



Cowethas Kernewek Loundres

London Cornish Association Newsletter



www.londoncornish.co.uk

Spring 2017

Included with this newsletter, you will find two flyers. The first is a subscription reminder and the second provides details on how to make a nomination for the **Paul Smales Award (Pewis Map Trevethan)**

This year, the Cornish Gorsedd requires nominations for the Paul Smales Award to be submitted much earlier than usual. Please note that your nomination and motivation should be sent to Dr Francis Dunstan **by 10th March**. You will find the criteria for this prestigious Award on the flyer but basically, it recognises the contribution of someone, living outside Cornwall, to the enhancement of the common good and welfare of the people of Cornwall.

Another special award which is made by the Gorsedd is the **London Cornish Association Shield**. This also recognises what someone living outside Cornwall is doing to support our Cornish heritage and way of life. Nominations for this Award should also be sent to Dr Dunstan **by 10th March**.

The LCA has some interesting events planned for the next two months, starting with an impromptu tea at the Southbank Centre at the Royal Festival Hall to celebrate St Piran's Day. This is the first time we are marking St Piran's Day as it has always been so close to our Annual Dining Event. That event is a week later this year and so it seemed a good time to break with tradition! It has been a challenge to find somewhere we can have a Cornish tea without great expense but your Social Committee seems to have found the perfect place. As the arrangements were made after the last newsletter went out, we

are endeavouring to get the details to as many members as possible. Regular visitors to our web page (www.londoncornish.co.uk) will have the details and we have tried to email those members for whom we have active email addresses. In addition, this newsletter will break with tradition as the e-newsletter will be sent out before the hard copy is printed. If this celebration is a success, we would consider making it a regular on our social programme.

On 18th March we will enjoy our 131st Annual Dining event. After the success of last year, we are, once again, having a lunch. This is in response to requests from our members who come from further afield and also those who do not like travelling late at night. If you have not yet booked, please do so urgently as bookings will soon have to close.

In April we have our Family History Day with two more interesting speakers. As with last year, the *AGM* and *Trelawny Lecture* will take place on the same day. We are delighted that Chris Knight will give the Trelawny Lecture. The topic of his lecture will be the Cornish family who started the St Austell Brewery.

Your Social Committee works hard to find events that are not expensive and which will appeal to our members. Sadly, we are now finding that fewer and fewer of our members are attending. Please help us to help you by giving us suggestions as to what types of events would appeal – and we encourage you to support as many of them as you can.

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Dates for your diary ...

St Piran's Celebration
Saturday 4th March
1.30 - 5pm

131st Anniversary Dining Event
Saturday 18th March
12 noon

Family History Day with AGM and Trelawny Lecture
Saturday 22nd April
10am

Further details of these events can be found on page 2

Membership Questions?

In our Winter 2016 issue, we mentioned that our new Membership Secretary is Ms Carol Goodwin. If you have any questions about membership, please do not hesitate to contact her. The details are as follows:



The Membership Secretary
Ms. Carol Goodwin
'Chynoweth', 1a, Dunwich Road
BEXLEYHEATH, Kent, DA7 5EW
Email: lca@londoncornish.co.uk

She can also be contacted through the LCA website – www.londonconish.co.uk

Deadline for the Summer Newsletter is

5th May

Please send all contributions to The Editor at the address on the back page

Forthcoming events

A warm welcome is extended to non-members who would like to attend any of the London Cornish Association events.

From time to time we are able to organise events at fairly short notice. Because of the timing, it may not always be possible to include the information in a newsletter. For members for whom we have a current email address, we will endeavour to let you know. However, to ensure you do not miss out on our news, please do keep an eye on the LCA website - www.londoncornish.co.uk

Quick notice of an impromptu event..

St Piran's Day Celebration

Join us for a celebratory toast and a taste of Cornwall to mark this special day.

WHEN;

March 4, 2017 @ 1:30 pm – 5:00 pm

WHERE:

Level 5
South Bank Centre, Royal Festival Hall
Belvedere Rd
Lambeth, London SE18XX

Any member or guest is welcome to join us. If you would like to come along, please contact Carol Goodwin to book a place

CONTACT

Carol Goodwin

Email: chynoweth@hotmail.co.uk Phone 07889 178891

Getting there: The nearest tube stations are Waterloo and Embankment (on North side of River Thames.).
Mainline Stations: Waterloo or Waterloo East or Charing Cross (again on North side of River Thames).

131 Anniversary Dining Event

Amba Hotel (previously the Thistle Hotel), Marble Arch

18th March 2017

As last year's Event was such a success, we are continuing with a Luncheon in 2017. This Event replaces our traditional Annual Dinner, in response to requests from several members who find it challenging to be out late at night and would prefer a lunchtime gathering.

The event will begin with a reception in the Marylebone Room at 12.00 with lunch following at 13.00 in the Bond Street Room.

