

The Cornish Association of Victoria Inc. Ballarat Branch

A.C.N. A0008 264A

December 2019 Newsletter

Onen hag oll

Chairperson

Keith Lanyon
34 Glazebrook St
Ballarat 3350
03 4343 2390

kmlanyon@hotmail.com

Admin.Secretary

Lorice Jenkin
29 Queen St South
Ballarat 3350
03 5332 2920

lajenkin@bigpond.com

Treasurer

Ian Jennings
52 Arrandale Ave
Alfredton 3350
03 5334 1558

ianjen9329@bigpond.com

Newsletter Editor

Robyn Coates
28 Town Hall Ave
Preston Vic 3072
03 9478 6135

arthurc@netspace.net.au



Saturday 7th December -

Christmas Luncheon at the Barkly Hotel at 12 noon for 12.30 - cost \$32.50 please ensure you contact Lorice Jenkin if you intend being part of the Christmas luncheon.

Her details are above

Last year was a wonderful occasion and let's make this year a good day.

Saturday 1st February 2020 - discussion about St Piran's Day with Jim Hocking

ST PIRAN'S DAY PLANNING - 2020

Thursday 5th March - St Piran's Flag raising Ceremony in Victoria Square, in front of the Town Hall, followed by Pasty lunch at Skipton Street Uniting Church Hall, displays, speaker, afternoon tea - free evening

Friday 6th March- 9.00 am bus tour of Creswick return by 3.30 pm - BYO Lunch or buy lunch in Creswick - free evening

Saturday 7th March -
free morning

2.30 pm Bardic ceremony

6.00 pm for 6.30 pm - Dinner at Barkly's Restaurant, corner of Main Road and Barkly Street.

Sunday 8th March -

10.00 am - Church service at Skipton Street Uniting Church followed by a light lunch in the church hall.

1.00 pm - Short talk about the Mt Pleasant area by Max Duthie, at Skipton Street Uniting Church Hall followed by a driving/walking tour of Mt Pleasant. In the evening a final get together at a local eatery.

Monday 9th March - Parade around Lake Wendouree from 11.00 am to 12 noon wearing Cornish gear and banners

Booking forms and more information will be emailed or mailed to Members in late December/ January.

CELEBRATIONS

October has been a very busy time for some of our members celebrating birthdays and a special anniversary.



To Joy and Jeff Menhennet we offer congratulations and best wishes for their 60th Wedding Anniversary.

Birthday greetings and best wishes to Nita Bartle, Lenice and John Stuchbery, John Mildren and Jeff Menhennet who all celebrated birthdays in October.

To others who may have celebrated birthdays or anniversaries we extend our best wishes also.

Wishing all our readers a Happy Christmas and New Year.

Meetings are held on the even months at Skipton Street Uniting Church Hall, cnr Darling and Skipton Streets, Ballarat. Meetings begin at 2.00 pm and are followed by a shared high tea.





October Meeting

At the October Meeting, we welcomed Sandra and Alan Ballard as our speakers.

Alan and Sandra are members at Skipton Street Uniting Church where Alan plays the keyboard. Alan was a former lecturer at SMB and Federation University whilst Sandra taught at Clarendon College.

Sandra's Burt family came from Marazion and arrived in Australia in the 1870s and worked for a time at Broken Hill in the mines.

Charles Burt and his wife Elizabeth had six sons and three daughters.

One of their daughters, Ellen known as Nellie married Joseph Matthews whose family had also come from Cornwall.

Nellie was a good correspondent and maintained a connection with both her Burt family and her husband's Matthews family and extended Edmunds family in Cornwall.

Sandra's mother continued the tradition. Sandra stayed in Cornwall with the family in 1967 and Alan and Sandra visited them more recently.

Alan showed us some wonderful photos of Cornwall, including:

The viaduct at Calstock.

The village and fishing port of Mevagissey.

Porthleven

St Ives

Padstow

Port Isaac

St Kew

St Michael's Mount

Alan is a very keen photographer and is happy to watch and wait for the perfect shot.

Jenny Burrell also shared a 1610 map of Cornwall which was of interest.

It was a very enjoyable afternoon and Keith thanked Sandra and Alan with a small gift.

SS Great Britain

When I holiday, I am always on the lookout for interesting tidbits relating to Cornwall for the newsletter.

