

The Cornish Association of Victoria Inc. Ballarat Branch

A.C.N. A0008 264A

June 2018 Newsletter

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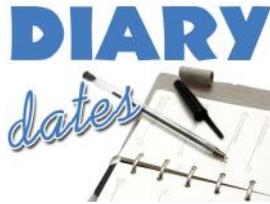
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Saturday 2nd June 2018

AGM - the speaker will be the President of the CAV, Robert Gribben

**Saturday 4th August 2018 -**

Alison Stephen will be the speaker

Saturday 6th October 2018 - Jenny Burrell will be the speaker

Saturday 1st December 2018 - Christmas Function

APRIL MEETING

Robyn Coates spoke about Alfred Rowell who was the Bandmaster of the 39th Battalion and later the City of Ballarat Brass Band.



Alfred's father, William, arrived in Australia from Cornwall around 1882 and he married Florence Gosden in Ballarat on 11th April 1883.

Seven children were born to William and Florence. Alfred, their fifth child was born in 1891.

Sadly, Alfred's father, William died in 1897. The family, at this time, was living in their own home in Talbot Street.

To enable Florence to work some of the children were put in the orphanage at various times. The orphanage had a brass band. It was recorded in one of the Ballarat papers that Alfred Rowell was the best all round band boy.

Alfred became a member of Arthur Prout's Brass band which toured interstate and competed in many band competitions including South Street in 1900.

By 1911, Alfred Rowell had left Prout's band and was playing with the City of Ballarat Brass Band.

Alf enlisted in 1916 and was appointed the Band Master Sergeant of the 39th Battalion.



A City Band Quartette
That won South Street in 1913
Back Row: L. Sheehan, E. Jones
Front Row: Alfred Rowell and Percy Code

For the 39th Battalion, formed at the Showgrounds in Ballarat, in February 1916, the Battle of Messines was one of the first battles and one in which the battalion suffered heavily from the German bombardment and fierce gun fire resulting in less than a third of the troops who had been earmarked to attack being able to do so.

Traditionally in the British Army, the members of the Battalion Band were also the Battalion stretcher bearers which the Australian Army also adopted. The Battle of Messines would have been an unforgettable introduction to the role of stretcher bearer for the members of the band.

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.



On the 7th September 1920, Alfred Rowell married Olive Evelyn Estelle Jeffs at the Baptist Tabernacle in Collingwood.

In 1920, a short time after arrival back in Ballarat, Alfred Rowell was appointed Band Master of the Ballarat Soldiers' Memorial Band. The Band had success in Band competitions during the next few years.

In 1924, Alfred Rowell became the Bandmaster of the Ballarat Municipal Brass Band. While he was Bandmaster, the Band was very successful in competitions particularly at South Street winning and being placed on many occasions

Owing to ill health, Alfred retired from his Band Master roles in 1949. South Street honoured Alfred in 1956 by presenting the Alfred Rowell trophy to the Bandmaster of the band winning the A Grade aggregate at South Street.

In February 1955 Alfred was admitted to the Mental Hospital with dementia. In 1957 he suffered two bouts of Broncho pneumonia and died on the 29th of November 1957.

A very sad end to a wonderful life of helping others enjoy and participate in music.

Cornish Segment

Wendy Benoit and Joy Menhennet spoke of two of the families in their data base: Deeble and Blight.

Joseph Deeble was born in 1834 in Helston to William Deeble and his wife Frances (Fanny) Truscott.

William was a veterinary surgeon.

Joseph married Henrietta Jenkyn in 1854 in Plymouth.

Henrietta was the daughter of Richard Jenkyn and his wife Elizabeth and was born circa 1837 in Phillack.

Joseph Deeble was a draper and auctioneer and the Deeble's Exchanges, in 1866, were located in Sturt St near the Mechanics Institute.

It was reported in the Geelong Advertiser that Joseph and Elizabeth had been married fifty years in 1904.

Joseph died in Ballarat in 1909 aged 75 and Henrietta in 1918 aged 82.