Principal Guest:
Principal Speaker:

The Mayor of Helston
Mr Peter Chalkley,
Secretary London Cornish Pilot Gig Association

Menu

Roasted Tomato Soup with Creme Fraiche and Tarragon

~oo~

Slow Braised Beef Blade, Horseradish Mash, Butter Spinach And Red Wine Jus

~oo~

Apple and Blueberry Crumble with Creme Anglaise

Vegetarian Choice:

Roast Butternut Squash, Beetroot And Quinoa Warm Salad

PRICE: £37.50 per person

Come and join us for a good meal and some Cornish camaraderie

A BOOKING FORM can be downloaded from the LCA website: lca@londoncornish.co.uk

OR

Phone Carol Goodwin - 0208 303 9054

Don't Delay... Bookings close soon

LONDON CORNISH ASSOCIATION

FAMILY HISTORY DAY Saturday, 22nd April 2017

Speakers:

THE TRELAWNY LECTURE

Mr Chris Knight

'The Founding Family of St Austell Brewery - The Hicks'

As Curator and PR Manager, Chris Knight looks after the archives and heritage of St Austell Brewery, one of the oldest companies in Cornwall. Having got a real flavour of the company after attending school next door to it, Chris moved away from Cornwall to pursue a career in journalism and PR in London before returning to teach History and delve into the social and industrial past of his homeland. His role at the Brewery allows Chris to indulge his passion for storytelling and the past - and sample some wonderful, award-winning ales along the way! His talk focuses upon the development of the Brewery and that of its founding family – the Hicks.

Dr Colin R Chapman

'Family History from Education Records'

Colin Chapman is a life Vice-President of the Federation of Family History Societies, has authored fourteen genealogical books and is the originator of the three letter Chapman County Codes for counties of the British Isles which formed the basis for the British Standard, and now International Standard ISO-3166. His talk covers an historical description of education provision and its associated records. He looks at surviving records, such as student admissions and attendance, teacher's log books, reports and managers' and governors meetings, which are of relevance to the family historian and identifies where they may be found.

Venue:

Bloomsbury Central Baptist Church
235 Shaftesbury Avenue
London WC2H 8EP

(nearest underground stations Holborn or Tottenham Court Road)

Time:

10am to 4.30pm

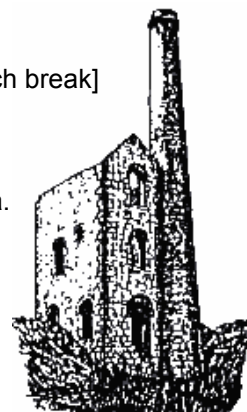
[Please note that there will be a short AGM for LCA members during the lunch break]

Fee: £15 for members (including LCA-affiliated societies and Cornwall Family History Society). £20 for non-members. This includes tea or coffee, pasty & saffron cake lunch and cream tea. Vegetarian pasties can be provided *if ordered in advance*.

Contact:

For booking or further information:

Gill Penny (g.n.penny@btinternet.com; Tel: 01908 316317)
Carol Goodwin (Chynoweth@hotmail.co.uk)



News of Past Events

Visit to the Geffrye Museum

We were fortunate to be able to organise, at quite short notice, a visit to the Geffrye Museum in December. Thirteen members gathered to explore this fascinating museum which looks at the English home from 1600 to the present day.

The museum, in Shoreditch is located in almshouses which date back to 1714. They were the result of a bequest by Cornishman Sir Robert Geffrye who was born at Landrake. He was just 16 when he came to London to work. His long and successful career saw him serve as

Master of the Worshipful Company of Ironmongers on two occasions, become Sheriff of London in 1674 and Lord Mayor of London in 1685. He was knighted in 1673.

Geffrye wanted almshouses built to provide for 'poor people of good character over the age of fifty-six', mainly widows of ironmongers and they continued to be used for this purpose for almost 200 years.

Although most of the almshouses are now used for the museum's displays, a couple have been retained as they originally were. These are only open from time to time and, as luck would have it, the day we visited was one of these occasions.

Some of us went off to look at the interesting displays while others went on guided tours but everyone met in the

café for a delicious lunch before either returning to the displays or going home. A really good day out, for which we thank organiser, Jackie Trembath.



Inside one of the almshouses



Statue of Cornishman Robert Geffrye at the Geffrye Museum

New Year's Lunch

It has now almost become a tradition for the LCA to meet at Penderel's Oak in Holborn for its annual New Year's Lunch. On a cold morning in early January, 23 members and friends gathered for this year's lunch. It was a very special get-together with everyone relaxing over some delicious pub food while catching up on news. It must have been a successful event as the stragglers were still there about 4 hours later!



The Eighth Festival is fast approaching and sixty choirs of all ages and nationalities will be performing this year. Choirs from overseas include Harmonie Bernbach (Germany), Manifestum (Finland), Vocal Six (Sweden), Gentlemen Singers (Czech Republic), St Petersburg Boys choir, Grass Valley (with Cornish connections) from California and the Melbourne Welsh Choir from Australia.

Six Welsh choirs will be coming and there will be one from Scotland and fourteen from elsewhere in the UK. They will be welcomed and joined in concerts by over thirty Cornish choirs.

The Festival opens with a concert at the Truro Cathedral on Thursday 27 April.

International Gala concerts will take place at the Hall for Cornwall on 29 April & 1 May and there will be a youth concert at HFC on Sunday 30 April.

This year's Festival will see the largest Choir Competition in our fourteen year history.

Cornwall will be centre stage when 2000 singers of all ages and nationalities converge to entertain an estimated 45,000 people in theatres, churches, tourist attractions and castles from Land's End to Saltash.

