



Cowethas Kernewek Loundres

London Cornish Association Newsletter



www.londoncornish.co.uk

Spring 2023

After a long cold winter, there are, at last, signs of spring – the mornings are getting lighter, the temperatures are rising (be it ever so slowly!) and the snowdrops are peeping out. It is such a lovely time of the year, but few places can rival Cornwall in spring when the primroses and daffodils begin to emerge.

We associate spring with 'new beginnings'. For us, at the LCA, a *new beginning* is just around the corner. After being unable to hold meetings for several years, firstly because of covid, and then, just when we were looking forward to them starting again, hearing that our old venue was no longer available, we were feeling a bit despondent. Finding alternatives at an affordable price in London is not easy, especially as we need to find somewhere that permits us to heat pasties. Fortunately, our Chairman, Carol, keeps her ear to the ground! She followed up a lead and we are now in the fortunate position of having found a place that ticks all the boxes. We are really looking forward to holding our first meeting there in April.

Our first speaker, after a very long time, will be member Dick Richards. Those of us who regularly 'attend' the zoom meetings of the Toronto Cornish Association heard him give his talk on the St Nazaire Raid several months ago and agreed that it is something we were sure would ap-

peal to our members. We look forward to welcoming many members to hear him at our first Cornish Day in April. A good talk, a pasty lunch and lots of chat with our cousins. What is not to like!

It is not long now until St Piran's day. We are holding thumbs the weather will cooperate so that when we meet in Russell Square on 4th March for our celebration, we will be able to sit outside in this beautiful park.

It has been interesting to hear what Cornish people around the world are doing to celebrate. We know the Toronto Cornish Association will be raising a St Piran's flag on the Town Hall roof and have heard of lots of lunches and parades – and of course, there will be the now traditional Trelawny Shout. How many of our members will be taking part in this?

It is that time of the year when annual subscriptions fall due. A renewal form will be found with this newsletter. Please complete it and send it to our Membership Secretary. We look forward to welcoming you back for another year.

Kernow bys vyken

Dates for your diary

St Piran's Day Celebration

Saturday 4th March
2pm

Cornish Day

Saturday 15th April
10.40-4pm

Midsummer Lunch

Saturday 1st July
(tbc)
12 noon

Further details of these events can be found on page 2

Deadline for the Autumn Newsletter is 5th May

Please send all contributions to The Editor at the address on the back page



Do we have your correct contact details?
Please let us know if you change your address.

Contact the Membership Secretary on
lca@londoncornish.co.uk or at

Forthcoming events

A warm welcome is extended to non-members who would like to attend any of the London Cornish Association events.

St Piran's Day Celebration

Date: Saturday 4th March

Time: 2pm

Venue: Cafe Tropea, Russell Square

Contact: Carol Goodwin -

Email: chynoweth@hotmail.com

Phone: 0208 303 9054

Let's celebrate St Piran's Day together at Café Tropea where we can enjoy tea, sweet treats and lots of chat.

Cornish Day

Date: Saturday 15th April

Time: 10.30 - 4pm

Venue: Vestry Hall behind St George's Church Bloomsbury WC1A 2HR

Access to the hall is from Little Russell Street.

Cost: £15

Contact: Carol Goodwin -

Email: chynoweth@hotmail.com

Phone: 0208 303 9054

Closest Tube stations - Holborn or Tottenham Court Rd,

Our speaker on this occasion will be Dick Richards who will talk on:

The St Nazaire Raid.

During his talk about this historic event, Dick will reveal some Cornish involvement.

This is the first event in our new venue. Apart from a very interesting talk, we will enjoy a pasty lunch and there will be lots of time for chat.

Please let us know if you are coming so that we can make sure we order enough pasties!

There is step free access to the venue.

Midsummer Lunch

Date: Sat 1st July (tbc)

Venue: The Knight's Templar

95 Chancery Lane,

WC2A 1DT

Time: 12 noon

The venue has step-free access around the corner in Carey Street.

It would be helpful if you could let us know if you propose coming so we can ensure we have enough seating.

Contact: Carol Goodwin -

Email: chynoweth@hotmail.com

Phone: 0208 303 9054



Top photo: Entrance from Little Russell Street

Lower photo: The entrance to the Vestry Hall is on the right behind the curved building.

Cornish Heroes...A Proper Job!