Mrs Deeble, Senr.

Both are buried in the Ballarat Old Cemetery.

Photo from The Spectator February 2nd 1906 - in possession of Robyn and Arthur Coates

Peter Blight was born in Ludgvan circa 1827 to George and his wife Jenefer/Jane James. His father, George, was a mine carpenter and in the census of 1851, Peter is also listed as a mine carpenter.

Peter Blight married Mary Daniel White in Madron in 1853.

Mary was the daughter of John White and Mary Daniel and had been born circa 1825 in St Ives.

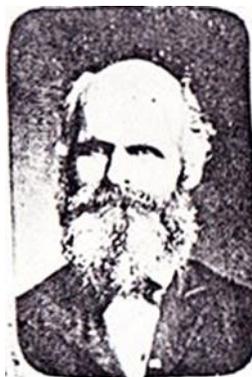
Peter and Mary came to Victoria and lived in Barkly Street in Mt Pleasant, with Peter working as a carpenter.

Peter was a foundation member of the Ballarat Rechabites. The family attended the Mt Pleasant Methodist church.

Peter worked on the erection of mining plants. He was always optimistic.

Peter and Mary had seven children, the first being born in Ballarat in 1854.

Peter died in 1916 aged 89 years and is buried in the Old Cemetery along with his wife who pre-deceased him in 1907 - Mary was aged 82 years.



Mr and Mrs Peter Blight

Photos from 50th Anniversary Souvenir Booklet - Mt Pleasant Methodist Church 1905 - in possession of Robyn and Arthur Coates

THE CELTS

John Mildren mentioned at the last meeting, a TV series called the Celts he had been watching on YouTube on the internet and this is one of the YouTube addresses for those who are interested: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8n8yOorUIVE>

If you own a smart TV you can go to YouTube on the controls and then search for the program.

'OBBY 'OSS FESTIVAL

The 'Obby 'Oss festival is a folk custom that takes place each May Day, 1st May, in the small town of Padstow, on the north west coast of Cornwall.



It involves two separate processions making their way around the town - one following the Red or Old 'Oss and one procession following the Blue or Peace 'Oss.

From a pamphlet issued on May Day by the Blue 'Oss:

The Origin of the Padstow 'Obby 'Oss lies in the mists of antiquity. It is probably one of the oldest survivals in the country, if not in Europe. That is why the Padstow 'Obby 'Oss had such an honoured place in the International Folk Dance Festival at the Royal Albert Hall in London, during the two World Wars. There is reason to believe that the ancient British people had a settlement neara the harbour mouth at Padstow and that the 'Obby 'Oss is a link with them and their times.

Through the long centuries, of course, the May day celebrations at Padstow have changed, and round the central figure, the 'Obby 'Oss itself, have gathered customs which, in other days, were widely shared. The greenery and the flowers and the Maypole are well-known survivals elsewhere, and even the Padstow May Day song, which is sung to one of the loveliest of folk tunes, has something in common with the Hal an Tow, at Helston on May 8th. Here then at Padstow, on May Day, as at Helston, a week later, we are celebrating, as did our forebears down the centuries, the advent of summer. "Summer is acome today."



The exact origins of the tradition is unknown, but like other festivals during spring it is thought to be connected with the ancient Celtic festival of Beltane. Beltane marked the beginning of summer and was when cattle were driven out to the summer pastures.

Rituals were performed to protect the cattle, crops and people, and to encourage growth. Special bonfires were lit, and their flames, smoke and ashes were thought to have protective powers. The people and their cattle would walk around the bonfire or between two bonfires, and sometimes even leap over the flames or embers.

C.S. Gilbert wrote about what he saw there almost 200 years ago:

'There is an annual jubilee kept up at Padstow, on May 1st, known by the name of the Hobby Horse, in illusion to which, the inhabitants dress up a man in a horses skin, and lead him through the different streets.

This odd looking animal amuses, by many whimsical exploits, the crowd which follows at his heels, particularly by taking up water dirty water, wherever it is found, and throwing it into the mouths of his gaping companions. These tricks naturally produce shouts of laughter, and the merriments are accompanied by songs made for the occasion.

