

President: Joy Dunkerley (0428 617 830 or 02 6699 2967) C.y.C, Bard (Cherya) Email [joy.dunkerley@gmail.com](mailto:joy.dunkerley@gmail.com)

Secretary: Chris Dunkerley C.y.C, Bard (Kevrenor)

ASSOCIATION POSTAL ADDRESS: c/o 34 CIRCULAR AVE, SAWTELL NSW 2452, Australia

Phone Contact: 02 6699 2967 (+Manual Fax) Mobile 0409 393 059 Contact E-mail: [kevrenor@ozemail.com.au](mailto:kevrenor@ozemail.com.au)

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



**No. 392**

**July / August , 2021**

**ISSN 1321-3199**

Circulation: approx. 110  
**FESTIVALS EDITION**

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

*This is also the 30<sup>th</sup> year since the inaugurations of the  
Standing Stones in February, 1992*

For more information:

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

### **PROGRAM**

## **SYDNEY & REGION EVENTS**

### **RIVERBOAT POSTMAN OUTING**

**Monday 20<sup>th</sup> September**

**from Brooklyn, Hawkesbury River**

*Come cruising with us on  
this Hawkesbury Mail Boat,  
the famous Riverboat  
Postman, and enjoy the  
magnificent scenery of the  
lower Hawkesbury River as  
they deliver the mail and  
essentials to the river-  
access-only settlements upriver from Brooklyn.*



It is very popular and in school holidays, so  
bookings in advance will be needed.

[Joy.Dunkerley@gmail.com](mailto:Joy.Dunkerley@gmail.com) or ring her on 0428  
617 830 for information. Discuss your interest  
with Joy but you will now need to book directly  
yourself: <https://riverboatpostman.com.au>  
Cost is \$49 pension, \$59 full, \$19 School age.

## **FESTIVALS 2022**

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

**Glen Innes, NSW**

**– The Year of Cornwall, Brittany & Wales**



**Thursday 28<sup>th</sup>  
April – Sunday  
1<sup>st</sup> May, 2022**

Yes, the Cornish  
will be there for our year! But how many can we  
gather? Will you? Contact Joy if you hope be to.

*The 24th Cornish stone ceremony is on Sunday .*

**Diary date: For our 2022 AGM**  
**Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> March, 2022**

### **VALE Betty Bevins 18/4/1923 – 1/7/21**

Our dear friend Betty Bevins died at home  
peacefully on the morning of Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> July,  
2021 at the age of 97, with the support of her  
family. Along with her husband, Tom, Betty was  
a foundation member of our Association, and  
served on the Committee for many years  
including a period as President. Many remember  
her Christmas parties and pasty days at her home  
in Warriewood. (See tribute inside)



## Committee News:

Bank account balance at 30/06/2021: **\$7,989.59**

**2021 Half Year Accounts to end of June**

**Income \$1,030.00**

Subs (42) \$630, Sales \$155, Donations \$245 (several, including two very generous ones, thanks)

**Expenditure \$160.48**

Costs of printing and envelopes to come, shortly  
*The Committee has not met since the last newsletter, but updated via email.*

## MEMBERSHIP

Your Subscription of \$15 per household for 2021/2022 became due from 7th March.

Thanks to those who have paid so far. There are alas still over 20 members not currently financial. Please check the envelope this newsletter came in – if it has the date earlier than “3-2022” then you are one of those. The form has been sent previously or download from our web page. Contact us if you are unsure.

## MEMBERS MILESTONES

### A Tribute

**VALE Betty Bevins, 97 (18/4/1923 - 1/7/2021)**

Betty (Elizabeth Eileen Morrison) was born in Falmouth, Cornwall in 1924.



Photo left below: Betty celebrating her 97<sup>th</sup> birthday 18 April

The Morrison family were very well known boatmen, her grandfather having the famous Quay punt.

