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**No. 382**

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**Newsletter of the  
Cornish Association  
of New South Wales**

**PROGRAMME 2020**

**SYDNEY BASED EVENTS**

**Annual General Meeting**

**Ryde Eastwood Leagues Club, West Ryde  
10am Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> February, 2020**

*Notice of meeting.*

Reports, Election of Committee, any AGM business.  
Followed by Open Forum. Tea/coffee, Sales table.

NB: Proposals for consideration must be with the  
Committee by one month prior.

**Informal lunch in club bistro afterwards**  
More details in next newsletter.

**FESTIVALS**

**Victorian St Piran Celebrations  
Ballarat - 5<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> March, 2020**

Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March – *St Piran's Day* – Cornish Flag  
Raising ceremony at the Ballarat Town Hall. Pasty  
Lunch and speaker/displays at Skipton Street Uniting  
Church Hall. Evening free.

Friday 6<sup>th</sup> – bus tour to Creswick. Evening free.

Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> – 34<sup>th</sup> Assembly of the Bards of Cornwall  
in Australia; dinner in the evening at Barkly's.

Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> – church service at Skipton Street UC  
followed by light lunch, and Mt Pleasant Talk & Tour –  
cars and walking; Informal meal together in the  
evening.

Monday 9<sup>th</sup> – morning Parade at Lake Wendouree

Held during the local Begonia Festival, which has  
lots of interesting activities, and floral displays - so  
book accommodation early!

Please contact for more information – email:  
[robyncoates@hotmail.com](mailto:robyncoates@hotmail.com) - and feel free to  
circulate the above amongst your friends.

**28<sup>th</sup> Australian Celtic Festival  
Glen Innes, NSW – *The Year of Ireland  
and the Isle of Man***



**Friday 1st –  
Sunday 3rd  
May, 2020**

Some Cornish will be there!

For more information on program of events and  
accommodation, and booking keep looking at:  
<http://www.australiancelticfestival.com/>

**Committee News:**

Members of the Committee met at Ruth & Russell Cocks  
home on Saturday 12 October for our 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting. We  
did the necessary operating business, set the AGM date  
(club has confirmed) and then considered the ongoing  
issue of our annual St Piran's Lunch.

As many will be aware we have struggled for numbers  
for some years to reach the numbers necessary for the  
Club's high minimum, and as well as the expected  
members subsidy there has been escalating losses,  
reaching \$721 in 2019. Options at the RELC did not allow  
a satisfactory alternative event. The quality of the event,  
and equity for the nearly 50% of members living outside  
Sydney, have also been concerns. The Committee voted  
to NOT hold the formal lunch next year.

Alternative venue ideas for the future would be  
welcome. In the interim, following our required AGM  
you are all invited to gather for an informal lunch and  
chat in the club's bistro - from their menu (and prices).

Bank account balance at 30/10/19: **\$7,966.77**

*"Lovely to see some of you at the lunch at Circular  
Quay. I hear you had a great time. Apologies for  
being so late, with plane cancellation and delays.  
A very merry Christmas, and happy New Year to  
you all! I look forward to, as many as can, coming  
to our AGM on 29 February, and keeping the Assoc.  
going into 2020. See you then!  
Joy Dunkerley, President*

## Nadelik Lowen ha Bledhen Nowyth Da



*Merry Christmas and a happy New Year*

### MEMBERS MILESTONES

**Our best wishes** to a number of members who have had reported health problems or medical procedures. Frank Beard is having tests.

**Congratulations** to all those with birthdays during November and December.

On 31st October Frank Beard turned 89 and Lorraine reports “.. a good age to get to, and had a pasty today at his neices for his birthday, which he loved ...”[his niece is a Cornish maid, so proper job of course].

#### Oldest and youngest?

Ethel (Ettie) Blewett has reached 96 years of age. That makes her our oldest member, with Lorna Stephens and of course Betty Bevins, both 95 close behind. Our youngest member? Perhaps Poppy Rappo, aged 5, but we would love to hear if any of our members households have someone younger. Let the editor know.

ps. Ettie advises that she will not be able to continue as a member after this year, sadly.

**Moved:** Past President Roger Thomas has now moved into care, at Karingal Gardens in Taree. Sue remains at Barrington, so quite a bit of a trip for visiting, esp. difficult with the bush fires. You can send best wishes via Sue.

#### Eddie Lyon

Eddie reports that Eileen Lyons Scottish clan, McCallum / Malcolm, of which she was newsletter editor, turned their June issue over entirely to the life and contributions of Eileen to the Clan. Eddie has sent us a copy, and if anyone would like to be emailed a copy please let the Editor know. It was great to see Eddie at the end of year lunch, and he will be spending Christmas at his daughter's home in Switzerland. Best wishes Eddie.

