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No. 393
September/October, 2021
ISSN 1321-3199

Circulation: approx. 110 (50 post + 60 email)

Newsletter of the Cornish Association of New South Wales

PROVISIONAL PROGRAM



Online ZOOM Sessions

October – 'Cornish Quiz & Show and Tell'

December – 'Christmas Cake & Carols'

April '22 – Autumn 'Cakey Tea & Chat'



SYDNEY & REGION OUTINGS / EVENTS

Pre Christmas Lunch

Mid-Late November

This is in early planning but will depend on Covid restrictions at the time. Date and venue yet to be decided. Details will be emailed, or by telephone to those without email, beforehand.

Rescheduled to 'Late' January, 2022

RIVERBOAT POSTMAN OUTING

Hawkesbury River

<https://riverboatpostman.com.au>



Diary date: Our 2022 AGM

Saturday 5th March, 2022

Details to come



FESTIVALS 2022

29th Australian Celtic Festival

Glen Innes, NSW

– The Year of Cornwall, Brittany & Wales



**Thursday 28th
 April – Sunday
 1st May, 2022**

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

The 24th Cornish stone ceremony is on Sunday
This is also the 30th year since the inauguration of the
Standing Stones in February, 1992

For more information:

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

Note: The Camera symbol shows a notice for an **event online using Zoom** software. If you need help with accessing this software please contact Joy. Details of the session will be emailed to members and many of our friends on the CANSW Email News list, closer to the date.

The people symbol shows an **in person** event.

PAST CANSW EVENTS

**'Cakey Tea and Chat' Zoom get together
 on Sunday 22nd August**



A very good get together, with 14 members from around the state, and 4 visitors. It went almost twice the scheduled time, and we were privileged to be joined by members of the Cornish Association of Victoria (who have been using Zoom for many meetings) including their President Ken Peak. Thanks all. A number of apologies also showed that Zoom meetings are viable for us in future.

Committee News:

Bank account balance at 30/08/2021: **\$8,005.59**

The Committee has not yet met since the last newsletter, but have been updated via email.

The Celtic Council AGM is on 6th October. Our AGM nominated Joy Dunkerley, Sue Thomas, and Chris Dunkerley (present Deputy Convenor) as representatives, and those will be put forward. There will be two Cornish vacancies.

“A Coordinating Group has been formed with four from your Committee – myself, Chris Dunkerley, Pamela O’Neill, and David Wilks - plus Judi Toms of the Standing Stones Mgt Board, and Ronnie Bombell of Glen Innes Severn Council. This is to coordinate Cornish content for the 2022 Australian Celtic festival. There are good ideas, but sorting out the viable ones and making them happen will be quite a feat. Of course Covid may yet throw a spanner into the works.

I am sad that statewide lockdown robbed me of a chance to see some of you on the Riverboat Postman but we will reschedule to January if possible. In the meantime, it was great to join with some on Zoom. I have spoken on the phone to a few members also. For those many of you still in lockdown stay well and safe, and be kind to others.” Joy Dunkerley, President

Reminder: 17 members are still un-financial

MEMBERS MILESTONES

VALE Sad news that our member **Iris Diprose** has died in Brisbane, on the 20th September, shortly after her 94th birthday.



[Iris above on a CANSW outing in 2010] Iris was an active member, attending many functions

until moving to Qld (near family) a few years ago. She was a long term friend of the Bevins family from Cornwall and later in Sydney. She was born in Redruth in 1927, and taught in Cornwall before time in Zimbabwe and later in the West Indies, where she met her engineer husband Bill. Later she came to Sydney, in PortMacquarie, back to Sydney and finally Brisbane. Always a friendly smile and chat. Condolences to her daughter, other family and friends.

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

We hope some have written to **Russell Cocks**. The address again: *BaptistCare Aminya Centre, Room 23, 6 Goolgung Avenue, Baulkham Hills NSW 2153.*

Long time member **Ted Stark** has changed address, still in Ballina. If anyone wants to get in touch – let me know.

