

# The Cornish Association of Victoria Inc. Ballarat Branch

A.C.N. A0008 264A

## February 2023 Newsletter

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### Saturday 4th February 2023

This was advertised as History of Ballarat Hospitals. However the proposed speaker is unavailable in February.

Instead we are planning 'Share a Snippet' afternoon. This may be something you have discovered in your research, a meeting with a famous person, a family story, a holiday recollection, a sporting memory. The list is endless.

### Sunday 5th March 2023 - St Piran's Day -

There will be a Church Service at Skipton Street Uniting Church at 10.00 am.

It is proposed that we then travel to Buninyong for lunch at the Crown Hotel, followed by a short tour of historic sites in Buninyong.

Transport can be arranged.

Details will be confirmed at the meeting in February 2023.

### Saturday 1st April 2023

To be advised.

### Christmas Gathering

Ballarat members, joined by Ken and Lyn Peak and Neil and Marilyn Thomas, were delighted to meet together for the Annual Christmas lunch, held in December, at the restaurant in the historic Ballarat Club building dating from 1889.

The beautifully decorated room was a wonderful setting for our gathering and the traditional Christmas meal was greatly appreciated.



During the meeting two original members of the Association – John Mildren and John Stuchbery - were presented with an Honorary Life Membership by Ken Peak, past President of the CAV. Both had recently celebrated their 90<sup>th</sup> birthdays. Interestingly, both Johns had begun their working lives as school teachers and had taught at Teachers' Colleges.



Normally 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.



John Stuchbery's Cornish ancestors came from Paul, a village near Penzance.

His great, great grandmother, Ellen Rowe (1850-1896) travelled to Victoria aboard Corona arriving in Hobsons Bay on 23rd February 1869, with her two sisters Maria and Eliza.

Ellen married Scottish born Alexander Findlay, at Stawell in 1870,

Sadly, Alexander died in 1883 leaving Ellen with four young children.

To support her family, she opened a confectionery shop in Richmond.

William Findlay, one of Ellen and Alexander's sons, was John's grandfather – he was the Mayor of Northcote on three occasions.

The Mildren family were from the Parish of St Keverne on the Lizard Peninsula in Cornwall with John a descendant of James Mildren/Melderne and Willmott Horsford who married in 1633/1634.

William and Grace Mildren (great, great grandparents of John) arrived in SA in 1856 and travelled to Victoria, settling at Staghorn Flat near Beechworth.

Their son Edmund and his wife Mary Ann (m/s Evans) were married at Corryong in 1875 and had eight children, only three of whom survived to adulthood.

The Cudgewa cemetery is the burial place of Edmund, Mary and five of the children.

John's father Malcolm Edward Joseph Mildren, a policeman, was also born in Corryong to Richard Henry (son of Edmund and Mary) and his wife Euphemia Rose (Fardon).

John was born in Colac.

With thanks to Chrissy Stancliffe for photos taken on the day.

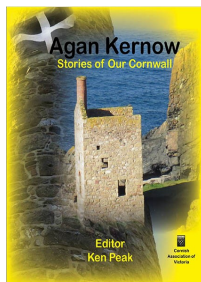
Some information sourced from *Our Heritage, Our Treasure*

### Agan Kernow

*Agan Kernow - Stories of our Cornwall* is still available for sale for \$25.00.

There are 76 family stories contributed by members from across Australia, NZ, USA and Canada.

Robyn will have copies for sale at the February meeting.



### Vale - Hilda Mary Crowe

6th April 1924 - 13th January 2023



Hilda Thomas was born in 1924 in Warrnambool to Gregory and Phoebe Thomas and married

Cornelius (Con) Francis Crowe in 1951.

He was born in 1920 at Koroit and died in 2004.

They had two sons John (1952-2019) and Bryan.

Hilda joined the Ballarat branch in October 2013 and was a member until June 2017.

Formerly of Ripon street, she had been living at Mercy Health. Hilda was a keen croquet player and enjoyed her garden.

