

Onen hag oll

The Cornish Association of Victoria Inc. Ballarat Branch

A.C.N. A0008 264A

August 2023 Newsletter

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**Saturday 5th August 2023 at 2.00 pm**

Our speaker will be Jenny Burrell and she will speak about the 1891 Women's Suffrage Petition.

Saturday 7th October 2023 at 2.00 pm - TBA

Saturday 3rd June 2023 was the Annual General Meeting.

After a short welcome to members and to our guest speaker, Brian Rollason, CAV President, our chairperson Keith Lanyon shared his Annual report and tabled reports from the Treasurer and Librarian, which were accepted by members present.

CAV Ballarat Branch – Chairman's Report 2023

COVID is officially over and we are still here. That is good news! The effects of this pandemic and the attempts to control it have still got a way to go.

We as a group have to operate in a more than usually fluid social environment - as do similar groups. Change presents challenges and opportunities; we need to meet the one with wisdom and courage and to recognise and respond to the opportunities that arise.

I ask you to consider what you get from our association and what others may also find of value. We certainly need to consider the future, especially

with regard to people.

Good programmes, great speakers, and good fellowship need people to come to them.

John Mildren has spoken of this to us a number of times and I think we need to become deliberate in our efforts to grow or we will certainly slowly die out.

Effort goes into our programmes; I think our St Piran's Day event was really good and I thank Robyn, Bev, and Jim especially.

We don't put as much work into Publicity. I think we need to attend to this.

A third and unmeasurable dimension is personal invitation, to consider inviting people who may prove to share our interests.

I hope you have enjoyed our association as much as I have and I thank you for the privilege of office.

Especially I thank the committee members for their service.

Keith Lanyon
Chair

Brian Rollason conducted the election of Office Bearers and Committee members for 2023/2024

Chairperson - Keith Lanyon
Vice-Chairperson - Wendy Benoit
Administrative Secretary - Lorice Jenkin
Treasurer - Jim Hocking
Committee - Bev Hocking, Robyn Coates

Brian, originally from Falmouth in Cornwall presented a fascinating talk about Pendennis and St Mawes Castles, situated on either side of the mouth of the Fal River.

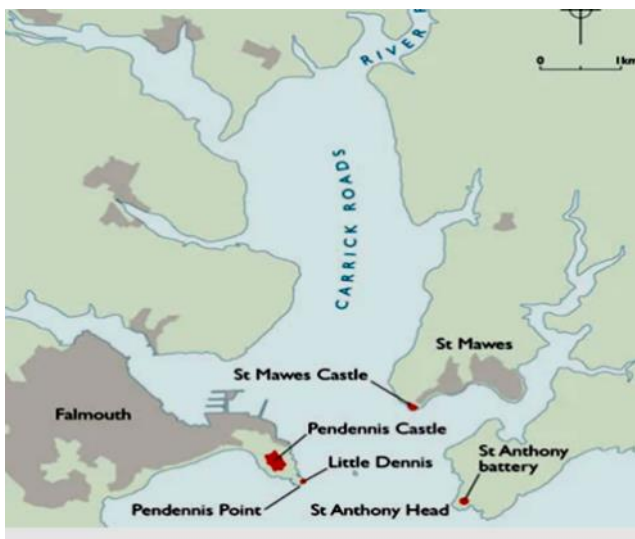
Normally meetings are held on the even months at Skipton Street Uniting Church Hall, cnr Darling and Skipton Streets, Ballarat.
Meetings begin at 2.00 pm and are followed by a shared high tea.



Google Map showing Falmouth



Brian's talk included lots of photos, drawings and maps. I have included some of his notes from his presentation



Map showing the two castles on either side of the estuary

The word Pendennis comes from the Cornish “pen dinas” meaning hill fort and St Mawes is named after the Celtic saint St Maudez, who was possibly from Brittany.

The castles are two of the finest surviving coastal fortresses which began as gun forts in the 16th century as part of Henry VIII's plan to protect England.

The castles were built from 1539-1545 when England faced a possible invasion from the united powers of Catholic Europe and were part of the national plan by Henry devised to strengthen military and naval forces.