Over the five day period nineteen concerts will take place in many Cornish towns so there will be plenty of opportunities to enjoy a local concert hosted by a Cornish choir and supported by other choirs from the UK and overseas.

Tickets for the concerts are now on sale. You can find the full programme and purchase tickets on the Festival website: <http://www.cimvcf.org.uk/>

If you do not have access to the internet and would like more information or find out where to get tickets, contact the

Festival Registered Office

Peat House, Newham Rd, TRURO, TR1 2DP

Trelawny Shout - 5th March

For the third year running, people around Cornwall will be gathering in pubs to take part in the 2017 Trelawny Shout on St Piran's Day, 5th March. What makes this event special is that it is a time when everyone across the county can join in a mass singing of the Cornish anthem 'Trelawny' at 9pm.

The Cornwall Community Foundation, with the support of the St Austell Brewery, organised the first Shout in 2015 and it has grown year by year. The CCF supports projects in every village and community in Cornwall and this event provides an opportunity to raise funds to continue this work.

Although these events target pubs in Cornwall, there seems no reason why people beyond the Tamar can't celebrate their Saint's day with their own event. If you are involved in a Shout, in Cornwall or beyond, please do let us know – and possibly even send us a photo-

A Policeman's Lot...

William Henry Beare, Cornwall's Deputy Chief Constable 1902 to 1910

My interest in this 'Cornish' ancestor, my great grandfather, was stimulated when my brother gave me a framed copy of the *Falmouth Packet* newspaper article of 18 October 1902, announcing our great grandfather's promotion to the exalted position of DCC, together with two photos of the great man; one depicting him outside the old Bodmin police station in Pound Lane, and the other showing him with his family in the garden of their home next door.



Superintendent W. H. Beare, Deputy Chief Constable, with his horse and carriage.

On duty - outside Old Bodmin Police Station

Having referred to him as 'Cornish', I should confess that he was actually born in 1842 in Tetcott, Devon, a few miles from the Cornish border. He was the son of John Shepherd Beare and Frances Down, who had met one another whilst in service on a farm in North Tamerton, Cornwall.

Although William had worked as a Labourer until his early twenties, we do not know why he made the decision to journey to Bodmin to enlist as a Cornish County Policeman, rather than to Exeter to serve within his 'home' county. Maybe the county borders were ill defined at that point and he felt more 'Cornish' than 'Devonian' or possibly, as he was living in North Petherwim, Cornwall, it was an easier route for 'hitching a ride'.

His record of service in the Cornwall Constabulary Force (available at the Cornwall Records Office) shows that he was sworn as a Constable on 8 December 1864, served throughout the county at Bodmin, Helston, Truro and Falmouth and held the ranks of Sergeant, Inspector and Superintendent. Along the way he married Mary Byers, a native of Bodmin, and had six children, one of whom was Elizabeth (my grandmother).

The aforementioned newspaper article refers to an interview given by William at the time of his promotion to DCC, summarising his police career up to that point. He was described as a conscientious yet zealous officer, who made both enemies and supporters alike. Apparently he was a stickler for discipline and expected strict compliance with the law. This was highlighted by his belief that all licensed innkeepers should be personally responsible for the behaviour of their clientele while on the premises and

not the police. This strong stance of his seems to have brought about a marked decrease in drunkenness in Falmouth during his three years there as the area superintendent (99 fewer cases over that period!). His successes, during the 38 years to that date, ranged from arresting burglars to convicting murderers and even included breaking up a band of poultry and sheep stealers, who had plied their unlawful business with impunity for far too long! The reporter concluded the article by saying that 'Mr Beare has the honour and great credit of being the first member of the Cornwall Constabulary to rise from the ranks to the post of DCC which is the highest position obtainable by members of the Force' (the Chiefs at that time being either retired military officers or persons of similar standing appointed from outside the Police).

More accolades were to be heaped on my conscientious forbear, when in 1909 he became one of the country's first recipients of the newly created Kings Police Medal (*for distinguished service*). He was to retire in 1910 and died in 1913. We found his grave in Bodmin's Old Town Cemetery, where the headstone is in the unusual shape of a Constable's helmet.

A truly remarkable man and one whom I am sure would have been extremely proud to have known that, some 50 years after his death, both his great grandson (my brother Roger) and his great grandson-in-law (my husband) were to become career police officers and would both achieve the rank of Superintendent, even if that, in the modern police force, did not equate to Deputy Chief Constable!

Pauline Pearce



Superintendent Beare and his family outside their home next door to the Old Bodmin Police Station.

Policing in Cornwall

If you would like to know more about the history of policing in Cornwall, and in particular, the Scilly Isles, you might be interested in a new book by Roger Jacob entitled '*Scillybeat*'. The book provides an insight into the sort of policing challenges which would have been faced by policemen like William Beare.

Roger Jacob's long association with the Isles of Scilly began in 1966, when he arrived on St Mary's for a six-month posting as a fledgling police constable. He grew to know the islands intimately and he has penned this memoir as a heartfelt tribute to the Scillonian community he loves. Memories of living and working in the Scillies are interspersed with stories of his other life experiences throughout Cornwall and Devon until his retirement as chief inspector in 1995.

