



Cowethas Kernewek Loundres

London Cornish Association Newsletter



www.londoncornish.co.uk

Summer 2019

Welcome to our Summer newsletter.

So much has happened in the three months since the Spring edition – St Piran's Day, our Annual Dining Event and our Family History Day. You will find reports on all of these, as well as information about our forthcoming social programme in this newsletter. We have two pub lunches in July, both with an 'added extra' for those who wish to take up the offer spending time with the London Cornish Pilot Gig group on the Thames at Richmond, or a stimulating talk on one of Cornwall's heroes, Humphry Davy at the Rosyer Lecture. We hope to see many of our members at these events. It may be worth mentioning that the 'added extras' are optional, and you are welcome to join us just for the lunches if you wish.

People who are living in London but have a passion for Cornwall can also indulge their passion by attending events arranged by other organisations. The London Cornish Rugby Football Club would love some 'black and gold' support at any of their fixtures

(<https://www.pitchero.com/clubs/londoncornishrfc>) and you would be welcome at the *Wrecker's Wednesday* sessions which take place in Soho on the first Wednesday of the month. Our Chairman and a couple of members have attended on several occasions and say it is great fun, with quizzes, prizes, singalongs etc.

This sounds like a lovely way for all ages to enjoy an evening out.

(<https://www.facebook.com/wreckerwednesday/>)

You will notice some red writing on this page. It carries an important message about a pub lunch we had planned for 6th July. This date had been chosen for one of our events before we received the invitations to join the gigs at Richmond and the Rosyer lecture. While we all enjoy a relaxed meal with friends, and time to chat, it did seem that having three pub lunches in three weeks would tax even the most energetic enthusiast!

Working in a school provides a measure of how fast a year is passing. It seems just like yesterday we were in the midst of exams, and bidding farewell to Year 13. Now we are back there again. At the end of June, all exams will have been written and we will be ready to launch another group of girls into the exciting 'big wide world' beyond the gates. And, then the summer holidays arrive. I wonder what you will be doing over the summer. How many will head for God's chosen county, or travel elsewhere? Whatever you do, I wish you an enjoyable and relaxing time and hope that you come back refreshed and ready to join in the exciting things the LCA has in store for you from the autumn.

Dates for your diary ...

Wreckers in the City - 3rd July from 6.30pm.

Lunch at Richmond and afternoon with London Cornish Pilot Gig Association - 13th July, 12.15pm

Mid-summer lunch followed by Rosyer Lecture - 20th July, 12 noon

Family History Day – Saturday 5th October, 10am

Further details of these events can be found on page 2

Deadline for the Spring Newsletter is

5th August

Please send all contributions to The Editor at the address on the back page

Important note:

The planned lunch at the Old Bank of England on 6th July has been cancelled. Instead, we have two other lunches for you to enjoy in July – in Richmond on 13th July and at Penderel's Oak on 20th July. You can find out more details about these events on page 2.

Forthcoming LCA events and events in London of Cornish Interest

A warm welcome is extended to non-members who would like to attend any of the London Cornish Association events.

Wreckers in The City - Wednesday 3rd July 2019

Time: From 6.30 pm

Venue: The Sun Tavern, 66 Long Acre, Covent Garden, London WC2E 9JD

The *Wreckers in the City* meet on the first Wednesday of each month from 6.30pm.

Join them for a great evening with like-minded Cornish folk !

LCA Lunch at Richmond followed by an afternoon with the London Cornish Pilot Gig Association - Saturday 13th July

Time: 12.15pm-5.15pm

Venue: Slug and Lettuce Restaurant, Riverside House, Water Lane, Richmond TW9 1TJ

Contact: Carol Goodwin - Tel: 0208 303 9054 or 07889 178891 OR Email:

chynoweth@hotmail.co.uk

Please let Carol Goodwin know if you will be coming to the lunch so we can ensure enough tables are booked.

From 2.30pm, we are invited to join the London Cornish Pilot Gig Association at their clubhouse, a few yards away. Here we can enjoy more food (Cornish of course!) and drinks among the St Piran's flags and gigs.

Come and join us for a lovely afternoon in Richmond.

Mid-summer lunch, followed by the Rosyer Lecture – Saturday 20th July

Time: 12-4.30pm

Venue: Penderel's Oak Pub, 288 High Holborn, London WC1V 7Hz

Contact: Carol Goodwin - Tel: 0208 303 9054 or 07889 178891 OR Email:

chynoweth@hotmail.co.uk

After lunch, we are invited to attend the annual *Rosyer Lecture* at the nearby City Lit.

Rosyer Lecture – Saturday 20th July

Time: 2.30pm for 3.00pm

Venue: City Lit, 1-10 Keeley Street, London WC2B 4BA - (Tel: 020 7831 7831)

The City Lit is a short distance (700 yards) from Penderel's Oak.

Lecturer: Dr John Pring

Subject: *Sir Humphry Davy*

Rosyer is the bardic name of one of the former members of the City Lit Cornish Society and a lecture is given in his memory every year.

The Lecture is free to attend.

It would be helpful to know numbers attending so that we can book tables at Penderel's Oak and advise our City Lit contact, member Hilary Paddon. Please contact Carol Goodwin whose details are above.

And, one for your diary...

Family History Day – Saturday 5th October

Time: 10am – 4.30pm

Venue: Bloomsbury Central Baptist Church, 235 Shaftesbury Ave, London WC2H 8EP

Cost: Members and Affiliates - £15. Non-members - £20

We are delighted to welcome *Ms Kathy Chater* to the second of our Family History Days of the year. Her talk will be entitled:

'Turning your Tree into a Tale – Writing up Family History'

This will be followed by a lunch break of Cornish Pasties and Saffron Cake (sent up from Cornwall!) and Tea/Coffee.

The afternoon session will commence at 2.00 pm. This session's speaker is still to be confirmed.

Contacts: Gill Penny –

g.n.penny@btinternet.com OR Carol Goodwin

Tel: 0208 303 9054 or 07889 178891 OR

Email: chynoweth@hotmail.co.uk

News of Past Events

ST PIRAN'S CELEBRATION

Late in 2018, the Editor and Denise Phillips from the Hocking Descendants Society in Australia enjoyed a delicious, beautifully presented cream tea, complete with Rodda's cream, at the hotel where we had had our Annual Dining Event. After the success of that tea, Council made the decision to arrange a cream tea at the same venue to celebrate St Piran's Day in March 2019. All plans seemed to be going well but at the last minute, the piskies got involved!

When she called the hotel beforehand to book, our Chairman was told that they did not take bookings in advance for tea. We did not see this as a problem as a couple of us planned to arrive early so that we could set up an area which could accommodate the expected 20 people. It was then that the bombshell was delivered! One of the staff came to tell us that in winter, there is not much demand for cream teas and that they only had two servings available that afternoon! We tried not to panic as the reality dawned that we would not be able to serve the promised cream tea to all those who were coming, and we tried to think of a quick solution as our guests were shortly to arrive.

Fortunately, the day was saved by a knight in shining armour, in the form of a very understanding and helpful supervisor. He arranged, at very short notice, for us to go to another hotel in their group, just over the road. They prepared a splendid tea, which was greatly enjoyed by everyone who happily tucked into the delicious spread. It was a great success and the general consensus was that we should go back there to celebrate St Piran's Day next year.

ANNUAL DINING EVENT

Word about the success of our Annual Dining Event at the new London venue last year had obviously spread because the response to this year's invitation was so pleasing. Fifty diners attended the event, and what really pleased us was that several of our guests were people we had not seen for some time.