In 1533, Henry VIII had broken with Pope Paul III in order to annul the long-standing marriage to his wife, Catherine of Aragon and marry Anne Boleyn. Catherine was the aunt of Charles V, the Holy

Roman Emperor, and he took the annulment as a personal insult.

This resulted in France and the Roman Empire declaring an alliance against Henry in 1538, and the Pope encouraging the two to attack England.

Traditionally, the Crown had left coastal defences to the local lords and communities, only taking a modest role in building and maintaining fortifications

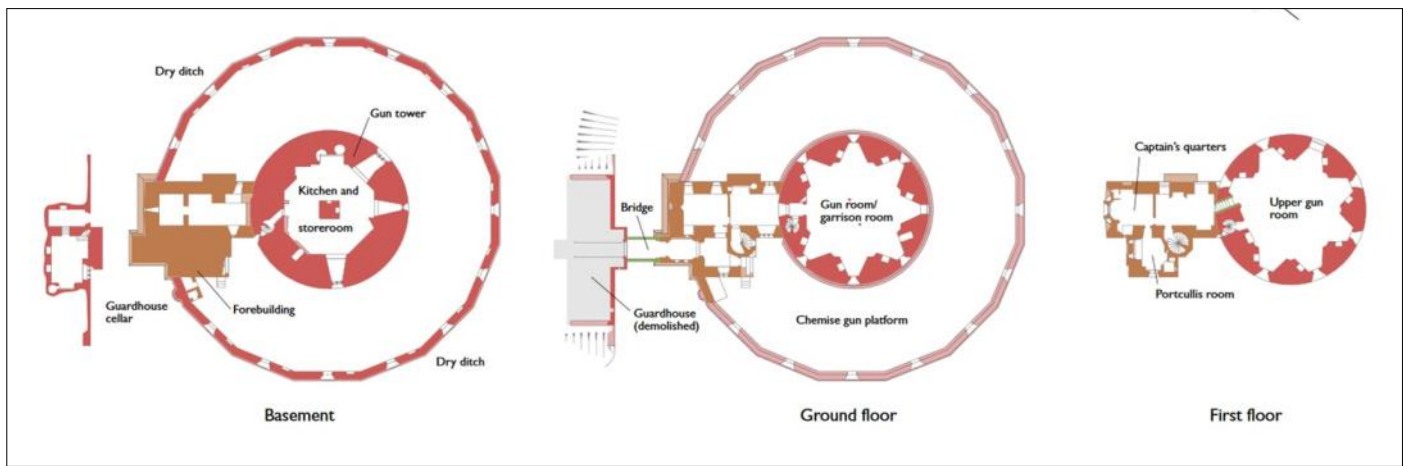
The stretch of water known as Carrick Roads, at the mouth of the River Fal, was an important shipping anchorage serving ships arriving from the Atlantic and the Mediterranean, and originally plans were made to protect it with five castles - only two of these were constructed - St Mawes and Pendennis - positioned on each side of Carrick Roads.

The two castles' guns would provide overlapping fire across the water, while St Mawes also overlooked a separate anchorage on the eastern side of the estuary.



Pendennis Castle - pictured above and St Mawes Castle - pictured below - from Wikipedia - photos in the public domain.





Castle Facts

- * Each had a circular design that allowed all-round fire from guns mounted at several levels.
- * Fully garrisoned by up to 100 men but only when there was an imminent threat.
- * Falmouth Harbour is a deep water inlet and the Spanish intended to land troops and capture Carrick Roads.

From 1596-1646

- * In 1597, the soldiers and courtiers Sir Nicholas Parker, Sir Fernando Parker and Sir Walter Raleigh surveyed the defences of Pendennis.
- * By 1600, the engineer Paul Ive had enclosed the castle with a much larger fortress enclosing the whole headland.
- * It was an elongated pentagon in plan defined by a high rampart and ditch.
- * A new fortress known as Little Dennis was heavily armed with large guns



Photo from - <https://www.english-heritage.org.uk/visit/places/pendennis-castle/history-and-stories/>

The siege of Pendennis 1646

- * During the Civil War Falmouth was an important port for Charles's army.
- * In 1646 Pendennis was one of the last Royalist strongholds to hold out against the

Parliamentarians.

