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

PROGRAM

**LATE JANUARY – MEMBERS
ZOOM MEETING**

(Look for date and detail in an 'Email News')

SYDNEY BASED EVENTS

*Sadly we are not able to hold the pasty meetup in
December (mentioned in recent Email News) as
the pasty shop is closing.*

Annual General Meeting

Ryde Eastwood Leagues Club, West Ryde

**Beforehand - Informal lunch
in club bistro first - at 12 Noon**

The menu can be reviewed here:

<https://www.releagues.com.au/37>

A.G.M.

1.30pm Saturday 6th March, 2020

Reports, Election of Officers and Committee, any
AGM business. Followed by Open Forum meeting.

Please arrive promptly so we can get the meeting
underway, and maximize later time to chat and enjoy
some activities together!



NB: Proposals
for
consideration
must be with

the Committee by one month prior ie. 5 February.

Get Together 2:30 - 4pm

In planning: eg. Talk or Quiz, music, sales table, time
for chat, renewal of memberships etc.

RIVERBOAT POSTMAN

from Brooklyn, Hawkesbury River
Planning for September, 2021

FESTIVALS PLANNED 2021

**28th 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^h Kernewek Lowender, and at
it the 35rd Assembly of the Bards of Cornwall in
Australia is also expected be held.

Let Joy know if you may go. News on program
will be in next newsletter!

For more details, check:

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

Committee News:

Members of the Committee met via Zoom online on 25 October. As we continue to be very wary of COVID-19, we noted that NSW, Sydney in particular, is being a little more normal. We looked at how we could 'catch' up a bit, meeting as an Association but still in a safe way.

It was decided to offer a range of options for you as we end 2020 – Zoom meeting on 15 November, Lunch meeting on 21 November, and pasty meetup on 9 December (now cancelled).

It was also decided to book for our AGM, on 6th March, 2021 - this has been done – see page 1.

"I was only be able to make the Zoom meeting but I hope some members will be able to meet, and catch up. Thanks Del for doing some more ringing around, and hosting lunch." Joy Dunkerley, President

Bank account balance at 31/10/2020: **\$7,443.79**

MEMBERS MILESTONES

VALE **Maxine Gray's** daughter Sandra has let us know that Maxine passed away on Remembrance Day (11/11/2020) aged 84.

Sandra wrote: "members are welcome to contact me directly on 0409 269 309 or sandra_toland@hotmail.com.

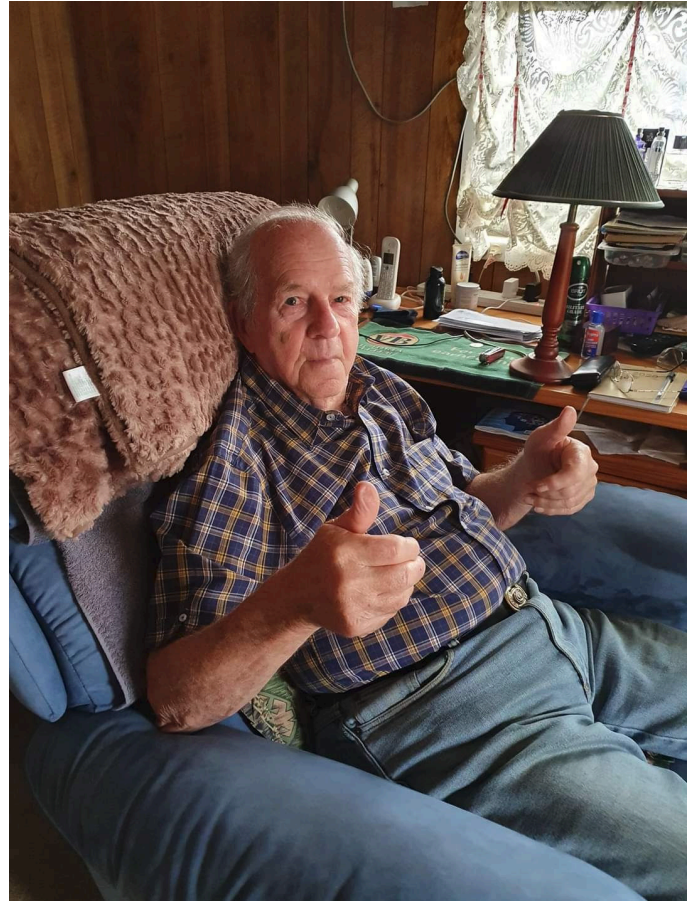
We will be holding a memorial for her at the end of January, covid permitting, and will be streaming the service for those that would like to attend on line."

