The journalist Claude McKay described Quick as being of medium height and powerful build with blunt features and outsize head, striding along Pall Mall, Bendigo, 'compact and rigid as a clothed statue in action ... He had a toneless voice and a heavy manner, and took a witness with plodding gradualness and inevitability'. Garran, while admiring Quick's extraordinary thoroughness, sometimes felt himself to be something like 'the junior partner of a steamroller'.

Quick died on 17 June 1932 at his Camberwell home in Melbourne, and was buried in Back Creek cemetery, Bendigo. A self-made man, Cornishman John Quick rose from relative poverty and obscurity to become one of the 'Founding Fathers' of his adopted nation. The city of Bendigo, where he was a legendary hero, erected a bronze bust of him in 1934 in the Queen Victoria Gardens, bearing the motto '*Qui Patitur Vincit*' – 'He who perseveres conquers'. A plaque also has been placed in Cornwall by Australian Cornish to honour him.

NB: With the 'Voice' referendum coming up later this year, you can find out more about the Commonwealth of Australia Constitution here:

<https://www.aph.gov.au/constitution>

and the process of Referenda to change it, here:

<https://aec.gov.au/referendums/>

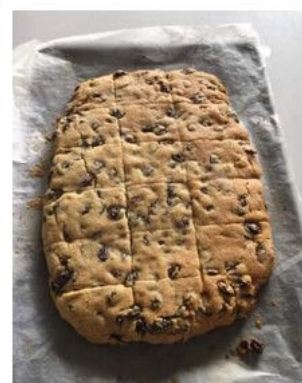
Cooking with Jeremy

I like to try new things and first baked this many years ago, and have been baking it ever since.

Hevva Cake

Why? .. several reasons, it's a very easy recipe to follow, quick to make, ingredients are not hard to come by, it's delicious, and not much washing up... enough!

Some seem to refer to it as 'heavy' cake, no idea why as it's not heavy and it's not really a cake. Also, the Cornish word 'Hevva' is not related to the English word of 'heavy' in any way. Instead, the word 'hevva' gives us a clue to it's true origins, with the word 'hevva' being derived from the direct Cornish word 'hes va' which means, there's 'a shoal here', a call traditionally shouted by the huer on approach of the pilchard shoals, as a cry to the fisherman to launch their boats. The approach of the pilchards was one of great excitement for the fishing villages, it represented not only a good food source, but also a great commercial opportunity for the fishermen. As popular folklore would have it, those left onshore baked these cakes for the fisherman's return.



Ingredients include;

230g – self raising flour

85g – butter

60g – lard

75 / 90g – granulated sugar (I tend to use less rather than more, it's up to you)

½ tsp nutmeg

315g – currants & candied lemon peel (or pre 'mixed fruit' from the supermarket)

A little milk, but not too much, dough should be soft but stiff

Preparation

1. Pre heat the oven to 180C
2. Rub the butter into the flour until it has the texture of fine breadcrumbs.
3. Add sugar and fruit and mix well, I use my hands!
4. Add the nutmeg and mix in
5. Add milk to make a soft, stiff dough (if in doubt add a little extra as it can turn out a little dry)
6. Put your mixture onto a board and roll out to an approximate depth of 1.5cm's
7. Roll roughly circular, then score the top with a sharp knife with criss-cross diagonal lines**
8. Place on baking paper on a baking tray, and pop in the oven, 180C for 30 minutes

[** Legend suggests this was to represent the nets of the fishing boats]

Keep a steady eye on it as you near the 30min, too long and it'll be a bit on the dry side! Once cooked remove from oven, brush with a little milk whilst still warm, and you can at this point sprinkle with a little granulated sugar (for those who like things a little sweeter), place on a wire rack and allow to cool.

Once cool either cut or break off bits and serve with tea. 'Dentethye' (in Kernewek) !!

Please send feedback into the newsletter, I'd luv to hear how everyone goes with this...

Next newsletter; we'll be baking beautiful saffron buns, stay tuned.

Jeremy Garlick

PLAS AN TAVES

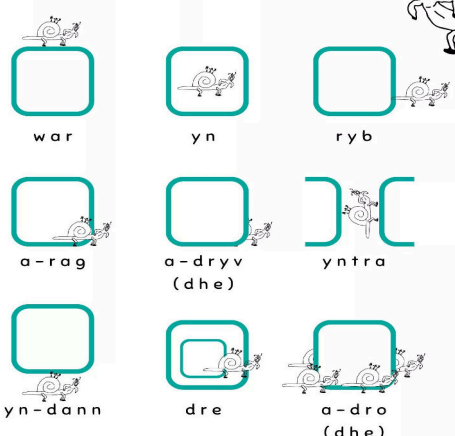
This is Plas an Tavas = Language Place - Introducing you to some daily Kernewek, the ancient Celtic language of Cornwall today, to practice.

Pronunciation? Cornish is mainly phonetic!

More: <https://www.cornishdictionary.org.uk>

Dyski Arageryow

gans Teri an Bulhorn



In this issue you will learn about: Locations - look at the location of the Snail (Bullhorn)



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

Sayings - Wise words on Ageing

"The older we get, the fewer things seem worth waiting in line for." - Will Rogers

Email from Amber Wallace re CANSW Website

"I'd like to pass on my thanks to the Association, in particular John L Symonds of Cronulla for the article on The Making of Cadia Mine. I'm a direct descendent of Thomas Faull (1832-1878) who immigrated to NSW in 1854 on the Lady Elgin via his son Charles Faull (1859-1936) of Parkes. Charles' Daughter Maria Strickland is my Great Grandmother Alice Guise (nee Faull)'s Mother. It was wonderful to learn about the Faull family. I didn't know they were of Cornish descent. I very much appreciate the time taken and efforts made to preserve the history of the family. Thanks to this work, this history which was lost to me, can be passed down to the next generation. Kind regards, Amber Dubbo NSW"

Dates coming up ... Feast day of St Samson of Dol (23 July, 2023).

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 405 due for the months of September / October has a copy deadline of 6th September, 2023

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

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