- * Over 1000 soldiers and their dependants endured a five month long siege.
- * Representatives from the castle (including Colonels Arundel, Arnold, Slaughter, Jennings and Tremayne) met up with the Parliamentary leaders Sir Thomas Fairfax, Colonel John St Aubyn and Sir John Ayscue
- * The articles of the surrender were very liberal including an honourable retreat
- * Led by Sir John Arundel everyone marched out of the castle complete with arms, flying colours and marching to drums and trumpets.
- * Each soldier could carry 12 charges of powder with bullets then lay down their arms but could keep their swords.
- * Upon the Restoration in 1660 Colonel Richard Arundel (son of John) was created a Peer with the title of Baron Arundel of Trecire.

Georgian Modernisation

- * In 1714 defences reviewed by engineer Colonel Christopher Lilly - neglected and in a ruinous condition
- * Repairs from 1732-1739- including old rampart was reformed, new guns installed and new buildings, Storehouse, gunpowder magazine and gunner's barracks
- * 1775-1780 American War with new barracks
- * Napoleonic Wars 1793-1815 garrison became permanent with an extra five raised gun batteries overlooking land approaches plus a new sea battery Half Moon Battery.

Decline and re-armament

- * After defeat of Napoleon there was a period of decline for the castles
- * In 1850s England and France became rivals and more powerful guns were installed but no new buildings.
- * The area was not seen to be as important as other areas of the English coastline.

* In 1885 a submarine minefield was laid across to the entrance to Carrick Roads with mines that could be detonated remotely.

* Designated as a “defended port” in 1887 resulted in many new defences for the castle e.g. breech loading guns, six inch guns, six and twelve pounders

The World Wars

* During First World War Pendennis became command centre of coast defences for West Cornwall

* Training area for forces before going to France and Belgium

* In 1939 resumed control of coastal defences against the threat from torpedo boats

* latest gun models were installed and a Battery Plotting room was established.

Post war years

* In 1957 the castle was returned to the Ministry of Works and was opened to the public

*The castle is now owned by English Heritage and costs thirteen pounds entry if you are not a member of English Heritage.

* There are exhibitions which show the history of the castle

* St Mawes Castle is also owned by English Heritage

Those in attendance thoroughly enjoyed Brian’s presentation and their knowledge of history was greatly increased.

Brian seen her with Ballarat member, Les George.



Lost Cousins

Following a tip from Di Christensen, I joined the online group called *Lost Cousins*.

They send a regular newsletter and like many groups and newsletters it occasionally has interesting tips which I find helpful.

In a recent issue they report on “Instant Access to GRO records” following a trial by selected participants.

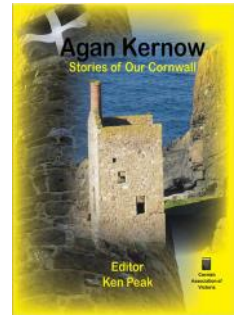
For £2.50, people will be able to download digital birth and death records - births from 1837 until 100 years ago and deaths from 1837-1887.

Further information can be found at:

<https://www.lostcousins.com/newsletters2/jul23special.htm>

Agan Kernow

The following letter was recently received by Ken Peak, editor of *Agan Kernow*



Dear Ken

We’re pleased to tell you that your publication *Agan Kernow* has been short-listed in Gorsedh Kernow’s Holyer an Gof Awards scheme this year.

We do realise that you are unlikely to be able to attend the awards ceremony below.

Perhaps you would like to nominate someone in Cornwall to act as a representative?

The presentation ceremony will take place on Saturday 15th. July 2023 at Kresen Kernow in Redruth.

Guests are welcome to arrive from 6pm for a 6.30 start and enjoy a glass of wine and a chance to look at all the entries.

Deputy Grand Bard Jenefer Lowe will present the certificates and cups and Tiffany Truscott of BBC Radio Cornwall will present the event.

Bards Mike O’Connor and Barbara Griggs will perform for us during a short musical interval.

Group photographs of nominated publishers and authors and of class and cup winners will be taken with the Deputy Grand Bard at the end of the ceremony.

Oll a’n gwella – best wishes

Gareth and Pat Parry

Co-organisers

Gorsedh Kernow Holyer an Gof Publishers’ Awards scheme

The book is available for purchase by CAV Members, relatives and friends.