The book's details are as follows:

Scillybeat: Memoirs of a Scilly Copper by Roger Jacob
ISBN: 978-1526202291

It is available in bookshops and on Amazon.

Calling all Poldark fans...

If, like so many of us, you were glued to the TV when the last two Poldark series were on, you might like to know more about the locations used during filming. If so, have a look at the following website which includes a map, lovely photographs and descriptions of how the location was used. Even if you are not a fan, you will enjoy the photos, so do have a look.

<http://www.pixxcell.com/story/the-poldark-tour-of-cornwall>

And, a further treat for Poldark fans at the Royal Cornwall Museum...

Poldark – an exhibition of 18th century objects, combined with special images from the hit tv series

An exhibition combining historical objects and 'stills' from the current Poldark TV series go on display at the Royal Cornwall Museum from 6th February 2017 and will run until February 2018.

The exhibition has been made possible by the generous support of Poldark TV production company, Mammoth Screen, and the support of Andrew Graham, son of Poldark author Winston Graham. Andrew is an executor of his father's literary estate and a consultant on the TV series starring Aidan Turner.

The exhibition illustrates many aspects of Cornish life during the Poldark era and reveals some of the history behind the Poldark novels.

Andrew Graham said; 'I want visitors to the museum to see an authentic blend of historical objects from the 1800s but with a twist.'

'I also wanted to acknowledge my father's unique relationship with the Museum, where he left many of his original notebooks, showing his novels written in long hand, as well as the typewriter on which he wrote to his many fans.'

The museum also runs the Winston Graham Literary Prize with a £3,000 prize fund for the winning entry. This year's deadline is 1st June 2017.

Give Cornish Hedging a Go!

Cornish hedges are a special feature of the countryside south of the Tamar. The earliest examples date back to the Neolithic period while some of those still in existence date from the the Bronze and Iron ages as well as the Medieval period and the mining boom periods of the 18th and 19th centuries. It is estimated that there are about 30 000 miles of hedges today.

Hedges have two faces of stone with a soil-filled gap between. Some bushes may be deliberately planted in the soil but a rich variety of flora develops naturally over the lifespan of the wall, often completely covering the stones.

With their variety of foliage, hedges play an important environmental role, providing the county's largest semi-natural wildlife habitat, a haven for small animals and insects. According to the Cornish Hedges website, '*An estimated ten thousand species of insects can be supported by the floral and habitat diversity in Cornwall's hedges. This brings mammals, birds and reptiles to forage and to hide their homes and nests in the greenery and stony crevices.*'

The way hedges are built, slightly wider at the bottom than the top, makes them very stable and most of them last for a very long time. However, tree roots, burrowing rabbits, the weather and people take their toll and the hedges need repairing.

If you have ever dreamed of working on hedges, you may now have a chance as the National Trust is looking for volunteers to assist with repair work:

Pentire Head

11th March 10.00 – 15.00

Booking details - Call 01208 863821

Find more information at:

<https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/events/942544de-2b1c-4855-8277-d64938d935d4/pages/details>

Barras Nose near Tintagel

13th May 10.00 – 15.00

Booking details - Call 01208 863821

<https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/events/793f6f47-74e9-4e8b-af0e-45072af58530/pages/details>

Find out more about Cornish hedges by visiting the website of the Cornish Hedges website - <http://www.cornishhedges.co.uk/>



Cornish hedge near Tintagel

There's more than just tulips in Amsterdam

Some time ago, member Graham Pearce put a plea in his *Mem Sec Meanderings* for people to let him know of any Cornish links they encounter on their travels. On trips to South Africa I have come across those things which are typically found in different parts of the world where Cousin Jacks have gone – such as street names and the names of towns or districts and in Cape Town, even a *Penzance Vet Clinic*. These types of things are not unexpected, but in the past couple of months I have made two exciting discoveries much closer to home – in the Netherlands.

A Cornish link to an Amsterdam canal house?

Last Christmas, my family and I had the privilege of spending a couple of days at the top of an old canal house on the Herengracht in Amsterdam. The views over the canal were amazing and it was while I was admiring the lovely

painted gables on the houses across the water that I noticed one gable in particular - almost directly opposite us, was a painting of a shield with the word CORN-WALL printed on a diagonal scroll across it!

So far, I have not been able to establish why this picture is there. It appears that these gable paintings had 3 main functions - to create an attractive facade, to show what was being stored in the house or to identify the owner by, for example, showing the merchant's family shield. I have been pondering the meaning of this painting. Could it be the shield of a Cornishman trading in Amsterdam? Or that of a Dutch merchant with Cornish interests? How else could it be explained? I have drawn a blank but perhaps one of our readers will have some ideas as to who or what this painting refers.



Who needs a little Dutch boy to keep the sea at bay when a Cornish beam engine could do the job?

As part of its series on *Great Canal Journeys*, channel 4 recently showed Tim West and Prunella Scales exploring the canals of the Netherlands from the Kinderdijk to Amsterdam. In this programme they looked at the history of the canals and how the Dutch built them for transportation, irrigation and as a method of flood control (26% of the land is below sea level!). You can view it at <http://www.channel4.com/programmes/great-canal-journeys/on-demand/63662-002>

As they travelled from near the sea towards Amsterdam, the couple stopped off at Cruquius pumping station, one of the three pumping stations set up in the 1840s to drain the Haarlemmermeer (Haarlem Lake). This lake covered about 170 square kilometres, including the area where Schipol Airport now stands. The three engines at the pumping stations were so effective that within three years,

the entire lake had been drained – 800 million tons of water!

