

The Cornish Association of Victoria Inc. Ballarat Branch

A.C.N. A0008 264A

December 2023 Newsletter

Onen hag oll

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**Nadelik Lowen ha Blythen
Nowydh da
Merry Christmas and Happy
New Year**



Saturday 2nd December 2023 - Christmas Dinner at the Ballarat Grand 203 Dana St - cost \$38.50

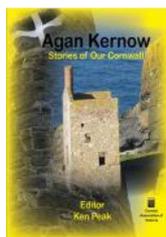
Saturday 3rd February 2024 - TBA - speaker not confirmed

Sunday 3rd March 2024 - St Piran's Day Celebration
Church Service at Skipton Street at 10.00 am followed by Pasty Lunch in the Skipton Street Hall, with the possibility of an afternoon activity. More details in the New Year.

Agan Kernow

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.

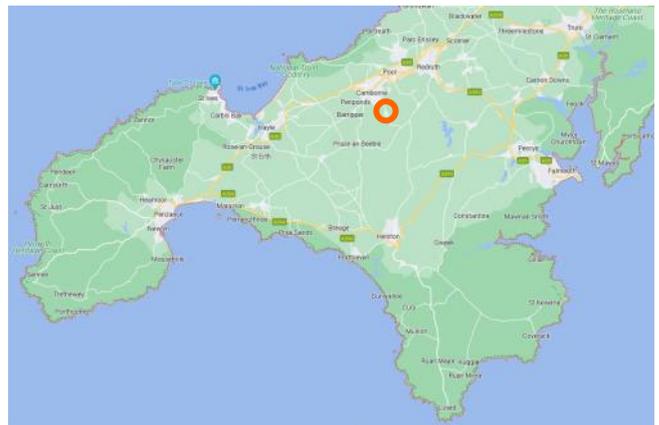
The purchase price is \$25 - speak with Robyn Coates to purchase a copy.

**October Meeting**

At the October meeting, we welcomed Simon Dennis who spoke of his family connection to Cornwall.

The family originated from a small hamlet, called Chytodden, now located in the Troon area - a few miles from Camborne.

Marked by orange circle.



Chytodden seen here, on the left of this ordinance map.



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.





Current aerial photo showing farm location, with Troon to the right and below the current farm gate.



Charles and John Wesley both visited Cornwall from 1743 and it is recorded that John Wesley visited another thirty-two times during his life time. Simon told the group that a family story suggests the Wesley brothers were often guests of the Dennis family during that time.

Henry Dennis married Mary Harris (daughter of Benjamin and Joan), after Banns, in January 1808, in the Parish of Camborne. He was listed as a tinner/miner.

They had a large family

- 1808 bapt. Camborne Mary DENNIS
- 1810 bapt. Camborne Henry DENNIS
- 1812 bapt. Camborne Benjamin DENNIS
- 1814 bapt. Camborne John DENNIS born Camborne
- 1816 bapt. Camborne Margaret DENNIS born Camborne
- 1818 bapt. Camborne Grace DENNIS born Stennack

- 1820 bapt. Camborne Jenefer DENNIS born Chytodden
- 1823 bapt. Camborne William DENNIS born Stennac/Stennack
- 1825 bapt. Camborne William DENNIS born Chytodden
- 1827 bapt. Camborne Joseph DENNIS born Chitodden
- 1830 bapt. Camborne Eliza DENNIS born Chytodden

Chytodden farm was leased from the Pendarves family of Pendarves, Camborne. (query - by Benjamin Dennis - Henry's brother - in 1821 for a 21 year lease - Benjamin and Henry had both been miners at the time of their marriages)

Plantation Chapel, located between Troon and Crowan, (near Stennack Wood and Carwynnen Quoit) had a Dennis ancestor as a Trustee and Class Leader.

Henry Dennis died in 1832 at the age of 47 - his death is recorded in the Parish of Camborne and his place of residence is recorded as Chytodden. Buried 1st December 1832.