Congratulations to all those with birthdays or anniversaries during September and October.

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

QUOTE

A perhaps fanciful Robert Louis Stevenson, Scottish novelist, essayist, poet and travel writer, on encountering Cornish miners in the USA: *“A knot of Cornish miners who kept grimly to themselves .. discussing privately the secrets of their old world, mysterious race. Lady Hester Stanhope believed she could make something great of the Cornish; for my part, I can make nothing of them at all. A division of races, older and more original than that of Babel, keeps this close esoteric family apart from neighbouring Englishmen. Not even a Red Indian seems more foreign in my eyes. This is one of the lessons of travel - that some of the strangest races dwell next door to you at home.”* – From his book *Across the Plains*, 1862. Lady Stanhope (1776-1839) was an English aristocrat, adventurer, antiquarian, and ‘one of the most famous travellers of her age’.

SOME CORNISH SURNAMES – a series

Vague / Vage – Possibly a breakaway from the placename Trevague, Altarnun (Trevagau 1068 Domesday). Cornish *Tre-(m)vage*, homestead for rearing.

Varcoe / Vercoe / Varker – possibly Mark's children. Found in mid Cornwall.

Vaughan / Vian / Vyan, Vine – From vyghan, little (as in little homestead).

Veal / Veale / Vail – From personal name Mael or Myghal. Placenames Treveal, Zennor & Cubert, Busveal, Gwennap.

Vear – Breakaway from placename Rosevear in St Austell and Mawgan in Meneage, or Carvear, St Blazey. *Ros-vur*, great heath.

Vellacott – Possibly from *melyn-cot*, mill wood.

Vellam – From *melyn*, mill

Vellanoweth – From (m)*velyn-noweth*, new mill. Placename Vellanoweth, Ludgva and St Agnes, Vellanouth, Constantine.

Venner – From meneth, hill. Placename Colvenner, Wendron (spelt Colveneth, 1461).

Venning – Probably breakaway from placename Trevennen, Wendron & Gorran (both with old spellings *Tre-ven-wyn*, homestead of white stone.)

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

Notable Cornish / people of Cornwall and the diaspora

Last time we told you about Kate Cocks, who in December 1915, the SA Governor, Sir Henry Galway, appointed as, reputedly 'first female police offer in the British Empire'.

Our member, Janice Ruse Huntington responded by writing: "I was talking to Joy today about the article on Kate Cocks, and mentioned that I thought this distinction had gone to James Ruse's great grand-daughter,

Lillian Armfield? You might both be interested in reading the article (from Wikipedia) below. Interestingly, both joined the force in 1915 - Lillian on **1 July** in Sydney!

Lilian Armfield

Lillian May Armfield was born in Mittagong, New South Wales, on 3 December 1884 to George Armfield and Elizabeth Armfield (née Wright). Her first job in 1907 was as a nurse at the Callan Park Hospital for the Insane in Callan Park, Sydney. She left that role for a pioneering position as a female police detective in the New South Wales Police Force on 1 July 1915. When recruited as probationary special constable, she was 5ft 7¾ ins (172cm) tall, weighed 12 st. 10lbs. (81kg), and had light brown eyes, brown hair and a fair complexion. She was described by her interviewing officer as 'very intelligent, tactful, shrewd, capable ... character undoubtedly good and a very suitable candidate'.

For over thirty years, Armfield then served as a female police detective, mainly working in the localities of Surry Hills and Darlinghurst. At first a probationary special constable, Armfield was not provided with a uniform, or paid for overtime and ancillary expenses as her male colleagues were. Unlike her male colleagues, she also experienced discrimination in terms of recompense for injuries sustained in the line of duty and had no superannuation benefit rights at the end of her career.

During that long and distinguished career, Armfield confronted the darker side of Sydney's often violent criminal underworld, confronting murder, rape and human trafficking. She was a nemesis of female underworld ringleaders like Tilly Devine and Kate Leigh, associated with the razor gang violence of the 1920s and also served as a social worker, warning younger women of bullet wound injuries or razor slashing from associating with male criminals. She was a contemporary of legendary Sydney police officers Ray 'the blizzard' Blissett and Frank Farrell.

