

The Cornish Association of Victoria Inc. Ballarat Branch

A.C.N. A0008 264A

October 2017 Newsletter

Onen hag oll

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DATES FOR THE DIARY

Saturday 7th October at 2.00 pm - Members' Interests - members to share something of interest to them.

Please remember that no hot food is to be brought to the meetings, for High Tea, to lessen the workload of the people in the kitchen.

Saturday 4th November - [proposed bus trip to Bendigo](#) - to be discussed at the October meeting. 9.00 am to 4.00 pm with people bringing a picnic lunch.

Leanne and Rob Lloyd from Bendigo have offered to meet us and show us around the historical sights of Bendigo.

Suggested timetable would include Harveytown which was also called Cornishtown in the early days; to see the remains of some of the stone cottages (at Eaglehawk); to visit the Ninnes Lonely Grave at Maiden Gully and view the remains of the White Hills – the area which started the White Hills gold rush.

Cost to be advised at meeting

[Please note: This is a proposal from the committee to be considered at the October meeting](#)

Saturday 2nd December at 12 noon (to eat at 12.30 pm) - Christmas Function at The Royal Mail Hotel, 290 Albert Street Sebastopol.

Cost \$25 and drinks at Bar

Prices.

Names to Keith Lanyon -

kmlanyon@hotmail.com

or 0411 512 160.

**AUGUST MEETING**

Our August speaker was Mark Harris who has been an emergency department doctor at both St John of God Hospital and Ballarat Health Services Base Hospital.

Mark was educated at Mt Pleasant State School and Ballarat and Clarendon College before doing medicine at the University of Melbourne.



He is married to a fellow doctor, Linda, and has three adult children, Claire, Paul, and Tom. Apart from a stint with the Royal Flying Doctor Service in Kalgoorlie, Mark Harris has mainly worked in Ballarat, predominantly in emergency medicine.

One of his passions is his role as the 8/7th Battalion's medical officer, which has resulted in stints in East Timor and Bougainville with the United Nations and the Australian peacekeepers, as well as pre-Afghanistan training in Germany.

Mark Harris was returned to represent the Central Ward in October 2016, having previously served Ballarat City Council as a Councillor from 2008 to 2012. He was Mayor of the City of Ballarat in 2012 and is currently deputy Mayor.

In his talk, Mark explained how the Harris family had been in the Mt Pleasant area for many years after Charles Harris came from Cornwall to improve the family fortunes settling in Geelong, then Gordon and stayed in Mt Pleasant.

Meetings are held on the even months at Skipton Street Uniting Church Hall, cnr Darling and Skipton Streets, Ballarat. Meetings begin at 2.00 pm and are followed by a shared high tea.



Mark then spoke about how a study of genetics is taking place in medicine and of the importance of the study.

He continued to tell us about how the Cornish have remained the same, even though the United Kingdom was invaded by the Romans, Saxons and Normans. Very few cultures post Ice Age time have been as unaffected as the Cornish.

To prove his point Mark shared the result of his DNA test which was 99% Cornish, which is unusual for DNA results for people in the UK.

Our President, Keith Lanyon, thanked Mark and presented him with a Gift.

Members then enjoyed high tea and fellowship together.

(Photos - Ian Jennings)



EMAIL ADDRESSES

Thank you to those people who have supplied their email addresses for the receipt of the newsletter.

If you have an email address, please forward it to Robyn at: arthurc@netspace.net.au

MEMBERSHIP FEES

Membership Fees are now due.

Speak with our Treasurer, Ian Jennings, if you haven't paid.

FAMILY RE-UNION

A family reunion for the descendants of James Matthews and Elizabeth Trembath to celebrate 150 years of the Matthews family in Ballarat will be held at the Skipton St Uniting Church Hall on Saturday 4th November 2017 from 12 midday to 4pm.

All welcome.

Queries can be sent to Richard Matthews (0412 748 843)

richard.matthews@iff.com

If you know of any members of this family please spread the word.

