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■ ■ Est. 1962 ■ ■  
 Founder: Cliff Trevelyan  
 Trevelyan an Tynnoweth  
**Kowethas Kernewek**  
**Mordir Nowydh**

**N E W S L E T T E R**

L y t h e r - n o w o d h o w

**Mernans an Vyghternes**

*The death of HM The Queen*

We were all saddened by the news of the death of HM The Queen. The NZ Cornish Association sent sincere condolences – **Keskalar gwir** - to the Royal Family.

Gorsedh Kernow sent out a statement including the following:

“Over the past 70 years she has presided over a society which has become tolerant and open in its celebration of nations and cultures. We are, sad and also full of gratitude, and mourn at the same time as we look forward to the flourishing of our culture, language and governance with a new King, whose knowledge of, and affection for Kernow must be second to none.”

Among all the constitutional changes, some relate to the Celtic nations. As Charles became king, he relinquished his titles of Prince of Wales and Duke of Cornwall to William, who is now next in line for the throne. William and Katherine will be Duke and Duchess of Cornwall as well as Prince and Princess of Wales.

As the Queen completed 70 years of her reign, Charles served the same 70 years as Duke of Cornwall. Although the Duchy of Cornwall now has relatively few holdings in Cornwall itself, the Duke continues to hold constitutional roles for the county. Charles visited regularly and, as the Gorsedh stated, he is likely to have a deep understanding of the issues relating to Cornwall. Cornwall looks forward to welcoming a similar level of involvement from the new Duke and his family.

The Lord Lieutenant of Cornwall (pictured), Edward Bolitho OBE, was closely involved in the Queen’s funeral. He is a member of the Honourable Corps of Gentlemen at Arms, which was founded in 1509 by Henry VIII as a mounted escort and bodyguard. In the 21<sup>st</sup> century the



duties of the corps (now on foot) are ceremonial. The Gentlemen attend the sovereign at many types of state functions and ceremonies. There are five executive officers and 27 Gentlemen.

Colonel Bolitho took part in the procession of Her Majesty’s coffin from Westminster Hall to Westminster Abbey and stood guard during the service, marched with the coffin to Wellington Arch and accompanied it to the committal service in St George’s Chapel in Windsor.

Edward Bolitho was born in Penzance, was educated at Eton and Cambridge and served for 20 years in the Grenadier Guards, commanding the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion. On retiring from the military, he returned to Cornwall and took over the management of the family estates which include Trewidden House, Trengwainton Gardens, various farms and holiday properties. He was High Sheriff of Cornwall for a year from March 2011 and was appointed as Lord Lieutenant of Cornwall in September 2011.

**J C Burrow**

John Burrow ran a photography business in Camborne. Not a remarkable fact but in the late 1800s it was at the forefront of technology. Additionally, he specialised in flash photography and became famous for recording life underground for Cornish miners.

He was commissioned by the Camborne School of Mines to record scenes from Dolcoath and other mines. Getting the cooperation of the miners was problematic. Besides never whistling, one of a miner’s many underground superstitions concerns light. It was considered unlucky to leave a light burning when you leave an area of the mine, with fire and explosions being a constant fear. The reluctance to have too much light was understandable, it would have been



easier to cope with the danger and claustrophobic conditions if you could not see beyond the limited glow of the candle stuck to your helmet. In fact, Burrow had to ask them to blow out their candles while he took his photographs to avoid bright spots of light.

He had to take a lot of equipment into the mine. His lighting consisted of several limelight burners popular at the time in theatres. They required an operator and canisters of oxygen and hydrogen to burn a light-emitting block of quicklime. To give the required burst of light to 'burn' the scene onto his photographic plates he used magnesium powder or flashpowder. The bright-burning powder was volatile - almost explosive - and added another peril to the exercise. His other equipment was state-of-the-art Zeiss lenses and a Kinnear bellows camera on a tripod. He used innovative dry photographic plates to reduce exposure times.

The results of his labours were stunning. Even by today's standards the images were sharp, clear and fascinating. People living in Cornwall would have had no idea what life underground was like unless they were miners themselves. The photographs revealed the true conditions that miners worked in - cramped, dirty and extremely dangerous.

Such was the novelty and interest in the pictures that they were serialised in local newspapers and were accumulated in a book in 1893 called 'Mongst Mines and Miners, Underground Scenes by Flash-Light'. The photograph here was one of them and shows the man engine (a type of escalator used to go up and down the main shaft) at Dolcoath.



When Burrow visited, Dolcoath was the deepest, and richest, tin mine in the world with around 1,300 employees and an engine-shaft over 455 fathoms (or half a mile) deep. Burrow, his equipment, and party travelled down in a skip or gig, an open "oblong iron box on wheels" that normally carried four men. The descent was in pitch blackness, down an open rock shaft, with full knowledge that skip ropes have failed. Thomas observed in the book with fine understatement, "One could be excused feeling timorous"

There is an example of Burrow's work in the NZ National Library. It takes the form of a postcard sent from Cornwall by "Eric" to Miss Tyra Petersen of Clarence River, New South Wales. It is a picture of the Original All Blacks team that toured the UK

in 1905 and beat the Cornish County side 41-0 at Camborne recreation ground on 21 September. The player second from left in the



back row is a Wanganui man, Hector Thomson, Eric's cousin.