She went to the Church of England National Girls School leaving at the age of fourteen. She then worked at what was the Falmouth Hydro Hotel before getting married at just sixteen, in 1940 to a dashing Naval Officer Tom Bevins. Her first three children Thomasina, Paul and Jacqui were born in Falmouth and the last one (Elizabeth) in Sydney. Betty and her family moved to Australia in 1959 on the Fairsky.

Betty never left her love for Cornwall behind, and they joined the Cornish Association of Sydney (now Cornish Association of NSW) at its formation in 1974 and were very active, with Betty later becoming the first lady President, and she was a keen presence on the committee until just a few years before her death. Tom died in 1986.

One of Betty's huge talents was hospitality and chat, and she hosted many Association family Christmas parties in the early years, and a wealth of Pasty Days. Her pasties were not only proper but world renowned. Many longer term members will remember Betty fondly for her contribution and friendship over the years, and gatherings at her home. The Dunkerley children on hearing of her passing commented on 'Aunty Betty' and remembered her fondly.



Visiting Cornish people who were welcomed and even hosted, included Ann Trevenen Jenkin, the late Howard Curnow, Phil Hosken and the Climax Choir, and Dorothy Sweet, and



many others. She went to gatherings in the United States and on Vancouver Island. Her first Kernewek Lowender was in 1977, and she attended a number more. She spoke first hand on the Falmouth Grain Clippers which sailed to Wallaroo, at a Cornish History conference there. She was also regular in her Cornish national tartan skirt at parades in Glen Innes Celtic festivals (see photo on cover and above).

She often spoke of how lucky she was to have all these opportunities to travel around Australia and back to Cornwall, and meet fellow Cornish people. 3 weeks before she died she rang the editor to talk about Ruth, the Association and how much it meant to her.

She was made a Bard of the Gorsedh at Marazion in 1995 which she saw as a great honour, being very proud to be Cornish. Her bardic name in Cornish: Myrgh Aberfal (Daughter of Falmouth).

Betty passed away peacefully, at her much loved Warriewood (Sydney) home close to members of her large loving family.

Condolences to Thomasina, Paul, Jacqui and Elizabeth and all her large extended family of in laws, grandchildren and great grandchildren - and to her many friends around the world. Due to Sydney Covid-19 restrictions her funeral was limited but a sunny Northern Beaches day.

Betty was born, migrated over, and then mostly lived, and finally died, close to the ocean. May you and Tommy have fair winds and calm seas.

**VALE Stephen Amos aged 81** - on Sunday 20th June, 2021 after a short hospitalisation Australia and a number of times to Cornwall. Stephen was a member of the Cornish Associations of Victoria and NSW (due to his family connections, and he visited our meetings a number of times. One of our longest serving Cornish Bards in Australia, Nans Melyn (Mill Valley), became a Bard in 1986 through examination in the Cornish language. He led a number of Bardic assemblies, and helped students in Melbourne classes. As well as his Cornish language skills he had knowledge of Breton and wrote in Cornish, translating the Bible book of Amos from English and small

Breton texts, into Cornish. An Accountant, his love was Celtic connections and languages.

**Our best wishes** to a number of members who have had reported non virus health problems, or have been having ongoing medical procedures. Best wishes to Eddie Lyon who has had a procedure and is mending well.

Thinking of **Russell Cocks** with his ongoing health issues (on top of his huge loss of his dear wife Ruth). Russell is settling into an aged care community: BaptistCare Aminya Centre, Room 23, 6 Goolgung Avenue, Baulkham Hills NSW 2153.

Obviously this being in the Sydney region Covid19 lockdown at present visiting is not possible. Those wishing to write to him please do so. Wishing him the very best for his future.