This is a 262-page book of 76 stories by 51 authors from across the Cornish diaspora.

The purchase price is \$25 - speak with Robyn Coates to purchase a copy.



A touch of Humour

“Poor old fool,” thought the well-dressed gentleman as he watched an old man fish in a puddle outside a pub. So he invited the old man inside for a drink.

As they sipped their whiskys, the gentleman thought he’d humour the old man and asked, “So how many have you caught today?”

The old man replied, “You’re the eighth.”

VALE

Maisie Isobel Cunningham

27/05/1929 - 01/07/2023



It is with sadness that we report the recent death of our friend Maisie Cunningham.

Maisie was born in Warracknabeal in 1929 to William Herbert Peter (Bert) and Minnie Pearl McIntyre (nee Byers) and had two sisters, Irene and Kate and a brother, Ronnie.

Her father was a farmer.

Maisie went to school in Warracknabeal and later to Ballarat Teachers' College.

In 1950, she married David Colin Cunningham, son of Alice Ethel (nee Bodey) and David Johns Cunningham in Warracknabeal - his father was also a farmer in the Warracknabeal district.

Maisie and David had four children - Wendy, Margo, John and Mark.

Her husband, David, was badly injured in an accident, became a paraplegic and died at the age of 44 years in Warracknabeal, in 1966, leaving Maisie with four young children to raise as a single parent.

Following David's death, Maisie returned to teaching. After further study, she became a librarian.

Very sadly their son Mark died in a car accident at Windermere aged 21 years in 1980.

Maisie retired from the Education Department in 1989.

Maisie enjoyed travelling and ventured to Cornwall, Scotland and China by herself. One of her favourite books was an Atlas.

She was community minded and enjoyed working at Lifeline, for fifteen years; was responsible for establishing a Ladies Probus Group; volunteered at Sovereign Hill and enjoyed Bowls.

Maisie had lived at *Kellaston* for the past three years where her sister Irene Young had also lived until her death last June.

Maisie joined the Cornish Association on 1st October 1987 and was very proud of her Cornish Ancestry, being descended from William Pryn and Honor Polkinghorne who were married, at Egloshayle, in 1769.

If you would like to watch Maisie's Service it can be found at:

<https://patcashinfunerals.slcaust.com.au/110172.html>

Kernewek Lowender

It was 50 years since the first Kernewek Lowender was held with an estimated attendance of around 30 000 people.

I was surprised when I read of the numbers as I thought attendances were much less than previous years.

Two Cornish couples were among the attendees - Jerry and Mary Rogers and Kate Neale and her fiancé Nick Smith. It was great to spend time with them and Arthur and I look forward to catching up with them in a few weeks' time in Cornwall.

Dressing the Grave ceremonies were held at four cemeteries - Green Plains West, Wallaroo, Kadina and Moonta.



At each cemetery, eight or nine graves were dressed with flowers and a citation read concerning the person. Local school children sang in a choir at each cemetery.

The Cornish seminar was held in a much warmer venue this year - the Kadina football Club.

The theme this year was "The Cornish in Public Life" and eight papers were presented.

*Neil Thomas - James Martin from Gawler
 *Robyn Coates presenting Chris Dunkerley's paper - NSW Governors with Cornish Connections
 *Cheryl Willis - The Life of Phyllis Somerville
 *Ray Frost - Len Treloar, Solicitor
 *Kate Neale - Joseph Glasson, Musician
 *Ken Peak - William Peak, the Grand Old Man of Drayton
 *Robyn Knight - Oswald Pryor
 *Bernard O'Neil and Sue Randell on Keith Johns (former head of SA Dept. of Mines and Energy and Sue's father - Keith had died a couple of days before the Festival).



L to R - Robyn Coates, Neil Thomas, Ken Peak, Robyn Knight, Bernard O'Neil, Kate Neale, Cheryl Willis, Shirley Frost, Ray Frost and Sue Randell

During the seminar there were two book launches - *More than Miners* (edited by Jan Lokan and Philip Payton) and *Captains of Copper - biographies of mine captains of the Copper Triangle* by Robyn Knight.