Despite her valour and dedication, Lillian Armfield was not given adequate recognition during her career as a police professional. She was only slowly promoted, becoming a Special Sergeant (3rd Class) in 1923, and Special Sergeant (1st Class) in 1943. She was in charge

of all NSW Policewomen until her retirement. For most of her police career, it was known that she was the only NSW Policewoman approved to carry a service revolver. In 1946, she received official acclaim for her life's work, receiving the King's Police and Fire Service Medal.

She was awarded the Imperial Service Medal in 1949, when she retired from the police service aged sixty five. Her life story, *Rugged Angel - The Amazing Career of Policewoman Lillian Armfield*, was published in 1961 and became a best-seller. It was written by Vince Kelly, a noted Sydney journalist. In 2001, Armfield was inducted onto the Victorian Honour Roll of Women. In August 2011 the series Underbelly: Razor included a story-line depicting Armfield. This part was played by Lucy Wigmore.

Lillian Armfield lived her final years at a Methodist Hostel in Leichhardt, Sydney. She died at the Lewisham District Hospital on 26 August 1971, aged 86. Although she was never married and had few relatives, many old colleagues and friends attended her funeral at the Northern Suburbs Crematorium which included a police guard of honour.

A great grand-daughter of Cornish first fleet convict James Ruse, made good on the right side of the law! Like Kate Cocks, quite a person and of course, of proud Cornish stock. [ps. Janice is also a descendent of James Ruse]

NEWS



New Book: Cornwall, My Country / Kernow, Ow Bro (by Howard Curnow)

A Remarkable 400 page story of 'Cornwall's Finest Ambassador to the World', Howard Curnow, told in his own words. From a farm in St Hillary, to teacher, singer, Bard, a leader for for Cornish people, and much more. Sadly, Howard passed away in June 2021, aged 84, having completed the book, but before it could be published. With a foreword by BBC tv and radio broadcaster Petroc Trelawny, a pupil of Howard's during his career as a teacher at Helston School, this new book **'Cornwall, My Country'** priced **£15**, plus relevant postage, is now available for online purchase from **'The Cornish Store'**, in Falmouth <https://www.thecornishstore.co.uk/> (look at their catalogue and perhaps include some other small items within the postage)

Tanya Gold, The Telegraph (UK) - Imagining Cornwall (part 5) [Warning: She pulls no punches]

Magic and heartbreak: This Fishing Life / Simon Reeve's Cornwall - A Travelogue: BBC

Only two TV shows in the current glut do not romanticise Cornwall and they are both from the BBC. The first was last year's definitive six-part series on the fishing industry, *This Fishing Life*. If you are curious about Cornwall, watch it: all the magic and heartbreak of the Duchy is there, because it was serious journalism with a yearning for detail and no fear of silence.

The second was *Simon Reeve's Cornwall - A Travelogue*. Reeve too is a serious journalist, and he took the time to visit the foodbank at Camborne and spend time with a group of young fathers, exposing more truths about Cornwall than the landscape and the animals that live in it.

It is obvious that eyes are fixed on Cornwall now, and that is an opportunity for the Duchy and for the country too: to know itself. Programme makers should beware: to romanticise something is a way of not seeing it." The Cornish-born film-maker Mark Jenkin of Newlyn made a feature film about alienation called *Bait*, with the actor Ed Rowe – who is

also a comedian by the name Kernow King – playing a fisherman clinging to the old traditions and poised between two competing worlds. It was fascinating and it won a BAFTA last year. I would love to see a Cornish travelogue from this pair along the lines of the marvellous *The Trip*: The writer Catrina Davies, who was raised in Cornwall, wrote a fascinating memoir called *Homesick*, in which she detailed both the results of irresponsible tourism and her obsession with the landscape. She once slept on a cliff near the shed at Lands End she calls a home. I can't imagine Rick Stein or Julia Bradbury doing that". [in contrast Rick Stein is from Oxfordshire and Julia Bradbury is from Dublin].