And the Cornish connection? The engines used to pump the water at all three stations were Cornish, built by Harvey and Co in Hayle. What was special about the pump at the Curquius pumping station was that it had the largest cylinder ever built for a Cornish engine. Eight beams were connected to this cylinder, each driving a single pump.

Prior to the installation of the steam pumps, windmills had done most of the work, but these couldn't really cope with the volumes of water involved in draining the polders, especially after big storms. A special committee was formed to look at the feasibility of steam-powered drainage and after a visit to Cornwall, the members were convinced that Cornish pumps were reliable and efficient and were what was needed. They acknowledged, however, that the pumps would have to be adapted to cope with

the much larger volumes of water they would have to move compared to that normally dealt with in Cornish mines.

The Cruquius pump was taken out of service in 1932 and in 1933 was designated one of the first industrial monu-

ments in the world. It was restored between 1985 and 2000 but is no longer steam operated.

The website of the Cruquius Museum is worth a visit. It includes both information and an animation of the working pump. The URL is:

<http://www.cruquiusmuseum.nl/englishsite/engine.html>



Cruquius Pumping Station - showing some of the Cornish beam engines.

(Photo: By Caspar - Own work, CC BY-SA 2.5, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=1181881>)

Condolences

Philip Cannon

It is with great sadness that we heard recently of the death of one of our long-standing members, Philip Cannon, who joined the LCA in October 1991.

Philip was born in Paris but moved to Cornwall with his family when he was six years old. He grew up in Falmouth where he attended the local grammar school.

He will be remembered as a composer of musical works ranging from choral to instrumental and orchestral to opera, which have been performed in venues as varied as King's College Chapel in Cambridge and La Chapelle Royale in Versailles. His music career started with violin and piano lessons at school and when he was 12, he began composing. His exceptional talents were recognised early and at 18, he was awarded a composition scholarship to the Royal College of Music where he studied under, amongst others, Ralph Vaughn Williams. In 1951, he won the *Octavia Travelling Scholarship*.

Philip's music career included a long period of teaching: he was a music lecturer at Sydney University between 1957 and 1959 after which he took up the post of professor of composition at the Royal College of Music, a position he held for 35 years.

His inspiring and successful musical career saw him receive many awards, including initiation as a Bard of the

Cornish Gorsedd in 1997 – with the appropriate name of *Gwryer Kessenyans* (Maker of Harmony)

We offer our condolences to his wife and daughter and to his many friends

Croydon Parsons

We were also sorry to hear of the death of Croydon Parsons, one time President of the *Bournemouth Cornish Association*. He was an important and active member of Bournemouth and, apart from his 'official' roles was very involved in activities in the Association and beyond. With other BCA members, he participated in St Piran's Day events at Bodmin and, with his wonderful curly moustache and his build, made a perfect Father Christmas at Bournemouth's Christmas parties!

My first memories of Croydon were of him and other members of BCA performing Gilbert and Sullivan songs at Cuntelles Kernewek something many of us will remember with enjoyment. He had a dry sense of humour and was fun to sit and chat with. And, it is difficult to think of Croydon without his side-kick Gerran, his wonderful 'Cornish' Scottie dog who was always decked out in tartan at special events.

Croydon was a colourful character who will be missed. Our thoughts are with his wife Anne and to his many friends at Bournemouth and beyond.

News from other Cornish Associations

UNITED STATES

Planning for the 18th Gathering of the Cornish Cousins which will take place in Gold Hill, North Carolina in early November is well underway. Gold Hill is an early 19th century restored village which is reputedly haunted!

The theme of the weekend will be *'If Picks and Shovels Could Talk'*. It will outline the Cornish miners' part in the US movement from east to west. Some came with their families, some settled after the gold was mined, some moved on to continue the quest.

The programme for the Gathering will include workshops, tours of the area and *'As always, pasties and Cornish cream tea will figure strongly in the week-end.'*

Some members of the **Cornish American Heritage Society** recently completed a survey which looked at various aspects of their membership. The responses, which were collated by Tom Rushch, will be considered by the Committee as they look to the future of the society.

The most important reason given for joining the Society was genealogy and an incredible 86% of members are active users of the internet.

Like so many associations, the support for meetings is not great. Only 31% of respondents regularly attend meetings and only 37% attend special events. Some of this is attributed to difficulties with travel. Like so many other groups, it has become challenging to find leadership and volunteer resources and they are now focusing on finding new ways of doing things. These could include teleconferences and webinars on subjects of Cornish interest.

The **Cornish Society of Greater Milwaukee** held its picnic at Homestead Hollow in September. *'The weather was lovely and the surroundings were beautiful'...[and]... Tom Rowe's barbeque skills were fabulous.'* Fifteen members attended, almost half of whom had travelled over 50 miles.