Her funeral was held on Thursday 19th January at St Aloysius Church in Redan.

Hilda was a cousin to the father of Neil Thomas from Geelong.



### Kernewek Lowender - 15th - 21st May 2023

#### **Celebrating 50 years**

Kernewek Lowender in Cornish means 'Cornish Happiness'.

Kernewek Lowender Incorporated was formed in 1972, after a group of local community minded people gathered with the mission of creating a festival to celebrate and revive their region's significant Cornish heritage.

The first Cornish festival was held in 1973 and was a success due to the support of then Premier Don Dunstan who offered a grant of \$1,000 to help stage it.

To the surprise and excitement of the volunteer organising committee, more than 15,000 people filled the Moonta oval for the first Fer Kernewek and a similar number went through the 18 room museum at Moonta Mines.

Local shopkeepers didn't really believe how many people would be filling their streets, pubs and churches for that first festival, and there was not sufficient flour to keep up with demand for the pasties and the local service station ran out of petrol.

There's the story of one guest having to go to hospital with a fish bone stuck in her throat after eating stargazy pie.

But the Cornish Festival was a hit, and put the Copper Triangle on the map.

Every two years since, the Kernewek Lowender Copper Coast Cornish Festival has been held in the towns of Moonta, Wallaroo and Kadina.

The pioneering committee of 1973 could never have known they had started something so big that ensuing festivals would go on to contribute millions of dollars to the local Copper Coast economy, attract up to 50,000 people per event, provide impetus for a number of tourism developments, win numerous awards, and well and truly revive the region's significant Cornish heritage.

Kernewek Lowender has the major support of the SA Tourism Commission and the District Council of the Copper Coast, and continues to be staged by a volunteer organising committee under Kernewek Lowender Incorporated.

The 2013 40th anniversary Kernewek Lowender Copper Coast Cornish Festival attracted an estimated 37,000 people from intrastate, interstate and overseas, and its record 43 event and 15 associated activities were a sell out.

Some tickets for Kernewek Lowender events are on sale and more will be released soon.

The detailed programme is located at:  
[https://www.kernewek.org/\\_files/ugd/419a16\\_66dc50bbcf2c41aeb14d6dbb553f0c1d.pdf](https://www.kernewek.org/_files/ugd/419a16_66dc50bbcf2c41aeb14d6dbb553f0c1d.pdf)

## TROVE

If you have ever used the National Library of Australia collection, commonly known as Trove, you may be interested in the material below from its website.

The National Library is the repository of every publication in the country, and Trove holds the digital records of newspapers going back to the earliest publications of the NSW colony.

It holds in excess of six billion digital articles.



Currently it receives about 22 million internet hits a year e.g. from academics, historians and people researching their families.

I am sure that most family historians will have discovered articles for their research and I for one use it so often.

The article below is from its website.

## **A Future for Trove**

*The Library has sufficient resources to maintain Trove until June 2023.*

*The future of Trove beyond July 2023 will be dependent upon available funds.*

*To achieve the full strategic vision it will require substantial investment.*

*More modest investment sustained over a longer term would enable achievement of the strategy at a measured pace.*

*In a limited funding environment, Trove may reduce to a service focused on the National Library of Australia's collections.*

*Without any additional funds, the Library will need to cease offering the Trove service entirely.*

*Trove's evolution reflects the opportunities of technological developments as well as demand from its users.*

*Trove has benefited from deliberate investment in building digital capability and collaborative partnerships with other collecting institutions.*

*These developments have attracted new audiences fuelling further demand for more digital capabilities and digital content.*

*Trove has received substantial support from both Government and the cultural sector.*

*Recognising the increasing costs of digital services and other pressures upon Library budgets, the Australian Government has allocated additional funds to support Trove since 2016-17.*

*This has enabled ongoing maintenance of the service, a new user interface, bug fixes and an expansion of Trove content.*

*In 2022-23, the Library will receive \$5.2 million to maintain the service and deal with pressing cyber-security risks.*

