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## Newsletter of the Cornish Association of New South Wales

### **HOPED FOR PROGRAM 2021**

Once the Committee is able to meet, we will decide on our own events!

### **FESTIVALS PLANNED**

## **28<sup>th</sup> Australian Celtic Festival**

**Glen Innes, NSW**

**– The Year of Ireland and the Isle of Man**



**NOW Friday  
April 30th –  
Sunday 2nd  
May, 2021**

Some Cornish will be there!

For more information on program of events and accommodation, and booking keep looking at:

<http://www.australiancelticfestival.com/>

Note: The Year of Brittany, Cornwall, and Wales will now be held in 2022.

## **Kernewek Lowender**

**Australia's Little Cornwall, South  
Australia:**

**Tuesday 17 - Sunday 23 May, 2021**



This will be the 25<sup>th</sup> Kernewek Lowender, and at it the 35<sup>th</sup> Assembly of the Bards of Cornwall in Australia is also expected to be held. Let Joy know if you may go. News on planning progress will be in next newsletter!

Program not yet available. Later on for bookings and more details, check:

<http://www.kernewek.org/>

**Committee News:** The Committee has not yet been able to meet physically. We will look at options for a later electronic meeting if needed.

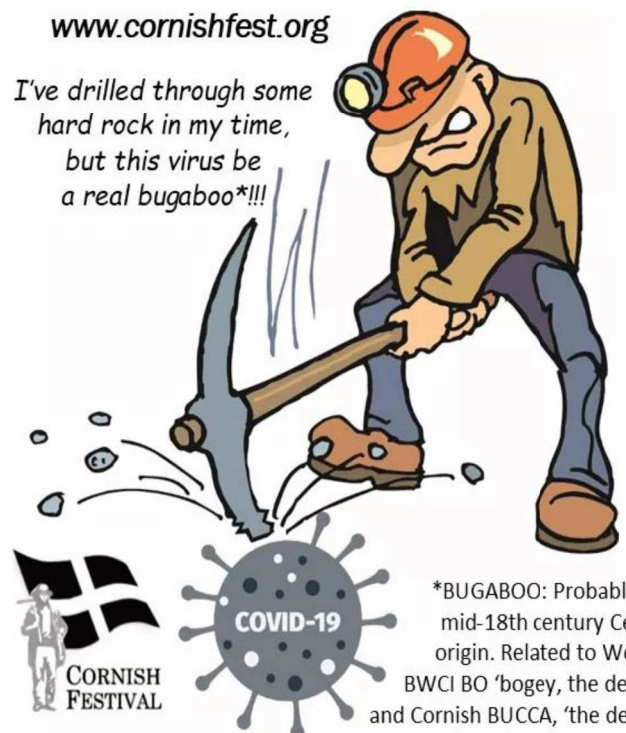
It is still expected that our 2021 AGM will be on Sat 6 March, in Sydney – place and time to be confirmed.

Bank account balance at 30/8/2020: **\$7,486.57**  
[Purchase in September of Box of Labels \$38.48]

“Thanks Del for doing some ringing around. Glad to hear people are doing OK generally. I was invited to a Zoom meeting with some Victorian Assoc. members, and it was nice to catch up again. Stay safe, stay well, and enjoy life!” *Joy Dunkerley, President*

[www.cornishfest.org](http://www.cornishfest.org)

*I've drilled through some  
hard rock in my time,  
but this virus be  
a real bugaboo\*!!!*



\*BUGABOO: Probably of mid-18th century Celtic origin. Related to Welsh BWCI BO 'bogy, the devil,' and Cornish BUCCA, 'the devil.'

*From our North American cousins*

## MEMBERS MILESTONES

**Our best wishes** to a number of members who have had reported non virus health problems, or have been having ongoing medical procedures.

**Congratulations** to all those with birthdays during September and October.

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

## QUOTE

*"Miners in Cornwall never appeared to be so deficient in education as in most other counties"* (sic). Mr Taylor, manager of the Consolidated Mines, Parliamentary papers, 1835

## SOME CORNISH SURNAMES – a series

**Trerise / Trerice** – From Cornish *tre-res*, homestead by the ford. Placename Trerice, St. Dennis; St. Allen, Crowan, St. Breock, Ruan Major. Found in west Cornwall. [Trerice Manor, an Elizabethan manor house near Newquay]

**Tresawne / Trezona** – Possibly from *tre-saunyow*, homestead by the clefts in the cliff. Placename Tresawna, St. Enoder, (spelt Tresagnou, 1290).