Members and friends gathered beforehand in the bar area which overlooks tranquil Russell Square. This gave them the chance to meet up with old friends and catch up on news before lunch.

Shortly before 1pm, we were called through to the dining room where large vases of Cornish daffodils decorated the tables. These had been sent up, once again, from Caerhays, Fentongolen and Tregothnan who have supported us for so many years, and the lovely arrangements were created, once again by Lizzy Broughton. The bright colour and distinctive perfume of the blooms gave a lovely spring feel and provided the perfect setting for a Cornish event.

After our delicious meal, our Chairman gave us an overview of the past year. There were many highlights, including attendance at a Buckingham Palace garden party. You can read more about the year's events in the AGM reports elsewhere in this newsletter.

It was clear that this year's Annual Dining Event was a great success as it took quite a bit of persuasion to get everyone to adjourn to the atrium downstairs where they could continue to socialise!

FAMILY HISTORY DAY

Apart from a delicious pasty-and-saffron-cake lunch, and an afternoon cream tea, members and guests who attended the LCA's Family History Day in April had the pleasure of hearing two very different and very interesting talks on Cornish subjects.

In the morning, Paula Martin, CEO of the Cornwall Air Ambulance Trust delivered the 2019 Trelawny Lecture. This lecture is one of the key events on the LCA's social programmes and has taken place every year since 1987. In the afternoon, our speaker was Dr Alan Kent who entertained us with tales of some of the many Cornish festivals.

Members John Symons and Gill Penny kindly sent in the following reports on the two presentations.

The AGM was held before the afternoon lecture. The reports which were presented are included elsewhere in this newsletter.

The First lecture was the Trelawny Lecture:

The Work of the Cornwall Air Ambulance

For the 2019 Trelawny Lecture on Saturday 13th April we were delighted to welcome Paula Martin, CEO of the Cornwall Air Ambulance Trust, who came up from Cornwall to tell us

about the important work of this charitable organisation.

The Trust was formed in 1987 and was the first of its type to be set up in the UK. It is currently the UK's busiest charity emergency service, operating about 800 missions each year, with a total of some 28,000 since its formation.

The service was initially based at RAF St. Mawgan but after that became a civil airport a new base was established on the edge of the airfield, where it is today.

Call outs are caused by a wide variety of incidents. Road traffic accidents account for many, but Cornwall's position surrounded by sea means that many are related to the coast or beaches. The number of call outs increases during the summer months with as many as 10 per day recorded. For the Isles of Scilly alone the Air Ambulance becomes the regular 999 service.

As contact with patients is usually transitory and fleeting a Patient Liaison Nurse is a new role from this year. This is to enable follow up contact between the patient, their family, the hospital and the air ambulance for the benefit of all and to analyse medical performance to see if there is scope for any improvements in the future.

The Trust has two helicopters (MD902s) which means one is available as a backup should the primary helicopter be unavailable for any reason. In addition, should a helicopter mission not be feasible there are two fast response cars. Close liaison is maintained with the Bristow Search and Rescue Team also based at Newquay. Their larger helicopters have winches but not the sophisticated medical equipment carried by the air ambulance.

Calls for assistance are received from the South West Emergency Centre based at Sowton near Exeter. The decision to call the Air Ambulance or a conventional ambulance depends on the severity of the injury and other factors such as the location of the incident. Overall the decisions are based on which course provides the best chance of a positive outcome. At the Newquay base a permanently manned red phone receives the call and immediately alerts the rest of the team to be ready for a mission.

Patients are airlifted to one of a number of hospitals, dependent on their medical needs; Truro, Plymouth – Derriford, Bristol, Southampton or Swansea. Close liaison is kept with other Air Ambulance Trusts to ensure the best use of resources and best practice knowledge.

A new helicopter (AW169) is due to enter service in April 2020. This will be faster, larger and have more advanced medical equipment on board. Unlike the current helicopters this will be owned rather than the current lease arrangements as this is considered to offer the best long-term value.

More funds are needed to bring this new helicopter into service. The target appeal of £2.5 million is already over 50% complete but the balance is still required. You can see the current status of the appeal and much more about the work of the Trust on their website: www.cornwallairambulancetrust.org

Paula's excellent presentation and the accompanying two short films provided us with an enhanced awareness of the Cornwall Air Ambulance and its responsibilities. It certainly deserves our support.

Exciting news...

We have recently heard that the London Cornish Association will have its name painted on the new helicopter.

Keep up with Air Ambulance news...

The Cornwall Air Ambulance has an online newsletter, *Airtime*. If you would like to keep up with their news, email them at enquiries@cornwallairambulancetrust.org and ask to be put on the mailing list

The Topsy Turvey World of Cornish Festivals by Dr Alan M Kent.

In the afternoon session Alan Kent gave us a very comprehensive and well illustrated review of many of the festivals of Cornwall. He began by informing us that there are more festivals in the county per square mile than in any other part of the UK - almost every week there would seem to be a festival in some part of Cornwall. In addition, the festivals have been taken to other parts of the world where they are still celebrated today – eg Flora Day in Australia.

In his talk Alan referred to many of the festivals, usually with a brief description but mainly emphasising the ways in which they had originated and how they had developed and changed over time. He accompanied his comments with illustrations and 19th and 20th century photographs of actual celebrations. He noted that ritual behaviours help to define our humanity, that pre-industrial societies were organised in a mechan-

ical way through festivals and that the festivals may reflect the concept of revelry where people are just having fun and enjoying themselves, have a spiritual dimension or have both. Over time, as the societies changed, so did the nature of the festivals. Thus, the festivals that are celebrated today are the outcome of their development and progression through a variety of societal layers. Their form may reflect their origins in and influences of pre-history, pre-Christian/paganism, Celtic or Roman-Christianity, the Reformation reactions, the Civil War and Restoration, 19th century Methodism, Victorian revivalism and more recent developments linked to increasing awareness of Cornish heritage and possibly tourism.

Alan drew attention to those, which some argue, have very primitive origins that may not be immediately recognisable. For example, the Mummers Play of St George and the Dragon celebrated at Christmas time is said to have its roots in celebration of the winter solstice, of the sun's dying and rebirth. The Obby Oss of Padstow is another said to have primitive origins whilst the Midsummer Hilltop Fires such as at Kit Hill and Carn Brea celebrate the summer solstice. Many festivals, for example Guldize and 'Crying the Neck' celebrating the harvest are more clearly rooted in the agricultural year, originating when landowners gave their workers a time for celebration which may have also functioned to release frustrations and reduce the threat of rebellion. Others are more closely linked to the celebration of a Saint's Day – eg. the Mevagissey Feast Week has its roots in the St Meva and St Issey saints days. Maypole dances were traditionally linked to saints days.

During the Reformation and Civil War periods many of these festivals were prohibited and associated artifacts destroyed. For example,

Probus originally had three statues – one of St Piran and two others that were smashed at this time. Whilst Cromwell banned Christmas celebrations and any festive activity, they returned with the Restoration. St Piran's Day is still celebrated by a walk across the sands at Perranporth to reach the stone with its cross but whilst initially it was undertaken to carry the bones of the saint to the cross, the walk continues even though the bones have been lost. Festivals connected to fishing and tin mining developed. Thinking many of the festivals too unruly, Methodism brought about the development of more restrained forms of celebration such as Tea Treats. The 20th century has seen the reduction of festivals such as village galas because of concerns about health and safety. However, many of the historic festivals have survived through the activities of the Federation of Old Cornwall Societies. Over time some of the original festivals have disappeared and then been revived, often several times over the years, and usually somewhat altered in their re-appearance. Thus the St John's Eve celebration of Golowan in Penzance, which was banned in the 1890s, was re-instated in 1991 with a more community and arts celebration and Flora Day in Helston has undergone a range of changes through the years.