MATCH THE DESCRIPTION AND THE PLACE

1. A northerly Cornish town with a Castle built by Sir Goldsworthy Gurney; also has a canal.	9. King Arthur supposedly has a strong connection with this place.
2. The author of Trelawney used to sit and meditate in this hut whilst he was the Minister of the church in this tiny village.	10. The TV series <i>Doc Martin</i> , with Martin Clunes and Caroline Catz is filmed here.
3. Where Trevithick Day is held on the last weekend in April.	11. Home of the 'Obby 'Oss festival held on May Day each year.
4. Daphne Du Maurier and Kenneth Graeme lived here; China clay is shipped out from this port.	12. A small village noted for its <i>round houses</i> built to deter the devil from entering the village
5. A branch of the Tate Gallery, Barbara Hepworth Sculpture Garden and Bernard Lynch Pottery are all found here.	13. Noted for its tall ships, this village was named after Charles Rashleigh who developed the port - once used for exporting China Clay from the St Austell area
6. Tom Bawcock and His Cat lived here and Stargazy Pie is a special treat; wonderful light display at Christmas	14. Found about 25 miles off the coast of Cornwall, these Isles are a great holiday destination.
7. The carving of a pew end depicting a mermaid is in the church and D H Lawrence lived here for awhile.	15. Associated with an comic opera about Pirates by Gilbert and Sullivan
8. The Brunel Bridge sits across the Tamar at this southern entry point to Cornwall.	16. The most southerly peninsula of Cornwall

- | | |
|---------------|--------------|
| A Penzance | I Saltash |
| B Scilly | J Morwenstow |
| C Mousehole | K Zennor |
| D Charlestown | L Bude |
| E Tintagel | M Lizard |
| F Port Isaac | N St Ives |
| G Camborne | O Fowey |
| H Padstow | P Veryan |

GREAT RAILWAY JOURNEYS

Flamboyant dresser, Michael Portillo hosts this wonderful show on SBS and SBS *On Demand*, using Bradshaw's Handbook for travelling through Britain in the 19th Century.



Each railway journey takes him across Britain and along the way he uses Bradshaw's Guide to visit places suggested in the handbook. One meets a variety of interesting people as well as visiting industries, hotels and locations with an historical connection.

Michael Portillo is a former member of Parliament and served under Margaret Thatcher and John Major. He studied at Cambridge and has a History Degree. One episode features his maternal grandfather John Blyth who was a prosperous linen mill owner from Kirkcaldy.

This painting of George Bradshaw, by Richard Evans was painted in 1841 and hangs in the British Portrait Gallery, (Trafalgar Square) alongside Isambard Kingdom Brunel and Robert Stephenson, both of whom have a history in the development of British railways.



Bradshaw's Handbook of 1863 details a few references to Cornwall.

CORNWALL

Cornwall from its soil, appearance and climate is one of the least inviting of the English counties.

A ridge of bare and rugged hills, intermixed with bleak moors, runs through the midst of its whole length and exhibits the appearance of a dreary waste.

The most important objects in the history of this county are its numerous mines, which for centuries have furnished employment to thousands of its inhabitants; and the trade in which they give birth, when considered in a national point of view, is the greatest relative consequence.

In a narrow strip of land, where the purposes of agriculture would not employ more than a few thousand men, the mines alone support a population estimated at more than 80 000 labourers, exclusive of artisans.

The principal produce of the Cornish mines is tin, copper and lead, The strata in which these metals are found, extend from the Lands End, extending from west to east, entirely along the county into Devonshire.

Nearly all the metals are found in veins or fissures. The direction of which is generally east and west. The annual value of the copper mines has been estimated at £350 000. (*about £40 million today*) Logan stones need to be mentioned amongst the curiosities of this county. They are of great weight and are poised on the top of immense piles of rock.

Bradshaw details a few Cornish spots amongst them Truro and its environs.

TRURO

Distance from station:- one mile

A Telegraph Station

Hotel:- Red Lion

Market days:- Wednesday and Saturday

Fairs:- Wednesday after mid-Lent; Wednesday in Whitsun week, November 19th, December 8th

Truro, the mining capital of Cornwall and a parliamentary borough (two members). Its population is 11 337 within the borough bounds, which enclose a space of 1 200 acres, at the head of a creek of the Fal, where the Rivers of Kenwyn and Allen fall in, covered by foundries, blast houses, pottery and tin works &c. When the tide is up, the creek looks like a fine lake, two miles long. Like most Cornish towns, Truro originated in a castle, built by the Earls of Cornwall, on Castle Hill. It is now the principal coinage town in the Duchy, where the metal is stamped, previous to being exported. Bar tin is sent to the Mediterranean &c and ingots to the East Indies, while much of the copper is taken across to Swansea.