**Trescothick / Trescowthick** – From *tre-scawek*, homestead of the elder grove. Placename Trescowthick, Newlyn East. Found in mid to mid east Cornwall.

**Treseder / Tresidder** – From *tre-Seder*, Seder's homestead (personal name). Placename Tresidder, Constantine and St. Buryan (spelt Treseder, 1327).

**Trezise / Tresise** – From *tre-Saws*, Homestead of the Saxon. Placename Trezise, St. Martion in Meneage; Tresays, Roche. Found in west Cornwall.

**Trestain** – From *tre-sten*, homestead at the tin place. Placename Trestain, Ruanlanihorne.

**Trestrail** – From *tre-strayl*, homestead of the mat maker. Placename Trestrail, Probus (spelt Trestrael, 1278)

**Threthake** – From *tre-thaoc*, Daoc's homestead (personal name). Placename Threthake, St. Cleer and Lanteglos by Fowey; Tretheake, Veryan; Tredegue, Gwennap.

**Trethewey** – From *tre-thewi*, homestead of David (ie. Dewi). Placename in many parishes. Spelt Tredewi in 13<sup>th</sup> c.

**Trethowan** – From *tre-thewin*, homestead of Dewin (personal name). Placename Trethowan, Constantine (spelt Trevewen, 1295). Found in mid west Cornwall.

**Trevail / Treveal** – From *tre-vael*, homestead of Mael. Placename Treveal, Zennor; Ladock, Cubert.

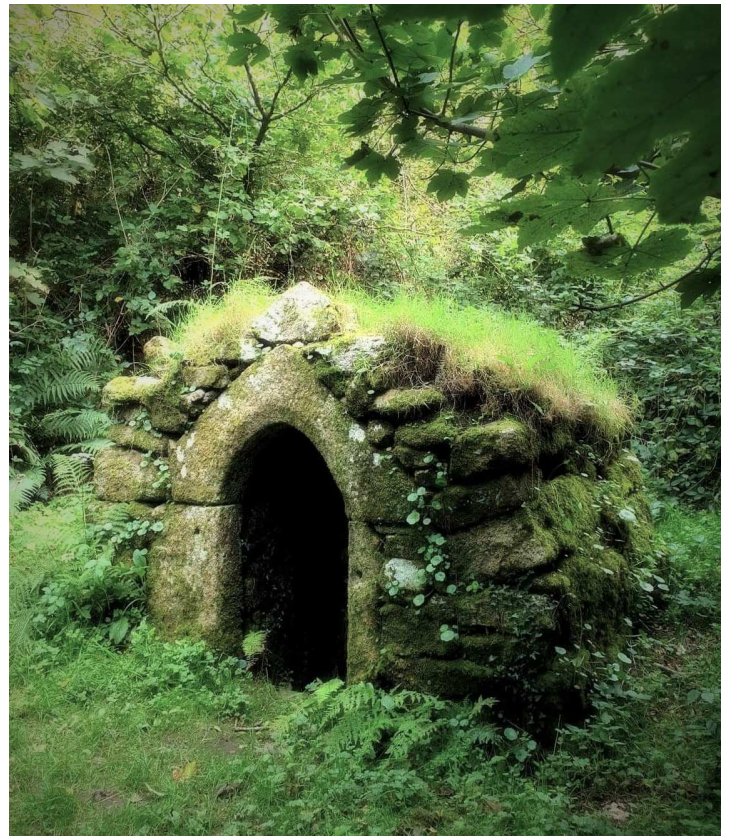
**Trevain / Trevains** – Possible from *tre-vyghan*, little homestead.

*\* Note the mutation (softening) of some personal names in the possessive (eg. M → .V, D → Th)*

To be continued [A reminder that these names come from 'A handbook of Cornish Surnames', by George Pawley White, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. 1981.]