Alan's talk was wide-ranging and peppered with far more examples than the few I have mentioned here. It was intriguing, and gave a much more complex view of the breadth and depth of Cornish festivals than I had ever considered. It has made me revise my rather simplistic view of the way in which my ancestors may have experienced them and it has definitely encouraged me to explore the subject further. For others who may also wish to do so, Alan's book *'The Festivals of Cornwall: Ritual, Revival, Re-invention'* (2018) is published by Radcliffe Press Ltd.

London Cornish Association Annual General Meeting 13th April 2019

Report of the Chairman

The London Cornish Association has had a very hectic social programme since last year's AGM. We have been invited to the Buckingham Palace Garden Party to join in the celebrations for Prince Charles' 70th birthday; participated in the Prince's Countryside Parade at the Royal Cornwall Show following on from the sheep! and we

attended the Gorsedh in Newquay last August. Lovely memories.

This year Steph and Barry Shaw represented the London Cornish Association at the Helston Flora Day in May. We really appreciated their participation so that we can continue to keep the link with the Helston Flora Association.

I would like to mention here, a suggestion from member Dick Richards in which he suggested that in remembrance of Dr Francis Dunstan, our past Chairman, the London Cornish Association, together with the Cornwall Family History Society should pay for the costs involved in converting the old Walpole Cup into the Francis Elliot Dunstan Memorial Cup. The Cup is to be presented annually to a member/s of the CFHS who has contributed over and above their remit to Cornish Family History.

Although we have had a good number of new members joining this past year, we always hope to attract younger members.

Mark Elton of the Wreckers group will be having a meeting with a company that specialises in creating websites. He plans a main website with links to each of the London Cornish sites - LCA of course, London Cornish Pilot Gig, London Cornish Rugby and the Wreckers. This will help promote us and hopefully attract more members through the links.

We are awaiting the opening of Kresen Kernow, the new Archive premises (formerly Redruth Brewery) where the boxes of archives that were brought from Francis Dunstan's house and now reside in my garage will be transferred later this year, all being well!

So we look forward to the future with confidence.
Carol Goodwin

Newsletter report

The LCA newsletter is published 4 times a year and is sent to members, various organisations in Cornwall and overseas Cornish associations. It is available as either a printed copy or an e-newsletter and its aims are to promote the LCA and its activities, to report on past events and to bring items of Cornish news to the attention of our readers.

The newsletter should reflect membership interests and to this end, is dependent on its readers to provide articles or photos or to send us links to interesting stories from Cornwall. We thank those members who have supported us in 2018/9 and hope that they, and others, will continue to send in items in 2019/20.

The Winter 2018 issue introduced two major changes. For the first time, we were able to include coloured photos in the printed version of the newsletter, which totally changed its look. The second big change was the size. Although it initially happened by accident, Council had

discussed reducing the size some years ago as a way of reducing postage costs. From an administrative point of view, it is very much easier to pack and mail the new-look newsletter and feedback from members so far has been very positive.

Liz Broekmann

LCA Website

The website has been most useful this past year, enabling the Association to obtain new members and also observers to see upcoming events.

It is updated where necessary with relevant backups.

On the site, we have a Membership form which can be printed off, completed and sent to the address on the form. This makes the procedure much easier. Also, of course, the Quarterly Newsletter is available there too.

We have a good site so please look at it as often as you can.

Carol Goodwin

Family History Group Report

Over the years, we have continued to have good calibre speakers with subjects perhaps varied at times but interesting all the same.

Of course, with the cost of the venue etc and indeed the increasing costs of the speakers we need to promote the FH Conference Days even more. We place notices in our Newsletter and various Family History magazines as well as on the LCA website. Any help in getting more attendees through personal contact to offset the costs would be most appreciated.

For the FHD Conference this April 13th, we included the Trelawny Lecture – by Ms Paula Martin who is CEO at Cornwall Air Ambulance.

A short AGM was held during the lunch break. The afternoon session had a talk by Dr Alan Kent who spoke on the history of Cornish Festivals, like Obby Horse and the Flora etc.

For the October Family History Day on the 5th October, we are looking for suggestions for topics - and would appreciate any help you can give
Carol Goodwin

Membership Secretary Report

Over the months there has been interest in the Association and there have been several new membership applications.

We welcomed 11 new members in this past year but sadly have lost members too.

New members since April are:

Mr Peter Robinson
Mrs Linda Adams
Mr Trevor Adams
Mr Robert Semos
Mrs Morwenna Semos
Ms Paula Martin
Mrs Rosemary Bennett
Ms Margaret Gale
Ms Sallie Eden
Mr Martin Boshier
Mr Joseph Taperell

Those who have passed away:

Mr Tony Wakeham
Mrs Hilary Thomas
Councillor Dunk
Ian Thompson
Francis Julian Williams of Caerhays whose son is an LCA Trustee

Total number of Members are: 220

I am pleased to say that new members have visited the LCA website and found the information they required

Carol Goodwin

Facebook report

Since it was founded in February 2018, the London Cornish Association Facebook page has slowly but surely increased its reach and influence.

At the time of writing, the page has 51 likes and 53 followers - and this has been achieved without particularly aggressive promotion. The goal for the year ahead is to increase both of these figures - doubling them would certainly be nice!

Posts to date have mainly been adverts for our events plus those held by other Cornish organisations in London such as Wreckers and Kernow in the City. There is scope to post on a range of other subjects however, which can be explored in the year ahead.

Chris Richards

Annual subs are due on 1st April. We would like to thank those members who have paid for 2019-20 and offer a gentle nudge to those for whom this has slipped

Treasurer's Report

Income and Expenditure Statement for the year ended 31st March 2019

	£	£
Bank Account Balance March 31st 2018		7318.25
<u>Income</u>		
Subscriptions	2475.00	
Donations	307.50	
Interest Received	<u>21.41</u>	
		2803.91
<u>Expenditure</u>		
Printing Newsletter and Leaflets	790.00	
Insurance	762.29	
Expenses, Publicity and Special Events	534.40	
Postage, Paper and Envelopes	446.15	
Annual Dinner, Family History and Social Events	214.15	
Website	<u>186.65</u>	
		2933.64
Deficit of Income over Expenditure		-129.73
Bank Account Balance March 31st 2019		7188.52

Notes

At the financial year end 31st March the Association held a bank balance of £7188.52 with income less than expenditure.

Our Income is from the annual membership subscriptions at the current rate of £15 and donations that members feel able to make, for which we are grateful.

Jacqueline Trembath

Congratulations

A 'Celebration of Achievement' acknowledges the contribution to Guiding by an LCA member

We offer our congratulations to Past Chairman, 'Cilla Oates who had her incredible contribution to Girl Guiding recognised by two awards recently. These awards were presented to 'Cilla at *The Celebration of Achievement* afternoon held at The Royal Cornwall Showground on 6th April.

The awards she received were:

- 50-year silver bar in recognition of fifty years in uniform as a Leader.
- Life Membership to Girlguiding Kernow in recognition of service to the aims and objectives of The Girlguiding Association in Cornwall. This recognised her extensive work, not just as a Unit Leader, but also working with Girls and Adults as a District Commissioner, serving as the County Science Adviser, and as a Leadership Mentor to both Adult Leaders and Commissioners since returning to Cornwall.

