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Newsletter of the

**Cornish Association
of New South Wales**

PROGRAM

SYDNEY BASED EVENTS

Annual General Meeting

Ryde Eastwood Leagues Club, West Ryde

Beforehand - Informal lunch

Meet 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. Consider joining the Committee.

Please arrive promptly so we can get the meeting underway, and maximize later time to chat and enjoy some activities together! Regional members – contact for Zoom details.



NB: Proposals for consideration must be with

the Committee by one month prior ie. 5 February.

Get Together 2:30 - 4pm

We hope you can come/stay for some fun: eg.

Talk and/or Quiz, music, sales table, time for chat, renewal of memberships etc.

PICNIC AT MOUNT ANNAN BOTANIC GARDENS

Details to come

RIVERBOAT POSTMAN

from Brooklyn, Hawkesbury River
Planning for late September, 2021

FESTIVALS PLANNED 2021

28th Australian Celtic Festival

Glen Innes, NSW

– The Year of Ireland and the Isle of Man



NOW Saturday

May 1st –

**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 25th Kernewek Lowender, and at it the 35th Assembly of the Bards of Cornwall in Australia is also expected to 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:

See the enclosed Annual Financial Statement for the Association for the year 2020, which has been reviewed by the Committee and will be tabled at the AGM on 6 March for discussion and adoption.

"I look forward to seeing as many as can get to our AGM day. Keep safe", Joy Dunkerley, President

Bank account balance at 31/12/2021: \$7,120.067

MEMBERSHIP

After our one year moratorium on fees due to close down of activities in 2020 due to Covid-19, the Committee has reintroduced the subscription of \$15 per household for 2021/2022 which will become due on 7th March. To aid everyone a copy of a membership form has been sent with this edition. We will take payments now, or at the AGM (money & form please). Note that some members pay in advance, and others paid early for last year and that was carried forward - so are still financial this year. If you are unsure, please contact us.

MEMBERS MILESTONES

VALE LORNA STEPHENS

We received a message from Lorraine Smith, who some of you will remember is Lorna's daughter. Sadly Lorna died on 30 July, 2020, aged 95. Lorraine reports that she was 'active to the end'.



Lorna was a long time member from the family history meeting days, firstly with her husband, and made the effort to get to our most recent dinners and lunches. She attended Celtic Lectures at Sydney University. Your smiling face will be missed at our gatherings.

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.

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

QUOTE

"Under the terms of a licence granted to J. Polmarke, he was to expound the word of God in the said church [St. Merrin] in the Cornish language", John de Grandisson, bishop of Exeter, Register, 1339

SOME CORNISH SURNAMES – a series

Trevivian – From *tre-Vyvyan*, Vyvyans homestead. Placename Trevivian, Davidstow.

Trevor – From *tre-(M)vor*, Mor's homestead. Mor is a personal name found in glosses in the Bodmin Gospels, Placename Trevor, St Buryan.

Trevorow / Treverrow / Trevarrow – From *tre-Vorva*, Vorva's homestead, or from *tre-forthow*, homestead by the tracks. Placename Trevorow, Ludgvan (Treworvou 1299).

Trew / True – Obscure background. Placenames Trew, Breage and Tresmeer, Treau, St. Buryan. All have early variant spellings so perhaps not common origin.

Trewartha – From *tre-wartha*, upper homestead. Placename, Trewartha, St. Agnes.

Trewavas - From *tre-(g)wavas*, winter homestead. Placenames: Trewavas, Breage and Wendron.

Treweek – From *tre-(g)week*, homestead in the woods.

Trewen – From *tre-(w)wyn*, white or fair homestead.

Trewern / Trewren – From *tre-(g)wern*, homestead by the marsh or swamp. Placename Trewern, Madron.

Trewhella / Trewella – Possibly from *tre-ughella*, highest homestead. Found in west and mid Cornwall. Placenames Trewhella, St. Hillary; Trewhela St, Enoder. [Martha Trewella g.g.g.grandmother of the Editor, born 1762)

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

HOLY WELL

Menacuddle Holy Well and Chapel

Menacuddle Well is located in Treverbyn Parish, in an ornamental garden in a valley running north from St Austell. The Chapel dates back to the 15th century and is now a Grade II listed building. It is aligned east-west with the east wall built against the natural rock face.