*This funding, while welcome, is not sufficient to modernise the service, or advance the Library's vision.*

*Trove Partners also contribute to the operating costs of the service. Their contributions support 44% of the running costs.*

*However, this revenue is expected to decline as a result of fiscal pressure on the partner community and Trove's currently limited collaboration features, which do not include management of digital objects.*

*The cultural sector continues to embrace digital mediums and technology and expand into new digital services such as full-text retrieval, all of which increases online resources and records.*

*Institutions that have not embraced digital capabilities are predicted to become obsolete over time and their collections at risk of loss.*

*The magnitude of investment in digital capabilities that the cultural sector requires to support this shift is beyond the financial capacity of any individual collecting institution.*

*Trove has the basis to step into this gap. However, competing pressures – needs for digital advancement and need to lower service cost – present a paradox that cannot be resolved without additional investment. Trove's capacity to do so is now exhausted.*

If this is of concern to you, I would suggest you write or send an email to the Minister for the Arts and/or your local member, Hon. Catherine King, supporting the benefits of Trove and requesting continued funding.

The Minister for the Arts  
The Honorable Tony Burke MP  
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Roselands NSW 2196  
[tony.burke.mp@aph.gov.au](mailto:tony.burke.mp@aph.gov.au)

The Honourable Catherine King MP  
PO Box 6022  
House of Representatives  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600  
[Minister.King@mo.infrastructure.gov.au](mailto:Minister.King@mo.infrastructure.gov.au)



## **St Keverne: from rebellion to respectability**

Cornish language and culture, social history -  
December 23, 2022 - Bernard Deacon  
<https://bernarddeacon.com/?s=st+keverne>

In the late 1400s and early 1500s the parish of St Keverne on the Lizard peninsula was at the heart of Cornwall's several 'commotions'.

Men and women from the parish enthusiastically rose in revolt against the taxation of Henry VII in 1497 – not once but twice.

They were closely involved in the explosion of anger over religious change that led to the murder of archdeacon William Body in 1548 at Helston. A few executions following that episode weren't sufficient to quell their spirit or prevent their participation in the more general rising of 1549.

By the middle decades of the 1800s things had quietened down considerably.

By this time most people in this large rural parish concentrated on farming and not on politics.

Three out of every ten men were farmers or farmers' sons while another four out of ten were farm labourers.

Nonetheless, St Keverne folk were still ambitious for change, albeit individual betterment rather than through collective action.

John Williams, son of a farmer at Chyreen in the parish left the farming to his elder brothers. Instead, he moved to Lewisham, a suburb of London and became a clerk while boarding with his sister and brother in law.

After marrying Mary Olivey from Mylor, John had advanced to become a 'bank inspector' as they moved closer to the centre of the city, first to Streatham and then Islington.

The single servant employed by the childless couple in 1881 had become two by 1891 and by 1901 they had moved out to the new suburb of Ealing.

Victorian bank clerks were deemed to be 'the aristocracy of the clerical profession'.

Before professional banking examinations, the banks recruited through word of mouth and personal recommendations of 'good character'.

The two most important attributes necessary for a mid-century bank employee was their intangible 'moral decorum' and their more objective penmanship.

(At least one clerk was dismissed by Lloyds Bank for poor handwriting in the 1840s.)

But paternalistic employers and demanding expectations of behaviour were compensated for by higher wages than other clerks, shorter hours, more attractive working conditions and opportunities for career advancement.

This is something that John Williams seems to have taken full advantage of in the final years of Victoria's reign.

Or did he? For by 1911, William and Mary were staying at a large hotel at Lancaster Gate in Paddington when he was recorded not as a banker any more but as a buyer in the woollen trade.

While John Williams found his niche in banking, Susan Brooks went from a farm labouring family to running the farm.

Her father John was a farm labourer at Porthallow on the coast at mid-century.

Susan found work as a general servant at the nearby farm of Treglossick, run by Sampson Nicholls and his son John.