'Cilla writes: *This was a continuation of my record before I left The County at 18 where I had started my Guiding life, as a 1st Helston Guide, having been inspired by stories of my Mother's exploits as a Girl Guide, before becoming a County Cadet which these days are called Young Leaders, and a Lieutenant - these days an Assistant Guider - at 1st Helston.*

I then left for St. Gabriel's College in Camberwell and for a time was Lieutenant at 12th East Dulwich (St Clement's) Guide Company, before moving to Hertfordshire, where I took over 1st Hemel Hempstead (St Mary's) Guides. I later moved to 2nd Gadebridge (St Peter's) Guides where I met a parent called Yvonne Trembath, now also a member of the Thames Valley and London Cornish Associations. Member. Yvonne

was to remain with me as a wonderful supporter of the Unit for the next 25 years until I returned to Cornwall.

While still the Guider of 2nd Gadebridge I serviced appointments as County Young Leader Adviser for Hertfordshire, Young Leader Adviser for Anglia Region, Conservation Adviser for Great Hautbois House in Norfolk, the Region's Activity Centre and finally as Guide Association Young Leader Adviser and Association Adviser for the Environment based at Commonwealth Headquarters in Buckingham Palace Road London.

Truly a 'proper job'!



'Cilla Oates at her award presentation



Queen's Birthday honours

The contribution of several Cornish people and a Cornish project was recognised in the Queen's Birthday Honours announced in June. We congratulate the following:

Roger Sanford Mead from Penryn – MBE for his charitable services in Cornwall.

June Elizabeth Trevitchick from Callington – MBE for services to the community. She has been a poppy collector for the Royal British Legion since 1969.

John Casson from Truro – MBE for services to charity.

Edwin Francis Thomas from Falmouth – MBE for services to disability sport and the community in Cornwall.

Jacqueline White – MBE for services to charity and vulnerable people in Cornwall

Jenny Blunden – OBE for services to Education

And, the contribution of a project working with young people with complex disabilities was recognised:

Drama Express – Cornish based arts organisation which has received the Queens Award for Voluntary Service. This is the highest award for voluntary groups.

Launceston OCS Past President made an Honoured Burgess

Councillor Rob Tremain was made an Honoured Burgess of Launceston at the town's mayor choosing ceremony in May. This honour acknowledges his significant contribution to the town over a considerable period of time. His contribution includes over 40 years as Town Crier and almost as long as a town councillor.

Mr Tremain is also a Cornish speaker and a Bard of the Cornish Gorsedh and has served as President of the Launceston Old Cornwall Society.

This is a very prestigious award, not made very often. Currently, there is only one living recipient – town historian Arthur Wills.

Flora Day 2019

With its strong links to Helston, the LCA has had, until recently, had the honour of an annual invitation to the Chairman to take part in the midday dance on Flora Day each year. The organising committee has changed the way it now allocates spaces and the LCA is keen to maintain this long-standing tradition. We were grateful to Barry and Steph Shaw who were our representatives this year. It was clearly a good experience for them as Steph wrote afterwards:

What a wonderful day we had on Flora Day. It was such a lovely atmosphere all day and the weather was kind to us as well. We joined other dancers on the Monday evening to collect greenery to decorate the shops and houses and attended the rehearsal on Tuesday. Thank you for the opportunity to dance - a dream come true!



Bishop Trelawny's Coffin Plate returned to Pelynt Church

On 18th May, a special service was held at Pelynt Church to celebrate the return and re-hanging of Bishop Trelawny's coffin plate. The coffin plate, which was stolen from the church in 2016, was found in a charity shop in Norwich by

folksinger, Megan Kingdom. She bought it and set to work tracing its rightful home.

Several Old Cornwall Societies, including the London OCS, carried their banners at the service

TONY WAKEHAM 16 March 1933- February 2019

On February 22nd the funeral of LCA member, Tony Wakeham took place at St Stephen in Brannel Church in St Austell. This was a very Cornish affair, with the coffin draped in a St Piran's flag, and the beautiful yellow flowers interspersed with tartan ribbon. The LCA was well represented, with 9 members attending.

Tony's family prepared the following eulogy, which was read by his nephew James. We thought that Tony's many friends at the LCA would enjoy reading it and reflecting on their own memories - and thank his niece and nephews Carole, Rob, James and Clive for giving us permission to publish it.

Thomas Tony George Wakeham, known by everyone as Tony, was born in Goonabarn, St Stephens on the 16th March 1933. Tony was one of four children, born to Eric William Wakeham and Beatrice May Wakeham (formally Craddock). Tony grew up in Foxhole with his three siblings, Trevor, Dennis and Marie. Sadly, Marie passed away aged 33 in 1976 and Dennis passed away in 2006 aged 67.

When Tony was only six years old, World War 2 broke out. Memories of evacuees staying in the local villages are recorded in a journal by Tony, drawing particular reference to happy days flying kites made of lath supplied by the local builder on Beacon Hill in Foxhole.

Tony left school at aged 15 and was encouraged to take up a job. He started work with the railway, working as a Clerk in the office at the St Austell Goods Yard in Carlyon Road and also at the rail goods yard in Bugle.

In 1951, aged 18, Tony was signed up for National Service with the RAF and was transferred to the RAF supply stores at Steamer Point in Aden. During his time in Aden, Tony made several close friends and he kept in touch with them for some time after his de-mob and transfer back to Cornwall in 1953. Tony remained a reserve in the RAF until December 1956.

Unfortunately, the Goods Yard office in St Austell closed in the early seventies, mainly due to the inability to transfer clay, coal and other commodities like fish and vegetables by road. At this time Tony took a job with the Post Office in Newquay.

Following a minor accident in his car on an icy Boxing day evening, Tony took the decision to give up driving for good. This decision was a catalyst for his decision to move to London in 1970 and to pursue a 27 year career with the Post Office.

Tony first lived in Streatham when he moved to London and became very good friends with Jim-

my Butler. They shared accommodation and worked together for the Post Office. When the Landlady died suddenly, Tony and Jimmy were given very short notice to leave the premises and seek new accommodation, which Tony found in East Walworth, Southwark.



Tony was very knowledgeable. Here he is giving a talk at the British Museum.

Tony always had an interest in antiques and interesting trinkets. Over the years Tony had amassed quite a collection and was known to be a member of the 'Silver Spoon Club', based on his interest in spoon collecting. Tony collected thimbles, stamps, coins, pottery, spoons and commemorative ingots. He even collected glass eye wash receptacles! Jimmy has related to Rob how he had cussed and sweated at carrying suitcases and boxes full of Tony's 'stuff' up three flights of stairs in the new apartment block in Southwark. No doubt Jackie, Carol and Liz had some similar thoughts when packing it all back up for transfer back to Cornwall!

Tony was very proud of his Cornish roots, he was an active member of the London Cornish Association for almost 25 years, resigning [as a Council member] only two years ago due to failing health. Over those years he had organised many popular events including New Year's Luncheons, walking tours to London sites with



Tackling a quiz at CK 2008

Cornish links and informative trips to museums. He also gave talks on Cornish heritage and his past life in Cornwall. On one occasion he gave a talk on his other passion, silverware. Tony made some really good friends through the London Cornish Association, he enjoyed the company of Godfrey and Sam, where meetings would often involve lunch at The National Theatre or a visit to the Royal Festival Hall. Tony was particularly lucky to make friends in Jackie, Carol and Liz who were so supportive when Tony fell into ill health. Up until quite recently there was a mural of Tony on the wall in a subway at Elephant and Castle, he took great pride in the fact that he had posed for an artist to create this depiction of a Cornishman at leisure, this being a part of the LCA Cornwall in London Project. In 2013, Tony was awarded a Shield by the Gorsedd Council to recognise outstanding services to Cornwall and Cornish people.