The Holy spring water was once held in high regard for its curative powers. Sick children were regularly bathed here and the Victorians recommended the drinking of its *salubrious fluid*. It was also used to treat ulcers. A local tradition was to throw a bent pin into the water for good luck. The waterfall is part of the St.Austell River, or River Vinnick. The woods have a reputation for being haunted, with sightings of a "huge black beast" there.

Its name is recorded as *Menequidel* in 1250 and *Menedcudel* in 1284 and comes from the [Old Cornish](#) *mened* and *cuydel* and it means hillside with a small wood. The name does not include a saint's name.

Notable Cornish / people of Cornwall

William Gregor – scientist, mineralogist, Clergyman, discoverer of titanium

Born on Christmas Day in 1761, William Gregor was the son of Francis Gregor and Mary Copley of Trewarthenick Estate near Tregony in Cornwall.

He studied in Bristol Grammar School, where he first developed his interest in the field of chemistry. He underwent private tutoring and, 2 years later, he entered St. John's College in Cambridge. He graduated with his Bachelor of Arts in 1784 and Master of Arts in 1787. He later became ordained in the Church of England, hence becoming a clergyman and vicar of St. Mary's Church, Diptford. In 1790, he married Charlotte Anne Gwatkin and they had one daughter.

Gregor became fascinated with Cornish minerals when he permanently moved to the rectory of Creed in Cornwall. This was the time when he began chemically analyzing the different minerals found in Cornwall. It was in 1791 that he was able to isolate calx, the residual left when a mineral combusts or is exposed to high heat, from an unknown metal. He named this metal 'manaccanite' since he got this mineral from the Manaccan Valley in Cornwall.

Later on, another scientist, Martin Heinrich Klaproth, discovered the same metal and named it titanium, believing it to be a new discovery. Gregor was later credited for the discovery, but the name titanium persisted and is the only name by which the metal is known today. Titanium was named after the great titans, or giants, of Greek mythology.

Titanium is usually found in igneous rocks, coal ash, plants, and even in the human body. It can also be found in bodies from outer space, such as meteorites, the sun and the moon.

Titanium is a popular alloy with other metals like iron, aluminum, and manganese. These

alloys are often used for situations that require the ability to withstand extremes of temperature and lightweight strength. This has made it a popular metal alloy for industries like aerospace, automotive, medical prostheses and orthopedic implants, and dental instruments, among others. It is also resistant to corrosion from seawater, hence it can be used in desalination plants. The strong, lightweight alloy titanium can also be used in surgical procedures, since it is an element inert in the body. The two most significant properties of titanium are its corrosion resistance and the fact it has the highest strength-to-weight ratio of any known metal.

Throughout Gregor's life, he was not only a scientist and mineralogist, but also a pastor, musician, and etcher. He was an original member of the Royal Geological Society of Cornwall, founded in 1814. Aside from his earlier discovery, he also discovered titanium in the minerals corundum and tourmaline.

Gregor died of tuberculosis on June 11, 1817.

All the known elements in the world would not have been identified and distinguished from one another if not for the work and dedication of their respective discoverers. While not his primary occupation throughout life, William Gregor's fascination for minerals and chemistry led him to discover one of the most important elements on Earth.

NEWS

EUCHRE

From The Guardian newspaper, UK, in an art exhibition feature on Penlee Gallery: *"Euchre, a five-card trick game traditionally played by four players, is still played in Cornwall and the south-west of England, where local people are immensely proud of their heritage. The game was exported by migrant Cornish workers, and there are Euchre leagues in Canada and the US as well as Australia and New Zealand"*.

LITHIUM

A consortium that includes the company Cornish Lithium, has announced the first production of Lithium Carbonate, an essential ingredient for electric vehicle batteries, from UK sources. There is currently no commercial production of battery quality lithium in the whole of Europe. The UK government has made no secret it wants to secure a domestic supply to regenerate the economy partly through an electric car manufacturing industry and Cornwall potentially has one of the largest deposits of lithium in Europe, as well as local renewable power sources.

GROUP OF 7 CONFERENCE

Carbis Bay, Cornwall (near St Ives) has been chosen as the venue for the G7 Summit to be held from the 11th to 13th June, 2021. The Group of Seven (G7) is an intergovernmental organisation consisting of Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom and the United States. South Korea, India and Australia are to be invited as guests. The heads of government of the member states, as well as the representatives of the European Union, meet at the annual G7 Summit.

