

2013 WINTER FESTIVAL

FEDERATION OF OLD CORNWALL SOCIETIES

Saturday 9th November

'Old Cornwall' Society members from the farthest-flung corners of Cornwall met for a day of celebration of all things Cornish at Newquay's St Michael's Church.

It began in the morning with a well-attended coffee morning in the Church Hall, open to all. Varied stands and displays from Cornish cultural organisations included the Cornish Gorsedh, the Institute of Cornish Studies, the Friends of Trenance Cottages, Cornish Banner magazine, the Milestones Society, the "Q" Fund, Cornwall Heritage Trust, and the Federation of 'Old Cornwall' Societies' own extensive bookstall. The buzz and chatter of old and new friends meeting was superb.

No less than four 'hot off the press' Cornish publications were offered – Cornish Milestones by Ian Thompson, Richard G Jenkin, a Great Son of Cornwall edited by Derek Williams, the reissue of a 1929 Australian publication, Twenty-Six Celebrated Cornish Carols by the Federation itself, and Ted Gundry's CD of the first BBC outside broadcast of the Christmas service from St Hilary in 1926.

Pasty lunches generously provided by Crantock Bakery were available to members.

The afternoon's events in the Church began with a fanfare and the customary impressive entry of Society banners, following piper Merv Davey.

Welcomes were given by Duncan Paul Matthews, President of the Federation, and Sandy Parker, Mayor of Newquay. Maureen Fuller, Grand Bard of the Cornish Gorsedh expressed her hopes that members would oppose the inappropriate and un-Cornish place-names being widely introduced by house-builders.

A lively entertainment programme followed, drawing heavily upon the past work of 'Old Cornwall' members in preserving past traditions.

Kemysk, an energetic young dance troupe, performed vigorous jigs, reels and step dances to the accompaniment of banjo and guitar to great applause.

An amusing interlude was provided by Terry Knight, reading two dialect tales from the entertaining pen of the late Herbert Lean of Camborne.

Roger Pinsent, Penzance organist, and Breton bombarde player, Eliaz Lorho-Pasco joined forces to perform traditional pieces to unusual and striking effect – a superb and moving combination.

Newquay's own a cappella singers, Oll an Gwella, rounded off the programme with a happy selection of well-loved Cornish songs, leaving their audience wanting more – which they got by asking them to lead the closing stirring rendition of the Cornish national anthem, Trelawny.