Whether it be London Landmarks or tube and bus services, Tony was considered to be a font of knowledge by some of his friends in London. He had a knack of recalling bus numbers, bus stops and rail services without the need to refer to timetables.

Tony was very patriotic and treated himself to a cruise of the Norwegian Fjords on the QE2 in July 1998. Photos of his holiday show a man who was proud to be sat at the Captains table in his best suit and tie, no doubt a Cornish Association tie!

Tony always looked forward to coming home for Christmas and happily joined in with Christmas party games during happy days spent with his niece and nephew, Carole and Clive and their children, Leanne, Joanne, Shaun and Michelle.

Carol recalls that one year Tony set a quiz with a prize. He was a little concerned that it might be a draw and the prize shared, really adding to the quizzers expectations. The prize actually turned out to be a packet of Jacobs Crackers!

Sister in law, Barbara recalls how upset Tony was when his brother Dennis passed away, Tony had enjoyed many happy stays with Dennis and Barbara, Robert and James and with Trevor and Cynthia, Carole and Clive over the years. If you needed a new tea towel, at Christmas, you could be guaranteed a scene of Tower Bridge or The Houses of Parliament, sometimes with some napkin rings or Tower of London pens as a bonus! Tony's kindness extended to Leanne, Joanne, Michelle, Shaun, Laura and Emily. It was only when Tony fell into poor health that the Christmas cards and gifts ceased.



Standing proudly next to his portrait in the underpass at Elephant and Castle

Tony and Dennis became interested in researching the family tree during their retirement years and communicated by post with various snippets of information, copies of Birth Certificates; Wills, Death Certificates and newspaper clippings. Sadly, the information was never properly structured and neither Dennis or Tony were able to piece together all the pieces of the jigsaw. In memory of his dad and for the benefit of Tony and Trevor, the exercise was completed by Rob in 2013. Jackie Trembath recalled to Rob that Tony proudly took the family tree information to a London Cornish Association meeting and it generated quite a bit of discussion.

Over the last two years Tony's health had gradually deteriorated to the stage where he was initially being cared for in his flat by dedicated

carers, eventually being too unwell to live alone and being moved to a Nursing Home in London. Before Christmas, Tony expressed his wish to come home to Cornwall and fortunately a room had become available at a Nursing home in St Austell. Quite ironically, North Hill House is within earshot of the railway station and within walking distance of the site at Carlyon road where he was first posted with the railway, the site is now a housing development.



Birthday Boy 2009

Carole, Clive, Rob and James would like to extend particular thanks to Jackie, Carol and Liz for their help in moving Tony back to Cornwall and for the hard work involved in transferring personal belonging from his London flat back to Cornwall. Without doubt, Tony's time in London would not have been so happy without such kind friends.



Tony was awarded the London Cornish Shield by the Cornish Gorsedd in 2013



*A good sport with a great sense of fun:
Picnic at Battersea Park!*

Do you need commemorative items? A trophy? Medals?

Over the years, St Justin, which is based in Penzance, has created medals, trophies and various commemorative items for clubs, associations and business across the UK. This includes the *Pewas Map Trevethan (Paul Smales)* medal. Due to the popularity of their bespoke service, they have launched a new website - <https://medalwinner.co.uk/>

All items are handmade by their skilled staff and orders are usually delivered within 4 weeks. If you or your organisation would like to find out more, contact the Marketing Manager,

Wayne Hutchings at St Justin Ltd, Cuxhaven Way, Long Rock, Penzance, Cornwall, TR20 8HX or visit their website - www.stjustin.co.uk



The Pewas Map Trevethan (Paul Smales) medal made by St Justin

News from other Cornish Associations

UNITED STATES

As part of its mission statement, the **Cornish American Heritage Society** commits to continuing with traditions such as holding Gatherings. It was therefore a disappointment not to be able to have the proposed 2019 Gathering in Mineral Point for which the **Southwest Wisconsin Cornish Society** had spent some time planning. The cancellation was due to the facilities at Mineral Point being difficult for those with mobility issues. They hope to find a suitable 'Cornish' venue to enable a Gathering to take place in 2020.

Most Cornish associations are keen to attract younger members so they can learn about their Cornish Heritage. With this in mind, the CAHS is looking into the feasibility of a having a youth track for young people at their Gatherings, where they are offered a reduced price for workshops.

There was good attendance at the **Cornish Connection of Lower Michigan's** fall picnic. This time it was held in an alternative area as the association had decided that, since it covers all of lower Michigan, they should try to go to different venues to see if they can generate more interest.

At about the time this newsletter is published, the **California Cornish Cousins** will be arriving in Sonora for their 2019 Gathering. A highlight of the weekend will be a visit to Jamestown's 1897 Rail-road State Park for a round house tour and a steam train ride.

The annual meeting of the **Southwest Wisconsin Cornish Society** which took place in early May began with a pot-luck supper. After this, they had the pleasure of hearing those students who had recently returned from an exchange to Redruth talk about their experiences.

The twinning programme with Mineral Point and Redruth is now in its 20th year. Over that time, about 100 students have travelled from Mineral Point to Redruth and about the same number have travelled the other way.

CANADA

The **Toronto Cornish Association** celebrated St Piran's day in their traditional way, with a flag raising at the City Hall. After the event they

headed for the Duke of Cornwall pub for coffee and snacks – and to warm up. While they were there, they were entertained by a video concert from Heather Dale and her band. The event ended with a rousing performance of Trelawny.

The big event on the TCA's 2019 calendar was their 25th Anniversary Dinner in April. This was very well supported and a great success.

When the guests arrived, they put a pin on a 'where-ya-from' map to show their Cornish connections. They were also given a souvenir booklet which summarised the lives of twenty-five people who went to Canada from Cornwall and made a difference to the country and to the lives of others.

The guest speaker at this event was Barbara Gardner-Bray who was the TCA's first President. She gave an entertaining and informative talk on *The Toronto Cornish Association 1994-2019: The first 25 years* which she illustrated with a multitude of slides from years past and present.

The evening ended with Heather Dale and Ben Deschamps leading a rousing rendition of Trelawny '*sung with gusto, a real shout for Cornwall*'.

AUSTRALIA

The report of the President of the **Cornish Association of Victoria** which appears in the May issue of their newsletter, refers to the event, a decade ago, when Pete Goss and the crew of the *Spirit of Mystery* arrived at the Royal Yacht Club in Williamstown in a replica Cornish lugger. They had followed the route of seven Cornishmen who had made the same voyage to Victoria in 1854 to join the gold rush. To mark the anniversary of Pete Goss's visit, Lindsay Chapman showed pictures and videos and spoke about the events of that momentous occasion, reminding members of some very happy memories.

In April, the guest speaker at their meeting was historian Julian Lucas who spoke on the First Fleet, an important event in Australian history. He referred to two Cornish people who were in the group going 'down under' – Philip Gidley King was the captain in charge of the naval ship, *Supply*. He was also in command of the ship when she sailed to Norfolk Island in February 1788 with marines and convicts, ostensibly to establish a settlement which would provide Nor-

folk Island pines for masts on ships, and to harvest flax to make linen and sail cloth.