**Please** let us know of your good news, special events, or of those who are ill.

## QUOTE

*“The Methodists of Western Cornwall are very numerous, and of a respectable description; the changes which they have effected in the morals of the miners is really incredible ..!” - J.A.Paris, A Guide to Mounts Bay and the Land's End [1816]*

### SOME CORNISH SURNAMES – a series

**Thorne** – From *thron*, nose or point of land. Placename Eathorne, Mabe (Ethron, 1417). Found in west & north Cornwall.

**Tink / Tynk** - From *Tynk*, finch. Found in east Cornwall.

**Tinney** – Possibly from placenames St Tinney, Otterham, and Bartinney, St Just in Penwith. Found in mid and north Cornwall.

**Tippett** – Cornish form of the old name Thibaud (Theobald)

**Tossell** – From parish name, St Austell. Found in east Cornwall.

**Trahair** – From *tregher*; tailor. Found in the far west of Cornwall.

**Trannack** – From *Tre Vannoc*; homestead of Brannoc (an old Celtic personal name). Placenames Trannack, Madron and Sancreed (spelt Trevanek, 1334).

**Trathen** – From *trethen*, small sandy patch. Found in far west Cornwall.

**Trays / Treaise / Trease** – From *Tre Res*; homestead by the ford. Placename Treaise, Cury and St. Just in Penwith.

**Trebarthen** – Probably from *Tre Perthy*, homestead with bushes. Placename Trebartha, North Hill.

**Trebell** – From *Tre Bell*, distant homestead. Placename Trebell, Lanivet. Found near Truro.

**Trebilcock** – Possibly from *Tre pyl cok*, homestead with cuckoo hunted hillock, or homestead of *Pilcok*, red bill. (personal name). Placename Trebilcok, Roche (Trebiloc, 1302). Found mid, north and southeast Cornwall.

## PAST EVENTS

### END OF YEAR LUNCH

On Wednesday 19 November twenty five members and friends gathered for our pre-Christmas lunch at Circular Quay. It was great



to see Betty Bevins making it this year accompanied by Jacqui and Elizabeth, and also Ruth Cocks. Thanks for those travelling distance, including Eddie Lyon up from Jamberoo, and Cathy Olds down from Newcastle. A shame Joy and Joy's plane from Coffs Harbour was cancelled and the next one delayed, arriving just as it was winding down.

A great deal of chatting and catching up was reported. Thanks very much to Del Clinton for organising the lunch, and for the little extras. Congrats to the door prize winners, esp. proud owners of a new Cornish 2020 scene calendar ready for the new year.



The stragglers, chatting after lunch

## CORNISH GORSEDH 2019 ST. JUST

The Open Gorsedh this year was held on 8<sup>th</sup> September in the lovely far western Cornish town of St. Just-in-Penwith.

Five Bards were present from Australia, including a new Bard Greg Drew from South Australia. Joy Dunkerley (Cherya) and Chris Dunkerley (Kevrenor) along with Del and Ron Clinton attended from the CANSW.

The ceremony took place with a four day event that started with the Esethvos Conference "Global Kernow Today", at which some very interesting talks were given. It was encouraging to hear of the activity of young Cornish people living in London, with monthly Wreckers Wednesday meetings, rugby, gig racing, and choir, plus new links to the London Cornish Association. There was also a special visit for

Bards to the Levant Mine (more on that next newsletter).

The weather had been quite windy and a little showery but the Gorsedh day opened much better.



Held in the ancient playing place, the *Plen an Gwari*, excitement rose as over 200 Bards gathered in Cape Cornwall School ready to process to the playing place. It was great to catch up even briefly with many Bards we know esp. those who have visited Australia.



Being awarded a bardship is a great honour," said Grand Bard of Cornwall Elizabeth Carne,



Mellenek “especially as the ceremony is conducted in front of gathered members of the College of Bards, alongside representatives of our sister Celtic nations of Wales and Brittany, other Cornish organisations and friends and families that support Gorsedh Kernow and come together on this special occasion to celebrate our precious Cornish culture.”



- Grand Bard, Mellenek, Elizabeth Carne (above)
- Past Grand Bards Jory Ansell, Brian Coombes, Ann Treven Jenkin, Merv Davey, and Maureen Fuller. (below)



Now in its 90th anniversary year, Gorsedh Kernow was established with the aim of celebrating and promoting Cornwall's distinctive Celtic culture. Bards swear an oath to work for the Celtic culture of Cornwall. Over 500 Bards currently, include 44 in Australia (7 in NSW).