**Congratulations** to all those with birthdays during July and August.

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

*“The sad news of the deaths of our members Ruth and Betty, and of Stephen, plus Howard Curnow in Cornwall, within just a few weeks has hit many of us (who knew them well) quite hard. I have seen many tributes to them all and am grateful for having known them.*

*As for the Association, these are huge losses but our focus remains on the various aspects of Cornish heritage shared by our members and we will continue, perhaps in different ways.*

*My efforts will soon turn to next year's Year of Cornwall in Glen Innes, and it is heartening to have support proposed from interstate - and I hope you will be part of it too. I plan to travel to Glen Innes for the 7 September 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the raising of the first Standing Stone.*

*I hope I will see some of you on the Riverboat Postman on 20 September – book soon. In the meantime, for those many in lockdown and those with a bit less restriction, stay well and safe, and be kind to others.”*

Joy Dunkerley, President

**CANSW LIBRARY**

As reported previously, the remaining part of our Library has gone to Glen Innes with our member Pamela O'Neill and is now displayed in her Cultural Centre at The Croft at the Standing Stones. Here is Pamela's information: "*The Croft Celtic Cultural Centre and Cafe* is open Thursday to Tuesday 8am to 4pm, as well as hosting special events and educational activities. Everyone is welcome to come in, browse the large collection of books and art, play the games, and/or chat. Meals or coffee can also be had. CANSW members are always particularly welcome. We can also post out a book to members on request" (with postage and return pre-arranged – the latest listing is on our CANSW website). For the Library contact Pamela on [pamaladh@gmail.com](mailto:pamaladh@gmail.com) The Croft website with any updates is at: <https://thecroftgleninnes.com>

## QUOTE

*"I, Kenstec, Bishop-elect to the nation of Cornwall in the monastery, which in the british language is called Dinurrian ..." (later called Bodmin) – Part of Bishop Kenstec's submission to the See of Canterbury, c. 850-870AD [From H. Miles Brown, The Church in Cornwall, 1964]. [Ed. At the time the Celtic Cornish church was moving to allegiance to the Church of Rome, after 400+ years independence].*

## SOME CORNISH SURNAMES – a series

**Tudor** – From a common British personal name [Eg. Cornish King Teudar, Welsh house of Tudor]. Placenames: Lestowder, St. Keverne; Bosteeda, Crowan parish.

**Tyzzar** – variant of personal name Teudar.

**Turk** – When of Cornish background it comes from *towarghek*, peaty (land).

**Tyack** – From *Tyack*, farmer. Found to the west of Truro.

**Udy** – From the parish name, St. Tudy which is named after a Breton saint, Tudy of Landevennec. Found in mid, north, and south east Cornwall. [eg. Rev. Udy, a late member of our association]

**Ugalde** – From *ughel-dyr*, high land. Found originally only in Liskeard area.

**Uglow** – Possibly from *ughella*, higher people, or from *ugh-logh*, upper inlet. Found in SE and North Cornwall.

**Uren** – From *gwern*, swamp or marsh. From placename Trewern, Madron (Trewruen 1302). [The late Tom Uren, federal MP]

**Ursell** – From *ysella*, lowness (possible low lying, or downhill).

**Ustick** – Personal diminutive name (*Ust-ek*), or from St. Just people (*Ust-yk*).

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.]

## Notable Cornish / people of Cornwall and the diaspora

**Kate Cocks** - Fanny Kate Boadicea Cocks was born at Moonta, South Australia, on 5th May 1875, the daughter of Anthony Cocks, a Cornish miner, and his wife Elizabeth (née George), a schoolteacher.



After a hard life in the copper mining town, the family moved to Adelaide in 1900. She went on to become a teacher, working at Thomas Plains,

SA 126km out of Adelaide for a year before transferring back to Edwardstown. Kate had joined the State Children's Department as a teacher and served as assistant matron at the Edwardstown Industrial School, where she witnessed the suffering of children and families in extreme poverty. This work led to a position as juvenile court probation officer, where her dedication to those children under her care brought her renown.

In 1915 at 40 she became SA's and Australia's first female police officer. In fact the first woman police constable in the then British Empire. The post was distinctive as it carried full powers of arrest, and equality with male police officers. Prior to this, women had served in the force but with restricted duties and pay.

