
FOCS SUMMER FESTIVAL, 2013

Ivor Corkell
Camborne OCS

The sun shone, the sky was blue, ladies in dresses, men in short sleeves; it was hot. This wasn't just summer this was the Summer Festival of the Federation of 'Old Cornwall' Societies hosted by Camborne OCS. This year Camborne OCS celebrates its 90th anniversary and accepted the Federation's invitation to commemorate the occasion by hosting the Festival.

Having accepted where could the event be held; somewhere big enough blessed with ample car parking and a coach pick-up facility? Eventually Pool Academy was suggested. What a brilliant idea as their hall was large and airy, with an adjacent kitchen and classroom. There was also a drama room that could be used as a dining area. Ideal!

On the day the parade of banners was headed by Robin Holmes, the Gorsedh piper and the dignitaries. Once again it was lovely to see so many Societies supporting the parade and the serpentine banner trail was colourful and impressive.

The roll call was completed with the Federation's Hon Secretary, Ivor Corkell, introducing the host Society with a short rendition on his harmonica of 'Goin' up Camborne Hill'.

David Thomas, President of Camborne OCS, welcomed dignitaries, guests and members.

Mike Champion, Mayor of Camborne, representing Camborne Town Council, welcomed everyone to an enjoyable day experiencing some of the town's best attractions. He thanked Camborne OCS for their contribution to the Town's heritage and culture. He said that Camborne is proud of its history; Richard Trevithick is recognised world-wide as the father of high pressure steam locomotion.

Duncan Paul Matthews, President of the Federation, congratulated Camborne OCS on the occasion of their anniversary. He spoke of the specialness of Cornwall and its people and related stories of Cornish men and women he has met whilst working overseas.

Grand Bard Maureen Fuller welcomed everyone in Cornish and English. She asked "What is Cornishness?" As her grandmother used to say, "All those things we d'belong to do",

those things that make us different from other races. We have our own language, folklore, music, sports, symbols, Cornish tartan, Cornish choughs, St Piran's flag and Cornish quality that means the best! In conclusion she said we need to go forward, use our language more, organise our festivals, engage with our youth and teach Cornish history in our schools.

It was then the turn of the Camborne Youth Brass Band under the baton of their Musical Director Alan Pope. The band was the winner for seven consecutive years at the National Youth Brass Band Championships in Manchester. Their programme started appropriately with *Camborne Hill* followed by Chris Bond's *Trevithick March*. The audience although stunned by the wonderful talent on display were brought to their feet with the impressive display by young Charlie Hodge on the xylophone. The band's performance earned an enthusiastic standing ovation.

Marina Bennetts marshalled her team of helpers with an efficient service of pasties and drinks over the lunch break. Well done to everyone that helped.

Following lunch members boarded coaches for their colour coded tours.

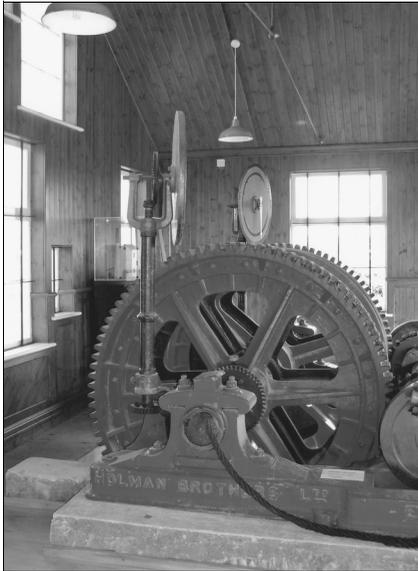
Tour 1 A walk around Camborne town with David Thomas

The tour began in Camborne churchyard looking at the graves of Richard Trevithick's business partner Andrew Vivian and the famous sculptor Nevil Northey Burnard. It continued to the Parish Vestry and Old Clink along Basset Road, Camborne Cross with the library and Trevithick's statue, Cross Street before returning past the more central buildings to

*Camborne Parish
Vestry and Old Clink*



Camborne Church. David explained the history and architectural development of the church.