The new Bards included two young women, acclaimed singer in Welsh and Cornish, Gwenno Saunders, and musicologist Dr. Kate Neal, who has visited Australia many times in her research of Cornish Carols in the diaspora.



Part of the ceremony involves the Lady of Cornwall presenting the fruits of the earth to the Grand Bard, accompanied by young dancers.





The weekend was a busy but enjoyable one, with a Bards tea (pasties and splits), a wonderful concert in the iconic historic Miners Chapel, singalongs in the local pubs, walks through town and to the coastal mines, and a church service in Cornish in the parish church, followed by tea treats in the Women's Institute.



## ST. JUST PARISH CHURCH



There has been Christian worship on this site for over 1,500 years with as many as four, possibly more, 'churches' on the site, dating from the later days of the 5th or early 6th century. The Selus memorial stone dates to this time. The stone bears the latinised inscription, "Selvs ic iacet" (Selus lies here), Selus purported to St Selevan and Iestin's brother.

This is the place where Saint Just (or Iestin) made his base, where he planted his cross to mark the site as consecrated ground and where he built his 'cell'. Over time the area became enclosed and known as a 'lan' and included a small prayer or oratory chapel with beehive huts. The Cornish name for this area was 'Lanuste', i.e. 'Church-site of Saint Just' or 'Saint Just's religious enclosure' derived from

the word Ian and the saint's name and pronounced 'Lan-AIST'.



From 1066 onwards the Normans often swept away the small Celtic oratories and Saints' cells, using their materials to rebuild on the foundations to provide different places of worship. But by the early 14th century St. Just's small early Norman church is likely to have become dilapidated after suffering the trials of the Cornish weather. So in 1334, a new cruciform building was built on the site, the predecessor to our present church building. This was commissioned by the incumbent Rector, Richard de Beaupré, brother of Sir Stephen Beaupré, Lord of the manor of Kelynack and on the 13th July 1336, Bishop Grandisson of Exeter dedicated the high altar of this 'new' church - the anniversary of which is remembered as St. Just Feast.



There is good reason to believe that the Church existed here long before the advent of the town of St. Just which grew up around it. The enclosures ancient name was 'Lafrowda.' The name 'Lafrowda' is still used to describe the surrounding churchtown tenement it is referred to in ancient documents and deeds variously as 'Lafroudä, 'Lafrooda', 'La Frouda' and 'Lanfrowdha' and is thought to indicate either the given name for the Church or a possible

description of its cruciform shape. It contains two 15th c wall painting (most of which were lost during the reformation).

Today the memory of that early church is retained in the names 'Lafrowda Square' (now Market Square), 'Lafrowda House', 'Lafrowda Close', 'Lafrowda Terrace' and 'Lafrowda Common' and pronounced by St. Justers as 'La-Throw-Da'. In the late 14th and early 15th century the 1334 church lost its cruciform shape when the two side aisles were added. © 2003 A M BURT The Church building is currently undergowing major repairs.

Of Saint Just, also called Iestyn/Justin and in Cornish Ust, the man and patron saint of our church, very little detailed information survives to the present day. What does survive, leads us to believe that Just was a Celtic missionary, a native 'Cornish Saint', who entered the church as a holy man in the late 5th or early 6th centuries devoting himself to the 'useful and necessary work of building upon the then isolated people of Cornwall in righteousness and the fear of God'.

Saint Just is believed to be the son of an early King of Cornwall called Gerrans (also known as Gereint) and St. Just-in-Penwith church is special because Saint Just is thought to have been buried here.

## THE MERMAID OF ZENNOR

One fine Sunday morning in the Zennor church, perched on the cliffs of Penwith, the choir and congregation were ready for their service when through the church door came a strange lady of unearthly beauty. Her green eyes looked back calmly at the villagers, who were staring, for newcomers were rare in that far-flung parish; her tawny-gold hair flowed down over her back, wild and untrained; the long dress she wore swept the ground like a bride's train, and was made of some material that no one there had ever seen, for it shimmered like the sea on a sunny day. She sat near the door in a pew on her own, away from other people.

In the choir were some fine singers, but none was finer than Mathy Trewhella, a handsome young man who sang a clear high tenor: his

voice could be heard all over Zennor Churchtown when he wished. As the choristers sang their hymns and psalms Mathey became aware of the stranger staring at him with those emerald -green mysterious eyes; when he looked at her it seemed to him that a queer faint smile hovered on her face. After the service she was the first to leave the church, and those who went out after her thought it strange how rapidly she had disappeared, as they could not see her anywhere outside.