## HOLY WELL

### Chapel Farm Holy Well, St. Breward



The Holy Well at Chapel Farm, St. Breward, on the Camel Estuary, has an A Grade II Listed



Building. Dedicated to St James, it is Late medieval, made of. Granite rubble with dressed granite. Wellhouse almost square-on-plan and built over a field spring. Granite rubble walls and corbelled roof, now partly gone. 2-centred arch in front, the head of one piece of granite with slightly chamfered granite jambs. In close proximity to a now gone Chapel of St James which stood to the west. The chapel was first mentioned in 1422. It lies in the valley below St. Breward, near the hamlet of Chapel. Quiller Couch when visiting in 1881 noted that mine workings had drained off the water source, and today it is dry. St Breward's well was said to hold magical healing powers and offer up a cure for *"all aylements of the eyees and aforde respite from temporary blindness."* There is another ancient holy well in the area.

## NOTABLE CORNISH

**Anna Maria Fox** – Quaker, promoter of the Royal Cornwall Polytechnic Society and the artistic and cultural development of Falmouth, philanthropist.

Anna Maria Fox was born on 21st February 1816 the eldest child of Robert Were Fox FRS and Maria Barclay, his wife. Her father was a member of the Quaker Fox family of Falmouth and maternal grandmother was a first cousin of Elizabeth Fry. The family lived at Rosehill and Penjerrick. Anna never married. With her sister, Caroline, she raised the four sons of her brother, Barclay, after the death of their parents. Anna outlived her sister by sixteen years.

For several years between 1820 and 1860, the iron foundry of Perran was partly owned by members of the Fox family and the workmen of the foundry frequently, brought models of machines and other inventions to Anna's father for his advice and opinion.

Anna recorded, 'What an advantage it would be to those men if there could be some fitting arena provided for all this inventive talent: if the really useful inventions could be at once recognised and rewarded, and if those clever men who are only wasting their time by trying to do something which has already been done,

and has proved useless, could by conference with more experienced mechanics be saved from thus squandering their energies!'



The idea for the foundation of the Royal Cornwall Polytechnic Society was created by Anna, Barclay and Caroline Fox, in 1832, when they were just 17, 16 and 13, respectively. Their parents, uncles and aunts and their friends took up the idea with enthusiasm.

This was the kind of scheme which appealed to the mind of Anna Maria Fox, then a girl of only 17 years of age, and which was warmly approved by her father. It must be remembered that many of Anna's Cornish neighbours also saw the merits of her suggestion. The names of Lord de Dunstanville, Sir Charles Lemon Bart., M.P., Mr. Davies Gilbert, P.R.S., Mr. John S. Enys, as well as those of Miss Fox's uncles, Mr. George Croker Fox and Mr. Charles Fox were added to the growing list of those supporting the idea.

So was founded 'The Polytechnic of Cornwall'. In 1896, Anna Maria Fox was elected as Vice-Patroness of the Poly, sharing this role with Albert Edward, Duke of Cornwall. Prince of Wales and son of Queen Victoria.

The Poly in Church Street, Falmouth hit serious financial problems in January 2010 and closed

its commercial arm. Anna's keen interest in the results of modern scientific investigation and her alertness in grasping the leading features of recent discoveries continued.

Other aspects of Miss Fox's active life, included the establishment of a local British School, The Royal Cornwall Sailors' Home, The Falmouth Coffee Tavern on the Quay; The Convalescent Home at Penjerrick Garden and many similar undertakings. She had a desire to benefit her fellow men and women and especially to help those who were less fortunate than herself. All her works were as a result of a deep and strong religious faith.

She died at Penjerrick near Falmouth, after a very short illness, on 18th November 1897, aged 82 years, leaving behind her a name which will long be loved and venerated in Cornwall, and especially by the Royal Cornwall Polytechnic Society.

## FEATURE STORIES

### WHEAL OWLES

Tin mining on the Wheal Owles sett, at Botallack, near St Just on the Penwith peninsula has a long history with records dating back into the 15<sup>th</sup> century.



Wheal Owles Enginehouse, September 2019

By 1893 the Wheal Owles mine was working a vastly extended group of setts running from the Atlantic cliffs as far inland as Tregeseal. The amalgamated properties included a number of abandoned mines, multiple ore processing

sites, shafts and many miles of levels both under the land and under the sea. By the 1890s all mining activity was concentrated at the western or seaward end of the property where the old Cargodna section had been restarted in 1884 when the Wheal Drea section was abandoned. At this time the mine had about 100 underground workers.