The second person he mentioned was convict Mary Broad – later Mary Bryant - who came from Fowey. She and seven others stole Governor Phillip's boat and set off for Dutch Timor where they claimed they were shipwreck survivors. They were all shipped back to England to stand trial but Bryant and some of the others never made it, having died en route.

One of the problems facing the Association is that space at the church at which they hold their meetings and where they store their library can no longer provide storage and so they are now faced with finding alternative accommodation for their stock. This is a big challenge.

Twenty one members of the *Ballarat Branch* of the **Cornish Association of Victoria** celebrated St Piran's Day with a coach trip to Rupanyup. They stopped briefly at the Rupanyup Silo to look at the artwork before heading to Woods Farming and Heritage Museum. After lunch Keith Lanyon led a session on St Piran and John Mildren raised the St Piran's flag. After that, everyone was free to roam around the museum.

In April, members visited the Ballarat Old Cemetery where they were joined by many visitors who had seen the event advertised in the local papers. During the event, some people shared information on the lives of their ancestors who had been buried in the cemetery. The graves of prominent Ballarat residents were also noted, prompting a great deal of discussion.

The Association's June newsletter reports that a new research hub is due to open at the Eureka Centre in mid-2019 – great news for family historians. The records from several collections will be brought together, making those resources more accessible.

The **Southern Sons of Cornwall** held their annual general meeting in March 2019. The President, Julie Wheeler, reported that during the past year, they had enjoyed three events – a gathering to meet up with some South Australian visitors, a Christmas party and a dinner to celebrate their 20th anniversary. What must have made this event extra special was that the meal was prepared by a Cornish chef!

Sadly, like so many Cornish associations, the SSOC has a problem recruiting volunteers to join the committee. Their AGM report states:

...as there were no nominations for 2019 the meeting discussed a motion to disband the

association, cancel our incorporation and distribute our funds and other assets, this was passed unanimously by the meeting.

A special meeting will be called for consultation with other members within the coming year to discuss this process as required by the Department of Fair Trading.

This is a very sad time for yet another association. I feel it particularly as I spent a very happy day with them in 2014.

Members of the **Cornish Association of South Australia** celebrated St Piran's Day with a lunch at the Torrens Arms Hotel, after which their focus was Kernewek Lowender because they play an important part in the organisation of this incredible event.

It is clearly winter 'down south' now as at their June meeting, they enjoyed a soup and pasties evening, followed by some Cornish singing. A lovely way to relax after all their hard work for KL.

Over 20 people attended the annual Pasty Day of the **Cornish Association of New South Wales**. Apart from some good food, there was also singing and lots of chat during the day. After covering costs, those present requested that the rest of the funds be put to the farmers drought relief. Contact was made with Will and Barbara Hawke at Byng and a cheque was drawn up for the Emu Swamp Country Women's Association to use towards the drought in that area.

NEW ZEALAND

The **New Zealand Cornish Association** holds its national meetings in odd numbered years. In May 2019, the *Taranaki Branch* hosted the meeting. This began with a lunch which was followed by the meeting.

The *Christchurch Branch* of the Association held its AGM early in March, with 27 members present. Reports of the President, Secretary and Treasurer were presented and all but one of the existing office holders were re-elected.

Members of the NZCA celebrated St Piran's Day in some interesting ways. In New Plymouth, Graham Cowling marked the day by raising the flag on a flag-pole which, from a photo in their newsletter, appears to



be in his garden. In contrast, Geoff and Nick, in Wellington, opted for pasties on the beach and created a flag with improvised materials – which you can see in this photo.

UK

In February, the **Thames Valley Cornish Association** had an enjoyable Cornish afternoon tea at Wallingford Town Hall, where they were served hevva and saffron cakes from Cornwall, scones with jam and cream and pasties.

The Association's AGM was held in early May. After the business of the evening, and a pasty supper, member Dick Richards gave a talk entitled *The Road to Peace is Paved with Headstones - A brief History and Legacy of The Commonwealth War Graves' Commission*.

The next event on their calendar is a visit to Osterley House, once owned by the Child Family who were bankers to William and Mary, the Prince Regent and Nell Gwynne, amongst others.

The **Midlands Cornish Association** held their annual lunch in May. Members and friends had a delicious meal and chat while looking out over the beautiful golf course at the venue.

Publications

War Story - A Family in Cornwall during the World Wars

We have been notified of the following publication.

WAR STORY is an innovative and exciting new opportunity for choirs. Within the pages of this beautifully designed score, you will find a carefully chosen selection of choral works by Ralph Vaughan Williams. The music is interwoven with an original narrative, which tells the gripping and emotional story of a family living in Cornwall through both World Wars.

The story combines historical fact with the echoes of local tales, and its themes of grief, joy and courage are brought to life through these wonderful Vaughan Williams compositions:

The Spring Time of the Year
The Dark Eyed Sailor
The Garden of Proserpine
Just as the Tide was Flowing
The Call
On the Beach at Night Alone

Let All the World in Every Corner Sing

You can find out more about this publication at <https://www.choraline.com/war-story>. If you would like to order a copy, contact Choraline at music@choraline.com

And, while on a music theme...

We have received the following email from the Institute of Cornish Studies at Exeter University:

The Institute of Cornish Studies at the University of Exeter is working on a project about Cornish music. The current focus is on song; its heritage, presence and development in Cornwall and beyond as people have emigrated to and from Cornwall. It will subsequently look at other aspects such as folk music and brass band culture.

To help them with the project, people with Cornish connections are asked to complete a survey. This can be found at <https://forms.gle/mY1BN82ixuaskKMq8>

St Pirans Day 2019

In a press release issued by the Gorsedh, Grand Bard Elizabeth Carne spoke of the importance of St Piran's Day:

'Let's all celebrate St Piran' says the Grand Bard of Cornwall

'It's wonderful to see so many people planning St Piran events, taking place soon all over Cornwall and beyond.'

Grand Bard of Cornwall Elizabeth Carne, *Melenek*, was busy putting the finishing touches to her St Piran's speech, her first since becoming Grand Bard of Gorsedh Kernow back in September, and was delighted to see just how far and wide the celebrations had spread.

'Cornwall is unique with a culture and heritage to be proud of. Our precious language is a special part of that culture and was spoken on these islands long before English,' said the Grand Bard.

Mrs Carne expressed gratitude to the language revivalists and to those people who over time had helped gather the remembered words from the living language of Cornwall. *'When Piran landed in Cornwall it is the language he would have heard. It is all around us still in Cornwall in our place names and in many of our family names. It is spoken now by more and more*

and we should all embrace the language to ensure it has a bright future.'

To mark St Piran 2019 the Grand Bard announced the launch of '*Viaj an Delow*', a short film about the journey of a specially commissioned granite statue of St Piran from Mabe Quarry in Penryn to the Vallée des Saints in Brittany. It was filmed by Cornish bard Stephen Gainey, *Mab Hirnans*, a well respected local businessman and fervent Cornish speaker who died recently and in whose honour the film was being launched.

'So let's go forward and celebrate St Piran and the Cornish language Kernewek,' said the Grand Bard, 'and I wish everyone Gool Peran Lowen!'

On the day itself, she gave her first St Piran's Day speech as Grand Bard

Areth Bardh Meur Melennek, Gool Peran 2019
Grand Bard Elizabeth Carne's speech, St Piran's Festival 2019

Dydh da dhywgh hwi oll! Fest lowen ov vy bos omma hedhyw rag an keskerdh ma avel Bardh Meur Gorsedh Kernow/ Hello everyone! I am very happy to be here today for this parade as the Grand Bard of Gorsedh Kernow.