Unfortunately, the weather wasn't as kind as it could have been and the Friday Parade and associated activities, on the Moonta Oval, and the Saturday Furry Dance and Maypole, in Kadina, were greatly hampered by rain, though by late afternoon, on both days, we were treated to sunshine enabling our wet clothes and shoes to dry.



Liz Coole and Lillian James sheltering from the rain.

The stall holders would have been frustrated by the lack of patronage unless they were selling pasties!!

The children performing the Maypole in the pouring rain.



The *Sup and Sing* evening was very enjoyable.

The CASA Choir were in fine voice; Liesl Warner was superb on the harp; Marcus Curnow with his dad Ted gave a very funny tale about a pasty bought at a famous supermarket chain, whilst Peter Galliford acted as MC and also read some humorous poetry.



Due to the uncertainty in the weather, the Bardic Ceremony, on the Saturday afternoon, was held in the Wallaroo PS Hall.

The Calvacade of cars through the towns and countryside of the Copper Triangle, on the Sunday, seemed to have increased in number and noise level!

On Sunday afternoon, the Moonta Mines church was the venue for an old style Methodist Pleasant Sunday Afternoon (PSA) led by Rev. June Ladner, with some rousing singing of old Methodist hymns and choruses, superbly accompanied by Darryl Parker, a very talented organist. PSA guests were the CASA Choir and Liesl Warner whose performances were of a very high standard.



The Church has been sold to a Faith Community but has agreed to allow the service to be held during Kernewek Lowender for the next ten years.

The Wombat Hotel in Kadina was the venue for the final gathering of the Cornish. It was good to sit and relax and chat to those we may have missed during the festival.

Thanks to the Cornish Association of SA for their part in a very successful Kernewek Lowender and we hope we are well enough to attend in 2025.

A selection of photos from Kernewek Lowender can be found at:

<https://www.cornishvic.org.au/recgall.html>

CORNISH snippets

Bishop of Truro leaving

The Bishop of Truro is leaving his role in Cornwall to become the next Bishop of Winchester.

The Right Reverend Philip Mounstephen will serve as the 98th Bishop of the Winchester Diocese, covering 225 parishes across Hampshire and Dorset.

The previous Bishop, Dr Tim Dakin, stepped down from the role in 2021.

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby welcomed Bishop Mounstephen to Winchester, and the House of Lords.

In January, Bishop Mounstephen promised a period of change for Truro Cathedral after a report cited "serious concerns" with its management.

He had commissioned a formal review after staff raised their concerns.

The visiting team found "discordant leadership, conflictual working relationships, underperformance and an unhealthy culture".

Bishop Mounstephen said he hoped the issues would be sorted by 2024.

The Right Reverend Hugh Nelson will become the Acting Diocesan Bishop until a new Bishop of Truro is found.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-cornwall-66121741>



UK lithium mining announced in Cornwall

The mining of battery-grade lithium carbonate - a key component in electric cars - has been announced in Cornwall.

The joint venture between china clay company Imerys and British Lithium aims to operate the UK's "leading lithium hub" within five years.

Their target is to supply 500,000 electric cars with the component per year by the end of the decade.

The development, in the St Austell area, could potentially create at least 300 direct jobs, the companies said.

It is estimated there are enough resources that the life of a mine could exceed 30 years and produce 20,000 tonnes of lithium carbonate equivalent per year.

This would meet roughly two-thirds of Britain's estimated battery demand by 2030.

The UK government has previously acknowledged the urgent need for electric vehicle battery manufacturing in the UK to secure the future of the car industry.

A spokesperson for the new Cornwall project said drilling and exploration had been carried out since 2017 and a process and pilot plant had been developed.

It has received financial support from Innovate UK and the Automotive Transformation Fund, a program to support the electrification of vehicles and their supply chains in the UK.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-cornwall-66051126>



Finds at Truro dig date back centuries

Archaeologists working with building developers have made some interesting discoveries beneath a major new project in Truro.

The Pydar Street development will result in new housing, shops, and a university campus.

Objects found include a military button, clay pipes and a marble with some items dating back to the 1500s.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-cornwall-65950602>



Warning over low reservoir levels in Devon and Cornwall

South West Water (SWW) is warning the public of low reservoir levels.