The Society participated in the 2016 Folk Fair in November. This event, which is the oldest, largest indoor multi-cultural event in the country, had 'water' as its theme for 2016. There were 16 cultural displays featuring stories of water and congratulations go to the CSGM and the Welsh Club (who shared a booth) for being awarded first place for *Best Depiction of Culture*. Their display was framed by a castle and there were large colour photos of the ocean, rugged shorelines, fishing crews and sea life were included.

CANADA

At their November meeting, two members of the **Toronto Cornish Association** gave presentations on *'Cornish names in the Greater Toronto Area'*. In her talk on Trethewey Drive, Ann Crichton Harris gave a detailed account of the Trethewey family, particularly of William G Trethewey who made a fortune in mining. He bought land to start a model farm where this road now runs. In 1910, the property became the location of the Toronto's first airplane flight, with French ace Count Jacques de Lesseps circling the city. (De Lesseps was the son of Ferdinand de

Lesseps, the French engineer who built the Suez Canal.) This was thought to be the first flight in Toronto.

For his talk, John Webb looked for a road which had a name which might relate to his or his wife Mary's family tree. His wife's maiden name was Tremayne and he focused on Tremain Road in Milton, Tremain being a variant of Tremayne. He guessed that this road was named to recognize the Tremaine County Maps that had been produced in the 1850's and this proved to be correct. The county map phenomenon was introduced into eastern Canada by map-maker George C Tremaine. One of George's ancestors was Philip Tremaine who emigrated from Cornwall, probably Probus, around 1700.

There is another Tremayne Rd which is named after Rev. Francis Tremayne who came from Falmouth.

Another name in Mary's tree which has a link to a road is Cobbledick. Cobbledick Road is named after John Cobbledick who was born in Launcells and went to Ontario with his wife, Catherine in about 1842.

At their February meeting, members, will watch the movie *'Tin'* while in March they will hear the second part of the TCA Trilogy which covers the years 1904 to 1961.

AUSTRALIA

After winning the *Festival and Events* category of the 2016 Yorke Peninsula Tourism Awards, the organisers of Kernewek Lowender have a lot to live up to as they plan for 2017. Planning for that event, which will be held in May, is well under way.

This year, the seminar will be very different. Instead of focusing on the usual themes of mining, public life, migration etc, the theme will be the role of music in Cornish life and the contributions Cornish people have made to the world of music. Speakers will come from Cornwall and around Australia and will consider Cornish carols, folk music, pub music, dancing, choral music, band music, music in chapel services etc. etc. The Grand Bard, Dr Merv Davey, who has a PhD relating to Cornish music and plays the Cornish will be attending the Festival.

In addition to the Seminar, there will be Dressing the Graves ceremonies, a Moonta street parade, a *'Meet the Cornish'* event with a pasty tea and concert, a village fair and a Heritage Church Service.

We look forward to hearing reports on this great event.

The members of the **Cornish Association of Victoria** have an interesting and varied programme in the coming months. In February Robyn Coates will give a talk on William Henry Nicholls while they will join with the Ballarat Branch to celebrate St Piran's Day at a gathering at *Carn Brea* at the Australian Catholic University. Future talks will focus on *Composing a Cornish Songline* and the *Crying the Neck* ceremony.

Although numbers at their Christmas function were down, members of the **Ballarat Branch** of the CAV had a good time. Members from Melbourne, Bendigo and Geelong joined in the festivities. The entertainment included a rendition of the Cornish story, *Thomasine Bonaventure* and the singing of Christmas carols.

Several members of the Branch joined with members of the **Bendigo Branch** at the Maldon Festival in January. Maldon was an important mining area and the organisers invited the Cornish group to attend as they wanted the festival to be a celebration and acknowledgement of the many ethnic groups which made up the early settlement of the district. Large numbers of Cornish miners were working there. The Branches took the opportunity of promoting the Cornish heritage.

The **Geelong Branch** of the CAV held its annual dinner in November with nearly 50 guests attending. The guest speaker at this event was Robyn Coates from the CAV. The subject of her talk was Cornish born school teacher, Thomas Curnow who prevented a potentially catastrophic train derailment. The train was carrying a contingent of police to Glenrowan on the night of the siege by the Kelly gang.

The Cornish Association of Queensland will celebrate St Piran's Day with a meal at the Yeronga Services Club.

After lunch, they will hold their AGM during which some important issues regarding the future of the CAQ will be discussed. Like so many Cornish associations, the CAQ is facing challenging times. Numbers are declining, mostly due to an aging membership, many of whom are suffering from ill health. This means that there are fewer people to do the work and support at events is dwindling.

The **Cornish Association of New South Wales** will hold a lunch to mark St Piran's Day. This will be combined with the Association's AGM. Those attending are encouraged to come in Cornish colours or tartan. After the meal, there will be time to chat and there may even be a quiz.

Congratulations are due to member Eileen Lyon who was awarded the Celtic Honour of *Duine Urramach* (Gaelic for *Noble Person*) at the Celtic Council Awards Dinner in October. The award was made in acknowledgement of her services to Celtic communities, especially her Malcolm Clan and the CANSW.

The **Southern Sons of Cornwall** will hold their AGM in February. Like other Associations, they are appealing for more people to step into the shoes of members of the Committee who are due to step down. Two key issues for discussion at the AGM will be the future of their library and the possibility of a Facebook page for the SSOC.