It's wonderful to see so many people here celebrating our very special *Gool Peran*/ St Piran's Festival.

We in Cornwall are special. We are unique. What makes us so special and unique? Our culture, our heritage and particularly our language. We have a wonderful Celtic language which was spoken on these islands long before English. When Piran landed in Cornwall it is the language he would have heard. It is all around us in Cornwall in our place names and many family names. It was almost lost to us in the 19th century, but thanks to the revivalists who gathered the remembered words and phrases from people who still used them, and used the manuscripts of the middle ages, we are now able once more to use our own Cornish language, *Kernewek*.

We should all embrace the language to ensure it has a bright future. It is spoken now by more and more people. I myself learned Cornish many years ago and in those days our numbers were small, but thanks to the efforts of enthusiastic volunteers we have grown and grown. There are very few people living in Cornwall today who do

not know of the existence of *Kernewek* and large numbers know a few words. Businesses are now using the language in letter headings and advertising. It is good for business and is becoming part of everyday life. Our children should be given the opportunity to learn the language at school, and some schools in Penzance and Liskeard have been lucky enough to work with my fellow bards but this is still a dream for the majority. Of course it requires funding and, although Cornwall Council has been very supportive, we do not receive any money from the UK Government.

Today, to celebrate St Piran's, Gorsedh Kernow is pleased to launch a new film about the journey of the statue of St Piran from Mabe Quarry in Penryn to the Vallée des Saints in Brittany. "*Viaj an Delow* ", put together by Matthei ab Dewi, is now available to view online on the Gorsedh Kernow website. It was filmed by *Mab Hirnans*, Stephen Gainey, a well respected local businessman and fervent Cornish speaker who died recently and in whose honour we launch this film today.

So let us go forward and celebrate St Piran and Kernewek. Try saying *Dydh da*! Instead of Hello! *Splann*! When you think something is Brilliant! *Meur ras*! As a Thank you! Please wave your flags even more enthusiastically and join me in wishing everyone Gool Peran Lowen.

Splann! Meur ras!

'Cornish' gold find remembered with a special coin

This year marks the 150th anniversary of the discovery, in Australia, of the *Welcome Stranger* gold nugget. The nugget, which weighed almost 110kg was found in 1869 at the foot of a tree in Moliagul, Victoria by John Deason who was born on Tresco and Richard Oates from Pendeen.

The nugget was so large that it could not be weighed on any existing scales, so it had to be broken into three pieces for the weigh-in!

To mark the anniversary, a special commemorative coin has been struck by the Perth mint. The London Mint Office recently presented one to the Mayor of Redruth. They were also hoping to present some to the families of Deason and Oates, and to this end, they have been trying to track down descendants. Does anyone know if any family members were found?

Plymouth or Newlyn? From where did those pilgrims leave?

In 2020 the United States will celebrate the 400th anniversary of the arrival of the *Mayflower* in the New World. On board the ship were one hundred pilgrims who bravely ventured into unknown territory to start a new life. This is considered to be one of the key events in American history.

The generally accepted version of the story is that the ship left Plymouth in Devon in September 1620 and, after a long and dangerous journey across the Atlantic, arrived in what later became Plymouth in Massachusetts. This information is based, to a large extent, on the first-hand account of William Bradford, one of the passengers on the *Mayflower*, who later became governor of the colony of Plymouth.

The colonists who boarded the *Mayflower* for the New World belonged to a protestant group, the Puritans, who were fleeing religious persecution in England. Travelling with the *Mayflower* was another ship of pilgrims, the *Speedwell*, which brought other exiles who had been living in Holland. These people were also heading to the New World where they could escape persecution and start a new life.

The *Speedwell* and the *Mayflower* met up at Southampton and set off together for America. However, the *Speedwell* developed a bad leak while sailing to the west of Land's End and had to put in at Dartmouth for repairs. Both ships then went back to Plymouth where they lay at anchor for eight days. Eventually, the decision was made to abandon the *Speedwell* and transfer as many of its passengers as possible to the *Mayflower*, which finally set off on 6th September 1620.

The *Mayflower* had good winds as it set off towards its destination in Virginia. Later, however, according to Bradford, *they were incountred many times with crosse winds, and mette with many feirce stormes, with which y shipe was shroudly shaken, and her upper works made very leakie; and one of the maine beames in y midd ships was bowed & craked, which put them in some fear that y shipe could not be able to performe y vioage.*

These weather conditions caused many passengers to be sea sick and they blew the *Mayflower* off course so that it landed at Provincetown on the tip of Cape Cod instead of in Virginia. It was

here that they founded their new settlement of Plymouth.

Bradford makes no mention of a stop in Cornwall in his account of the journey. However, retired policeman, John Chapman, from Lelant, believes there is good evidence that the ship's last port of call was Newlyn, and he wants this 'fact' to be recognised. He reports that a Plymouth librarian, Bill Best Harris, who had access to libraries and archives was convinced that Newlyn was the last stop. One of the key reasons for his assumption relates to the water situation on the *Mayflower*. After all the delays in setting off, the fresh water for the two month journey to America would have been running low. At the time, there was an outbreak of cholera in Plymouth so he believes it unlikely that the *Mayflower* would visit that port to replenish supplies. He felt pretty sure that Newlyn was where it went instead. Sadly, Mr Harris died in 1989 and his research papers were destroyed in a house fire. So, until someone else picks up the challenge and finds the definitive answer, the debate will continue!



*Dartmouth, where the ships sheltered while the *Speedwell* was repaired.*

How well do you know Cornwall?

(Source: <http://www.freepubquiz.co.uk/cornwall-quiz.html>)

1. Which river forms most of the border between Devon and Cornwall?
2. **In Cornish it's called *Goon Brenn*, but can you name the granite moorland in north-eastern Cornwall?**
3. Name the administrative centre of Cornwall, which is also its only city?
4. **In May 2012, why did Land's End received worldwide publicity?**
5. Can you name the peninsula in southern Cornwall, which also contains the most southerly point of the British mainland?
6. **The iconic Tate gallery is in which Cornish town?**
7. Scenes for which James Bond film were filmed in Cornwall, at the Eden Project?
8. **Saint Piran's Flag is the flag of Cornwall; can you give the colour of its cross, and also the colour of its background?**
9. The television drama *Doc Martin* is filmed on location in which village?
10. **What is Brown Willy?**
11. Mary Yellan, twenty-three years old, was brought up on a farm in Helford; who is he?
12. **Which resort is widely regarded as the surf capital of the UK?**
13. Which scientist and inventor was born in Penzance, Cornwall, on 17 December 1778?
14. **David John Moore Cornwell has lived in St Buryan for more than 40 years and owns a mile of cliff near Land's End; by what pen name is he better known?**
15. Which fast food chain sells pasties which are manufactured in Penryn, Cornwall?
16. **Which castle has a long association with legends related to King Arthur?**
17. In the Cornish language, by what name is Cornwall known?
18. **Name the famous small tidal island in Mount's Bay?**
19. What is a Cornish split?
20. **Which traditional fishing port is now famous for Rick Stein's Seafood Restaurant?**
21. Can you name the largest and most populated island of the Isles of Scilly (a group of islands off the southwest coast of Cornwall)?
22. **Which oil tanker was shipwrecked off the west coast of Cornwall in 1967, causing an environmental disaster?**
23. What name has been given to the large phantom wild cat which has supposedly been often sighted in Cornwall?
24. **Name the popular amusement park on the southern outskirts of the town of Helston in Cornwall?**
25. What is Cornish Yarg?