Five or six times this unknown lady came to Zennor church, 'always on a fine day, and always she sat apart from the congregation, watching Mathy and listening to every note he sang. Her eyes seemed to look right through him, and her gaze somehow reminded him of the dim light in caves undersea. He determined that somehow he would find out who she was.

The next time she appeared in church he was ready. Before the end of the service, as the parson gave the benediction, Mathy slipped from the choir stalls and let himself out of the little side door of the church. And so, as soon as the lady emerged, first as usual from the main door, he was at her side. She smiled as if she had been expecting him, and took his arm; and thus they left the churchyard together. People coming after, them saw them take the winding path that led down the valley towards the sea.

That was the last Zennor saw of Mathy Trewhella. His old mother was heartbroken for a long time, but at least she had other grown children to comfort her. The story of how Mathy disappeared with the stranger was a great mystery, often talked about, and unsolved for many years; in fact two generations had been born and grew up in the village, and old Mrs. Trewhella was in her grave before news came of him.

A ship bound for Penzance, and captained by a man who knew Zennor well, came by one day and anchored off Pendower Cove; she put out a boat to get some water from the shore. Soon a woman's voice was heard calling urgently, "Ship. Ship ahoy" and the watch, looking overboard, saw a mermaid with green eyes and tawny-gold hair swimming beside them. "Tell your captain to haul up your anchor," she cried. "For 'tis lodged against the door of my home on



the sea-bed, and I can't get in to my Mathy and children."

At this the captain came to the side and questioned her. "Excuse me, ma'am, but did you say your Mathy? Mathy who, may I ask?" Sailors are always very respectful to mermaids, who have powers to cause shipwreck and disaster, and often use them if they are annoyed. "Mathy Trewhella, my husband, of course," she said. "Now haul away, if you please." The captain did not stay to argue, but brought up the anchor immediately. With a swish from her long gleaming tail she was gone, diving down to the seabed and her family.

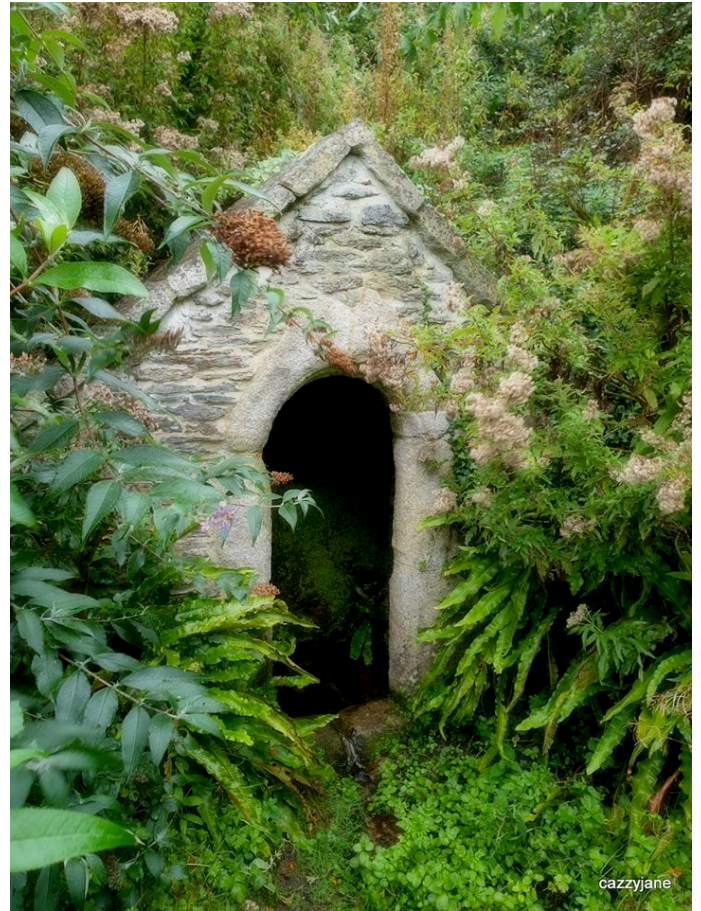


So Zennor heard the news, and learned Mathy's fate. Neither he nor the mermaid has ever been seen, since but in Zennor church now is a bench end carved to show what she looked like: long flowing hair, a sea-siren's face, and a curvy scaly tail. For all we know, Mathy is still down there on the ocean floor, singing sweetly to his mermaid wife and their children.

*A Cornish traditional story, as retold by Donald R. Rawe.*

## HOLY WELL

**Saint Cubert's Holy Well, Trevornick Farm, Cubert.**



There are two holy wells in Cubert. For hundreds of years, people believed that the wells had healing powers. One well is in a sea cave in Holywell Bay and the other on a farm which is now in Trevornick Holiday Park. People came here to be healed from ailments like itches and dandruff.