Tanya Gold, The Telegraph (UK) - Imagining Cornwall for the G7

[Warning: Pulls no punches - This will be serialised in coming newsletters]

"The G7 is coming to Cornwall in June and, as if in tribute to Cornwall's new importance, a glut of Cornish-themed TV rolls out, with varying degrees of accuracy or, more often, romance. It is a response to lockdown: urban people want to imagine themselves in Cornwall, which exists in the national consciousness as a depositary of childish dreams.

It is normal to see Cornwall through a child's eyes, for that is when most of us first come here. But children are not the most forensic, or curious, critics. They want – and see - very particular things.

So here is Rick Stein, innkeeper of Padstow, with his food-themed travelogue and celebrity interviews. Stein has operated in Cornwall for many years. He is the mastermind of Cornish gentrification. He was a child tourist so enchanted – we even saw the clifftop Art Deco mansion he spent his youthful holidays in – he

turned a part of the duchy into a theme park for his adult life.

To walk through Padstow is to walk through a Cornwall remade in homage to the Soho House aesthetic. It is immaculate, expensive and so fashionable it has priced locals out of their native villages.

If you think that tourism has saved Cornwall as mining and fishing declined, look to St Ives, which is the premier tourist town in west Cornwall. It has a child poverty rate of 36 per cent because work is seasonal and low-paid, and house prices are so inflated the locals have moved up the hill to a housing estate”.

.. to be continued

FEATURE STORIES

Some early rulers and Kings of Cornwall - Part 1

The Province/s of Roman Britain

Following the departure of most Roman Legionaries to the continent of Europe in the 380s AD under the command of the military leader Magnus Maximus (Macsen Wledig in Welsh tales) to involvement in competing claims of Emperor, the military defence of the romanised areas of the British Isles devolved to the partly centralised Roman but partly cooperative tribal leadership of the various provinces, including the still mainly Celtic Briton tribal leaders of Dumnonia in the south west.

They dealt with Pictish and Irish raiders, and Saxon pirates, with only occasional support from Rome. The situation over the British Sea (aka The Channel) was deteriorating and German tribes, including the Franks, crossed the Rhine and at times overcame Roman authority in areas of northern Gaul.

About 408AD the Council of the provinces of Britain called on the Emperor Honorius to provide support to the still nominally Roman provinces against raiders. Honorius told them to look to their own defence in 410AD. This they did through strengthening the military role of the provinces, and contributing to a combined mobile force based on cavalry.

The eastern provinces also unwisely used a Roman tactic of settling Angle and Jute speaking mercenary warriors on weak points along the eastern seaboard to counter ever increasing Saxon raiding. The western provinces now took over Roman trade to the Continent, built oceangoing vessels and rebuilt historic sea borne forces to contain raiders.

In 468AD the Britons answered a call from the Gallo-Roman ruler of northern Gaul for aid against a new heathen foe, the Goths. A military commander Riotamus took 12,000 men to Gaul. Syagrius, son of the last local Roman Magistrate there, Aegidius, had held together a large area between the Loire River and The Somme. Alas Riotamus after many victories was betrayed to the Visigoths and neither he or his men returned to the defence of Britain.



Other Romanised military leaders such as Ambrosius Aurelius, and perhaps Artorius Aurelius (Arthur?) appointed or elected by the remaining provinces would hold the Saxons and Angles from breaking out of the east and centre of the island for another 4 or 5 generations.

Of course we know that Germanic speaking mercenaries in the east eventually rebelled and over the next century; more settled in and around the estuaries like the Thames, Ouse, Tees, Tyne and in the south The Solent. Though never large numbers compared to the native Britons they took command of the best territory and trade, and a stratified Germanic speaking society developed in the east. Christian Britons in western regions, still in control of the remnants of roman towns and villas for generations more, looked west.

Dumnonia, Cornwall and Brittany

With sea trade resumed to parts of Gaul and Iberia, and also to the now eastern part of the Roman Empire in Constantinople, the western

Celts based on the former Roman province of the Dumnonii, with centres on the Exe River at Exeter (Isca Dumnorium) and increasingly far to the west in the Celtic lands of the Cornovii on the Cornish estuaries, and promontaries, grew wealthier and strong. The Rivers Camel, Hayle, Fowey, Fal, and Tamar and Mounts Bay became key centres. Tintagel a centre of ceremony. Trade with Constantinople brought wealth and luxury items in exchange for cool climate goods and raw materials like tin - certainly until the plague of Justinian c. 549AD and perhaps a century more until the searoutes in the Mediterranean became too unsafe when trade and Christian missionaries became just focussed along the Atlantic coasts linking Cornwall with Wales, Ireland, Man, Scotland, Brittany and Galicia.