One of our recent holiday stops was Bristol. One branch of my ancestors had travelled to Australia aboard the *SS Great Britain* on her maiden voyage to Melbourne in 1852. They ended up living in Landsborough and Joel Joel., not far from Ararat. For many years, the ship had travelled between Britain and New York taking about 15 days. She was an iron hulled ship operating under engine power and sail and was designed by Isambard Kingdom Brunel.

Later she was used to carry emigrants to Australia who were keen to make their fortunes at the Goldfields.

She was nicknamed the 'greyhound of the seas' as she completed 32 voyages over 24 years carrying 16000 passengers.

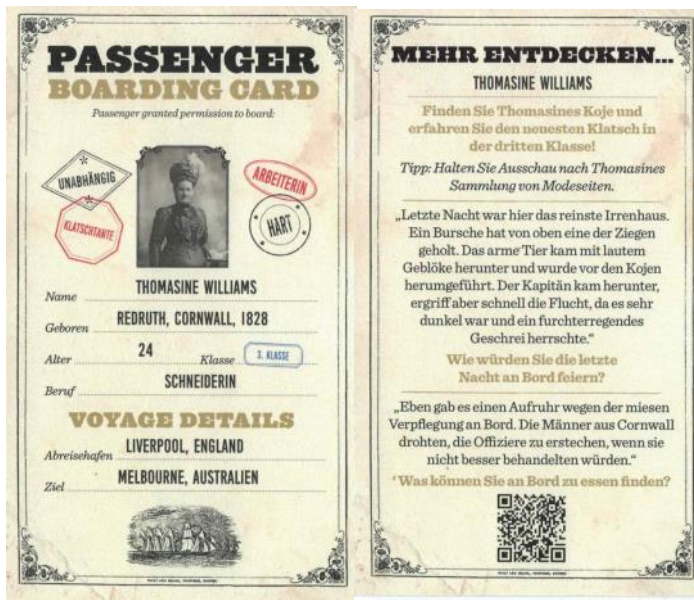


It was an expensive trip as it was so quick in comparison to other ships travelling to Australia. Even steerage tickets cost about £20 (in today's money about \$5000 AUD).

As you board the ship, in Bristol, you have the option of collecting a passenger card – I collected Thomasine Williams, dress maker, from Redruth, Cornwall.

At the time I didn't notice that the card for Thomasine was written in German – I was really taken by the fact that supposedly on the first voyage to Australia there had been someone from Cornwall.

I am told by a friend that the translation reads as follows on the card on the left (on the next page) but am happy to be corrected:



PASSENGER BOARDING CARD

Passenger granted permission to board:
FEMALE WORKER
INDEPENDENTLY
HARD

GOSSIP MERCHANT

Name: THOMASINE WILLIAMS

Born: REDRUTH, CORNWALL, 1828

Age 24

Class: 3rd CLASS

Occupation: DRESS MAKER

VOYAGE DETAILS

Departure Port: LIVERPOOL, ENGLAND

Destination: MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA

And the card on the right:

DISCOVER MORE - THOMASINE WILLIAMS

Find Thomasine's bunk and experience the latest gossip in third class!

Tip: Look for Thomasine's collection of fashion pages.

"Last night here was the purest madhouse. A guy brought one of the goats from above. The poor animal came down with a loud bluff and was led around in front of the bunks. The captain came down, but quickly took flight, as it was very dark and there was a terrible screaming. There was just a commotion because of the lousy food on board. The men from Cornwall threatened to stab the officers if they were not better treated."

What can you find on board?"

From information aboard the ship, we discovered:

From dressmaker to boarding house-keeper, it appears Thomasine Williams had many jobs throughout her life. Although she emigrated, aged 24, she never forgot her Cornish roots.

She had many children by three successive husbands. Two of the men were brothers, and all of them were miners.

Thomasine was born in Redruth, Cornwall but her early life is a mystery.

In 1851, she married John Tranuck Williams, a tin miner from the neighbouring village of Lugdvan.

Less than a year later the pair set sail for Melbourne aboard the Great Britain, on the ship's first voyage to Australia.

An eighth of all passengers on board were women, and Thomasine Williams was the only one to have a profession listed.

She worked as a dressmaker, but we do not know how successful she was or whether she continued working on board the ship.

Thomasine and John travelled in a steerage cabin, the cheapest way to travel.

Their cabin mates wrote about rats running above their heads and sleepless nights because of all the snorers on board.

Conditions were cramped and uncomfortable.



On arriving in Australia, the couple made their way to Pleasant Creek where gold was discovered in 1853.