Holman Brothers' winding engine, King Edward Mine

Tour 2 King Edward Mine with Kingsley Rickard

When Kingsley announced that the coach was ready for take-off, the weather was fine and they would be flying at zero feet to KEM two ladies announced that they had put their names down for the Gwithian tour. Kingsley said that, as they had boarded the wrong and last coach, they wouldn't be seeing much of Gwithian. The group was shown around the site before venturing inside to see the mineral processing plant - away from the sun. The buildings are Grade II* listed and the machinery is rare; in one case unique. KEM is Cornwall's only

complete mine site. At the end of the tour the two ladies said they had enjoyed the visit!

Tour 3 Gwithian and Godrevy with David Oates

David escorted the group into the sand dunes on a very hot afternoon. For some it was just too hot and they made an early exit to the cool of Gwithian church. He explained the impact that man has had on the land from the Mesolithic time to the present day. He showed where sand was excavated for building, mainly to rebuild Plymouth after World War II, and the position of the old Gwithian tin-stream works. He explained the archaeology of the area, the dark-age settlement of Conerton and the remains of St Gothian's chapel which, unusually, had a full ecclesia (a right of burial).

Tour 4 Duchy College with Bill Herring

Bill related the history of the College which is part of a multi-site operation. He explained the developments from the original government experimental station to the present college with its wide range of provision including horticulture, flower arranging, veterinary nursing and care of small animals, dog grooming and agriculture. Although the care of horses is conducted on another site members were delighted to meet

donkeys and some very small ponies keeping cool in their covered enclosure. Not everyone wanted to visit the rodents or the very hot glass houses. Bill very kindly found shady areas for members. They were impressed with Bill's in depth knowledge and fluent delivery. At the end of the tour each member was presented with a pack of St Piran anemone corms from the College.

Tour 5 Treslothan Church

Camborne OCS is indebted to the help given by Sally Piper, John and Tony Langford of the John Harris Society and Pip Richards of the Sustainable Trust for their help on the day. Sally related the history of the Pendarves family, Treslothan model village and the church. Tony told the story of



Treslothan Church

John Harris, the poet miner, whilst John recited some of John Harris's poetry. Pip Richards spoke of the work of the Sustainable Trust and her efforts to raise funds to re-erect the Carwynnen Quoit.

Tour 6 Heartlands with Jean Charman

Jean escorted the group through this new free cultural playground. She introduced Cllr Mark Kaczmarek who had worked at South Crofty for many years. Mark's tour of the Robinson's Shaft complex was both informative and interesting with many personal stories and anecdotes which brought the mine and its characters to life. Some of the group ventured into the workings of the old engine house.

Tour 7 Camborne and District Coach Tour with Ivor Corkell

A late increase in numbers attending the Festival prompted an additional tour which was scheduled to visit the sites of most of the other tours. The coach passed the birthplace of Richard Trevithick before visiting the Heartlands site. The tour continued through Tuckingmill passing the sites of Camborne's

old gas works, now a country park, John Budge's foundry, Bickford Smith's mine safety fuse factory and on to Dolcoath, Cornwall's one-time deepest mine. The coach continued past the sites of Holman's No 1 and 3 factories and on to King Edward Mine before backtracking to take a diversion to Treslothan. It was then back and through the centre of Camborne past the library, Trevithick's statue, Cross Street, the Market House and Camborne Church. The only stop was in the cool of Gwithian Church to hear of the history of the church and churchyard. Mike Trott pointed out the grave of a French matelot whose comrades and victims of a shipwreck are buried in Camborne churchyard.



"The sudden view of Portreath from Tregoe Hill was stunning and brought a gasp from most on the coach."

forgettable picture post card scene.

On returning an efficient kitchen served everyone with a welcome drink and saffron bun.

The day's entertainment concluded with a concert by Proper Job singing a selection of old favourites. David Oates related two of Herbert Lean's amusing Cornish dialect stories. There was an additional item as David Oates announced it was Ivor Corkell's birthday and Proper Job led a hearty rendition of 'Happy Birthday' before ending the Festival with a rousing delivery of 'Trelawny.' A fine end to a fine day!

Photographs Editor.

The tour proceeded to Hell's Mouth, the North Cliffs and Portreath. The sudden view of Portreath from Tregoe Hill was stunning and brought a gasp from most on the coach. There was a very low tide resulting in a broad expanse of golden sands and a turquoise sea. A line of gigs, their crews and supporters added colour to an unfor-