Starting in the late 300s, when Maximus took his troops to Armorica (thence Brittany) Britons had migrated/expanded from Dumnonia to the largely abandoned Roman province. There had been close ties pre Rome with the Venetti. As control over the peninsular became wider and still not under threat from Franks or Goths, Britons under pressure from Saxon expansion in the old area of the Durotriges just to the east of Dumnonia also crossed. Some settled in Galicia in support of the trade routes.

Some of our native Kings

It is not possible to provide a complete King list, as the records are patchy - either never kept or lost over eons, esp. during the Dissolution of the Monasteries and The Civil War. We can provide sketchy details on some:

GWRWAWR (Gervor) - meaning 'great man' in old Brittonic Celtic - late 400s AD/CE.

TUDWAWL (Tudwal) - son of Gwrwawr. Name meaning -'worthy of the people' - His name appears in the settlement, Treluswell (In 1296 Trudutual, Tudwals homestead) - late 400s.

KYNWAWR (Kenvor) - son of Tudwawl. In Cornish, Kenvor, from Brittonic cuno-moro-s, 'Hound of the sea'. He is mentioned in the Life of St Pol Aurelian, largely in the area between St Austell and Fowey. The name occurs in 5 places in Cornwall eg. Crenver, Crowan Parish (1301 Caergenver, Kenvor's fort). St Pol was his chaplain for a time. The Breton Monk Wrmonoc, writing later in the 800s refers to 'Marcus, who other men call Quonomorius' - an

historic King Mark of Tristan and Isolt legend? Perhaps; we don't know. The story/legend of Mark places his bases as Tintagel and Castle Dore on the Golant. St. Sampson of Dol is considered to have had contact with Kenvor. Kenvor's control likely spanned from Dumnonia to Brittany. Dated to start of the 500s and he died in 554AD in a battle in Brittany.

CONSTANTINE (Custennin Gorneu, 'Constantine of Cornwall'). Named after first Christian Roman Emperor Constantine the Great. The lamentations of British priest Gildas c. 540AD calls him the 'tyrannical whelp of the unclean lioness of Dumnonia' and accuses him of a range on unkingly sins and urges him to repent. It seems he did. Wetherhill explains "The Life of St. Petroc describes how, near to Little Petherick, the saint protects a stag from being hunted down by a wealthy man named Constantine, who is then converted to Christianity by the saint. Constantine becomes a monk, giving St Petroc an ivory horn ... and co-founds St. Petroc's monastery at Bodmin". The Life also mentions that Constantine gave up his crown to enter the monastery of St. David at Mynyw in Wales, and later a hermit. Constantine may have been the older brother of Drustan (Tristan) dying possibly in 576AD.

ERBIN, son of Constantine. Little is known of him. The name is a Celtic form of the Roman name Urbanus. There are four places named Treverbryn, 'Erbin's settlement'.

To be continued ...

Compiled by Chris Dunkerley - Source: Various, especially The Promontory People (An Early History of the Cornish) by Craig Weatherhill.

RECENT EVENT



[Photo above] On the 21st November some of our members were able to get together for a Covid Safe lunch at West Ryde. Thanks for Del Clinton organising this event. We hope you enjoyed getting together.

OUR CORNISH PLACES



The corner of Sancreed Street and Crowan Street, Redruth, Burra, S.A.

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 about: **The Family**

Child - *Flogh*

Daughter - *Myrgh*

Son - *Mab*

Mother - *Mamm*

Father - *Tas*

Grandmother - *Mammwynn*

Grandfather - *Tasgwynn*

Aunt - *Modrep*

Uncle - *Eunter*

Granddaughter - *Myrghwynn*

Grandson - *Mabwynn*

Wife - *Gwreg*

Husband - *Gour*

Cousin - *Kenderow*

Daughter-in-Law - *Gohydh*

Son-in-law - *Deuv*

Step mother - *Altrewen*

Step father - *Altrow*

Silly Sayings - Unintended Church notices

"Low Self Esteem Support Group will meet Thursday at 7 PM . Please use the back door"



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 Euny 1st February, Perrantide & the Feast of St Piran/St Pirans Day 5th March (Fly the Flag), St. Enoder 27th April. Trevithick Day 25th April.



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 390 for the months of March / April, 2021 has a copy deadline, by 25 March. Contributions may be held for future use but more (electronic – emailed preferred) are welcome!

Nr. 389 LYTHER NOWODHOW – NSW

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