Housing Crisis



Taking a clear message to the doorsteps of houses now used as second homes! A local 'Art in Action' group 'First Homes not Second homes' highlighting the housing issue in St Ives and the rest of Cornwall right on the doorstep of second homes. [Photo courtesy of Gav Goulder. From FB #KernowMatters]

FEATURE STORIES

St Euny Holy Well

At the foot of hill of Carn Brea, and not far from the Church of Redruth (no, not that Redruth), is a well dedicated to St. Eunius. A stone cross formerly stood near it. Euny was a holy man,

part of the wave of such who came to Cornwall from c. 500AD.

Now it is a rugged little well, with no regular building. A moor-stone covers it, and round is a sort of curb of rough granite, with an iron bar running along. At the back is a newer stone, bearing the date 1842. Quiller Couch related that a stone cross stood by the well in his time. There used to be ascribed to the water the virtue that whoever was baptised in it would never be ignominiously hanged. St Euny is named in 5 parishes around west Cornwall.



Photograph: St Euny Holy Well (Andy Norfolk)

CORNISH GORSEDH BUDE STRATTON



The Cornish Gorsedh ceremony, due for Bude Stratton in 2020, was held on Saturday 4th September, 2021 - on a lovely sunny day and in front of a good crowd plus hundreds viewing the online streaming around the world. Outgoing Grand Bard, Melenek (Liz Carne) presided, speaking well on issues for Cornwall today, and 13 new Bards were inducted –

including 2 from Australia (Ken Peak from Victoria and Liesl Warner from SA). Bards who had died were commemorated, including Australian based Bards Richard Snedden, Alston Stephen, Stephen Amos, Betty Bevins, and Ruth Cocks. RIP. New Grand Bard Mab Stenek Veur (Pol Hodge) was inducted for a 3 year term, with Gwythvosen (Jenefer Lowe) as Deputy.



BUDE STRATTON

Bude–Stratton is a civil parish in Cornwall. The largest settlement in the parish is the popular seaside town of Bude. The parish also includes the market town of Stratton and the other settlements of Flexbury, Poughill, Bush, Maer and Northcott north of Bude, and Upton, Lynstone, Thorne and Hele south of Bude. Population in 2019 was There are a number of ecclesiastical parishes. 10,667.



The Grand Bard's talk included details of the host parish: "Bude Stratton is a long way from the 2019 venue of St Just in Penwith. We are very close to the Devon border but proudly Cornish. The Castle, where we are today, was

the home of Goldsworthy Gurney the inventor, who invented many things including the Bude Light. Here we are beside the only canal in Cornwall built to transport sand to farms inland and as we look towards the sea we are reminded that the first Surf Lifesaving Association in Britain was started here in 1953"

"Stratton has an interesting history. The only saltworks in Cornwall mentioned in Domesday were in the 'manor' of Stratton, ten of them. Even earlier, Stratton is mentioned in the will of Alfred, King of the West Saxons, dated to around 880AD (In Saxon '*Strætneat in Triconscire*' – ie. Stratton in Triggshire). This is important for it was the ONLY land in Cornwall mentioned in Alfred's will. Stratton later gave its name to a 'hundred' or major division of lands (like Penwith, Kerrier, Pydar etc.). It was granted a fair charter in 1207, and hosted the area's market. It was also home to the Courthouse, prison and later Police Station. It also had several banks and shops, before the growth of Bude".

ORDINALIA

The Ordinalia are three medieval mystery plays dating from the late fourteenth century, written primarily in Middle Cornish (probably by Cornish speaking literate monks at the then Glasney College, Penryn), with stage directions in Latin (and some villain's words in middle English). The three plays are Origo Mundi (The Origin of the World, of 2,846 lines), Passio Christi (The Passion of Christ 3,242 lines) and Resurrexio Domini (The Resurrection of Our Lord 2,646 lines).



