

# Kowethas Kernow Goth - Gerens ha Porthskathow

## St Gerrans and Porthscatho Old Cornwall Society



Kuntellewgh an brewyon eus gesys na vo kellys travydh  
*Gather up the fragments that are left that nothing be lost*

## Newsletter – November 2020

### News

#### Can you help?

Even though we are not meeting, much effort is continuing both in terms of administrative and active project work. Please give consideration as to whether you could spare a little time to support our Society. Just drop an email to our Chairman, Ralph, who will be very pleased to discuss how you can assist.

The Annual General Meeting has been suspended until Autumn 2021, The annual accounts are being produced and will of course be ready well ahead of the next AGM. The Treasurer's Report has now been produced and circulated.

#### AONB Monumental Improvement Project – Dingerein

We now have a further brush clearance day planned for Friday 4<sup>th</sup> December.<sup>1</sup> We will be consolidating the work on the central ditch and making a start on clearing the inner rampart. All work will be socially distanced and conducted in line with Coronavirus guidance. There is still time to get involved. If you can help please contact our Recorder.

#### OCS 2020 Scrapbook

To celebrate the centenary of the OCS movement, each OCS was encouraged to maintain a scrapbook of community activity for 2020.

However, this year has been very atypical due to coronavirus, and your help is now needed to complete our scrapbook. Please can you forward any information, photos etc. of any community events during 2020 to our Recorder.

#### Maritime Churches Project

In February, in conjunction with the Institute of Cornish Studies, we ran two community events in respect of St Just Church and St Anthony Church. A number of individuals were interviewed by students from the ICS and group sessions were facilitated by Professor Garry Tregidga.

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<sup>1</sup> Subject to update in respect of future Coronavirus restrictions.

## **Kowethas Kernow Goth - Gerens ha Porthskathow**

Further work is ongoing regarding transcripts of the interviews and a book is due to be published in December. A second phase of the project may involve other ecclesiastic buildings in the area.

Information about the project, and the churches involved can now be found on the Internet at: <https://cornishmaritimechurches.co.uk>

### **Cornish Buildings Group – Buildings at Risk Project**

If you are aware of any buildings across Roseland which are at risk please do continue to notify our Recorder.

### **Place-name of the Month – Pendower ~ Benndowr**

Our Cornish language place-names are often beautifully descriptive of their location, and Pendower is a great example. It is another two-element name put together to form a name phrase.

In this case there is a surprise because the first element is not the typical Cornish <*penn*> ‘headland’ as may be expected. Historic spellings show that the first element is in fact <*benn*> ‘foot (of)’, which has changed over time to the more familiar <*penn*>.

The second element is the familiar Cornish <*dowr*> ‘water’, which in Cornwall was often used to refer to streams or rivers. So, this name means ‘foot of the water/stream’, and is beautifully descriptive of the location since the stream flows down the valley from Melinsey and enters the sea at this point.

At this point the stream also forms the boundary between Philleigh and Veryan parishes.

Don’t forget that with three-syllable Cornish place-names the stress falls on the pen-ultimate syllable, thus the local pronunciation is pn**DOW**ur.

### **Dialect of the Month - Drang**

The word **drang** n. (pl. **drangz**) is of course a familiar word in local vocabulary. It can mean, open groove, channel, or gutter, but is more frequently used locally to describe a channel in the rocks on the seashore. e.g. Pencabe Drang

### **Contacts**

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