The origin of the festival appears to be unknown.'

Taken from 'Historical Survey of the County of Cornwall', published in 1820.

Before the First World War there was only one hobby horse in Padstow - the Old 'Oss, but in 1919 the blue ribbon 'Obby 'Oss was introduced.

The festival starts at midnight on May Eve when townspeople gather outside the Golden Lion Inn to sing the **Night Song**.

*Unite and unite and let us all unite,
For summer is acome unto day,
And whither we are going we will all unite,
In the merry morning of May.
I warn you young men everyone,
For summer is acome unto day,
To go to the green-wood and fetch your May
home,
In the merry morning of May.*

*Arise up Mr. and joy you betide,
For summer is acome unto day,
And bright is your bride that lies by your side,
In the merry morning of May.*

*Arise up Mrs. and gold be your ring,
For summer is acome unto day,*

*And give to us a cup of ale the merrier we shall sing,
In the merry morning of May.*

*Arise up Miss all in your gown of green,
For summer is a come unto day,
You are as fine a lady as wait upon the Queen,
In the merry morning of May.*

*Now fare you well, and we bid you all good cheer,
For summer is a come unto day,
We call once more unto your house before another year,
In the merry morning of May.*

The next day some people are up early collecting flowers to display around the town.

Tree branches are tied to lamp-posts and drainpipes. By around 8.00 am children start to parade their Obby Oss's in preparation for the main event.



The May song is played by accordionists and drummers while the supporters sing along.

The Blue Ribbon 'Obby 'Oss leaves the Padstow Institute at 10.00 am to begin its tour of Padstow. Next the Old 'Obby 'Oss appears outside the Golden Lion Inn at 11.00 am.



The two 'Oss's dance round the streets followed by their supporters and at 12 noon the Old 'Oss has reached Prideaux Place, where it dances outside in front of a large crowd, before it heads back to the Golden Lion Inn.



The Blue Ribbon 'Oss visits Prideaux Place later on in the day. The 'Obby 'Oss outfits are worn by various members of each group throughout the event, and they also take in turns teasing the 'Oss.

The teaser waves their teaser club in the air, and dances around the 'Oss while leading it through the streets of the town.



The two 'Obby 'Oss's carry out similar parades at 2.00 pm and 6.00 pm, ending their day around the maypole on Broad Street.



Just before it gets dark they are returned to their stables.

The two groups sing as they process and are accompanied by accordions and drums.

Those supporting the Old 'Oss wear red and white and those supporting the Blue 'Oss wear blue and white.

All the supporters then meet up once again around the maypole at midnight to sing once again.



Day Song

Unite and unite and let us all unite,
For summer is a come unto day,
And whither we are going we will all unite,
In the merry morning of May.

Arise up Mr. I know you well afine,
For summer is a come unto day,
You have a shilling in your purse and I wish it were
in mine,
In the merry morning of May.
All out of your beds,
For summer is a come unto day,
Your chamber shall be strewed with the white rose
and the red
In the merry morning of May.

Where are the young men that here now should
dance,
For summer is a come unto day,
Some they are in England some they are in France,
In the merry morning of May.

Where are the maidens that here now should sing,
For summer is a come unto day,
They are in the meadows the flowers gathering,
In the merry morning of May.

Arise up Mr. with your sword by your side,
For summer is a come unto day,
Your steed is in the stable awaiting for to ride,
In the merry morning of May.
Arise up Miss and strew all your flowers,
For summer is a come unto day,
It is but a while ago since we have strewn ours,
In the merry morning of May.

O! where is St. George,
O!, where is he O,
He is out in his long boat on the salt sea O.
Up flies the kite and down tails the lark O.
Aunt Ursula Birdhood she had an old ewe
And she died in her own Park O.

With the merry ring, adieu the merry spring,
For summer is a come unto day,
How happy is the little bird that merrily doth sing,
In the merry morning of May.