As a Cornish tin miner, John had many of the skills needed to make a success of gold mining, and perhaps Thomasine sold dresses to the families of other miners.

In March 1865, Thomasine lost her husband in a mining accident.

Less than two years later she married his brother Francis/ Frank, who sadly died two years after that.

In 1875 she married for a third time, another Cornish miner from St Erith.

Her marriage certificate lists her as a boarding house-keeper.

Thomasine died aged 65 in New South Wales of breast cancer, leaving around 20 children from her three marriages.

Since returning home, I have done some research on Thomasine Williams and when I have finished will forward it to SS Great Britain, to supplement their story.

Thomasine Maria Hollow was baptised in Redruth on 18th March 1827.

Her father was John Hollow, a stone mason and her mother was Thomasine Champion.

Thomasine was the eldest of seven children.

Thomasine Hollow married John Traunack Williams on 26th May 1849, at Bedminster, Somerset, England. (His middle name seems to be spelled differently in every record)

John Trannick Williams was baptised on 15th August 1824 at St Hilary.

His father was John Williams, a Mariner and his mother was Rebekah Calf.

At the time of his baptism, the family was living at St Michael's Mount.

He was the fourth of six children.

His two younger brothers Francis and Zechariah, I have also found in Australia.

A child, Elizabeth, is born c 1850 in Somerset to Thomasine and John.

They are all living in Ludgvan, Cornwall in the 1851 census:

John is aged 26, Thomasina is aged 23 and Elizabeth is aged 1. John is listed as a Miner.

John Trannick Williams died at Pleasant Creek in Victoria in 1865 and his inquest suggested it was as a result of a 'fall of stone'.

Thomasine married her husband's brother Francis Trannack Williams two years later in 1867 but unfortunately he died in 1869.

She then married John Birch, her third husband in 1875 in Victoria. He also was born in Cornwall. Thomasine died in 1897 in NSW aged 65 years.

I can only find eleven children born to Thomasine not twenty – someone has posted her death certificate on Ancestry and there are two more children – Francis and William – but to date I cannot find their births.



Her children:

Elizabeth 1849-1932 - married Charles Cox in 1866 - she died in Stawell Victoria

Mary 1851-1922 - in the 1861 census she is with her Hollow grandparents in Redruth - married in 1872 John Henry Thomas - died NSW

Matilda 1853-1922 - married Andrew Bartley in 1870 and died in Western Australia

Emily Alma 1855-1937 - married Thomas Holman in 1878 - died Drouin, Victoria

Jeanette 1858-1882 - married Joseph Thomas in 1877 - died St Arnaud, Victoria

John Henry 1860-1938 - died in NSW - he married Alice Hollow in 1889 in NSW - his cousin - the daughter of his mother's brother James

Catherine/Kate 1861-1938 - married John Rogers in NSW in 1888 - she died in WA

Laura 1863-1935 - married John Hollman in NSW in 1890 - she died in NSW

Charles John Trannick 1865-1924 - married Sarah Johnson in 1888 in NSW - he died in NSW

2nd Marriage children

Francis 1868-1870 – he died in Stawell - inquest states from drowning

Lillian 1870-1908 - married Matthew Beck In NSW in 1888 - she died in Melbourne

Robyn Coates

From the Past - Ballarat Star (Vic. : 1865 - 1924), Friday 24th December 1886, page 2

Prout's Band will play the following real old Cornish Christmas carols from the balcony of Sam. Boanas' British Queen hotel, to-night (Christmas Eve), commencing at 9 o'clock, viz.:

1. "Angels proclaim the happy morn;"
2. "Hail! Prince of Peace;"
3. "With hearts of gladness;"
4. "Angels from the realms of glory;"
5. "The Lord is King."

Interval of 10 minutes.

6. "La recreation musicale;"
7. "Christians, awake;"
8. "Hark, the sound of holy voices;"
9. "It is well;" "

God save the Queen."

Prout's Ballarat Band began in 1858.

The founder of the Band, Samuel Prout, had had a Band in Cornwall before settling in Ballarat. Supposedly on hearing of the good things which were happening in Australia, and more particularly in the Goldfields of Victoria, Samuel Prout decided to emigrate to Ballarat, leaving his wife and young family behind.

Samuel, was born in Calstock, and baptised on 30th January 1831.

His parents were Samuel Prout, a butcher, and Mary (nee Rowe).

Samuel had younger siblings Mary, Martin, George, Richard, Thomas and John.

Samuel Prout married Mary Nicholls, after banns, on 25th December 1854, at Gunnislake - quite close to Calstock - and Samuel is listed as a miner.