Thanks to Elaine Bolitho for suggesting the topic of this story based on a Facebook post, "The Man Who

Photographed the Miners" by Francis Edwards - The Cornish Historian.

## Cornish accent

An online dating app in the UK surveyed 2,300 participants to find out which accents were most attractive. It was prompted by the fact that 21% say they can tell if they're going to find someone attractive early on a date just from hearing their voice. Out of the 10 accents listed, the Cornish accent was voted the least sexy. Understandably, it has generated an outcry.

Our accent is all about the rhotic 'r', which is the 'r' sound after a vowel, as in "car". Cornish people traditionally extend and roll the letter. It's the sound of exotic promise and granite, the sound of thousands of years of tradition, the sound of "would you like a sausage roll with your paaasty, me luvverrrr?"

One explanation is that voters weren't thinking of the Cornish accent at all but had been brainwashed by the homogenised Westcountry "ooh aaargh" accent that everyone hears on the likes of Doc Martin, Poldark and Fisherman's Friends The Movie. That isn't Cornish it's Somerdordevon (a mix of accents from Somerset, Dorset and Devon) and doesn't exist.

There is no denying that Ed Rowe's (Kernow King) moody baritone is alluring as fisherman Martin Ward in the award-winning film Bait (see the newsletter from March/April 2020) and so is genuine Cornish actress Susan Penhaligon's voice whenever she's used a rolling Kernewek accent in roles. The top-scoring accent was Irish - think Colin Farrell and Graham Norton.

## Murray Olds and New Mill

This personal history comes from Murray Olds, a member in Torbay, Auckland. Other members submitted similar backgrounds following the request for connections to Cornwall for the anniversary booklet. They may feature in future newsletters and any more are welcome.

My heart has "many mansions" - Cornish, Scottish, English, Norse, Australian and Kiwi.



The Cornish part beats loudest and proudest. It resides in the Mill House at [New Mill](#), Parish of Gulval and in the pile of stones - all that remains of the foundations of the long gone Polteggan Mill [which, coincidentally, was a close neighbour to Trengwainton House, the historic residence of the Bolitho family – see above].



It took me many years to find out why my great great grandparents moved from Polteggan Mill to the New Mill built at New Mill in 1601 on the Gear Hill Road from Penzance to Porthmeor. Finally, and by chance, I found the answer in the Houses of Parliament, Westminster, Parliamentary Papers – the equivalent of our Hansards.

The 1841 U.K. Census (the first reliable attempt at a Census) identified great great grandparents James and Mary (nee Tinner) Olds as resident at the Polteggan Mill. Ten years later, the census located them at New Mill, some 6 kilometres away.

It appears that the good citizens of Penzance, through their local authority, petitioned Parliament for approval to the damming and diversion of the flow of waters into and out of Polteggan Pond as part of a programme to give the worthy citizens of Penzance a better and more reliable water supply.

This proposal meant the end of Polteggan Pond as the source of water to turn the Polteggan Mill waterwheel, and thus, the end of the Mill itself. In 1848, great great grandfather gave evidence to the Parliamentary Commission in this regard, but to no avail. Fortunately, the petition offered a financial compensation that may have financed the relocation to New Mill. There they remained until he died in 1869, to be succeeded as Miller by his eldest son James (my great grandfather).

Times were hard in Cornwall in the late 1860's/early 1870's – poor crops to feed the mill wheel and its inhabitants and the 1871 Census reveals him to be no longer the miller but rather a part time miller and part time Miner while his 16 year old son is listed as the Miller.

Poor tin prices lead to the demise of many Cornish tin mines during the 1870s and when the New Zealand Government held a recruiting drive to get people in “the old country” to emigrate and work on the railways building programmes, our part of the Olds family sailed to New Zealand in 1878.

On my first visit to New Mill some 30 years ago, I found the owner busily engaged in un-modernising the property which he and his wife had only recently bought. The previous owner had done a lot of awful things to the property “as part of an improvement programme”, with which my hosts

did not approve. Subsequent visits revealed a well restored property.

Interestingly, our male host explained that he was a retired merchant ship skipper, knew Auckland well, and that his ship was in fact tied up at Auckland Wharf on 3 September 1939, the day

WW2 was declared. He particularly referred to the Lighthouse on Tiritiri Matangi Island which welcomes ships and sailors into the Waitemata Harbour. We had this in common for I too know the lighthouse from a number of tree planting visits as part of the island's programme of re-forestation and development as a native bird sanctuary.

