

# Cornish Buttons



With so many eyes on the World Football Championships throughout Russia, one is reminded by many references on the internet of how Cornwall helped defeat Napoleon upon his onslaught of Moscow in 1812. He had equipped his Army with buttons made of Cornish Tin. As the winter set in and temperatures dropped below 30 degrees the metal buttons disintegrated leaving his soldiers unable to fasten their tunics!

Buttons play an important part in our social standings, on all UK uniforms the larger the button the greater the assumed importance such as Commissioned Officers in our Armed Services have buttons twice the size of that of the men under their command, the same applies to Senior Officers of our Emergency Services. The Guards Battalions each have identifying button formations on their tunics according to seniority. In the Royal Navy the Senior Non-Commissioned Warrant Officers wear three big buttons on their sleeve.

One may note the number of buttons at the cuff of Gentlemen's (Mufti) Jackets; the more buttons at the cuff the higher the status of the wearer. 'Off the Peck' jackets may have three or four buttons whereas our Lord Lieutenant has six!

Interestingly the Tailors, Harvey Parkers have advertised in the NFU Countryside Magazine for July 2018, Gents Tweed waistcoats under the design name of 'Bodmin' with six largebone/horn buttons , obviously aimed at our West Country Gentlemen!

D.P.M.