Several Cornish people - representing a range of fields from sport to the environment, were recognised in King Charles' first New Year's Honours list. These are well deserved awards, acknowledging the contribution these heroes have made to Cornwall and further afield.

Officer of the Order of the British Empire (OBE)

Floyd Steadman from Ludgvan

For services to Rugby Union Football, education and charity.

Members of the Order of the British Empire (MBE)

Judith Rachel Backus from Truro

Founder of *Hidden Help* which provides services to disadvantaged people living in Cornwall.

Martin John Hamilton Dorey from Bude

Founder of #2minute beach clean campaigns. For services to recycling and to the environment. The campaign encourages people to take two minutes to pick up litter on beaches and then upload pictures of it to Twitter and Instagram.

David Geoffrey Hall-Davies from St Just

Chief executive officer and company secretary of Cornwall YMCA. For services to young people and to the community in Cornwall. YMCA Cornwall provides supported housing for vulnerable young people aged 16-24 who are already homeless or at risk of becoming so.

Ian Jones from Truro

Chief executive for Volunteer Cornwall, for services to volunteering in Cornwall. This charity works in partnership with local people, the voluntary community and public sectors to create inclusive, resilient communities.

Susan Katriona Sayer from Hayle

Founder and director of The Seal Research Trust. For services to wildlife protection and conservation.

Medallists of the Order of the British Empire (BEM)

Michael Arthur Weeks from Camborne

Operations manager, Cornwall Cricket League. For services to cricket in Cornwall.

Rosalie Caroline Whitlock from Penzance

Fundraising secretary for the Penlee Lifeboat Station, RNLI. For services to maritime safety. She raised nearly £2 million through souvenir and shop sales and local events.

The Royal Victorian Order (LVO)

Peter John Stewart of Eden Project

For services to the Platinum Jubilee of Her Late Majesty The Queen.

Peter Stewart is executive director of outreach and development at the Eden Project.

We congratulate these Cornish heroes and heroines and take pride in their achievements

Gorsedh Kernow announces host town for 2023

Gorsedh Kernow and Padstow Town Council are pleased to announce that Padstow will be the host town for the annual Esedhvos and Gorsedh ceremony in September 2023.

'On behalf of the bards of Gorsedh Kernow, we are excited and delighted that the Gorsedh is coming to Padstow' said Grand Bard *Mab Stenek Veur*, Pol Hodge. 'Our last visit was in 1951 and it is wonderful to be coming back again in 2023. Padstow traditions are at the heart of Cornish culture, and it is very fitting that the Esedhvos should be held in the town.'

At a recent meeting, Padstow Town Council supported the visit of the Gorsedh to Padstow in 2023. Mayor, Councillor James O'Keefe said that 'It is a great delight and pleasure to be invited to host the annual Cornish Gorsedh celebrations here in Padstow in 2023. This is a once in a generation event for towns and villages to host throughout Cornwall. We look forward to working with Gorsedh Kernow and with their support we hope to make this event a huge success for them, and for the town of Padstow.'

A local committee is being formed which will work to help organise the event. The Gorsedh ceremony takes place on the first Saturday of September and is preceded by the Esedhvos Kernow, a celebration of Cornish culture and of the host town.

New Members

We welcome the following new members:

Lindsay Tonkin

Andrew Buckingham

If you know of someone who might like to join the LCA, they can get an application form from:

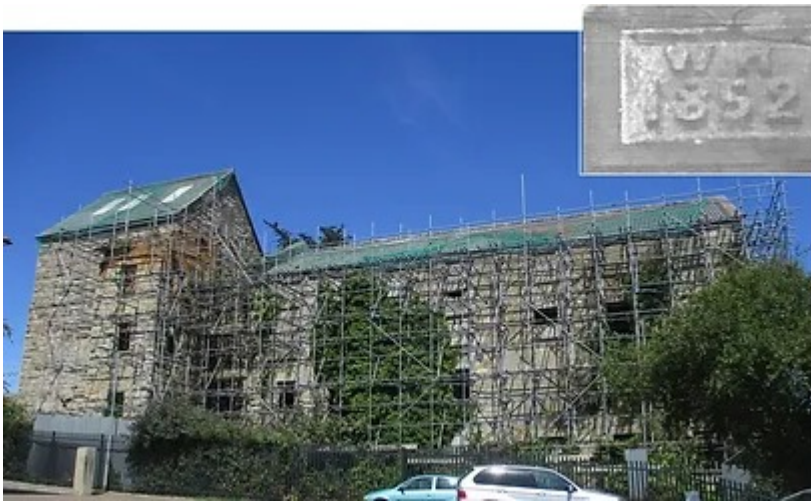
The Membership Secretary, *Chynoweth*,
1a Dunwich Rd, Bexleyheath, Kent, DA7 5EW
or on the website: www.londoncornish.co.uk