The years of the First World War had seen social upheavals and changing moral values. At government level the idea of women in the police force was first mooted in 1914. The matter was discussed in the press and supported by women's organizations and religious bodies. The response from the all-male police officers was mainly negative but in July 1915 the Governor, Sir Henry Galway, announced that the Government proposed to appoint women police patrols and in December of that year Cocks was appointed.

She was assisted by another woman, Annie Ross, who, like her, was experienced in dealing with child poverty and crime. They were established in a rented room in a row of houses, now long-since demolished, on the eastern side of Victoria Square, Adelaide. They were appointed with the object of safeguarding the moral welfare of women and children, and, as far as possible, preventing acts of misconduct that often led to disaster in the lives of young women.

Their duties were manifold and the hours were long and demanding, with one day off in six weeks. They worked in plain clothes, patrolling in Adelaide, Port Adelaide and its Outer Harbour, where there were large concentrations of troops on the move, attracting vulnerable young girls. They visited slums and reported cases of neglected children. They kept under observation hotels, reputed brothels and places

frequented by women and girls soliciting as prostitutes. They also assisted detectives and other police who were investigating cases in which females were concerned. Their specialist work with women and children in the community brought them appreciative attention, particularly from formerly grudging male officers who were now relieved of the difficulty of dealing in matters of so called 'morality'.

In time the need for extra staff grew and Cocks gathered around her women who were strong, assertive and compassionate. So high was the profile of women police in South Australia that a request was received from the Ballarat City Council in Victoria seeking assistance for a similar move in that city. In her twenty years of service Cocks earned high praise for her dedication to duty, her organizational ability and her kindness. She was awarded the King's Police Medal and received a number of commendations from the police commissioner in recognition of her valuable work in dealing with difficult and sordid crimes ranging from sodomy to child poisoning. On her retirement in 1935 she was appointed a M.B.E. She then, under the auspices of the Methodist Church, established a home at Brighton for young single women awaiting childbirth, later renamed the Kate Cocks Babies' Home.

She died aged 79 on 20th August 1954 and was buried at Payneham Cemetery in Adelaide. Kate is one example of the extraordinary contribution Moonta's residents, and of course those of Cornish heritage, have made to the world!

The painting of Kate Cocks was done by Moonta Resident & Moonta Area School Art teacher Amy Sims. [Thank you to the Moonta & District Progress Association, and source: Dorothy Pyatt, 'Kate Cocks, MBE', SA History Hub, History Trust

<https://sahistoryhub.history.sa.gov.au/people/kate-cocks-mbe>, accessed 18 July 2021. ]

## HOLY WELLS

### Sancreed Holy Well

Sancreed holy well lies in Sancreed parish, in a pine and holly grove, and steps lead deeply



down into a womb-like chamber, covered with corbelled stone walls and roof. There is now a relatively shallow level of water, though in recent times it was at a much higher level: something seems to have affected the water table, reducing the height of the water. Nevertheless, the water is still clear and cold, and the surrounding moss often shines with a phosphorescent glow, giving the whole site a very magical grotto-like feel. The well, which probably originally dates from pre-Christian times, was lost and buried in thick undergrowth for a number of years, but was re-discovered by the Vicar of Sancreed in 1879, and subsequently kept cleared by a Juliette Shanks, who has a plaque dedicated to her on the site. The remains of a early Chapel lie behind the well, with a large 15th century carved stone in one corner, which may have originally formed part of an arch. A modern Christian cross designed in a Celtic fashion stands next to it.