The principal streets diverge from the Market Place, near which is St Mary's Church, a handsome later Gothic edifice with a tower. It contains various monuments to old Truro families.

There are two other churches, beside one at Kenwyn, north of the town, near the Council Infirmary.

The Coinage Hall is an old building, formerly used as a Stannary Parliament i.e. a parliament of tanners. (stannum, tin).

Town Hall built in 1615.

Theatre and Assembly Room built at High Cross.

A good museum at the Royal Institute of Cornwall.

Attempts have been made to establish a Mining College, chiefly by the exertions of Sir C Lemon, after whom Lemon Street, on the Falmouth Road, takes its name.

At the top of it is a pillar to the African travellers, Richard and J Lander, natives of Truro, the latter of whom perished on his third visit to that insalubrious coast.

Within a short distance are the following places, mostly seated in the Fal or its branches:
Polwhele, was the seat of Polwhele, the antiquary. A member of the ancient Cornish family.
"By Tre, Pol and Pen, you may know the Cornishmen" is a well known rhyme.

Pencarlenich seat of J Vivian Esq. another old name.
Tregothnan another fine seat near Tregony.
Trelessich on the west side of the Fal.
Cardew near Penryn, the seat of Sir C Lemon, Bart.
Enys of J Enys, Esq.
Trefusis beautifully placed opposite Falmouth, is the seat of Lord Clinton.

Falmouth

Falmouth was an important Mail Packet Station. (see note below from Wikipedia)

Below it are Pendennis Castle and St Anthony's Light on the opposite sides of the entrance.

The former built by Henry VIII, was famous in the Civil War for its resistance to Parliament, against whose forces it held out until 1646.

The richest mines are in the granite moorlands to the north, near St Agnes &c, or in the neighbourhood of the rail to Penzance.

At **Perranzabuloe**, five miles from Truro, an ancient British Church was uncovered, twenty-five feet in 1835, by shifting sands, (which in former times overwhelmed everything on this side of the coast) and gave occasion to Mr Trelawney's work, "The Lost Church Found", in which he shows what the primitive English Church was before corrupted by Popery.

This and other parishes were named for St Piran, the Patron of Tinnors, who, like many other eminent preachers of that day, came from Ireland.

The story is that he sailed over on a millstone, but perhaps this was the name of the ship.

Near **St Agnes Beacon** is a Camp called Pieran Round, Chacewater, Whealtowan, Wheal Leisure, Penhale, Perran St George (all near Perran Porth, the last 100 fathoms deep); and Buduick Mine may be visited.

Polperro, Wheal Kitty, Wheal Alfred and others, most of them indicative of the arbitrary names conferred on mines by the lively fancy of the Cornishmen.

Population: 4 953

Another episode from Mr Bradshaw in another newsletter

Falmouth Mail Packet Station

Falmouth was a packet station from around 1688. The Post Office used packet ships to carry mail to and from British embassies, colonies and outposts. The vessels generally also carried bullion, private goods and passengers. The ships were usually lightly armed and relied on speed for their security.

However, Britain was at war almost continuously during the 18th and early 19th centuries with the result that packet ships did get involved in naval engagements with enemy warships and privateers, and were, occasionally, captured. The location of Falmouth in Cornwall was favourable to the successful transmission of mail through the gauntlet of enemy naval ships and privateers. The value of the Falmouth Station grew as Napoleon implemented his Continental System, attempting to exclude British trade and communications with mainland Europe.

In 1810, men of the packet service at Falmouth mutinied over pay levels. Previously, the sailors had been authorized to trade for their own account. When this was banned as smuggling, they objected to the resulting loss of income. In punishment for the refusal to man ships, the Post Office moved the Falmouth Packet Station to Plymouth. Much lobbying of the Postmaster General and HM Treasury by a delegation from Falmouth and by Cornwall's forty-four Members of Parliament followed.