It said due to hot and dry weather, reservoir levels across the region had been "unable to fully recharge ahead of the peak summer demand".

A hosepipe ban has been in place in Cornwall and parts of north Devon since August 2022.

The ban was extended into large parts of Devon in April which was supposed to help replenish water supplies at Roadford reservoir.

Water levels at Roadford Reservoir are 15% lower compared to June 2022, and levels at Colliford Reservoir, which dropped to around 15% capacity in 2022, are around 2% higher than June 2022.

SWW said it was investing £125m to "significantly increase its water resources" across Cornwall and Devon.

In November 2022, the company was told to

urgently address the impact of waste water discharges, and was fined more than £2.1m after it admitted causing pollution in the counties in April. CEO Susan Davy was one of three heads to not take her annual bonus, which SWW said would instead go directly to customers via a shareholder scheme or be taken as a credit on their bill. The company also increased its share dividend by 10.9% for 2023.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-devon-65912761>



£291m hospital for women and children to be built

A new hospital for women and children is set to be built in Cornwall, the Royal Cornwall Hospital Trust (RCHT) has announced.

The new hospital, which is expected to cost £291m and be completed by 2028, will be built on the Trust's site in Truro.

It will bring together maternity, neonatal, paediatric, and obstetric and gynaecology services in one building and also become the new main entrance for the Royal Cornwall Hospital.

The project is part of the national New Hospital Programme.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cw4vj7wrjzjo>



New geothermal plant for Eden project

The UK's first operating deep geothermal heating plant since 1986 is being switched on.

The process of drilling deep into the granite at the Eden Biomes in Cornwall was finished in 2021.

Eden Geothermal Ltd (EGL) has now completed the heat main and plant and is ready to supply heat to the Eden Project and its new state-of-the-art nursery, Growing Point.

The well has a vertical depth of 4,871 metres (just over 3 miles). The measured depth - the actual length of the well - is 5,277 metres (nearly 3.3 miles), the longest geothermal well in the UK.

The Growing Point nursery has been built between the geothermal site and the Biomes.

It serves as a demonstrator of regenerative sustainability and a circular system in both its construction and operation, eliminating the need for a pre-existing off-site nursery, reducing food-miles and dependence on fossil fuels.

It will also enable Eden's Living Landscapes Team to

produce all the plants for the Rainforest Biome, Mediterranean Biome Outdoor Gardens and retail, as well as food for the hundreds of thousands of visitors Eden welcomes every year.

EGL secured £24 million from a combination of European Regional Development Fund, Cornwall Council and commercial funding from GCP Infrastructure Investments Limited.

<https://planetradio.co.uk/pirate-fm/local/news/>

Lego lost at sea exhibition at Royal Cornwall Museum

Pieces of Lego are hauled up every week by fishermen off Cornwall, more than 25 years after a huge cargo ship spill.

More than five million Lego pieces were lost from the Tokio Express off Land's End in 1997, when a freak wave knocked 62 containers into the sea. Pieces have been washing up along Cornish beaches ever since, and have been found as far away as the Channel Islands, Ireland, Holland and Denmark.

The tale is being told at an exhibition at the Royal Cornwall Museum.

The Lego Group said the spill was an "unfortunate accident".

Tracey Williams who has studied the event and documents finds on Facebook, said the fishing industry regularly finds more of the Lego where it sank, 20 miles off the coast.

Different pieces are also now starting to emerge more.

The exhibition in Truro, called *Adrift: Lost at sea*, was inspired by a book she wrote on the incident, which she described as "part whimsical and part doom-laden".

She told the BBC a "community of thousands" had formed over the years, who she was very grateful to for coming forward with their finds.

Lego pieces lost at sea include:

352,000 pairs of diver fins

97,500 miniature scuba tanks

88,316 sets of tiny flowers

54,000 pieces of seagrass

33,941 dragons - 514 were green

26,600 yellow lifejackets for mini-figures

26,400 pieces of ship's rigging

Oceanographers are now using the lost Lego to better understand ocean currents.

A study of the pieces by the University of Plymouth published in 2020 suggested a Lego brick could survive in the ocean for as many as 1,300 years.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-cornwall-66187273>