### The Disaster

On 10<sup>th</sup> January 1893 about 40 men and boys were underground, having descended the Cargodna Shaft which lies part way down the cliff below the Wheal Edward engine house. A cross-cut was being driven at 65 fathoms, at 8.45am charges were fired and a huge volume of water poured into the level, sweeping all before it and then passing down into the deeper levels. The miners on the 65 fathom level were all killed while men in other locations faced a desperate race against time to get up the ladders faster than the rising water.



In all 19 men and 1 boy were killed. Their names are inscribed on a stone by the West Wheal Owles pumping engine house.

They were killed because the mine plans were inaccurate and showed 19 fathoms (34m) of ground between the blasting position and the abandoned and flooded levels of Wheal Drea.

The plans indicated two distinct lodes, Cargodna and Drea, with solid ground between them but in fact the two lodes had run together to become one but the coming together of the lodes had not been picked up by the surveyor because he had not made allowance over many years for the variation in magnetic north.



Wheal Owles was essentially the private mine of the Boyns family who had supplied pursers, officials and services such as haulage and surveying to the mine ever since the reopening in 1834. In 60 years the mine had had but two pursers, John Boyns and his son Richard, who by 1891 was being helped in his office by his John Herbert.

The surveyor who failed to make allowance for magnetic variations was Richard Boyns, by now a sick old man who was devastated by what had happened. Richard Boyns had learnt his trade on the job, he had been manager and purser since 1855 and his education had largely taken place in the days before any form of inspection regime or proper training. It emerged that he was not aware that allowance had to be made for magnetic variation.

The Wheal Owles disaster clearly shows the importance of proper regulation, regular inspection and effective training in the safe conduct of inherently dangerous businesses. Richard Boyns' failure as a surveyor was a direct consequence of the failure of the regulatory regime and the twenty men who died were the victims of this failures, they were failed by the inspectorate as much as they were by Richard Boyns.

Source: Penwith Local History group  
<http://www.penwithlocalhistorygroup.co.uk/on-this-day/>

From TROVE: A shocking and heartbreaking tale, in the words of the time, which reminds us of the dangerous work of the old Cornish miners:

*FROM the Cornish Telegraph newspaper of January 12, 1893 we extract as follows relative to the disaster at the Wheal Owles mine, intimation of which was at the time given by cablegram:- "Wheal Owles, one of the four mines in the parish, of St. Just which are now at work, was yesterday the scene of the most terrible calamity in the annals of Cornish mining. The men had gone down to their work as usual yesterday morning, and nothing was noticed to excite the least apprehension. About 9 o'clock, without the least warning, the workings were overwhelmed by a sudden inrush of water, which came from the part of the mine known as Wheal Drea, in which active operations have long been, suspended. The men who were at work in the 45, 55, and 75 fathom*

*levels heard a sound which they compare to that produced by an earthquake shock, and for the moment supposed that it was caused by some of the ordinary mining operations.*

*They were terribly undeceived, for the terrific nature of the catastrophe which had occurred at once became apparent. A wild rush for the ladders followed, and eight of the men employed in the 45 level, and some of those who were working in the 55, managed to escape to the surface before the rapidly rising waters could overtake them, the shrieks which sounded in the ears of the escaping men as they ascended, telling only too surely of the terrible fate which had overtaken their less fortunate comrades.*

*Two "fillers" named William Charles Grenfell and Richard Blewett, who were working in the shaft at the 75 fathom level when the roar of the escaping waters burst upon their ears, also managed to escape with their lives. Men got away from the 45 fathom level. One somewhat more short winded than his comrades, he fell behind, and was found by Captain Tregear—who, as will presently be seen, had himself a providential escape—at the adit level, exhausted, out of breath, and without a light, having dropped his candle as he scrambled up the shaft. He was supplied with a light, and speedily found his way to the surface and safety.*



*When the survivors had recovered from the first terrible shock of the fearful catastrophe of which they had so nearly become the victims, steps were taken to ascertain the extent of the disaster, and whether there was any possibility of saving the lives of the unfortunates below. It was speedily found that the mine was full of water nearly up to the 30-fathom level, and it became only too certain that all who had not escaped in the first rush had found their death in the black depths of the flooded mine. Candles were lowered to the surface of the water, and Captain Tregear, with Newton, the pitman, went down a little way below the 30 level, but they neither heard nor saw the least sign of any living thing in the mine. After thus mournfully*

confirming their most gloomy forebodings, they returned to the surface. Mr. Herbert Boyns, who has acted as purser during the long indisposition of his father, Captain Richard Boyns, quickly arrived at the scene of the catastrophe, and conferred with Captains Tregear and Leggoe, the underground agents, as to the best measures to be taken under the distressing circumstances. His brother, Mr. Ernest Boyns, was also amongst the earliest comers.