A Welshman called St Cubert is said to have come to Cornwall to convert local people to Christianity in the 700s. The holy well, a spring bubbling up from the ground in Trevornick Holiday Park, was possibly the site of Cubert's baptisms and an early gathering place before a chapel was later built. There are many descriptions of people travelling from miles around to receive the healing powers of Cubert's wells, particularly mothers who brought sick children hoping for a cure. The holy well at



Trevornick was restored in 1936 and is cared for by the Newquay Old Cornwall Society.

## PLAS AN TAVES

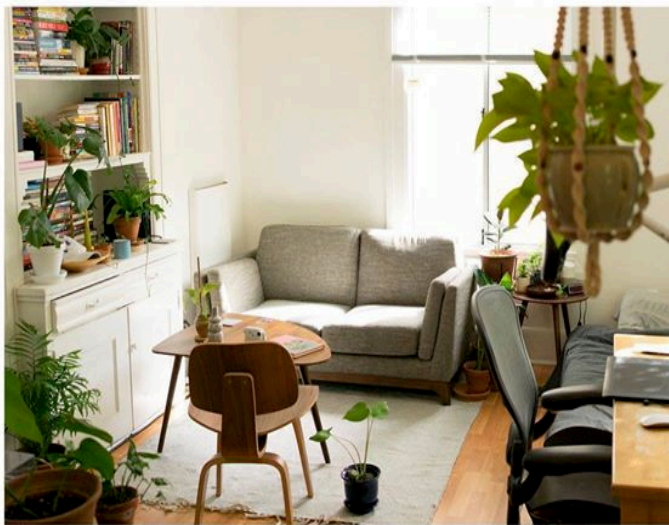
This is Plas an Tavas = Language Place - Introducing you to some daily Kernewek, the ancient Celtic language of Cornwall today, to practice.

**Pronunciation?** Cornish is mainly phonetic  
More: <https://www.cornwall.gov.uk/leisure-and-culture/the-cornish-language/cornish-language/>

In this issue you will learn:

### LE • POSITION / PLACE

Yth esov vy I am	Yth esos ta You are	Yth eson ni We are	Yth esowgh hwi You lot are	Ymons i They are
subjects				
Yma There is/are	ev he / it (with masculine subjects)	hi she / it (with (f) feminine subjects)	Simon (a name)	
lyver a book	lyvrow books	plans a plant	moos (f) a table	kador (f) a chair



<b>yn</b> in	<b>a-dryv</b> behind	<b>a-rag</b> in front of	<b>ryb</b> beside	<b>yn-dann</b> under	<b>war</b> on top of	<b>a-dal</b> opposite
<b>an esedhva (f)</b> the lounge	<b>an fenester (f)</b> the window	<b>an voos (f)</b> the table	<b>an strel</b> the rug	<b>an estyllen (f)</b> the shelf		

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<b>Yma</b> There is	<b>hi</b> (the it chair)	<b>ryb</b> beside	<b>an voos</b> the table	<b>Yth esov vy</b> I am	<b>*y'n esedhva</b> in the lounge	<b>*yn + an</b> = y'n
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<b>Yma</b> There are	<b>lyvrow</b> books	<b>war</b> on	<b>an estyllen</b> the shelf	<b>Yma</b> There is	<b>plans</b> a plant	<b>a-rag</b> in front of	<b>an fenester</b> the window
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kernewek • english

## Silly Sayings - Church notices

*"The ladies of the Church have cast off clothing of every kind. They may be seen in the basement on Friday afternoon."*



### CANSW Public & Members Web Pages:

Please have a look through all the pages on our web site; especially the NSW 'Sites' pages developed by our own (late) Dr John Symonds. Tell your friends! Suggested updates or new content are welcome.

[www.celticcouncil.org.au/cornish/nsw.htm](http://www.celticcouncil.org.au/cornish/nsw.htm)

**Dates coming up ...** St Budock Feast 8<sup>th</sup> December, Yuletide, St Day's Feast 18<sup>th</sup> January, St Euny Feast 1<sup>st</sup> February



**Editorial note:** The content of this newsletter does not necessarily reflect official views of the CANSW, but rather contributors and sources! If someone is sick let me know (get-well message), or other news please!

*The next Newsletter: No 383 for January / February, 2020 has a copy deadline by 16 January, 2020.*

Contributions may be held for future use but more (electronic – emailed preferred) are welcome!

### Nr. 382 LYTHER NOWODHOW - NSW

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