Susan evidently made an impression on John and, luckier than many other servants who could find themselves with an unplanned child and the loss of their place, married the son of her employer in 1874.

When Sampson, already 75 years old in 1881, died John and Susan took over the farm.

In the 1890s John passed on in turn, but Susan carried on running the farm with the help of her children.

### **Newlyn: fish hawkers and octogenarians**

Bernard Deacon - social history - July 17, 2022

<https://bernarddeacon.com/2022/07/17/newlyn-fish-hawkers-and-octogenarians/>

In May 1871, the Great Exhibition opened its doors in London.

The Crystal Palace, constructed in Hyde Park, was the wonder of its age, a giant greenhouse containing exhibits from around the globe, as Victorians revelled in their technical wizardry and the bounties of free trade (and colonialism).

Meanwhile, 256 miles away, an old lady born in Madron in 1766 was intrigued by news of this Great Exhibition and decided to go up and see what all the fuss was about.

Other sources suggest she may have walked to London to put her case concerning a grievance over an unpaid pension.

Unable to afford a coach or steamship ticket, the 84-year old Mary Kelynack (also known as Mary Treize) set out on foot.

This eventually attracted some notice in the press and she became a minor celebrity.

Arriving in London, she met the Lord Mayor, received various gifts and charity and was thoroughly patronised.

She died four years later back in Penzance, having, according to an obituary 'not tended to sober down after her return'.

Mary was a fish-jowster, or fish-hawker, tramping around the district to sell the catches landed at Newlyn, Cornwall's premier fishing port.

Like Mousehole, Newlyn was dominated by the fishing industry and populated principally by fishermen and their families.

Most of them would have spent rather less eventful lives than Mary, well away from the metropolitan spotlight until the arrival of the Newlyn School of painters in the 1880s.

Annie Wills was one such Newlyn native.

Annie was born in North Corner Street.

Her father was a fisherman who interspersed time on the fishing boats with spells as a merchant seaman.

In 1872 Annie married John Wright, another Newlyn fisherman.

At first the couple lodged with Annie's parents at Prospect Place before finding themselves a house to rent at Trewarveneth Street.

By the time the new century had arrived they were back in Prospect Place.

Annie died in 1934 at around the same age as Mary Kelynack, having spent all her life in and around the streets of Newlyn.

Even when they did move it was sometimes difficult for Newlyn folk to shake off the smell of fish.

Richard Maddern was already recorded as active 'on the fishery' in 1851 when he was 11 years old, working presumably with his father and brothers. However, in 1872 Richard married Philippa Glasson from Redruth.

Philippa persuaded Richard to move 'upalong' and they set up as fishmongers in Redruth.

Some of the next generation broke the link with fishing, their children working in local mines in 1891. Nonetheless, one son remained active in the fish hawking trade into the twentieth century.



Mary Kelynack supposedly met Queen Victoria and her meeting is recorded in Queen Victoria's diary.

Mary Callinack (Kelynack); Queen Victoria; Prince Albert of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha  
by John Brandard, printed by M & N Hanhart, published by Lee & Coxhead - lithograph, circa 1851—Given by John Hall, 1972—Reference Collection - NPG D42826  
National Portrait Gallery

**Mary Kelynack: who walked from Newlyn to London at the Age of 75**

(from the Cornishman May 29th 1884 - Reminiscences of Penzance - by a Native)

In her day and generation, Mary Kelynack was for a short time at least, a somebody. She was born at Tolcarne, in 1776, being the daughter of William Trezise and the widow of William Kelynack.

In 1851, all the world went mad about the Great Exhibition, and hundreds of people who had never left their native Cornwall, paid visits to London.

Mary Kelynack said she too would go to London and see the sight; and when reminded that she had no money to

pay for the journey, replied that at all events she had a pair of legs with which she could walk to London. Taking with her a very small kt, this energetic woman started from Penzance. What proportion of the distance she walked it is very difficult to say. She was a great talker and well advertised herself.