News of the dreadful occurrence soon spread throughout the district, and many of the inhabitants of the church town and other parts of the parish, with anxiety depicted on their faces hurried to the account house to make inquiries. They learned that the rumors of a great disaster were only too true, and the greatest sympathy was expressed with the widows and orphans and other relatives of the poor fellows who have perished by so awful and so sudden a death. The sad intelligence was conveyed during the day to the purser who has stuck to the mine so gallantly in the days of its adversity and prosperity alike, and Captain Boyns was naturally greatly shocked and grieved at the news.

Inquiries from a great distance were not wanting. Mr. Mason, a well-known member of the staff of Chynadour, was despatched by the Messrs. Bolitho to make inquiries on the spot as soon as the news of the calamity reached Penzance, and Major Ross, CC, who, with his agent, Mr. George E. Jenkin, had been paying a visit to his property at Kelynack, called at the account-house and personally assured Mr. Herbert Boyns and Captain Tregear of his sympathy with the bereaved relatives of the drowned miners, and his intention of doing all that lay in his power to alleviate the distress which must be occasioned by the removal of so many bread-winners.

The Rev. W. Henderson, superintendent of the St. Just Wesleyan circuit, and his colleague, the Rev. E. Clapham, were early visitors, as was the vicar of the parish, the Rev. J. A. Reeve. The inhabitants of St. Just seem almost paralysed by the catastrophe which has so tragically broken upon the even tenor of their lives, and to which no parallel can be found in the history of the parish or the Duchy.

There is no prospect whatever of the bodies being recovered at present. There are about 100 fathoms of water in the mine, and the present appliances are quite unequal to the task of dealing with it. It will be impossible to fork Wheal Owles without the expenditure of a large sum of money, and though it would be premature at present to speculate as to the course which will be decided upon, the

probabilities would seem to be rather against the resumption of operations.

The mine which has been the scene of this tragic occurrence has been worked continuously since 1834. It was at one time in 2000 shares, but the number has been reduced by relinquishments to 1575. The shareholders are 19 in number, those who have the largest interest being the Messrs. Bolitho, Mr. Weston, of London, and the Purser. The mine has paid dividends regularly since 1889, the last, which was declared 14 weeks ago, having been at the rate of 5s. a share. The lords are Lord St. Levan, Viscount Falmouth, and Misses Borlase, the representatives of the late Mr. George Scoble, and the representatives of the late Mr. G. Chenhalls.

The following is a complete list of the men who perished in the inundation :—John Taylor, married, and had a family ; James Edwards, married, five children ; James Williams, single; Edward White, married, four children; Thomas Ellis, married, two children ; John Grose, widower ; and William Grose, father and son; William Eddy, single; Charles Thomas, married, four children; William John Thomas, single; Richard Williams, married, no children ; William Roberts, single. (This man was the sole support of his grandmother, by whom he had been brought up.) James Rowe, single; Louis Wilkins Blewett, single ; Mark Taylor, single ; Peter Dale, single ; John Olds, married, three children; Thomas Allen, single; James Thomas, single".

## NEWS

### GORSEDDH

The 2020 Cornish Open Gorsedd ceremony could not go ahead under Covid-19 restrictions.

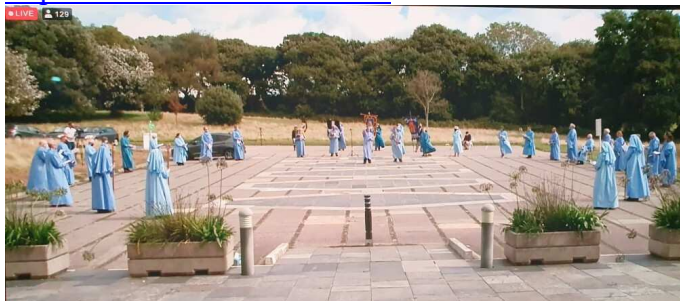


So, instead of being held at Bude-Stratton on Saturday 5 September, it was held closed in the grounds of Lys Kernow (Cornwall Council in Truro), restricted in attendees plus a few



officials. For the first time (hopefully not the last) it was live streamed to the world, with viewers here in Australia. A recorded version has now been viewed by several thousand people. All wore masks, and kept to distancing requirement where possible. 20 new Bards were inducted, including Matt Curnow (by proxy) from Australia.

