

## Liskeard, Looe, Par and Mullion

On Tue 23 Jun 2015, courtesy of South West Lakes Trust 'fifty members from the Old Cornwall Societies of : Liskeard, Looe, Par and Mullion, assembled at the Siblyback Reservoir to uphold the ancient ceremony of the Mid Summer's Eve Bonfire, this tradition intending to hold onto the summer as long as possible to ensure a good harvest and short winter.

Traditionally, anyone thought guilty of a crime would be brought to the fore on such occasions and given a burning spar, and if he/she were able to spit out the flame, they were considered innocent of the deed. If they failed .....! The ceremony was led by Mr Duncan Paul Matthews, (Liskeard), with Dr Kathy Lang, (Looe) as the Officiating Minister, with Mr Mike Smith, (St Cleer, giving all readings in Cornish. The Ladies of Flowers were from 'Cleerly Women', and the St Cleer Gardening Club, and they threw wreaths of herbs onto the pyre to cleanse the community of sin and the fire was lit by Cllr Jane Pascoe, Deputy Mayor of Liskeard and the Liskeard Chamber of Commerce. The evening concluded with tea and saffron buns all around. and the singing of Trelawny. Musical Entertainment was provided by Roger Bennett and Viv, from Looe OCS.

(Present for the occasion was a recording team from BBC Radio 4, 'Country File').

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## **A fiery slice of St Ives**

Se Tony Mason's film in Events 2015

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A perfect evening for a very ancient custom, revived in 1929 by the St Ives Old Cornwall Society and also observed in other parts of Cornwall. Brian Stevens, Chairman of St Ives OCS, is your emcee. A Cornish prayer was read by President and former Grand Bard of the Cornish Gorseth, Mick Paynter and the Lady of the Flowers, Christine Marenah threw the bunch of hedgerow flowers onto the blaze as is traditional. (23 June 2015).