After considering Fowey as an alternative station, the Post Office agreed to return the service to Falmouth in January 1811.

In 1843, Falmouth merchants persuaded H.M. Government not to move the Packet Station to Southampton, which was now served by a railway. The last packet arrived at Falmouth on April 30, 1851, and the Cornwall Railway did not reach Falmouth until 1863.

Wikipedia



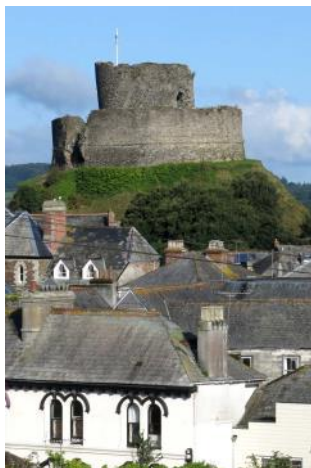
The 2017 Esedhvos Festival

“Launceston has a proud place in Cornwall’s story.

It is the historic capital of Cornwall and the castle was built by Brian of Brittany, the Breton knight who became the first Earl of Cornwall following the Norman Conquest.

The creation of this earldom recognised Cornwall’s historic integrity and laid the foundations for the constitutional differences that make modern Cornwall distinct from England.”

Merv Davey, Telynyor an Weryn, Grand Bard of Cornwall.



The Cornish place name of Launceston, *Lannstevan*, means *the church or holy enclosure of St Stephen* and is derived from the former monastery at St Stephen’s, a mile and half north-west of the town and the common Brittonic place name element *Lan*.

The Gorsedh Kernow is an active and passionate community of bards who maintain and give expression to the national spirit of Cornwall as a Celtic nation.

Bards are from every walk of life and are recognised for their proficiency in the Cornish language or through embodying the Celtic Spirit through their exceptional service to Cornwall.

The Esedhvos Festival, is held every year at a different location in Cornwall to celebrate Cornwall’s distinctive identity and Celtic heritage.

The host town for 2017 was Launceston. (Lanson)

There were a variety of events around the town, many of which were free, including a celebration of Cornish music and dance.



On the Thursday evening, Del Clinton, from NSW, was presented with the Paul Smales Award.

Del and her husband Ron were able to be in Launceston for the presentation.



“An award to be given annually or otherwise as the Council of the Gorsedh think fit to a member of a Cornish

Association affiliated to the London Cornish Association or to a Cornish man or Cornish woman not currently living within Cornwall who has contributed in an outstanding way to the enhancement of the common good and welfare of the people of Cornwall, whether living within Cornwall or without, or to the furtherance and greater appreciation of the Cornish way of life, heritage or culture, such contribution being in a cultural, social, economic, charitable or other form.”

The London Cornish Association and its affiliated associations set up the *Pewas Map Trevethan* (Paul Smales Award) in memory of Paul Smales who died on 1st September 1990.

He is remembered for his contribution to the London Cornish Association where he was a Council member from 1984 and served as Chairman from 1987 to 1989.

He also founded a number of organisations within Cornwall, including the Cornish Music Guild and the Cornish Literary Guild, and was involved in setting up many Cornish connections worldwide.

The *Pewis Map Trevethan* is so called because the Bardic name of Paul Smales was *Map Trevethan*, which is Cornish for ‘Son of Trevethan’. *Trevethan* means ‘Meadow Farm’

Previous Australian Awardees are:

Betty Eggleton VIC 1991

Lillian James SA (1995)

Ros Paterson SA (1999)

Tom Luke VIC (2003)

Chris Dunkerley NSW (2009)

Julie Wheeler NSW (2010)

On the Friday there was a seminar in the Launceston Town Hall - “Cornish Culture and Tourism – Friends or Foes?”

Those in attendance included Bards and interested community members, with four from Australia - Robyn and Arthur Coates, Del Clinton and Julie Wheeler.



The programme included thought- provoking presentations from *Grand Bard Merv Davey*, *Visit Cornwall Chief Executive Malcolm Bell*, *Cornwall*

Chamber of Commerce CEO Kim Conchie, Cornwall 365 Fiona Wotton and PhD students Ben Gilby and Merryn Davies-Deacon.