<https://vimeo.com/454332175>



### CRYING THE NECK

Traditional crying the neck ceremonies were still held across Cornwall, to mark the end of Harvest, as below.



For more information:

[http://newquayoldcornwall.org.uk/articles/crying\\_the\\_neck.php](http://newquayoldcornwall.org.uk/articles/crying_the_neck.php)

### CORNISH NATIONAL TARTAN ITEMS

Our member NIGEL GREGORY has new items ordered for the 2021 Kernewek Lowender. These are specially made, not normally stock items with Scottish Mills. The first batch (limited quantities) are available now, for delivery to you.

Please email [nigelgregory1@dodo.com.au](mailto:nigelgregory1@dodo.com.au) or phone/text 0424 105 724 with a firm commitment to purchase and the items/quantities you require, for delivery from receipt of payment. [Don't forget to include your postal address].

See photo



\* **SCARF** - lambswool 152 x 30 cm \$50 (bottom right)

\* **TAM'O'SHANTER** - fine wool, one size fits all \$50 (Top)

\* **GOLF CAP** - fine wool, one size fits all \$75 (Top left)

\* **TIE** - "Reiver" pure wool \$40 (bottom left)

Each order will also receive a FREE, quality polyester 90 x 60 cm, Cornish flag. Postage and packing for all orders is \$8.60.

### FROM OUR MEMBERS

John Coombes was kind to send in this photo, provided by her family, of our wonderful member Betty Bevins who of course turned 96 this year.



By request of Del Clinton, enjoying their 40<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on 23 August at Dorrigo, were



Joy & Chris Dunkerley



## AGAN KERNOW PROJECT

This project was explained in Newsletter No. 385 - May / June, 2020. They have written again to say it is extended, and they would love more from NSW. These stories should not be lost; they should be written down on behalf of the Cornish 'Cousin Jack's and Jenny's' who literally helped forge our nations. They don't have to be long stories; a page or two will suffice. If you wish to be involved Ken's email address is: [pkicons29@bigpond.com](mailto:pkicons29@bigpond.com)

## 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.*

### ENEVALES • ANIMALS



**Davas (f)**  
Sheep



**Bugh (f)**  
Cow



**Hogh**  
Pig



**Yar (f)**  
Chicken



**Margh**  
Horse



**Gaver (f)**  
Goat



**Kulyek**  
Cockerel



**Goodh (f)**  
Goose



**Kath (f)**  
Cat



**Ki**  
Dog



**Konin**  
Rabbit



**Hamster**  
Hamster



**Peswarpaw**  
Newt



**Pedrevan (f)**  
Lizard



**Kolyn**  
Puppy



**Kathik**  
Kitten

kernewek • english

**Pronunciation?** Cornish is mainly phonetic!

More: <https://www.cornwall.gov.uk/leisure-and-culture/the-cornish-language/cornish-language/>

In this issue you learnt about: **Enevailes**

**Silly Sayings** - Unintended Church notices

*"The eighth-graders will be presenting Shakespeare's Hamlet in the Church basement on Friday at 7 PM .. The congregation is invited to attend this tragedy".*



**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 ...** Feast days of St. Keyne 8 Oct, St. Winnoc 6<sup>th</sup> Nov; Allantide (end Oct) aka Halloween, Kalan Gwav (Celtic New Year)

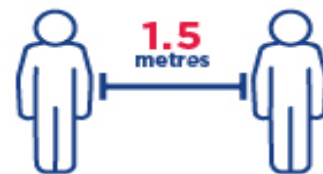
**Editorial note:** The content of this newsletter does not necessarily reflect official views of the CANSW, but rather contributors and sources! If someone is sick let me know (get-well message), or other news please!

*The next Newsletter: No 388* for the months of November / December, 2020 has a copy deadline, by 16 November, 2020.

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



**Practise good hygiene**



**Practise physical distancing**

**Nr. 387 LYTHER NOWODHOW – NSW**

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