Maxine was a member for over 30 years, contributing greatly to family history workshops, Cornish Day's, on committee, and meetings generally. She was awarded a Celtic Council Honour, D.Ua (Duine Uasal - Irish for 'Honoured Person / (Celtic) Gentleman or woman', for services to the Association. A good friend, and a mine of knowledge. She will be missed by many.

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 November and December. Catching up

with news of **Frank Beard** turning 90 on 30th October



Doreen Davis turning 70 on 1st November, and **Ruth Cocks** birthday on 14th November.

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

QUOTE

"Desperate wrestling matches, inhuman cock fights, pitched battles, and riotous revellings, are now happily of much less occurrence than heretofore." C.S.Gilbert, An Historical Survey of the County of Cornwall, 1817

SOME CORNISH SURNAMES – a series

Trevan – Possibly from *tal-ban*, high hillside. Placename Trevan, Probus was spelt Talfan in 1361.

Trevanion – From *trev-Enyon*, homestead of Enyon. Placenames Trevanion, St. Breock & St. Mewan (spelt Trevenyon in 1326) [Past Grand Bard Denis Trevanion]

Trevartha – From *tre-Affa*, Affa's homestead. Placename Trevartha, Menhenniot (Trevaffa in 1345).

Trevarthen / Trevarton / Treverton – from *trev-Arthien*, Arthien's homestead. Placenames Trevartian, St Hilary and Newlyn East; Trevathen, St. Kew (Trevarthean in 1237)

Trevaskis – From *tre-(M)valscuet*, Maelscuet's homestead. Placename Trevaskus, Gwinear; Trevascus, Gorran – both with old spellings Trevalscosys. Found in west Cornwall.

Trevean – From *tre-vyghan*, little homestead.

Trevellick – Possibly from *trev-Elec*, Elec's homestead

Trevelyan / Trevillion – From *tre-(M)vilian*, Milian's homestead. Placenames Trevelyan, St. Veep; Trelean, St Erth and St Teeth (with early spellings Trevelyan). Found in far west Cornwall.

Trevena / Trevenna – From *tre-(m)veneth*, homestead on the hill, or, *tre-(m)vun*, homestead with minerals. Placenames Trevenna, Breage (Trevuns, 1436), Trevena, Tintagel (Trewarvene, 1259). Found in mid west Cornwall.

Trevenen – From *tre-(m)veyn-wyn*, homestead of white stones, or, *tre-venen*, homestead of the woman. Placenames Trevennen, Wendron (Trevenwyn, 1301); and Gorran (Trevenyen, 1393). Found in far west Cornwall. [Past Grand Bard Ann Trevenen Jenkin]

Trevethan – From *tre-(b)vuthyn*, homestead in a meadow. Placename Trevethan, St Eval, Budock, and Gwennap.

Trevithick / Trevethick – From *tre-(B)vudic*, Budic's homestead. Placename Trevithick, St Columb Major, St Columb Minor, Prerranzabuloe, St. Ewe and St Teath. Found in west Cornwall.

[Famous Cornishman Richard Trevithick (1771 – 1833) is credited with inventing the first high-pressure steam engine and the first operational steam locomotive at the turn of the 19th century.]

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

HOLY WELL

St. Cyr's Well, Luxulyan



Not all holy well's are found now in fields or woods. This is situated in a small cobble courtyard to the east of the parish church at Luxulyan. St Cyr's Well (aka St. Cyor's, St. Syor's, Cyric) survives as a small granite building over a well basin, next to the old church building, and surrounded by a cobble paving (since 1980). Cyric was an infant martyr along with his mother Julitta. (popular saints across western Christendom in the middle ages).