Following the seminar we came across the film crew filming an episode of the TV series *Delicious* in the Town Square.

Unfortunately Dawn French and Emilia Fox had finished filming by the time we arrived.



Probably the main activity was the Gorsedh Kernow Bardic ceremony held on Saturday 2nd September at the Launceston Castle where nine new Bards were initiated:

- Clive Boutle, London
- John Buckingham, Padstow
- Jon Cleave, Port Isaac,
- Dee Harris, Porkellis, Helston.
- Martine Knight, Helston,
- Jakki Love, Ludgvan Churchtown, Penzance.
- Russell Pearce III, Orinda, California
- Wendy Simpson, Retire, Nr. Withiel, Bodmin.
- Shaun Toft, Falmouth.



Robyn Coates, Maureen Fuller (past Grand Bard), Julie Wheeler and Sonia Rutter before the Ceremony.



Photos taken during the ceremony by Arthur Coates



Graeme Wheeler, Arthur Coates and Del Clinton - banner bearers from Australia

For some video footage check out this link:

<http://www.itv.com/news/westcountry/update/2017-09-03/why-300-blue-robed-bards-are-in-launceston-this-weekend>

CORNISH snippets

MAN ENGINE WINS AWARD

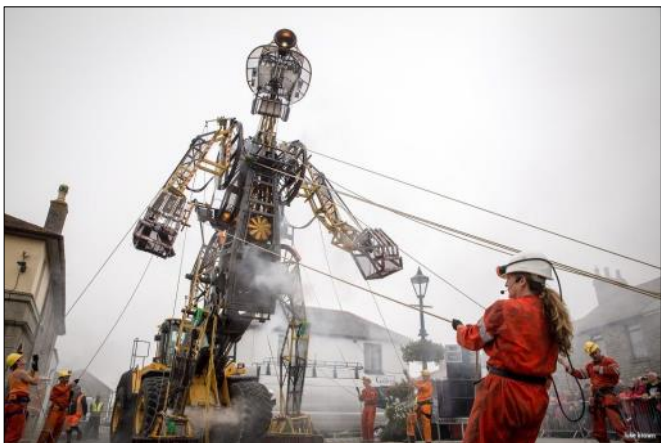
The Man Engine has been named as The National Lottery's Best Arts' Project, after gaining almost 8000 public votes.

The Man Engine was competing against six others in the Best Arts Project category, with over 1300 entries - a record number of entries - to reach the public voting stage in this year's National Lottery Awards.

It also won a £5000 cash prize, a special trophy and will feature on a special BBC programme later this year.

It was the largest mechanical puppet ever to be built in Britain and people across Cornwall visited town centres, remote cliff-tops and iconic engine houses to catch a glimpse.

The organisers would like to be able to take it overseas to other areas where Cornish miners paid a huge part in the development of countries particularly Australia and Mexico.



NEW £10 NOTE INTRODUCED

On 14th September a new £10 note was introduced into circulation.

On one side, it features Jane Austen and it was unveiled, on 18th July 2017, at Winchester Cathedral, where she is buried, and the launch marked the 200th anniversary of her death.

It was soon discovered that the note features a misleading quote from Jane Austen underneath her portrait.

The new note includes the quote, "I declare after all there is no enjoyment but reading!"

However, that quote wasn't said by Austen herself, but instead by the character Caroline Bingley in *Pride and Prejudice*, who in fact hated reading.

Other features of the new £10 note include:

*A portrait of Jane Austen commissioned by James Edward Austen Leigh - Jane Austen's nephew - in 1870, adapted from an original sketch of Jane Austen drawn by her sister, Cassandra Austen.

*An illustration of Miss Elizabeth Bennet undertaking "The examination of all the letters which Jane had written to her" – from a drawing by Isabel Bishop (1902-1988).

*Jane Austen's writing table – the central design in the background is inspired by the 12 sided writing table, and writing quills, used by Jane Austen at Chawton Cottage.

The old £10 note is scheduled to go out of circulation in spring 2018.



Old £5 notes can now only be banked at a Bank of England and are no longer legal tender.



It is expected that a new £20 note will be introduced within three years.