Attached to the trees nearby there are often 'clouties' or pieces of rags left hanging. This was a traditional custom at healing wells, whereby rags were torn from part of the body where there was injury or hurt and tied on a tree close to the well. As the material disintegrated (most materials in the past were biodegradable) so the hurt was supposed to go. Nowadays, the rags are probably hung by people for good luck. Sancreed Church, and thus by implication the well, is oddly dedicated to St.Credan, a mythological saint who in the old texts supposedly accidentally killed his father and became a swineherd in penance. Sancreed

Church has a carving of him holding a pig above the porch door. In Celtic mythology pigs were totem animals of the Otherworld, and swineherds often have an initiatory significance, representing contact with the Otherworld. Whether a coincidence or not, this legend seems to be particularly apposite at this well that seems to lead down into the Underworld.

Holy Wells like Sancreed would originally have been a source of fresh water for people, and came to be venerated for the 'genus loci' or spirit of the place who was thought to dwell there. Later, under Christianity, they often became dedicated to saints, and continued to be visited as sacred and healing places.

[Thanks to the Cornish Ancient Sites Protection Network (CASPN)]

## NEWS

### VALE Howard Curnow

The passing of a great Cornishman, Howard Curnow, whose death on 9th June, 2021 is a huge loss to those who loved him and for his beloved Cornish people and Duchy, and he is mourned around the world.



Barded by the Gorsedh in 1990 at Marazion, with the name simply *Kernow* (reflecting his name), his worldwide Curnow clan, many dressed in newly designed Curnow tartan, owe him a huge debt in their local Cornish Associations, esp. in North America. Rousing Town crier at Helston's Hal an Tow on Flora Day for decades. A teacher, he is remembered

by many of his students who learned how to love Cornwall. He was instrumental in the revival of the use of the people's banner, the black and white flag of St Piran to fly proudly, and transformed St Pirans Day with marches and parades (5th March each year), the establishment of many Cornish Associations in the Americas, and in launching the 1997 Keskerdh Kernow 500 march to London in commemoration of uprising in 1497.

A regular visitor to Australia and NZ, visiting family, and Cornish Australians. Hosted Cornish visitors and tours. He was the Cornish Honoured Person at the 2008 Australian Celtic festival in Glen Innes. Your President and Secretary had the pleasure of an afternoon tea and a dinner with Howard and his wife Elizabeth in 2019. Condolences to family and friends in Cornwall, NZ and around the world.

#### **Tanya Gold, The Telegraph (UK) - Imagining Cornwall (part 4)** [Warning: She pulls no punches]

Channel 4's Devon and Cornwall Christmas special – is prosaically named *Devon and Cornwall*, about to return for a third series on Channel 4, is much better than Stein or Bradbury's travelogues, but it is still hopelessly romanticised. Surely intentionally, it doesn't show the tourist anything they would not wish to see: the knowledge, perhaps, that, even with all this love, if Cornwall were a nation it would be poorer than Lithuania. Instead, we watch bracken being crushed by horse-drawn apparatus, to allow oak saplings and beech saplings to thrive, which was fascinating.

We watch a man on ropes mending the clock at the church at Paul above Mousehole; we watch people ploughing because it pleases them to do so; we watch people sitting and drinking beer on well-polished boats. I was excited by the tale of a herd of Devon Ruby Red Cows at Nancledra in west Penwith – owned by a farming family marvellously called the Clamps - and the parallel tale of a flock of Cornwall Long Haired Sheep, but animals cannot help but tell the truth. Even so, this is a very partial truth about Cornwall. It is entertainment but tells little of

the Cornish. Where are the people who do not entertain but just exist here? [More next time]

**Memorial Service – Louise Hollick, of Redruth**, has written to us about her business. *"We deliver flowers, potted plants or hand-painted stones to the resting places of people buried in mid and west Cornwall, on behalf of those who live too far away to do this themselves, are challenged with mobility issues, or simply don't have time to make the trip. I take photos of the advised resting-place of your loved one or ancestor before and after the visit and I send these (either by post or email) along with a short letter to describe the visit to the location, so that the customer who has requested the service feels a part of the process. The cost of delivery also includes a donation to the funds of the churchyard in which the delivery is made or, if it is in a location looked after by the local Council, I make a donation to Cornwall Hospice instead".* Contact [louise\\_hollick@hotmail.com](mailto:louise_hollick@hotmail.com)