Chytodden	1	Edmund Bray	35	'Copper Miner	4
		Mary	30		4
		Edmund	6		4
		James	2		4
do	1	Benjamin Dennis	20	'Copper Miner	4
		Grace	20		4
do	1	Mary Dennis	50	Farming	4
		Henry	20	'Copper Miner	4
		John	20	'do	4
		Jenefer	20	Widow	4
		William	15	'Copper Miner	4
		Joseph	10	'Ag Lab	4
		Eliza	8		4
do	1	Benjamin Dennis	60	'Farmer	4
		Mary Dennis	60		4
		Grace	20	Ag Lab	4
		John	20	'do	4
		Elizabeth	2		4

By 1841, fourteen Dennis family members are living at Chytodden as is shown in the census image. Two sons are not recorded. Benjamin born in 1812 had died in 1815. William born in 1823 had died in 1825. Daughter, Margaret isn't listed.

Mary Dennis had married Edmund Bray in 1832.

Grace Dennis (Henry/Mary) had married Benjamin Dennis (Benjamin/Mary) in 1841 - they were first cousins.

Mary Dennis is a widow and appears to be working the farm.

Henry, John, Jenefer, William, Joseph and Eliza are all living at home.

Parish or Township of	Administrative District of	Allyage, Borough of	Manor of	Village of			
Camborne	St Auston			Tron			
Name and Surname of each Person Bred, and Name of the House	Name and Surname of each Person who stands in the house, on the Night of the 30th March, 1851	Relation to	Condition of	Age of each Person	Birth, Death, or Occupation	Where Bred	Whether Blind, Deaf, Dumb, or Lame
Mary Dennis	Mary Dennis	Head	Widow	84	Widow	Camborne	
Joseph Dennis	Joseph Dennis	Son	Single	20	Widow	Camborne	

In the census of 1851, Mary is living with her son Joseph in Tron, Camborne.

Mary lived until 1873 and died at the age of 84 in Tron.

She was buried at Treslothan on 25th November 1873.

William Dennis married Elizabeth Sims in 1848 in Camborne and they came to Victoria. Two children (William and Stephen) were born in the district of Redruth prior to their arrival and five others at Avoca, Sandhurst and Eaglehawk. (Elizabeth, Mary, John, Grace and Emily). William, Elizabeth, William and Stephen arrived aboard the *Sea Park* in March 1858.

Elizabeth died in 1879 (parents Stephen Sims/ Elizabeth Bryant) and William died in 1880 (Henry Dennis/Mary Harris). Elizabeth is buried at Eaglehawk Cemetery in September 1879 and William is buried in August 1880 in Eaglehawk Cemetery.

Grace and Benjamin had five children in the Camborne area - three at Camborne (Henry, Catherine and Henry) and two at Treslothan (Elizabeth Ann and Benjamin).

They both died in Victoria - Grace in 1861 and Benjamin in 1884. Grace is buried at White Hills Cemetery in February 1861 and Benjamin buried in April 1884 at Eaglehawk Cemetery.

One son, Henry died in St Kilda in 1928.

Thanks to Beryl Curnow and Jim and Bev Hocking for providing snippets of information about the Dennis family.

Travels around Cornwall St Teath

When we were staying at Wadebridge, we had some old £20 notes which the banks were not accepting, unless we had a UK bank account, but the teller told us that Post Offices would change them into the newer polymer notes.

Unfortunately, like many towns in Cornwall, Wadebridge no longer has a Post Office. So using our car's GPS, we found the closest PO was at St Teath.

The village is located about three miles (5 km) southwest of Camelford and seven miles (11 km) northeast of Wadebridge. It was a very wet day so a drive through the country was a good activity.

In the middle of the village is an impressive clock tower, which was erected in memory of those from the parish who had lost their lives in various wars, particularly World War I.

The tower was built in 1920 by volunteers to a design by a local mine manager, Oswald Swete. It is powered by a weight which needs re-hoisting every 6 days.



Across the road from the tower, is the Parish Church of St Teath.