People were amused at her tale and took an interest in her success, and she was helped along the route by one another who gave her lifts in carts, wagons, coaches and railways until, at last, with no money of her own, she actually reached London.

Her fame has preceded her. She was taken care of, shown the sights, noticed by the Lord Mayor, and had made many presents made to her; her memoirs, with an account of her travels, appeared in all the London papers; her portrait was produced in the Illustrated London News, and she went back to Penzance by rail at the cost of her admirers.

She did little else for the rest of her life but wander about from place to place and relate her adventures in London. These relations brought her small sums of money, but I never understood that she was ever tempted to give any of the money to the Blue Ribbon Army.

She died at Dock Lane, Penzance on 5th December 1855 and was buried in St Mary's churchyard.  
<https://search.findmypast.com.au/bna/viewarticle?id=bl%2f0000331%2f18840529%2f001&stringtohighlight=mary%20kelynack>



by N. Plusgenski, printed by Stannard & Dixon, published by Addison & Hollier - chromolithograph, circa 1851-1852  
Nat. Portrait Gallery D42817

### **UK space launch: Historic Cornwall rocket launch ends in failure**

The first ever satellite mission launched from UK soil has ended in failure.

A jumbo jet operated by the American Virgin Orbit company carried a rocket out of Newquay, Cornwall, to release it high over the Atlantic Ocean. The rocket ignited and appeared to be ascending correctly. But word then came from the company that the rocket had suffered an "anomaly".

The satellites it was carrying could not be released and were lost.

The mission had been billed as a major milestone for UK space, marking the birth of a home-grown launch industry.

The ambition is to turn the country into a global player - from manufacturing satellites, to building rockets and creating new spaceports.

Rockets have been sent to space from the UK before, but not to put satellites in orbit. Those earlier efforts were part of military exercises or for atmospheric research, and the vehicles involved came straight back down.

Internationally renowned for making satellites of all sizes, the country's space industry has always had to send its products to foreign spaceports to get them into orbit.

Adding a launch capability means the sector will in future be able to do everything from first design through to mission operations.

More than 2,000 spectators and VIPs had gathered at Cornwall Newquay Airport to watch the 747 leave. They drifted away as news filtered through that something had gone wrong.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-64218883>

### **Council welcomes government plans to give the go ahead to limit holiday lets**

Cornwall Council's portfolio holder for housing and planning, Olly Monk, has welcomed an announcement that could give the Council more powers to monitor and potentially limit the number of homes being flipped from long term private rentals to holiday lets.

The Rt Hon Michael Gove MP Secretary of State for Levelling up Housing & Communities has said that local authorities could be given discretionary powers to enable a registration scheme for short term lets in England. The details of how the scheme could be administered will be consulted on next

year.

There is also the potential for places like Cornwall, which has been badly affected by how many properties have been 'flipped' from long term rentals to holiday lets, to be able to better control the number of short term lets by requiring change of use to have to go through the planning process. Olly Monk says: "We have been working to get the legislative changes we need at Parliament to be able to control the number of holiday lets, with a proposal that planning permission will be needed to switch a home to a holiday let. This news from the government is a welcome step forward.

Olly adds: "We are committed to tackling the housing crisis. Some of the significant challenges we face are national and others are specific to places like Cornwall where there is an unprecedented imbalance in supply and demand.

"The lack of decent affordable housing was brought to a head in the aftermath of the pandemic. The boom in house prices and the demand for holiday accommodation has brought about a significant reduction in the availability of homes to rent and a matched sudden escalation in rental costs.

"Private landlords have been moving away from long-term letting and instead moving towards the short-term holiday market. There is nothing to stop them from doing so and there is no official register which allows us to know when and where this is happening. Once we have that data, we can use it to potentially limit the switch through the planning process."

The potential Devolution Deal, which is now on the table, includes a government pledge to work closely with the Council on any national changes taken forward to tackle the issue of second homes and provide opportunities to work with Government on developing practical and sustainable solutions to manage the impact of tourism on the housing market whilst transforming the visitor economy.