St Cyr's well house is believed to date from the 15th century. Writer Quiller-Couch visited this well in the mid-19th century and recorded that it was in good condition and had a constant supply of water. In 1873-4 the stream which supplied the well was diverted when a cutting was made for a mineral tramway. By the later 19th century the well was dry and falling into a ruinous state. In 1891 it had been carefully restored but there was a tank in the interior and a tap, water being piped to the well from the vicarage. By 1925 the well was again falling into decay. In 1980 the well house was re-pointed. The name of Luxulyan is from Loc Suilen (Julian).

Notable Cornish / people of Cornwall

William Grylls Adams FRS Physicist, first demonstrated that electricity could be produced from light without moving parts and led to the modern solar cell.

William Grylls Adams FRS was born on 18th February 1836 in Laneast, Cornwall.

He was the youngest son of the seven children, four sons and three daughters, of Thomas Adams and Tabitha Knill Grylls. The astronomer John Couch Adams (1819–1892) was his older brother. William became professor of Natural Philosophy at King's College, London.



He was active in research on subjects ranging from light, magnetism, and astronomy to electrical power generation and transmission. His research in optics yielded the discovery that certain materials, notably selenium, produce an electric current when exposed to light. Adams also actively participated in many academic societies and held major positions within the societies.

Adams attended St. John's College, Cambridge and graduated as 11th Wrangler in 1855. He subsequently held positions at several other institutions, including vice-principal of Peterborough Training College in 1859 and mathematics master at Marlborough College in 1860. In 1863 Adams moved to King's College, London where he worked under James Clerk Maxwell as a natural philosophy lecturer. He undertook a teaching post at Highgate School in 1864.

Adams was a pioneer in the development of science education, in particular manufacturing and engineering. He focused on practical application of conceptual physics material to engineering practices. This model worked well enough that the rest of the department adopted the model. He also worked to increase funding through laboratory accommodations and the Whitworth scholarship scheme.

In 1839, Alexandre Edmond Becquerel (1820–1891) had discovered that illumination of one of two metal plates in a dilute acid changed the electromotive force (EMF). Adams, however, had a wide area of interest, chief among these was light and magnetism. Light was the focus of Adams' research, which began in 1871, in which he studied the effects of polarization. In order to study the effects of polarization on various substances like selenium and tellurium, Adams developed a new variant of the polariscope. In doing this, he was able to research the optical axes of biaxial crystals.

In 1876, Adams and Richard Evans Day discovered that illuminating a junction between selenium and platinum has a photovoltaic effect. This first demonstrated that electricity could be produced from light without moving parts and led to the modern solar cell. The two also found that the ultra-red or the ultra-violet rays have little or no effect; also that the intensity of the action depends on the illuminating power of the light, being directly as the square root of that illuminating power.

Although his focus was light, magnetism was also heavy in his research. In this area, his focus was the resistance change in materials due to magnetism. Adams also compared readings of magnetographs from the observatories of various European cities and compared the "disturbances that were produced simultaneously at a number of locations." Adams was able to collect and analyse the data to make recommendations on how to calibrate the machinery with specific constants.

The field of astronomy also drew Adams' attention and eventually lead him to Italy to study eclipses.

He also ventured into areas such as electrical power generation and transmission, specifically lighthouse illumination. In this area, he compared varying aspects electric and oil lights for Trinity House. Adams was on the forefront of this field, and even gave a presidential address outlining the efficiency of dynamos used at the Crystal Palace in 1882.

Outside of his main position at King's College Adams was extremely active in academic pursuits. Among these were the Department of

Science and Art and the universities of Cambridge and London, where he held the title of “examiner” in the field of physics from 1879 to 1892. From 1878 to 1880 he was President of the Physical Society of London. In June 1872 he was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society and in 1875 delivered their Bakerian Lecture. He was president of the Institution of Electrical Engineers and of the mathematical and physical section of the British Association. Adams was also a frequent attendee to the lectures of John Tyndall at the Royal Institution.

One of his duties for the Royal Society was being a member of the Kew observatory committee. Adams was also active at the Royal Observatory, Greenwich as a member of the board of visitors. In 1905 Adams retired from King’s College, London, he went to live at Heathfield in Broadstone, Dorset. He died on 10th April 1915 and was survived by his wife, Mary Dingle, and three children.