More information at: [www.attendservices.co.uk](http://www.attendservices.co.uk)

## **FEATURE STORIES**

### **Some early rulers and Kings of Cornwall - Part 4 (final)**

**DONYARTH** (Doniert) - This king is recorded as allowing a young Alfred of Wessex to mount a hunting expedition across the Exe in the 860s AD. Little is recorded of Donyarth, but in 875AD the Welsh Easter Annals report that 'Dungarth rex Cerniu, id est Cornubiae, mersus est.' (Donyarth, king of Cornwall, that is of the Cornish people, is drowned'. In St Cleer stands an ornate Celtic carved stone, date to the late 800sAD, saying 'Doniert rogavit pro anima (Doniert asked for [this memorial] for the sake of his soul'. Nearby Golitha Falls on the Fowey have credibly led to a tale that Doniert drowned while out hunting. Another gap in our records, ie. at least one more King, until ...



**HUWAL** - The Anglo Saxon Chronicles reports in 927AD that King Athelstan of Wessex (grandson of Alfred) had power of the kings that were in this island; first Huwal King of the West Welsh (Westweala, a term only previously applied to the Cornish). Who next? We have no record. Names have been suggested, such as Conan though he may have been a late Celtic Bishop.

**CADOC** - meaning 'man of battle'. There is a later Norman reference to one Cadoc as having been the last of the Cornish royal line at the time of the Norman Conquest. He was apparently appointed briefly by the first Norman king William 1 as the first Eoarl (Earl) of Cornwall c. 1068. When he died a Breton supporter of William was appointed Earl (which was later created as a Dukedom – Charles the current Duke). Cadoc's descendants however are said to have lived on in the keverangow of Pydar (and neighbouring Bodmin). The Bodmin lawyer Thomas Flamank, one of the leaders of the uprising against Henry V11 of England in 1497, firmly claimed direct descent from Cadoc. Flamanks still exist in Cornwall and the diaspora.

Compiled by Chris Dunkerley - Source: Various, especially The Promontory People (An Early History of the Cornish) by Craig Weatherhill, and Bishop Adhelm's Letter to King Gereint of Cornwall.

**Silly Sayings** - *Unintended Church notices*  
"The 'Over 60s Choir' will be disbanded for the summer with the thanks of the entire church".

## **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 learn: **Meur ras** (thank you, or literally much thanks). A contraction from 'meur ras dhys / dheugh why' ie. much thanks to you (singular) or you (plural)




## **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)

## **Cornish Eye – A poem by Jane Sims**



**CORNISH EYE**

**I watched**  
**A Cornish chough,**  
**Flying so Cornish high,**  
**Over Cornish cliffs,**  
**In a Cornish sky,**  
**All Cornish observations,**  
**Made by my Cornish eye.**

**I watched**  
**The Cornish sun,**  
**Masked by a Cornish cloud,**  
**I thought my Cornish thoughts,**  
**My Cornish thoughts were loud,**  
**I viewed the Cornish landscape,**  
**And I felt so Cornish proud.**

**I watched**  
**The Cornish waves,**  
**Roll into the Cornish bay,**  
**I saw the Cornish sunset,**  
**At the end of another Cornish day,**  
**For I am forever Cornish,**  
**And forever Cornish I will stay ...**

**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 393* for the months of September / October 2021 has a copy deadline, by 24 September.

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

## **Nr. 392 LYTHER NOWODHOW – NSW**

Editor: c/o 34 Circular Avenue, Sawtell, 2452 Phone: Mobile 0409 393 059 or Ph: 02 6699 2967 - Ring first us to manual switch to FAX

Email: [kevrenor@ozemail.com.au](mailto:kevrenor@ozemail.com.au)