The young men of Padstow they might if they
would,
For summer is a come unto day,
They might have built a ship and gilded her with
gold,
In the merry morning of May.

The young women of Padstow might if they would,
For summer is a come unto day,
They might have made a garland with the white
rose and the red,
In the merry morning of May.

Arise up Mr. and reach me your hand,
For summer is a come unto day,
And you shall have a lively lass with a thousand
pounds in hand.
In the merry morning of May.
Arise up Miss all in your cloak of silk,
For summer is a come unto day,
And all your body under as white as any milk,
In the merry morning of May.

O! where is St. George,
O!, where is he O,
He is out in his long boat on the salt sea O.
Up flies the kite and down tails the lark O.
Aunt Ursula Birdhood she had an old ewe
And she died in her own Park O.

Now fare you well and bid you all good cheer,
For summer is a come unto day,
We call no more unto your house before another
year,
In the merry morning of May.

MAY DAY IN CORNWALL.

A very curious May Day custom is observed at Saltash, on the first three days of May. The children gather all the old kettles, scuttles, tea-trays, pails, and other discarded vessels, and link them with cords. In the evening all those vessels are dragged in noisy trail, with much vocal shouting, in and out of all the nooks and corners of the parish. The sanction of long-established custom, says Mr P. H. Ditchfield, secures the tolerance of the town authorities and the public; but the origin of the custom is shrouded in mystery. Probably it is a survival of a heathen rite, intended to scare away demons from the homes and properties of the inhabitants. No alms are asked, and no reason given for the three evenings' noisy proceedings; and there is an air of mystery about the ceremony well according with the theory of a demon-driving rite. Garlands are also carried round the parish by the children on May morning. As reported in: *The Ballarat Star* (Vic:1865 - 1924), Saturday 30 April 1904, page 2

CORNISH snippets

Last year Keith Lanyon spoke about Cornish surnames.

I came across this article and thought it maybe of interest to our readers re-iterating many of the names Keith mentioned.

CORNISH SURNAMES

"By Ros-, Car-, Lan-, Tre-, Pol-, Pen-,
Ye may know most Cornishmen".

This ancient rhyme describes some common Cornish surname prefixes.

Ros (promontory or moor) – eg Rosevear, Roskruge, Rosewarne, Roskilly, Rosemergy.

Car (fort or round) – eg Carthew, Carlyon, Cargeeg, Carveth, Carvossov.

Lan (church enclosure, sometimes originally Lyn (pool or pond) – eg Lansallos, Landeryou, Lanyon, Lander.

Tre(v) (farm or settlement) the most common Cornish prefix – eg Tregenza, Tregoning, Treloar, Trevethan, Trevaskis, Trethewey, Treweek.

Pol (pit, pool, sometimes originally Porth (cove) – eg Polmear, Polsue, Polkinhorne, Polglaze.

Pen (head or end) – eg Pengelly, Penhale, Penhaligon, Penberthy, Penaluna.

To this list could also be added:

Bos and Bod (dwelling, home) – eg Bodilly, Bosanko, Boscawen, Bosustow, Beswetherick.

Chy (house, cottage) – eg Chynoweth, Chegwin, Chirgwin, Chenhalls, Chellev.

Nans (valley) – eg Nance, Nancekivell, Nancarrow, Nanchollas, Nankervis.

All of these surnames are locational names derived from places in Cornwall, this is just a small sample and there are many others with these prefixes (particularly Tre(v) names).

There are many other Cornish locational surnames not containing the above prefixes a few examples include Menadue (dark hill), Kernick (little corner), Glasson (greensward), Minear (long stone), Vellanoweth (new mill), Kelynack (holly grove), Skewes (place of Elder trees).

There are also a number of Cornish occupational and descriptive surnames – Angove (the smith),

Tyack (farmer), Trahair (tailor), Dyer (originally Tyer, meaning thatcher), Annear (the long), Angwin (the white or fair), Teague (fair, beautiful), Tallack (big browed).