## Kernewek Lowender

The dates for the 2023 Kernewek Lowender have been announced but details of the programme of events have yet to come. If you are planning a trip to Australia next year you may like to time it to include the festival of Cornish culture. It is celebrating 50 years in



2023 and is being held on the Copper Coast near Adelaide on 15 to 21 May 2023. More details are available at <https://www.kernewek.org/>

The website describes the beginnings of copper mining in the area. In 1859 a shepherd discovered traces of copper in South Australia's Yorke Peninsula. This prompted a rush for mining leases and soon after, mines had been established in Moonta, Kadina and Wallaroo. The three towns became known as the Copper Triangle and the area later became the Copper Coast.

Thousands of miners from Cornwall emigrated to South Australia and the mines flourished.

- Moonta Mine was the first mine in Australia to pay £1 million pounds in dividends.
- Moonta once contained the country's second largest urban population behind Adelaide.
- The Moonta Company produced more than \$10 million worth of copper.
- The Moonta-Wallaroo mines produced around 350,000 tonnes of copper - nearly half the total mineral production of South Australia up to 1924.

By 1865, Cornish immigrants made up 42% of South Australia's population and by 1875 Moonta had surpassed Cornwall as the British Empire's largest copper region. Today, about

10% of South Australia's inhabitants are of Cornish descent.

Profits from the mines were reinvested in South Australia or donated to organisations such as the University of Adelaide. A School of Mines was established, becoming an important precursor to vocational training in Australia. The Moonta Mines area is under assessment for formal National Heritage listing because it contains an Important collection of 19th-century structures and covers most of the former Moonta Mining Company lease.

## Branches

Sixteen members were at the Taranaki Branch meeting on 13 August 2022. The president, Elaine James, welcomed everyone saying it was good to see some old faces back again after the uncertain times with Covid.



To celebrate the National Association's 60th anniversary each person present was given a pasty. The first meeting of the NZ Cornish Association was held in Wellington on 15 August 1962 so was being marked after 60 years almost to the exact day.

After dealing with the formal business, the meeting shared photos of times past, some in hard copy and other digital ones on screen. They brought back many memories and encouraged us to continue with creating new ones in the future.

The meeting concluded with afternoon tea, sales table, raffle and lots more fellowship.

The meeting held in Christchurch on the same day also marked the anniversary with a special cake cut by long-standing members, Dorothy Drew and Heather Gladstone.



Les told the story of [Port Quin](#) recorded in the painting by Frank Bramley with the title "A Hopeless Dawn". It shows a young wife distraught because her husband has perished in a sudden storm along with all the other fishermen of the village who broke a religious taboo by putting to sea on a Sunday.

The song of the month was "Goin' up Camborne Hill". The meeting also watched the tribute to the late Graham Harry. See the link on our Facebook Group or go to

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4JHGceGyfss>

Members then spent more time looking back over a montage of old photos of Cornwall.

The President, Jeanette Beaumont, opened a meeting of the Christchurch branch on 10 September welcoming 14 members. They observed a minute's silence in honour of the Queen's death.

A cake celebrating 55 years of branch activities was cut by long-time member Margaret Swaney.

Les gave a verbal account of the goings on in Cornwall and Heather had everyone singing the Cornish song of the month, the ever popular "The White Rose"

"A very strange affair in Bugle" was this month's story from Les. The odd story, based in [Bugle](#) in the clay country, was reported in Cornish newspapers in 1898 and was an account of a love affair

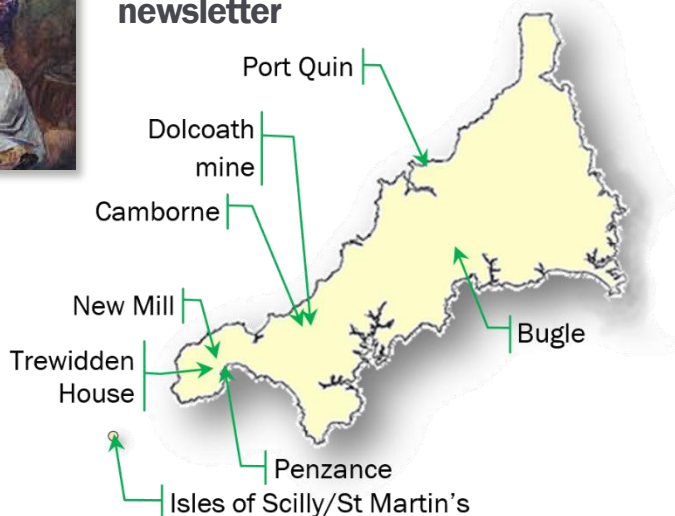
and the bizarre and hilarious reaction of the local community.

For those of us not fortunate to hear Les' rendition, the story is also retold in a podcast by Elizabeth Dale, known as The Cornish Bird. There is a link to the podcast on the 'Cornwall' page of our website under 'Culture'. "A very strange affair in Bugle" is episode 17 of 26.

Celia posed a quick-fire Cornish quiz that had members thinking.

A short video was shown of a trip to the [Isles of Scilly](#) followed by a walk around the cliffs and beaches of the island of St Martins. The afternoon wound up with a raffle, cuppa and natter.

## Places mentioned in this newsletter



That's it for this newsletter my 'ansomes. See 'ee again dreckly!

*Nick*