Samuel and Mary had two children in Cornwall – George Henry (1855) and Samuel Nicholls (1857).

Samuel Prout convinced some members of his Band to travel with him to Australia and Messrs Prout, Croughey, Mager, Phillips and Vincent, according to a newspaper report, arrived in Melbourne aboard a man-o-war and they decided to go to the Ballarat Goldfields.

These five formed the nucleus of the band in Ballarat from 1858.

Mary Prout and the two children arrived in Victoria aboard the *Prince of Wales* in December 1861, suggesting that Samuel must have had some success either on the goldfield or with his music-making thus enabling the family to sail and join him.

Three more children Albert John (1869), Mary Ellen (1871) and Francis Richard [aka Arthur Francis Richard] (1873) were all born in Ballarat.

Reading early newspaper reports in the *Ballarat Star*, Samuel Prout's Band had many engagements – various picnics, race meetings, funerals, open air concerts in the parks and gardens around Ballarat, and at the opening of significant public buildings and churches.

Samuel Prout died in 1894 and the Band was taken over by his son, Albert, for two years (1894-1896), after which his younger brother Arthur took up the Conductor's baton until 1922, when he then shifted to Melbourne and played trumpet in various theatrical orchestras.

Arthur had joined his father's band at the age of six and was an accomplished cornet player.



Christmas Trivia - answers on page 8

1. What is the first name of Scrooge, the principal character of the novel, *A Christmas Carol*?
2. The red and white costume of Father Christmas was allegedly first introduced by which drinks' manufacturer?
3. Visions of which sweet foodstuff danced in children's heads as they slept, according to Clement Clarke Moore's poem "*'Twas the Night before Christmas*"?
4. Which Christmas food is it considered good luck to eat one of on each of the 12 days of Christmas?
5. Who once stole Christmas?
6. Who invented electric Christmas lights?
7. Which of Santa's reindeer is named after another animal?
8. As the clock chimes midnight to ring in the New Year, a Spanish tradition involves eating twelve of what – one for each chime?
9. Which country is the largest exporter of Christmas trees?
10. How many days are there between Christmas and Epiphany?
11. How many wise men / Magi / kings does the Bible say visited the baby Jesus?
12. On what street did a Santa Claus Miracle occur?
13. What is the best-selling Christmas song ever?
14. Who stuck his thumb in a Christmas pie and pulled out a plum?
15. In which ocean is Christmas Island?
16. Stollen is the traditional fruit cake of which country?
17. What is the name of the skin that hangs from a turkey's neck?
18. Which type of tree was the partridge sitting in, according to a well-known Christmas song?
19. In the carol, "Jingle Bells," what kind of a sleigh is mentioned?
20. Which is the most famous Christmas ballet of all time?

RMS Titanic and her Cornish Passengers and Workers

One of the recent displays at the National Maritime Museum concerned the *RMS Titanic*.

There were many recovered treasures on display, photos, statistics, costumes from the film, a replica life boat, posters, and listings of passengers and crew members

I was surprised to read of the six Australians who were on board (obviously I need to study more history) and also the number of Cornish.

The Australians: -

Donald Campbell was born in Melbourne around 1887, was a third class clerk, and a member of the 'victualling crew', responsible for food provisions.

Leonard White was born in Sydney around 1881 and was a saloon steward.



Alfred Nichols born about 1870 worked as a boatswain, an officer in charge of the Titanic's deck crew, rigging, cables and anchors.

Charles Dahl was born in Norway in 1866 and had emigrated to Adelaide in 1892, where he worked as a joiner. He was asleep in his cabin when the ship struck the iceberg. After dressing in warm clothes, he made his way to the deck and escaped in Lifeboat 15.

Arthur Gordon McCrae was born in Adelaide in 1880. His grandmother, Georgiana McCrae, who was a respected artist, was the illegitimate daughter of an English duke, and had settled in the Mornington Peninsula, Victoria, with her husband. Arthur went to Sydney Grammar School and then to Sydney University, graduating with a degree in engineering.

Evelyn Marsden who was born at Stockyard Creek, Dalkey, about 80 km north of Adelaide. She was a stewardess and a nurse in first class on the ship.

Sixty-one people on board the Titanic were from Cornwall; most did not survive.