Unfortunately the old "Tre, Pol, Pen" rhyme is inaccurate in that despite the many unique Cornish language surnames, the majority of Cornish people (like their Welsh linguistic cousins) have patronymic surnames (ie the father's first name taken as a surname), and a whole host of pet names and diminutives derived from these.

A few of these patronymic surnames are uniquely Cornish, where an "o" or "a" is suffixed to the name to denote son of – Clemo (son of Clement), Bennetto (son of Bennett), Kitto (son of Christopher), Sandow and Santo (son of Alexander) and Jacka (son of Jack [John]).

The three most common Cornish surnames are Williams, Richards and Thomas. This preponderance of Welsh sounding names has often led to the mistaken belief (at least outside Cornwall), that if you bear such a name then you must be of Welsh descent, when certainly in the mining areas of Northern England, your family are as likely to have originated in Cornwall.

Due to the vast numbers of Cornish migrants in the copper, lead and coal mines of Wales, there are no doubt many Welsh families unaware that the origin of their very Welsh surname may have been in Cornwall.

This research comes from the Cornish Diaspora study carried out by The Cornish and West Devon World Heritage Site.

Some Cornish Place Names

Altarnun
Situated on the north-eastern edge of Bodmin, the village of Altarnun is named after the 15th century church of St Nonna. Its original and true spelling is 'Altarnon', which translates as 'Altar of St Non' (or Nonna). The village was once known as Penpoint, after the valley of Penpoint Water in which it nestles.



Bodmin

The home of the county's famous moorland is today named after its early monastic settlement. The settlement was established by a hermit who later became known as St Guron. St Petroc took over from St Guron in the early 6th century after travelling to the settlement from Padstow. Bodmin's name derives from the Cornish 'bod-meneghy', which is interpreted as 'dwelling of monks'.



Camborne

We've all heard the Cornish folk song 'Going Up Camborne Hill, Coming Down', so it perhaps comes as little surprise that Camborne's name has something to do with its geography. The name means 'curve of the hill'. Camborne was a hamlet for much of its history before the mining boom quickly transformed it into a bustling town in the early 19th century.

Chacewater

Long before its prominence in the county's mining industry, the village of Chacewater was a popular hunting ground for the early Cornish kings. Its title comes from the term whereby an 'English chase' is situated near to a stream. Chacewater's stream is still active today.

Charlestown

Once known as West Polmear, Charlestown was to be eventually named after Charles Rashleigh, who constructed the harbour between 1791 and 1801 in line with the expanding mining industry.



Falmouth

Originally known as 'Penny-come-quick' from the Cornish 'Pny-cwm-cuic', the buzzing town and port is today named more obviously after its geographical location as the mouth of the Fal river – the Cornish translation being 'Aberfal'. Falmouth obtained its charter from King Charles II in 1661, despite objections at the time from neighbouring Penryn and its rival port, Truro.

Helston

Helston was once a stannary town and the focal point of the mining and trading of tin in Cornwall. The name hails from the Cornish 'hen-lys', meaning 'old court'. Originally known as 'Hellys', the Saxons later added 'ton' to the name, signifying the location as a Saxon manor. Helston was first chartered by King John in 1201 but is said to have existed as a

settlement since the 6th century.

Launceston

Ancient Cornwall's capital gets its name from the former monastery of St Stephen, located a mile and a half to the north west of the town. The name originates from the Cornish 'Lannstevan', meaning 'the church of St Stephen'. Launceston was already an established settlement boasting Cornwall's first mint by the time the Normans arrived and built its trademark castle in 1067.



Lostwithiel

Steeped in heritage, Lostwithiel was founded by the Norman lords who built Restormel Castle. The town was once known as 'The Port of Fawi' and regarded as the county's capital. Its current name translates as 'the place at the tail end of the woodland'. The town received a charter in 1189 and its port was of great mercantile importance, exporting tin to France and the Mediterranean.

Marazion

As one of the oldest towns in Britain, Marazion's first charter of incorporation was granted in 1257 by Henry III.