Answers

1. Tamar	10. (A hill and) the highest point in Cornwall	19. A bread roll
2. Bodmin Moor	11. The main character in the book <i>Jamaica Inn</i>	(traditionally used in Cornish Cream Teas instead of scones)
3. Truro	12. Newquay	20. Padstow
4. It was the starting point of the 2012 Summer Olympics torch relay	13. Sir Humphry Davy	21. St Mary's
5. The Lizard	14. John le Carré	22. Torrey Canyon
6. St Ives	15. The West Cornwall Pasty Company	23. The Beast of Bodmin
7. Die Another Day	16. Tintagel Castle	24. Flambards
8. White cross on black background	17. Kernow	25. A cheese (a nettle-wrapped semi-hard cheese)
9. Port Isaac	18. St Michael's Mount	

My Meanderings

Here we are again, almost half way into the next year and nearly at summer. Once again I wish you all the best for this year and more; yes I know these greetings are a few months late, but my wishes are still there.

Looking through my past *Meanderings* I found the following regarding a visit to Jerusalem. I was particularly interested as when I was doing my National Service with the RAF in 1959 I was stationed at RAF Akrotiri in Cyprus and was fortunate in being able to take a tour holiday in Jerusalem (strangely enough booked through a firm called Thornton & Pongelley who were based in Nicosia – I never found out if there was any Cornish connection!). The tour took us to the Mount of Olives which included a visit to the Church of Pater Noster where, in the cloisters of this church, were copies of the Lord's Prayer in a multitude of different languages and, believe it or believe it not, one was in the Cornish language. I wondered if it is still there. Well that was answered in the Winter 2018 Newsletter where there was reference to it by someone who had been on a recent visit to Pater Noster on the Mount of Olives. Also included was a picture. So, it is still there and well worth a visit.

Although I am not an historian I still, from time to time, look through the *Kelly's Directory* of 1897. There are so many interesting bits of information, firms, businesses, shops, local Councillors. There were over 200 millers some with mills driven by steam, some by steam and water and others driven by water.

How many Farmers were there in Cornwall? I am not going to count them, but there were 35 pages with about 180 names and farms per page (therefore in the region of 6300). How many are there today? A quick look in the telephone directory surprised me when I saw there are now about 1500.

When you look at the variety of shops in the towns and villages it is quite an eye opener. I know that many of us can remember local shops from our childhood days when you could buy 'six peneth' of chips or ask for a 'penny apple'. Also ask your Dad for three pence to buy an ice cream, the choice being a cornet or a wafer (I wasn't so keen on a wafer as the ice cream oozed out the sides and you had to keep licking around it). I must be careful here as I am dating myself! But don't we all now say 'in my day'? Strangely I don't recall my parents or older peo-

ple saying that in my day. Just shows how things have changed, or have they?

There were 22 Cornish newspapers. How many are there today?

Boot and shoemakers? Believe it or not there were about 720 in Cornwall. We had to put our best foot forward!

What about this one? 5 Gunpowder manufacturers, 1 at Liskeard, 1 at Hayle and 3 at Perranwell Station. 129 Coal & Coke Merchants. How times have changed!

Browsing through the books of the 19th century I came across the following which I thought was rather interesting. It was in an 1854 book *A Geography of Cornwall* where I read the following:

Madron, or *Madern*, is a large parish between Sancreed and Gulval, washed on the south by Mount's Bay.

The town of Penzance is in the parish of Madron, on Mount's Bay: from the beauty of its situation and the character of its buildings, it is the queen of Cornwall: it is sheltered from westerly winds and is a great resort for persons requiring a mild climate. Its fruits and flowers are many and early: tender plants grow freely in the open air.

Penzance means the 'Saint's Head' and the town takes the head of St. John the Baptist in a charger for its arms.

The chapelry of Penzance, anciently called Burr-iton, and dependent on Madron, is now a perpetual curacy. The town contains also the proprietary chapel of St. Paul. The new chapelry of St Peter, Newlyn, is formed out of Madron parish and Paul.

Also looking to the past (but not so far) do you remember the devastating storm that hit South West Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly in early March 1962. On looking through some old newspapers I came across a report plus numerous pictures from *The Cornishman* and *Western Morning News* of March 8th 1962. The damage that was done was devastating particularly along the sea front at Penzance. One would not associate a storm of this capacity hitting anywhere in this country, let alone Cornwall.

The force of the water burst open the front doors of two shops on the Promenade. At one of the shops the door was ripped off and found floating

in about 3 feet (*nearly 1 metre in modern terminology*) of water with much of the stock floating around it. In another of the shops the force of the water had been so great that a large ice-cream fridge in the shop had been pushed over on its back and it took six men to right it.

As always, I ask for support for the London Cornish Association, so please remember that new members are always welcome. Do refer them to the Membership Secretary whose contact details are in this Newsletter.

Well that again is all for now. I hope you have found these *Meanderings* to be of some interest. 2018 was an enjoyable and hot year. I forecast that this year will be hotter; I wonder if I am right? We will see.

Kernow bys vyken

Graham Pearce

Crowdy Crawn

St Gerrans and Porthscatho Old Cornwall Society achieves a first!

LCA member Sallie Eden has let us know that the St Gerrans and Porthscatho OCS now has a Twitter account. Sallie believes that they are the first of the regional societies to have one. It can found it at [@gerransst](https://twitter.com/gerransst). The Society uses its account to disseminate information about their current programme, Cornish heritage and language.

Cornwall enters the space race

In 2020, the first Virgin Orbit satellites could be launched from Cornwall, thanks to a pledge from the UK Space Agency to provide millions in funding.

Britain is a world leader in building satellites but does not have any launching facilities which means have to be launched elsewhere.

The Virgin Orbit rockets will not be launched in the traditional way, vertically from a launch pad. Instead, they will be attached to a Boeing 747 which will carry them 30 000 ft into the air, from where they will be launched. This method of launching will save substantial fuel costs. They have been undertaking tests on this way of launching in California.

The UK Space Agency and Cornwall Council have committed money to build facilities at Spaceport and it is hoped that small satellites will be ready for launching from the early 2020s.

Tom said to me one day...

In our Spring newsletter, the LCA Chairman asked if anyone could recall a song her grandmother used to sing to her. Sung to the tune of the Flora Dance, the words were:

*Tom said to me one day,
Can you dance the Flora?
Yes I can with a nice young man
And off we go to 'Trurer' (Truro)*

Member Lorna Leadbetter contacted us to say:
Yes, I've heard this little ditty – my mother used to sing it occasionally.

Do any other readers recall this verse?

Cruel Sea: the Penlee Lifeboat Disaster

I wonder how many members watched the programme *Cruel Sea: the Penlee Lifeboat Disaster* on BBC 4 in May. It was on late at night and I came across it by chance. It was an incredible documentary which showed actual film footage and interviews which highlighted what a terrible night 19th December 1981 was. So many difficult decisions had to be made under such awful conditions – and despite the super-human efforts of the lifeboat crew, no one survived.

This programme was a reminder of what dangers the lifeboat crews face when they go out to sea to help others. Sadly, the programme is no longer available on iPlayer – but you might be able to pick it up on Youtube at the following link:

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

***The deadline for the next issue of the
LCA Newsletter is***

5th August 2019

Please send all contributions to:

*The Editor
55 Brownell Place
London
W7 3AZ*

Or email to lca@londoncornish.co.uk