The church is part of Cornwall's Living Churchyards - a joint enterprise between the Anglican Diocese of Truro and the Cornwall Wildlife Trust. Its aim is to work with the local community (not just the church congregation) to promote the sympathetic management of Cornwall's churchyards which can provide an important refuge for a diversity of wildlife as well as a pleasant, reflective sanctuary for the local community.



St Tetha, to whom this church is dedicated, supposedly was one of twenty-four sons and daughters of the Welsh chieftain, King Brychan (Brecon).

Tetha's sisters were Endelienta (St Endellion), Minefreda (St Minver), Mabena (St Mabyn), Adwena (Advent) and Materiana (Tintagel).



The ancient trading route from Wales to Padstow, overland to Fowey and across to early Brittany enabled this part of Cornwall to be evangelized after the Romans had left Britain.

The church's foundations were probably laid between the 5th and 7th centuries and the current building dates from the late 14th/early 15th century.



Above
In 1812, this 11th century font was discovered in the former Vicarage.

The cover of the current font.



The interior of St Teath church.

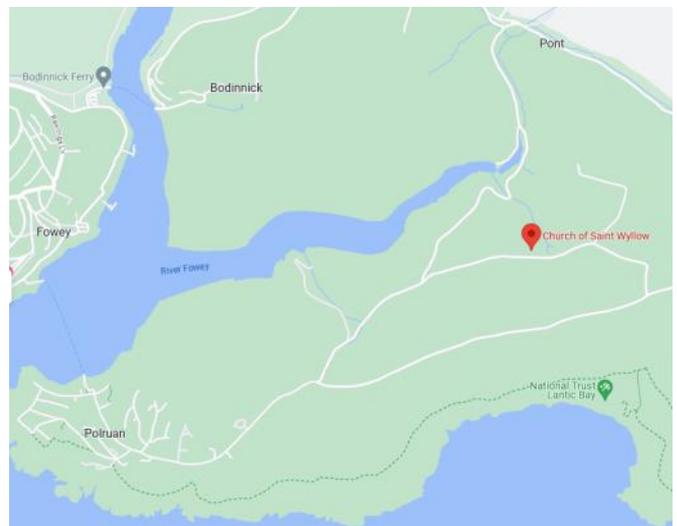


Lanteglos-by-Fowey

Lanteglos-by-Fowey is located on the east side of the tidal estuary of the River Fowey (pronounced Foy) which separates it from the town of Fowey. Pictures shows Fowey from the eastern side of the River



The Lanteglos-by-Fowey Parish church of Saint Wyllow is located opposite Churchtown farm.



A story goes that St Wyllow, thought to have been born in Ireland, a Christian hermit, was living nearby in Pont around 596 and that he was beheaded by Melyn ys Kynrede - *Melyn's kinfolk* (some suggest he may have been a relative).
 St Wyllow walked about half a mile carrying his head to St Wyllow's Bridge, where a church was built in his honour.



The current church was built in the late 14th century with additions in the 15th century and 17th century with major restoration work, in the early 1900s, undertaken by architect Edmund Sedding.



The solid wood entrance door bears a sign - Welcome (in three languages).

The church is open during daylight hours. Push hard - the door is stiff but the reward is great!

The reward was great.



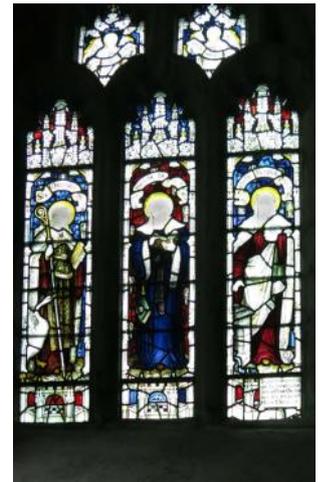
The interior of the church has wonderful wood carvings, some of which are thought to have been completed by the Pinwill sisters, possibly Violet.

Edmund Sedding often stayed with the Pinwill family during restoration work on their father's church (Rev. Edmund Pinwill) at Ermington, in Devon. The girls were taught wood carving by Sedding's uncle and eventually set up their own wood carving business, creating and restoring works for churches.

