

Summer Festival at Redruth

Report by Pauline Hope,
Photo's Pauline, Keith Shaw, Bill Lugg & George Pritchard

After the torrential rain at last year's Festival in Callington, it was with great relief that we watched the black clouds rolling away to leave Redruth in the sunshine for this special day.

The Hall looked inviting, with stalls of books on Cornish themes and Mrs Knight's craftwork, etc looking very tempting. A beautiful display on Gwennap pit drew much admiration and the raffle stall was particularly well laid out with prizes from various societies. The latest newsletter was available and the air was full of chatter and laughter.

The banners were paraded into the Church where Ron Opie, the President of both the FOCS and Redruth OCS, greeted One and All before carrying out the Roll Call. These were the Societies present:

The Mayor of Redruth gave the assembly a very warm welcome to the town.

The Grand Bard, Vanessa Beeman, remarked that her term of office was coming to an end as was that of the Federation President. She recalled that the FOCS had been motivated to organise the first Cornish Gorsedd and continues its work for the preservation of Cornish heritage.

Ron Opie had received apologies but the list was not to hand. He sent wishes for a speedy recovery to Ros Prigg of Penzance.

He was pleased to announce that the 2010 Summer Festival would take place at Par with volunteers lined up for hosting the following three years. He suggested that it was good for the Festival to take place in different parts of the Duchy.

In answer to the question of the decline in membership, Ron recommended the new leaflet compiled by David Stark, 'Do you love Cornwall?' to introduce new people, including 'in-comers' to the movement.

Ron emphasised that, although each society had a Recorder, everybody should be recording material, especially as we do not always have an influence on planning matters or the loss of valuable buildings. He recommended a free dvd to promote Redruth which is available around the town.

In summing up, Ron thanked the Redruth Society for taking on the organisation of the Festival at such short notice and only four years since its last one; in particular he thanked Mike Johns, David Bennett, Beryl on the raffle, the stall holders, all those who had contributed and of course, Mrs Opie.

Andrew Langdon, Federation Recorder, asked everybody to follow the tradition and 'Gather up the fragments that are left that nothing be lost.' He hoped everyone would get enthusiastic about the current project for photographing post boxes in Cornwall and he distributed the sheets for recording details.

Keith Shaw had made a dvd of Callington in the sunshine and the 2008 Festival in the rain which is available from him for £5 including postage.

Members made their way back to the hall for a tasty Berriman's pasty lunch speedily served by the host society. Tickets for the afternoon's activities, as had been described by Ron Opie, were collected. These included:

A tour of the mining areas of Redruth with Eric Rabjohns

A tour of Illogan with Joe Thomas

A tour of Portreath with Michael Tangye

A visit to the Treasure Park, Tolgus Tin-streaming works and town museum with Ron Opie

A town walk including the Cornwall Centre and Murdoch House with Terry Knight

A slide show in the hall.

On return from these excellent outings, members enjoyed a cup of tea and a delicious saffron buns from Rowe's.

The raffle with its many prizes was drawn and Ron said a few words before the Festival broke up with the traditional rendition of Trelawney.

I am sure everyone would like to thank Redruth OCS for its warm welcome, its efficient organisation and the wonderfully happy day it provided.