United Kingdom

We offer our condolences to members of the **Bournemouth Cornish Association** on the recent death of Croydon Parsons who was one-time President of the Association. He will be greatly missed.

The Association meets monthly and has a series of enticing food-related events on their forthcoming programme – cream teas, pasties, fish and chips and a BBQ!

Sadly, **Torbay Cornish Association** is now faced with the same problems that are confronting so many Cornish Associations and affecting their viability. This means that there are now some difficult decisions to make. We have received the following report from Hon Sec of the TBC, Mary Watters:

'At a Special General Meeting in January, members of Torbay Cornish Association voted to initiate proceedings towards its dissolution. After 42 years of comradeship we

have regrettably decided that, because of diminishing membership, the regular monthly meetings are no longer viable

A lunch for members is being planned for the spring by our founder member, Ena Hocking to whom we owe such gratitude. She held the Chairmanship for nine years, and, as Special Events Secretary, organised the annual dinner each year until 2015 – that is 41 years! She supervised the biennial Cuntelles Kernewek gatherings at the Livermead Cliff Hotel – the venue for our final lunch – back where we started!

Remaining funds will be shared between Cornish and local charities.

Memories of special occasions, of personalities and of the many supportive friends countrywide with whom we have shared our experiences of and our love for our homeland are very precious.

May I please ask those readers who know me to please let me have information on future events which I might be able to support.'

Mary Watters – 44 Ivanhoe Rd, Plymouth PL5 1PG

Are you planning to visit London?

Don't forget to contact the London Cornish Association and let us know when you are coming. If possible, we would love to meet you.

Contact us by email at: lca@londoncornish.co.uk

***A warm welcome awaits you at the
London Cornish Association***

Rugby

Forthcoming Fixtures for Cornish rugby and football teams playing in London:

Saturday 8th April

Richmond Rfc v Cornish Pirates Rfc 3.00pm (Rugby Championship)

Saturday 15th April

Welling United Fc v Truro Fc 3.00pm (Football National League South)

Saturday 6th May

Surrey v Cornwall (Rugby County Championship) at Richmond Rfc

Sunday 28th May

Rugby County Championship final at Twickenham stadium (may feature Cornwall!)

Thanks to Jonathan Henwood for sending this to us.

My Meanderings...

As you know I have given up as Membership Secretary following my wife's stroke at the end of August and her eight weeks in hospital. She is making slow progress and is now home where we have carers in four times a day.

I now call this 'My Meanderings' and, although I am no longer the membership Secretary, I still include a reminder that subscriptions are due on 1st April. Every year a number of members seem to forget and embarrassingly, have to be chased. Please support our new Membership Secretary, Carol Goodwin. If you have any questions regarding Membership, please don't hesitate to contact Carol, her address and telephone number is elsewhere in this Newsletter.

[And on the website www.londoncornish.co.uk]

Also, it would be greatly appreciated if you could direct anyone you know who is of Cornish decent or who has an interest in Cornwall to the London Cornish Association and encourage them to join.

In previous *Meanderings* I have referred to the Trelawny Club, which was originally for members up to the age of 30, and asked if anybody would like to reform the Club but with a higher age limit. So far there has been no response. If you have thought about it do not hesitate to let me or the Secretary know.

As you have no doubt expected I was going to be looking at many interesting articles in my copy of the 1854 *Geography of Cornwall* to which I have previously referred. There have been so many interesting items in this book which were useful for these *Meandering* over the years. I have also used a copy of *Kelly's Directory of Cornwall*, which was published in 1897 as well as another which was published in 1895. This one said that Ludgvan was one of the most ancient and important manors in West Cornwall.

Looking through another book I came across the following:

The Cornish people have always been regarded as something of a race apart. One reason for this, of course, is their Celtic nationality, the other is the distance which separates them from the great towns 'up the country'. But Cornwall is not only remote, the character of its countryside is widely different from that of most other English counties. Its real wealth, as the old people knew it, lay neither in catering for visitors nor even in the cultivation of its soil, but in searching for metals beneath the hills and fishing the waters around its shores.

Hence it is not surprising that the majority of Cornishmen in the past turned either to the mine or the sea as a means of gaining a livelihood. As the business of mining became more complicated and machinery was required, many of the most gifted Cornishmen began to devote their attention to the study of science and engineering. Similarly, from among the sea-going population, there came a famous group of sailors and explorers.

Strangely enough in a recent newspaper there was a headline **There's lithium in them thaar Cornish hills**. Cornwall is on course for a billion-pound mining revolution under plans to make it Europe's sole producer of one of the world's most valuable metals. Huge reserves of lithium in hot springs deep below the county's craggy landscape

have been discovered by experts, which could be sparking a frantic 'gold rush' among investors. Incidentally, high levels of lithium were identified in the water in Cornish mines in the 19th century, but there was no market for it at that time. Today lithium has been made more valuable with the development of the lithium ion batteries that we use in our mobile phones and also in electric cars. Can this be pumped out rather than digging new mines?

A company called Cornish Lithium has revealed plans to explore vast swathes of lithium deposits around Camborne and Redruth and the village of St. Day. This has raised hopes of a new 'industrial revolution' almost a decade after the last Cornish tin mine closed.