Pew ends showing carving - choir stalls.



The church also has some brightly coloured stained glass windows - several dedicated to female saints - Morwenna, Ia and Keyna.



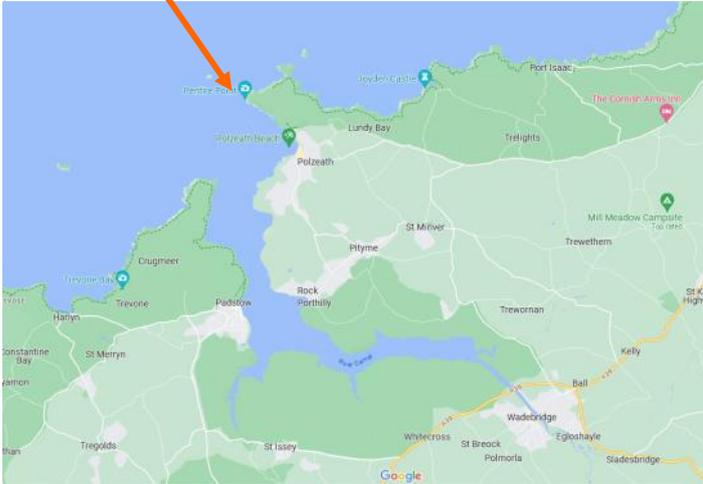
Below - old family pew ends



Daphne du Maurier was married in the church in 1932.

Pentire Point

Pentire Point is located on the north coast of Cornwall, about twelve kms north west of Wadebridge, (to the car park) and about three kms walking from Polzeath.



Pentire Point is managed by the National Trust - it is very handy if you have an Australian NT membership as you receive reciprocal benefits, especially for parking.

The National Trust person on duty looked at us and thought we qualified to park at the Farmhouse - it probably saved us a good mile in walking from the Lead Mines Car Park. (Farmhouse below - now a holiday let)



We had heard many stories of people walking the Cornish coastal path and also met many in our travels. Many older than me. However, we have decided that it is not for us. In this section, some parts were level. However, we found much of it was steep, stony and uneven, without a rail to grab, and with the possibility of rolling down a steep cliff to the water. A map even suggested parts were suited to mobility scooters!!

The views were wonderful. We were able to see The Rumps, Newland Island (aka Puffin Island) and Moul Island and watched a couple of fishermen checking their crayfish pots.

These two photos give some indication of the steepness and narrowness of the path



Path - photo taken from same spot



We were keen to see where Laurence Binyon had written his poem, *For the Fallen*, in 1914. Thankfully there were a few big boulders, which provided seating, enabling us to rest and take in the scenery.



Wadebridge

Located on the Camel River, Wadebridge is in northern Cornwall about 12 km from Bodmin and 14 km from Padstow.

The initial settlement of Wade (the name of Wadebridge before the bridge was built) came about due to a ford in the River Camel.

The early crossing had a chapel on each side of the river, "King's" chapel on the north side and "St Michael's" on the south side.

People would pray for a safe crossing at one of the chapels before wading across at low tide; once they had made it the other side they would give thanks to God in the other chapel.

Wade was part of the parish of St Breock and the river separated it from the neighbouring parish of Egloshayle.

At some time the ford was supplemented by a ferry until the Reverend Thomas Lovibond (the vicar of Egloshayle) became distressed at the number of humans and animals that died during the crossing of the River Camel so he planned the building of a bridge.

Wade then became known as Wadebridge.



Begun in 1468 and completed in 1485, the bridge was traditionally known as the "Bridge on Wool" because it was reputedly built on wool sacks. However, it has been proven to be built on bedrock.

When the bridge was first completed tolls were charged for its maintenance.

In 1853, it was widened from 3 to 5 metres.

A second widening took place in 1952 and then in 1963 it was again widened taking it to 12 m.

One of the main streets in Wadebridge is Eddystone Road where there is a plaque honouring Sir Goldsworthy Gurney who lived and worked in Wadebridge.