FEATURE STORIES

Chun Castle and Chun Quoit

Chun Castle is a Celtic Cornish Iron Age hillfort on the summit of Chun Downs, commanding extensive views north and north-west to the Atlantic Coast and south towards Mounts Bay.

Pottery evidence from excavations carried out in the late 1920s and early 1930s suggests that the main period of occupation extended from the 3rd century BC until the early 1st century AD, with a possible re-occupation in the 5th or 6th centuries AD.



It is signposted from the road linking Madron with the B3306 (the B3312 from Madron). There is a small car park at the end of the lane/farm track. The monument lies in open access land criss-crossed by several public footpaths. The site is free to visit, and is open any reasonable time in daylight hours.



It is roughly circular in plan with two impressive stone walls, each with an external ditch. Within the interior are the remains of several stone walled round houses, heavily disturbed by later activity. One of these is oval in shape and may be connected with the later phase of re-occupation of the site in the post-Roman period. Traces of stony banks may be the remains of later animal pounds. The only entrance to the site is a stone-lined passage through the larger inner rampart on the west side with an offset opening through outer rampart, suggesting a defensive function, which is reinforced by a short length of bank outside of the opening through the outer rampart providing defence in depth.

A furnace was discovered during the excavations on the northern edge of the hillfort

which contained traces of tin and iron slag, indicating that mineral processing was carried out on site in the Iron Age. Apart from pottery and stone artifacts, evidence for the character of the occupation were scant however, the acid soils having eaten away all traces of organic materials such as wood, leather, bone, basketwork and woven fabrics.

Originally the entrance through the outer rampart was set in line with the inner one and the entranceway was aligned towards the Neolithic chamber tomb known as Chun Quoit, though three or four thousand years separates the builders of these two monuments. The modification to the entrance may have been part of the later re-occupation of the site. In addition to Chun Quoit, which is sited 250 metres west of the entrance, there are two other prominent barrows on Chun Downs, one sited to the north-west and another to the south-west.

Nearby to the east lies the Romano-British courtyard house village of Bosulow Trehylls which may be broadly contemporary with the hillfort, or may represent a shift in settlement patterns following the abandonment of hillforts such as Chun Castle during the 1st century AD.

Chun Castle occupies a central position within one of eight identifiable territories in West Penwith each of which is focussed on an imposing defended hilltop. It sits within a landscape with abundant evidence for occupation, agriculture and mineral exploitation spanning several millennia.

Very close to Chun Castle is the much older Chun Quoit.



‘Quoit’ is the Cornish name for a type of megalithic structure comprising a number of large stones set upright to support a massive horizontal capstone forming a small chamber.

Also known as cromlechs, the stone chambers thus formed were used for communal burials in the Neolithic period. No artifacts or human remains have been found at Chun Quoit, and finds generally from these kinds of monuments are almost unknown in Cornwall due to the acidity of the moorland soils. Comparison with similar monuments elsewhere suggest that they functioned as repositories for safeguarding ancestral remains. There is some evidence - from Neolithic tombs in Wessex for example - that bones were periodically removed and returned or re-arranged. The bones may have featured in ceremonies associated with an ancestor cult; communities at this time were becoming increasingly settled and stable and such rites are thought to represent the attempt to establish hereditary ‘ownership’ of a territory and to develop a communal or tribal identity.

It has been noted that many of the quoits are situated in locations with panoramic views often incorporating high hills, rivers or coastal features. This again is taken to reflect the desire to define or control a specific territory and to bring the community into a closer relationship with it by signposting landscape features which figured in communal histories or which enjoyed particular mythical associations. Chun Quoit is (perhaps significantly) situated between Chun Downs to the east and Carn Kenidjack to the west and the ocean is visible from the site to the north-west and south-west.

The continuing significance of the early ceremonial monuments over long periods of time is exemplified in the construction of the nearby Iron Age hillfort of Chun Castle, whose main entrance faces west and was directly aligned on the quoit. It is remarkable to recall that around four thousand years separates the builders of these two monuments – twice as long as the period by which we ourselves are separated in time from the people who constructed the hillfort.

Web site: Cornish Heritage Trust

Their "new" redesigned website also features a timeline so that you can learn about different eras of Cornwall's fascinating history. Take a look...