CORNWALL HAS HIGH NUMBER OF NEIGHBOURHOODS IN THE MOST DEPRIVED IN THE UK

The 17 neighbourhoods among the 10% most deprived in the country are as follows

- 1 Penzance: Treneere
- 2 Redruth: North, Close Hill, Strawberry Fields and Treleigh
- 3 Camborne: College Street and the Glebe
- 4 Camborne: Penggon
- 5 Illogan: East Pool Park
- 6 Camborne: Town centre
- 7 St Austell: Penwinnick and town centre
- 8 Penzance: St Clare and town
- 9 Liskeard: St Cleer Road and Bodgara Way
- 10 Newquay: Town centre
- 11 Bodmin: Kinsman Estate and Monument Way
- 12 St Blazey West
- 13 Falmouth: Old Hill
- 14 St Austell: Alexandra Road and East Hill
- 15 Newquay: Narrowcliff
- 16 Newlyn: Harbour and Gwavas
- 17 Bodmin: Town centre and Berryfields

CORNWALL - Prince Edward Island

Arthur and Robyn Coates were fortunate to travel recently to Prince Edward Island, a Province of Canada. Prince Edward Island is located in Eastern Canada in the Gulf of St Lawrence, north of the Nova Scotia peninsula, and east of New Brunswick.

The *Anne of Green Gables* stories are set on Prince Edward Island. Whilst travelling around the island they came across this town of Cornwall. The area was settled by European settlers in the 18th century and was a farming community.

One can only assume that some of these early settlers came from Cornwall as the area is beautiful farming country, reminiscent of Cornwall.



PLANS FOR DEVONWALL TO BE SCRAPPED

The British Prime Minister, Theresa May, is expected to scrap plans to reduce the number of MPs from 650 to 600 - putting an end to controversial plans for a cross-Tamar Member of Parliament.

The move would kill off proposals for a 'Devonwall' constituency linking north Cornwall with north Devon.

The independent Boundary Commission has published plans for reducing constituencies and re-balancing their size in order to cut the number of MPs.

The Boundary Commission proposed that the Cornwall-Devon boundary would be crossed in the north of the two counties, resulting in a constituency that would combine the towns of Bideford, Bude and Launceston, as well as the villages in between.

PIRATE RECORD FAILS

An attempt by Penzance to beat the world record for 14 231 pirates in one place failed after a group accidentally stayed in the pub and missed the count.



Figures have since shown the organisers actually sold 14 849 wristbands on the day.

The Cornish town has been trying to claim the Guinness World Record for several years, having lost it to Hastings in 2013.

To qualify pirates had to have two accessories, such as a sword or eye patch

Penzance will be forced to try again next year.

SOUTH CROFTY MINE

Strongbow Exploration, a Canadian listed company, has ambitious plans to reopen the South Crofty mine and dig up high-grade tin found at its deeper levels.



Though its history dates back four centuries, with evidence of Elizabethan mine workings, South Crofty has been shut for nearly 20 years due to the collapse of the price of tin.

In 1985 the bankruptcy of the international cartel that had controlled the market for decades saw the demise of many tin mines. A sudden over-supply led to a plunge in prices.

South Crofty held on longer than most because its grade, or quality, was so high, but it too was forced to close in 1998.

Tin is now mostly used as lead-free solder in electronics, as well as in chemical production.

Strongbow is confident the price will not sink below its current level of £15 200 a ton, as no new mines are being opened anywhere in the world, and the USA has been selling off its stockpiles, leaving little new supply in the West.

The mine is vast, with a warren of tunnels stretching from the edge of Redruth almost to Camborne, some 2.5 miles (4km) long. It sinks to 3,280ft (1,000m) at its deepest point.

The mine is flooded below a depth of 60m (197ft), and the company is hoping to receive permission in September to begin pumping water out.

This will be cleaned at a brand new processing plant to be built on site and then sent back into the Red River.

Cornish Snippets are sourced from the Cornwall Council, BBC Cornwall, Pirate FM News, Falmouth Packet, Western Morning News, The Cornishman, West Briton, Cornwall 24, Wikipedia, Cornwall Live, Federation of Old Cornwall Societies, Kresen Kernow