

Crying the Neck - 2015

Liskeard OCS

On the evening of Thu 3 Sep 15, courtesy of Mr James Moon, of Bolitho Farm, Maudlin, Liskeard, fifty five folk celebrated a bountiful Harvest, with 'Crying the Neck', ceremony, so retaining the 'Spirit of the harvest for the coming year.

Principal guest was Rev Mark Pengelly, Superintendent Methodist Minister of the Liskeard/Looe Circuit, who arrived on his beautifully restored 1947 John Deere Agricultural Tractor.

The opening prayers were offered by Mr Mike Smith, (St Cleer) in Cornish, repeated by Mr Duncan Paul Matthews, President of the Federation of Old Cornwall Societies and of the Liskeard OCS. A Bible reading followed read by Mr Mike Smith in Cornish, and in English by Dr Kathy Lang, (Looe).

Farmer James, then cut the last of the barley with a scythe and Mr Matthews, initiated the ceremony by holding the last sheaf to the North, East and South, calling in Cornish : Yma Genef, (I have'n), to which all assembled replied : 'Pendrus' (What have ee !), repeated by 'Pen yar', (A Neck), then 'Hura', (Hurrah!), this was then repeated in English by the Deputy Mayor of Liskeard, Cllr Jane Pascoe.

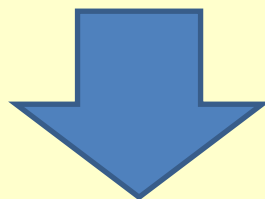
For his Open Air homily, Rev Mark then expanded up the Bible Reading on those who sow sparingly, reap sparingly, he also illuminated his address with a corn dolly model of his tractor !

All were then graciously entertained with three musical scores by 'Levow Kesson', (Harmonious Voices), directed by Miss Heather Taylor, in their inaugural public appearance, singing out of doors in a field of corn stubble, now booked for future concerts !

Prayers followed led by Mr Mike Smith in Cornish and Rev Mark in English. The singing of 'Trelawny', then tea and Blake's Saffron Buns. A fun evening enjoyed by all, supported by many of the Liskeard Town Council Members.

Duncan Paul Matthews

PS Note, some of those Cornish names: Pengelly and Pascoe

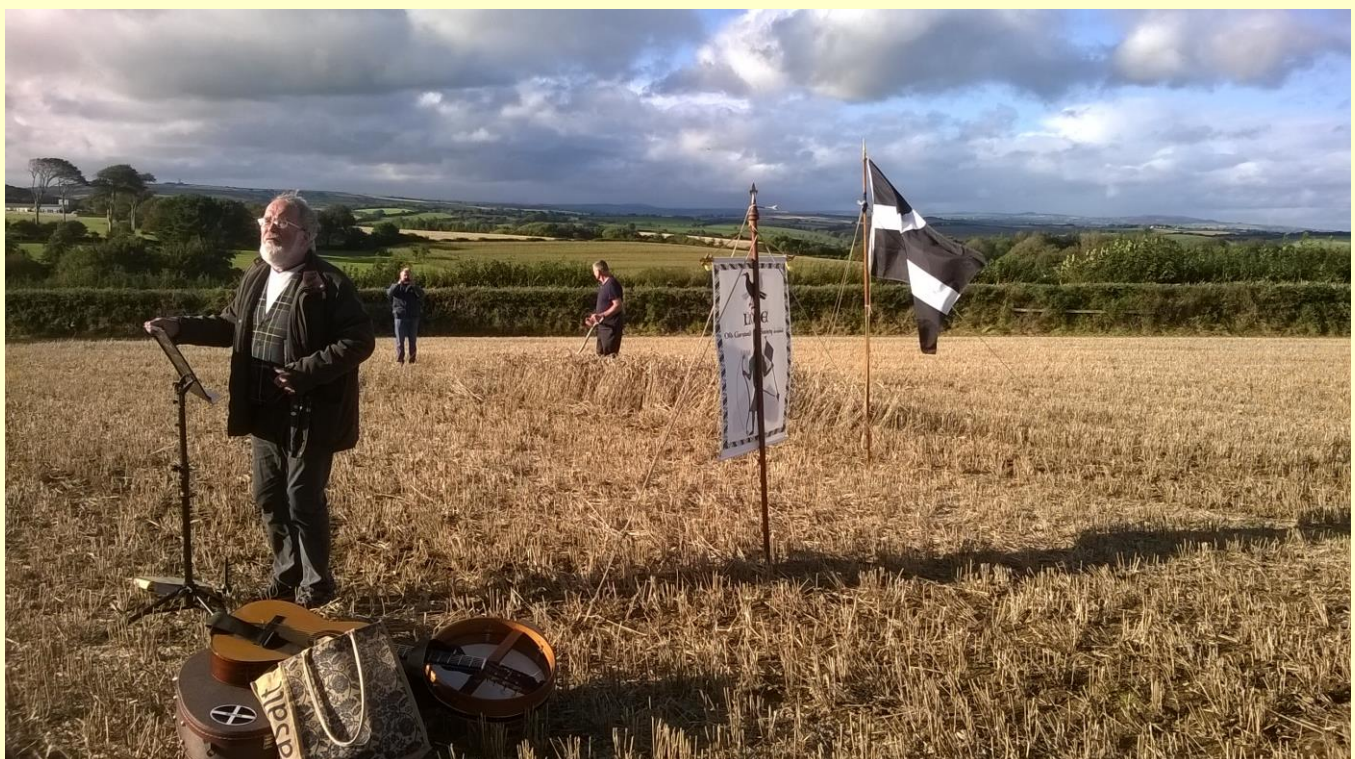


Looe OCS



The field belongs to West Wayland farm and is just off the main Looe-Polperro Road – the holiday chalets at Trelawne Manor can just be seen over the hedge at the back.

Photoshopped in on the left is Peter King, who took the photo, then our Recorder, Roger Bennett, with guitar, who performed the ceremony; his wife Viv who helped with the folk songs; the tall chap in the T-shirt is Andrew, the reaper, the son-in-law of Past President, John Enever, who sadly had to miss the event as he was in hospital; after that Ken and Sue Terry (publicity and entertainments respectively) our President, Marie Williams, her friend Anne, Norma Dobinson, members Wendy, Cindy, Marilyn, Brenda, Dave, Andy, Graham and Hazel, and the farmer, Ian, seated on the right.



Andrew posing for a photo before cutting the corn



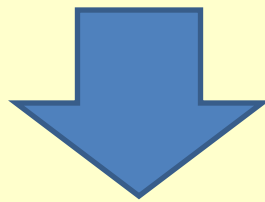
Roger & Viv Bennett starting the proceedings



The Neck – Roger offering up the corn



Refreshments with cider and saffron cake



St Ives OCS

St Ives Old Cornwall Society held their annual “Crying the Neck” ceremony on Wednesday the 26th August 2015 at Trewey Farm, Zennor, by kind permission of Farmer Harry Mann and family.



Harry Mann cutting and gathering the final necks of barley



Chairman and Recorder of St Ives OCS explaining the origins of the ceremony



Farmer Harry Mann, President of St Ives OCS and former Grand Bard of Gorsedh Kernow Mick Paynter, Pastor Kenny Bassett, Chairman and Recorder of St Ives OCS Brian Stevens and Mayor of St Ives Cllr Linda Taylor