<https://www.cornwallheritagetrust.org/learn/cornwalls-history/>

RECENT EVENT

Following on from our use of the Zoom internet online conferencing program for a Committee meeting, we also held a "Dish o Tay and Chat" afternoon on Sunday 15th November. There were seven attendees plus several apologies. Here it is in progress:



A small start, but we hope to have a few more Zoom get togethers in future, so our far flung membership can catchup, and even short talks.

CORNISH CHRISTMAS / NADELEK KERNOW



Just a few Cornish Christmas traditions:

Mousehole's Star Gazey Pie - For Christmas dinner this year - why not brave this unique festive dish? Fish heads poking out a pie filled with eggs and potatoes. Sounds delicious, doesn't it? The dish is said to be traditionally eaten during the festival of Tom Bawcock's Eve on 23 December, to celebrate his heroic catch during a very stormy winter. According to the modern festival, which is combined with the Mousehole village illuminations, the entire catch was baked into a huge stargazy pie, encompassing seven types of fish and saving the village from starvation. The story of Bawcock was popularised more widely by a song, and later by Antonia Barber's children's book *The Mousehole Cat*, which featured the stargazy pie.

The Cornish Bush -



Like many other Cornish traditions, the Cornish Bush has its roots in Pagan celebrations for the winter solstice. The three-dimensional wreath represents new life and is made by weaving holly, mistletoe and ivy around a circle of withy (willow twigs).

The ring is traditionally hung indoors on December 20 and is topped with an apple. A candle in the middle welcomes in the God of Light.

Guise Dancing - Guising, mumming, masking – whatever you call it, it was popular across Britain for centuries. Cornwall's own flavour of guise-dancing featured players touring villages in masks and animal skins, led by a feisty 'Lord of Misrule'. Cornwall kept guising when much of Britain phased it out – perhaps because it was all about disguising yourself, in villages where you'd know everyone. It meant getting away with much mischief, or just some high jinks.

(hard to know if that is a real notice)

Montol - Another seasonal event that is unique to Cornwall, and revived annually in Penzance. Montol, the celebration of Cornish midwinter traditions and customs associated with Old Christmas bringing with it a host of new events: Fire performers, obby osses, guise beasts and musicians will be seen in the daytime, joined by Christmas carol singers, choirs, dancers, and a plethora of stall-holders.



P LAS 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 about: **Christmas**

WWW.ANRADYO.COM

USE SOME CORNISH THIS CHRISTMAS

NADELIK - CHRISTMAS

NADELIK LOWEN - HAPPY CHRISTMAS
(PRONOUNCE: NA-DELICK LOW-EN)

TAS NADELIK - FATHER CHRISTMAS
(PRONOUNCE: TAZ-NA-DELICK)

GWYDHEN NADELIK - CHRISTMAS TREE
(PRONOUNCE: GWITH-EN-NA-DELICK)

...HA BLEDHEN NOWYDH DA - ...AND GOOD NEW YEAR
(PRONOUNCE: HA BLEH-THEN-NO-ITH-DA)

Silly Sayings - Unintended Church notices

“Maundy Thursday service: The ladies of the altar guild will be stripping on the altar.”



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

Dates coming up ... Feast days of St Budoc 8th December; Madron & Sennen Feasts (Advent Sunday); Picrous Day - Second clear Thursday before Christmas; Chewidden Thursday - First clear Thursday before Christmas; Yuletide; St Day 18th January.

KWIZ GWAYVYA - QUICK QUIZ

A little quiz, to see how closely our Newsletter is read. All the answers are contained within this edition. See how you go – yes, you can re-read.

Q1. How do you say Merry (Happy) Christmas in Cornish?

Q2. What is the date of our next AGM?

Q3. What Celtic honour did Maxine Gray hold?

Q4. What does the surname, Trevean, mean in Cornish?

Q5. Where was William Grylls Adams born?

Q6. What is Chun Castle?

Q7. What is called a Quoit, in Cornwall.

Q8. Where does the water in St Cyr's well in Luxulyan, now come from?

Q9. When is Picrous Day?

Q10. What is happening along with our AGM?

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 389 for the months of January / February, 2021 has a copy deadline, by 17 January, 2020.

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

Nr. 388 LYTHER NOWODHOW – NSW

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