Its eye-catching name is the result of the blurred pronunciation of 'marghas byghan', meaning 'little market', and 'marghas Yow', translating as 'Thursday market'. Its charter was reaffirmed in 1595 by Elizabeth I, permitting a mayor, eight aldermen and 12 capital burgesses.

Penzance

With its beginnings as a small post-Iron Age fishing settlement, Penzance developed into a prosperous market town and port, rich with daring tales of pirates, Spanish raiders, and smugglers. Its distinct name is derived from the Cornish 'penn sans' which translates as 'holy headland'. It is said that this is likely a reference to St Anthony's Chapel on the western headland.



<https://www.cornwalllive.com/news/cornwall-news/discover-fascinating-stories-behind-cornish-845600>

MORE AFFORDABLE HOMES FOR CORNWALL

Plans by Cornwall Council to build 1,000 homes are continuing with the authority set to buy three sites for housing. The council has a Housing Development Plan (HDP) with which it is hoping to increase the number of affordable homes available for local people.

It has been identifying sites which it either already owns or are available for sale so it can provide housing in the areas which need it most.

In Launceston the council is looking at a 8.5-hectare site at Link Road and in Liskeard the council wants to acquire 1.9 hectares of land at Maudlin Farm. The land in Redruth is part of a 17.2-hectare site at Tolgus which has outline planning permission for 370 homes. Under the council's proposals it would build 150 of the homes under the HDP with the other 220 to be built by a partner or partners.

In Launceston the council is looking to build 140 homes and 55 in Liskeard.

The land at Launceston is part of a larger site which is being developed by Persimmon and has outline planning permission for 278 houses, a food store, 60 -bed hotel, a pub/restaurant and a fast food restaurant.

Cornwall Council has launched the HDP to try to tackle some of the problems with the private rental market. These include affordability and value for money; the size and quality of homes; lack of secure tenure; demand exceeding supply; increasing numbers of families in the private rental sector; 50% of homes in the sector are considered to be "non-decent" and the poor health of people living in those homes.

Tenancies will be for five years (including an introductory tenancy period) with a presumption in favour of renewal where school age children are in the household.

BILLIONAIRE BUYS GOONHILLY

Peter Hargreaves has invested £24 million into Goonhilly satellite tracking station on the Lizard Peninsula so it can expand its services.

Goonhilly provides spacecraft tracking and monitoring services to the biggest satellite operators.

It recently signed an £8.4m contract with the European Space Agency to become the first private operator in the Deep Space communications network.

It is also working on plans to put a satellite in the moon's orbit.

Goonhilly is expected to grow as demand for its

services increases thanks to a series of technological innovations in fields ranging from autonomous cars to crop management, tracking ships and asteroid mining.

CORNWALL POPULATION

The Office of National Statistics has recently released its latest set of statistics that reveals the estimated population of Cornwall, as well as a number of other interesting figures.



The release shows that Cornwall's population in 2015 was 550,283 rising to 555,057 in 2016.

The number of births in Cornwall during this period was 5377 while 6,094 people died, leaving a deficit of 717 people.

Cornwall's population was boosted by 4,886 internal migrants and a net rise of 458 international migrants.

The Isles of Scilly had 2335 people living there in 2015, dropping four to 2331 in 2016.

Thirteen people were born on the islands and there were 17 deaths.

More internal migrants left the islands than they did arrive, leaving a deficit of seven, but seven international migrants arrived.

It is believed Cornwall has a summer population of between 770,000 and 850,000 at any one time and millions when the total number of visitors over the season are added.

Top Ten Places

10. St Ives - 12,436
9. Launceston - 13,457
8. Redruth - living in the city - 14,710
7. Bodmin - 15,524
6. Penzance - excluding Newlyn and Mousehole - 16,488
5. St Austell - 18,639
4. Truro - 19,387 people living in the city.
3. Newquay - 20,343
2. Camborne - 21,480
1. Falmouth - 22,455

Articles and Cornish Snippets may be 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, St Piran Stuff, The Telegraph, The Cornish are a Nation