Mentioned on the same plaque is the Eddystone Lighthouse.

When cracks were detected in the rocks supporting the lighthouse, a new lighthouse was commissioned and the granite was sourced from the nearby De Lank quarry, transported to Wadebridge, where stonemasons dovetailed each segment of stone. As each layer was completed and checked to fit with the layer above, it was sent out to the Eddystone rocks by sea. The lighthouse was completed in 1882. This resulted in the road where the masons worked being called Eddystone Road.



Molesworth Street - pedestrian street



Town Hall entrance with floral displays.



CORNISH SNIPPETS

The top 20 UK destinations of Brits' bucket list:

- . Loch Ness, Drumnadrochit
- . The Scottish Highlands
- . **Eden Project, Cornwall**
- . Lake District, Cumbria
- . Edinburgh Castle, Edinburgh
- . Roman Baths, Bath
- . Jurassic Coast, Dorset
- . Stonehenge, Salisbury
- . Ben Nevis, Fort William
- . **Land's End, Cornwall**
- . Scottish Coastline
- . Hadrian's Wall, Cumbria
- . Kew Gardens, London
- . Windsor Castle, Berkshire
- . Mount Snowdon, Gwynedd
- . Buckingham Palace, London
- . The Needles, Isle of Wight
- . The Peak District, Derbyshire
- . York Minster, York
- . White Cliffs of Dover, Kent

A staggering £1.2bn worth of homes have been sold in Cornwall so far this year.

The latest findings from eXp UK showed that despite a more tempered market, high-value property sales continue unabated in England and Wales, totalling £99.3bn.

Analysing Land Registry sold price records of 276,785 homes sold from January to August, eXp UK also noted that London remains the top-performing region with £21.6bn worth of property sold.

Kensington and Chelsea stood first as the nation's most valuable property market where £1.6bn worth of homes had been sold by August.

Nevertheless, Cornwall displayed a high performance outside the capital, only trailing Buckinghamshire's £1.4bn total value of homes sold, making it one of the highest aside from London.

Two Cornish charities have been awarded The King's Award for Voluntary Service.

DISC Newquay and Pegasus - Men's Wellbeing Centre have received the highest award a local voluntary group can receive in the UK, equivalent to an MBE.

The awards were announced on 14th November, The King's Birthday

DISC Newquay helps over 3,000 people in Newquay and the surrounding area by supplying and distributing fresh, homecooked meals.

Led by volunteers, the Drop in and Share Centre or DISC tackles some of the many issues affecting those living in one of the most deprived areas of Cornwall.

32 active volunteers make sure the DISC centre opens every day of the year in a building which is a part of a hotel in Newquay.

Pegasus - Men's Wellbeing Centre provides a unique and expert counselling service from its base in Redruth to help men overcome life's challenges, build resilience, and achieve emotional wellbeing.

70 volunteer qualified and in-training trauma counsellors provide a safe and supportive space dedicated to providing tailored and effective mental health services that empower men to thrive in all aspects of their lives.

The King's Award for Voluntary Service recognises outstanding work by local volunteer groups to benefit their communities.

It was created in 2002 to celebrate Queen Elizabeth II's Golden Jubilee and, following his accession, His Majesty The King emphasised his desire to continue the Award.

New Truro hospital plans given thumbs up ahead of demolition work

Plans for a brand new hospital building have been given the go ahead in Cornwall. The scheme will bring a new pathology building to the Royal Cornwall Hospital in Truro.

The building, for which construction is expected to start next summer, is a significant piece of the puzzle required ahead of construction of the new Women and Children's Hospital for Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly.

The Royal Cornwall Hospitals NHS Trust (RCHT) was granted full planning permission for its new state-of-the-art pathology building by Cornwall Council.

Construction of the new building is due to begin in summer 2024, once final approval for the new pathology hub has been granted by NHS England.

The existing pathology laboratories and services will eventually move out of their existing location which will be demolished in 2026 to make way for the new Women and Children's Hospital.