Of the eleven Cornish crewmen, the most famous is Quartermaster Robert Hitchens from Newlyn, the man who had been at the wheel when the ship struck the iceberg. He survived, but his conduct in command of boat six – refusing to return to pick up people in the water, to lend a hand rowing and to acknowledge the light of the rescue ship was anything more than a shooting star - made sure he is never seen as one of the heroes in Titanic Stories.

In contrast, the story of passenger Arthur West of Perranzabuloe is one of the now forgotten tales of the quite heroism of those who remained on the ship.

Travelling with their two children, his wife Ada recalled:

“Arthur placed lifebelts on the children and then carried them to the boat deck ...After seeing us safely into the lifeboat, Arthur returned to the cabin for a thermos of hot milk and, finding the lifeboat let down, he reached it by means of a rope, gave the flask to me, and with a farewell, returned to the deck of the ship.”

Ada and the children survived.

Even the flask survived. Arthur was never seen again.

The Wests were planning to emigrate, as were most of the other forty-eight passengers (including five children), although a few had already settled in America and were returning after a visit to relatives in Cornwall.

Thirty-seven of them – including emigrating tin miners – were travelling Second Class (at £12 a ticket) and only thirteen in Third Class (at £7/8 a ticket).

Only sixteen of the sixty-one were rescued – all five children, seven of the eleven women and four crewmen. Not one of the thirty-four male passengers survived.

The West children (see yellow box on previous page) were

Barbara Joyce West (aged ten months) b. Bournemouth and

Constance Miriam West (aged four years)– b. Bristol.

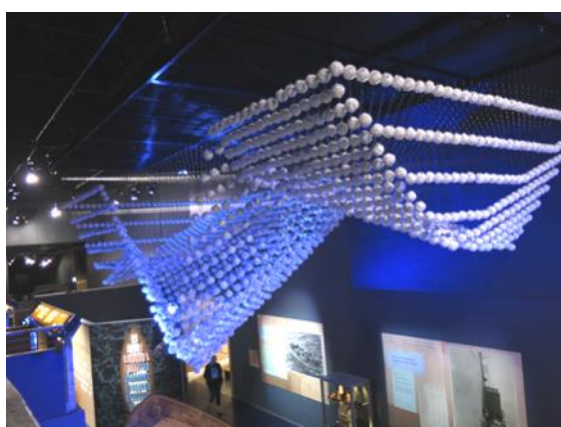
Their mother, Ada West was pregnant at the time and gave birth to another daughter five months later on 14th September 1912 – Edwyna Joan, who was named after her late father.

Those born in Cornwall who were aboard RMS TITANIC are listed below.

If suddenly one of your ancestors is untraceable in 1912, maybe they were aboard the Ship.

