

# Midsummer Bonfires

## Launceston, Liskeard and Looe

On the afternoon of Sun 23 Jun 13, courtesy of South West Lakes Trust, the Old Cornwall Societies from Launceston, Liskeard and Looe, held their Annual Mid Summer's Eve Bonfire at the Sibleyback Reservoir and Recreation Area, amidst gale force winds.

In addition to the Old Cornwall Members, the gathering had an international flair with representation of a Liskeard Girl Guider from Oklahoma, and a Launceston OCS guest from Zambia.

Readings and Prayers in Cornish were led by Mike Smith, (Hockin's House) and in English by Joan Tippett, (North Hill).

Rev Keith Lanyon Jones, Vicar of St Cleer, spoke on the hardiness of the Ancient Britons and their appreciation of fire and light, he then, torch in hand, lit the fire.

Maureen Fuller, (Grand Bard of the Gorsedh Kernow), then led the Mid Summer's ceremony in both Cornish and English and Launceston OCS provided the 'Maid of Flowers', to cast the wreath onto the pyre.

## Redruth

A group of hardy Old Cornwall members and supporters gathered at Pencoose Farm, Stithians on Saturday 22nd June 2013 for Redruth Old Cornwall Society's annual Midsummer Bonfire.

After some opening words by President Jonathan Davey the ceremony began with readings in Cornish and English by Revd Brian Coombes and Mrs Vanessa Moyle.

A particularly proud moment for Old Cornwall stalwarts Ron Opie and his wife Jean came when their grand-daughter, Miss Jodie Opie acted as Lady of The Flowers - a role which she performed superbly.

The fire was then lit by Mr Ron Moyle and three cheers were given for farmer Paul Gluyas, the bonfire and the Summer.

Th president would like to express thanks to Mike and Elizabeth Johns and Jean Opie for seving the refreshments, to Ron and Vanessa Moyle for the general organization of the event and to Rosy Hawking for arranging the posy of symbolic herbs and flowers, making the head dress for lady of the Flowers and constructing the rather impressive torch used to start the fire.

Many thanks are also given to Farmer Paul Gluyas and his son Steve who built the bonfire for us and who allowed the event to take place on their land.