Previous Meanderings have hopefully raised your Cornwall memories and given further thoughts on Cornwall, perhaps with reminders of your childhood days. I remember as a schoolboy going with my parents for picnics on the beach at Hayle. We walked from our home near Ventonleage, across the Recreation Ground up the hill towards Phillack. At the top of the hill we crossed a stone stile and carried on across the Towans through the sand dunes and small valleys onto the dunes that led down to the beach where we sat and had our picnic. We did not go out into the middle of the beach apart from going down to the sea for a swim. On one occasion, when we were in the sea, we saw some aeroplanes fly over towards St. Ives and suddenly there were flames, smoke and bangs at St. Ives. We realised that these were German planes and under instructions from my father we hurried back to the sand dunes to take cover and be hidden.

On another occasion, we witnessed a twin-engine plane which I believe may have been a Wellington Bomber, come very low across the sea. It slid onto the beach near the Hayle river estuary and disappeared out of our view behind the Black Cliffs of Rivera Towans. Fortunately, it did not go into the minefield that was near the river estuary, although we found out that it got very close.

I used to enjoy walking across the Towans but have not done it for many years. Of course there were areas out of bounds such as the Rifle Range which, some years after the war, became a caravan site.

What did you do in your school days or, perhaps, in your early working days, in that marvellous county of Cornwall? We all remember going to school and you can probably remember all your school teachers and their names (including nicknames), also prefects and their nicknames!

Well that is all for now and once more I hope you have found my *Meanderings* to be of some interest.

I wish you all the best for this year and, again I ask you to see what you can do to support the the London Cornish Association.

Kernow bys vyken

Graham Pearce

Crowdy Crawn

Scilly Isles face tough times

An inaccurate assessment of expected income and a build up of debts over several years has resulted in a financial crisis for the Scilly Isles. In addition to the over-spend, new environmental laws have contributed to the current position and the Council is expected to have to borrow about £3 million to tide over until April.

Lithium - Another mining heyday for Cornwall?

Lithium is an important ingredient in the manufacture of the rechargeable batteries which are used in mobile phones, laptops, digital cameras and electric vehicles but is also used in some other batteries such as those found in pacemakers.

The main producers of lithium are Australia, Chile and Argentina - but there are now hopes that Cornwall will join them. High levels of the metal were found in the water in Cornish mines in the 19th century but as there was no market for it at the time, it was not exploited. Now however, with a predicted large growth in demand, it is hoped that Cornwall is on the brink of another mining boom.

A company called Cornwall Lithium has signed deals with three major landowners - Strongbow Exploration (which is behind the South Crofty mine in Cornwall) Mineral Exploration Limited and Tregothnan Estates to allow exploration and mining. It also has got the rights to the geothermal energy in the hot springs which could be used to generate the power needed for processing, thus helping to keep costs down.

With the price of lithium trebling in the last 18 months and demand for the metal expected to rise rapidly, the future for a Cornish lithium industry looks good.

Cornwall quiz

From the website of Cornwall Live.

Would you know your Brown Willy from your Carn Brea? Would you be able to confidently list the proper ingredients in a pasty, or identify famous Cornish landmarks?

After Cornwall Council decided they wanted Truro to be crowned EU Capital of Culture in 2023, we decided to put this quiz together to see how much you know about Cornish culture and the place we call home.

Some of the questions are pretty straightforward, but we're betting that others will leave you stumped.

So if you're Cornish born and bred and fancy yourself as a bit of an authority on all things local, take our quiz and find out just how Cornish you really are!

Read more at <http://www.cornwalllive.com/how-cornish-are-you-test-your-knowledge-of-cornwall-with-our-quiz/story-30089038-detail/story.html#fdKIIHEO60DxMHP2.99>

Previously unseen submarine photos released

In February 2017, Germany started an unrestricted campaign of submarine attacks on British ships and ships from neutral countries trading with Britain. The aim was to prevent supplies getting in and exports getting out so that the country would in effect be strangled. Even hospital ships were targeted.

The statistics show how bad things became. During 1916, 431 British ships were sunk by German U-boats worldwide but in 1917, after Germany's declaration of unrestricted submarine warfare, the number lost nearly tripled to 1263. Approximately a third of first world war submariners lost their lives – the highest proportion of deaths in any branch of the armed services.

At the end of the war, the submarines were surrendered by Germany. After being stripped of their engines, they and were taken away to be sunk as gunnery targets. However, without engines to assist, they were difficult to tow and some sank or were wrecked on beaches, several around Falmouth.

To mark the centenary of the campaign, Historic England has released some previously unseen images of the wrecked submarines. The photos were taken in 1921 by naval officer Jack Casement and were donated to the Historic England Archive by his family.

Some of the images can be seen on the following websites:

<https://historicensegland.org.uk/whats-new/first-world-war-home-front/what-we-already-know/sea/submarine-wrecks/>

<http://navaltoday.com/2017/02/01/historic-england-shares-never-before-seen-photos-of-german-wwi-submarines/>



The National Submarine War Memorial on the Victoria Embankment in London which commemorates those sub-mariners who died in both world wars.

The deadline for the next issue of the LCA Newsletter is

5th May

Please send all contributions to:

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Or email to lca@londoncornish.co.uk