Origo Mundi, in the easily recognised Plen an Gwary (Playing place) at St Just in Penwith, last month)

The metres of these plays are various arrangements of seven- and four-syllabled lines. Ordinalia means "prompt" or "service book" in Latin. These plays were meant as vivid instruction to the flock, who knew little Latin or English, on these biblical stories (with some local politics and personalities referenced, sometimes pejoratively).

Performed in part or whole over the years in today's Cornish and / or modern English translation (including bits in Australia), this full production over several days in the Plen an Grawy (Playing place) at St Just in Penwith last month was mainly in English but also had Cornish content.

CRYING THE NECK



Ken Mann Crying the Neck at Zennor 20th August, 2021



This ancient Cornish tradition was revived in 1928 by the St Ives Old Cornwall Society, and is now carried out in many parts of Cornwall, particularly Penwith and Kerrier, during early Autumn. Harry Mann is the not-so-grim reaper here on his farm at Zennor. After cutting the last of the harvest it is held in a sheaf and the words '*I ave ee, I ave ee, the neck, the neck*'

cried by all, in English and in Cornish. Usually a pasty and a drink will follow. His grandchildren, then helped make the Corn Dolly, which is kept in the farmers home until next harvest. Photos of Ken at this year's at Zennor (top), and the 2nd is in 2020 elsewhere.

MIDSUMMER BONFIRES

Another long standing and now revived custom is the beacon fire, in this case celebrating midsummer or *Tansys Golowan* in Cornish.



At Pencoose, Stithians on 23 June 2021



Castel an Dinas on 23 June, 2021



Chapel Carn Brea 23 June 2021

Coming .. Around the Associations

In future editions we will be looking at what is happening in Cornish Associations around the world.

OUR CORNISH PLACES



The walkway from the streets of Glen Innes, to the Australian Standing Stones site below Martins Lookout, is named after the late John and Jean Tregurtha (members of the CANSW) both of Cornish ancestry.

Silly Sayings - Unintended Church notices

"The Rector will preach his farewell message, after which the choir will sing 'Break Forth into Joy, Hallelujah.'"



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 Keyne (8th Oct), St Winnoc (6th Nov). All Hallows Eve – In Cornwall traditionally Allantide or in Cornish *Kalan Gwav* - Also known as *Halloween* in many countries (31 Oct)

KALAN GWAV BENYGYS PUBONAN

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: Building a sentence on your own what I love ..

MY A GAR • I LOVE

My a gar I Love	+	dyski to learn	kewsel to speak	redya to read	+	Kernewek Cornish
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My a gar I Love	+	kelyn puppies	ow thas my father	boos heb kost free food	koffi coffee
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dy'Gwener Friday	ow honin my rabbit	ow gwreg my wife	ow chi my house	dydh howlek a sunny day
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kresigow crisps	ow hath My cat	ow hi my dog	podyn dessert	skalpyon pickles	ilow music
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ow gour my husband	ow theylu my family	kathigow kittens	kowligow sprouts	ow harr my car
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an mor The sea	an treth the beach	ow mamm my mother	ow flogh my child	ow fleghe my children
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My a gar I Love	+	eva to drink	dybri to eat	kavoes to have	flerya to smell	blasa to taste
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+	tesen a cake	bara bread	dowr water	gwin wine	diwes a drink	pasti a pasty	te tea
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keus cheese	know toos doughnuts	dehen rew ice cream	choklet chocolate	koffi coffee	kig yar chicken
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adjectives follow the nouns

+	teudhys melted	tomm hot	fresk fresh	rudh red	gwynn white	bras big	du black
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flerys stinky	yeyn cold	medhel soft	hweg sweet	friys fried	skalpyon pickles
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My a gar	dybri	pasti	tomm
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I love to eat a hot pasty

nouns	verbs	adjectives	Kernewek • English
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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 394 for the months of November / December 2021 has a copy deadline - by 8 November.

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

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