### **Cornwall Council approves Council Tax premium for second homes**

Plans to impose a premium on Council Tax bills for second homeowners have been officially approved by Cornwall Council at the authority's first full meeting of 2023.

The proposals, which were approved by the Cabinet last month, could be worth up to an additional £25 million in revenue for the authority each year. It is hoped the new premium could be introduced in April 2024, but that is dependent on the relevant legislation being formally approved by Parliament before the end of March this year.

The item was the main topic for debate at the Full Council meeting, which was delayed starting due to the wintry weather affecting many parts of Cornwall this morning.

The plans were introduced by Cllr David Harris, deputy leader of Cornwall Council and portfolio holder for resources.

Speaking after the meeting, Cllr Linda Taylor, leader of Cornwall Council, said: "One of our key priorities as an administration has been to address the housing issues we face in Cornwall, and today's decision will help us to do just that.

"By increasing the premium on second homes, we will be not only increasing revenue, but also making people think about what they do with these properties, many of which are empty for much of the year.

<https://www.cornwall.gov.uk/council-news/>

### **Plans for one of the biggest solar farms in Cornwall approved despite concerns about loss of farmland**

Planning permission has been granted for what will be one of the biggest solar farms in Cornwall.

Renewable Connections had applied to build the solar farm and associated facilities on land near Tregonning Farm at Kestle Mill near Newquay.

Cornwall Council's strategic planning committee agreed to approve the plans on the condition that the council tries to reach a legal agreement with the developers to have community ownership of five per cent of the solar farm.

The committee meeting, which had been postponed just before Christmas due to poor weather, heard that the 54-hectare solar farm would be one of the largest in Cornwall and would provide enough energy for 17,000 homes.

Planning officers had recommended that the application be approved saying that the benefits outweighed any harm.

There had been an objection from St Newlyn East Parish Council on the basis that the development would lead to the loss of good quality agricultural land.

However, landowner and farmer Andrew Brewer told the committee that he would continue to farm the land used for the solar panels by grazing sheep there.

He said that he did not believe that the development of the solar farm would reduce the agricultural output of the land and claimed that some studies had suggested that output was actually

increased on farms using solar panels due to the shelter provided for animals on the land.

The committee heard that there had been 32 objections to the application submitted to Cornwall Council along with 39 letters of support for the project. There had been no objections from other organisations, including landscape officers.

Julian German said he was in support of the scheme and proposed that it should be approved but with a condition that a five percent community ownership agreement would be reached with the developers.

He said that whilst the developers had offered to make a contribution to the local community it would be better to instead have a community ownership agreement, something which has been included in the council's new climate change development policy which has recently been signed off by the planning inspectorate.

The committee agreed to delegate authority to planning officers with the committee chairman to grant planning permission subject to a legal Section 106 agreement being reached with regards to a five per cent community ownership agreement.

<https://www.cornwalllive.com/news/cornwall-news/plans-one-biggest-solar-farms-8035899>

### **Petrol prices in Cornwall drop below 150p a litre for first time since Ukraine war started**

Petrol prices in Cornwall have fallen to below 150p (\$2.65 AUD) for the first time since the war in Ukraine broke out.

The last time petrol cost less than 150p was on February 24, 2022, when it averaged 149.67p a litre. Since then, it rose to a record of 191.53p (\$3.37) a litre on July 3 before dropping to 149.74p on Monday.

Diesel now averages 172p (\$3.02).21p a litre, having been 153.05p (\$2.68) when the Russian invasion began and then setting a record of 199.07p (\$3.50) on July 1.

Across Cornwall there has been a noticeable price drop for motorists.

Since February, the Chancellor has cut fuel duty by 5p a litre, in effect 6p when VAT is factored in.

Fuel at 150p a litre is still historically way above the April 2012 record of 142.48p (\$2.50), the previous yardstick of pump prices.

<https://www.cornwalllive.com/news/cornwall-news/petrol-prices-cornwall-drop-below-8013951>