Name	Age	Class/Dept	Other
ALLUM, Mr Owen George	17	3rd Class Passenger	b Flushing – body recovered
ANDREW, Mr Frank Thomas	26	2nd Class Passenger	b Perranaworthal - lost
BAILEY, Mr Percy	18	2nd Class Passenger	b Penzance - lost
BANFIELD, Mr Frederick James	28	2nd Class Passenger	b Helston - lost
BERRIMAN, Mr William John	23	2nd Class Passenger	b St Ives - lost
BLAKE, Mr Thomas Henry	37	Engineering Crew	b St Tessell - lost
BRAUND, Mr Lewis Richard	29	3rd Class Passenger	b Week St Mary - lost
BRAUND, Mr Owen Harris	22	3rd Class Passenger	b Week St Mary - lost
BIRSTOW Harry	38	Saloon Steward	b Shutta, East Looe - lost
CANN, Mr Ernest	29	3rd Class Passenger	b Amble, St Kew – lost
CARBINES, Mr William	19	2nd Class Passenger	b Nanjivey – body recovered
CHAPMAN, Mr John Henry	37	2nd Class Passenger	b St Neot - body recovered
CHAPMAN, Mrs Sarah Elizabeth	30	2nd Class Passenger	b St Neot - body recovered
DAVIES, Master John Morgan	8	2nd Class Passenger	b St Ives - survived
DAVIES, Mrs Agnes	48	2nd Class Passenger	b St Ives - survived
DENNIS Samuel	23	3rd Class Passenger	b Launcells - lost
DREW, Mr James Vivian	42	2nd Class Passenger	b Constantine - lost
FILLBROOK, Mr Joseph Charles	18	2nd Class Passenger	b Truro - lost
FOX, Mr William Thomas	27	3rd Class Steward	b Polhawn Cove, Rame - lost
GALE, Mr Shadrach	33	2nd Class Passenger	b Calstock - lost
GALE, Mr Harry	37	2nd Class Passenger	b Calstock - lost
GILBERT, Mr William	46	2nd Class Passenger	b Polladrass, Breage - lost
GILES, Mr Frederick Edward	20	2nd Class Passenger	b Porthleven - lost
GILES, Mr Edgar	18	2nd Class Passenger	b Porthleven - lost
HICHENS, Mr Robert	29	Quarter Master	b Newlyn - survived
HOCKING, Mr Richard George	23	2nd Class Passenger	b Penzance - lost
HOCKING, Miss Ellen	20	2nd Class Passenger	b Penzance - survived
HOLD, Mrs Annie Margaret	29	2nd Class Passenger	b Porthoustock - survived
HOLD, Mr Stephen	44	2nd Class Passenger	b Porthoustock - lost
JENKIN, Mr Stephen Curnow	32	2nd Class Passenger	b Stennack, St Ives - lost
JEWELL Archie	23	Deck Crew	b Bude - survived
LOBB, Mrs Cordelia	34	3rd Class Passenger	b Tywardreath - lost
LOBB, Mr William Arthur	31	3rd Class Passenger	b Tywardreath - lost
MATTHEWS, Mr William John	23	2nd Class Passenger	b Penwithick, St Austell - lost
NANCARROW William	36	3rd Class Passenger	b St Austell - lost
NICHOLLS, Mr Joseph Charles	19	2nd Class Passenger	b Nancledra – body recovered
PASCOE, Mr Charles Henry	45	Deck Crew	b Perran – survived
PEACOCK, Mrs Edith	26	3rd Class Passenger	b Carnkie - lost
PENGELLY, Mr Frederick Wm	19	2nd Class Passenger	b Calstock -lost
PENNAL, Mr Thomas Fred. C.	34	1st Class Steward	b Sennen - lost
RICHARDS, Master William R	3	2nd Class Passenger	b Penzance - survived
RICHARDS, Master Sibley Geo.	10m	2nd Class Passenger	b Newlyn - survived
RICHARDS Emily	24	2nd Class Passenger	b Penzance - survived
ROBINS, Mr Alexander	50	3rd Class Passenger	b St Austell – body recovered
ROBINS, Mrs Charity	48	3rd Class Passenger	b St Austell – body recovered
RULE, Mr Samuel James	58	1st Class Steward	b Hayle - survived

Name	Age	Class/Dept	Other
SAUNDERCOCK, Mr Wm Hy	19	3rd Class Passenger	b St Austell - lost
SLEMEN, Mr Richard James	35	2nd Class Passenger	b Landrake - lost
SMITH Jago	35	Postal Clerk	b Lanarth - lost
SOBEY, Mr Samuel James Hayden	25	2nd Class Passenger	b St Keverne - lost
VEAL John	40	2nd Class Passenger	b Constantine - lost
WARE, Mr William Jeffery	22	2nd Class Passenger	b Calstock - lost
WEBBER, Mr James	66	3rd Class Passenger	b Kea - lost
WEBBER, Miss Susan	38	2nd Class Passenger	b North Tamerton - survived
WELLS, Master Ralph Lester	2	2nd Class Passenger	b Newlyn - survived
WELLS, Mrs Addie Dart	29	2nd Class Passenger	b Newlyn - survived
WELLS, Miss Joan	4	2nd Class Passenger	b Newlyn - survived
WEST, Mr Edwy Arthur	36	2nd Class Passenger	b Perranzabuloe - lost
WEST, Mrs Ada Mary	33	2nd Class Passenger	b Truro – survived



Monkey fist
knot



Iceberg Sculpture made from Monkey fist knots

Replica Lifeboat

Christmas Trivia answers

1. Ebenezer Scrooge
2. Coca Cola
3. Sugar Plums
4. Mince Pies
5. The Grinch stole Christmas
6. Thomas Edison
7. Vixen - Blitzzen, Comet, Cupid, Dancer, Dasher, Donner, Prancer, Rudolph, Vixen.
8. Grapes
9. Canada
10. Twelve
11. It doesn't mention a number - people assume three because of the gifts
12. 34th Street
13. White Christmas - Bing Crosby
14. Little Jack Horner
15. Indian Ocean
16. Germany
17. A wattle
18. A pear tree
19. A one horse open sleigh
20. The Nutcracker

Articles and Cornish Snippets may be sourced from the Cornwall Council, BBC Cornwall, Pirate FM News, Falmouth Packet, Cornwall Live.