Hayle Recreation Ground - 75 years of enjoyment

By Louise Hollick



The extensive park at the Copperhouse end of Hayle – nearest to the A30 – is a wonderful asset to the area. With a children's play park, extensive open grassed area and a skate park, it has appeal to all ages in the community. It also has a link to the other major landmark at this end of Hayle; the large, derelict mill just behind the Lidl supermarket.



A large proportion of the land for the park was donated by the family of Henry Hosken, whose family were connected with flour milling in the town for several hundred years. The mill building seen today was built in 1852 by Henry's grandfather, William Hosken; the date and his initials can be seen through the scaffold fence! A fire destroyed a previous mill on the site in that year, and the family rebuilt the mill larger than it had previously been.

Penmare House – once set to the west of the park area, but demolished in 2004 to make way for development - including Penmare Close & Penmare Court – is where the family lived for several generations. A stone with the name of the house on has been inset at the edge of the development.



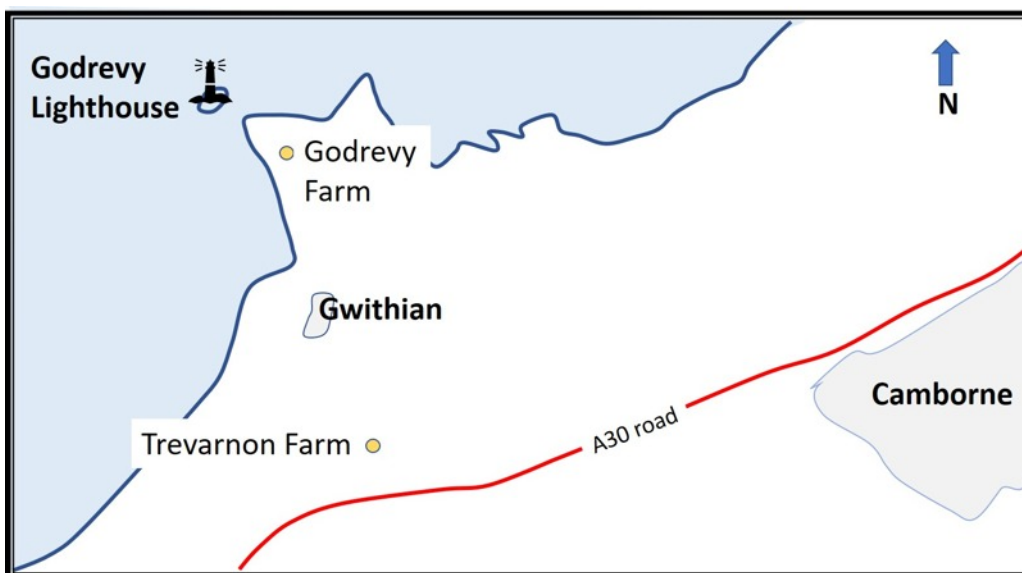
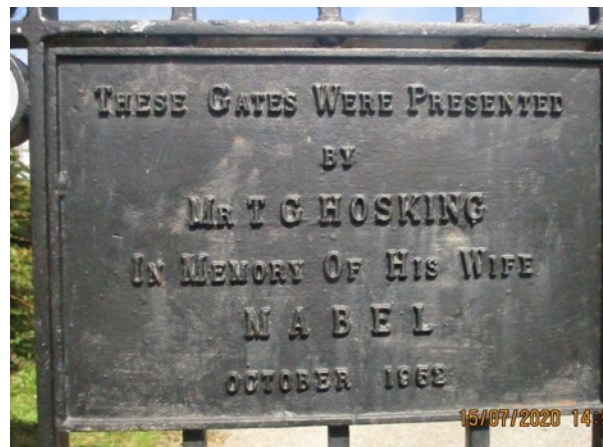
When William Hosken passed away, his son Samuel took over the business, and went in to partnership with two other families to create

the milling conglomerate Hosken, Trevithick & Polkinghorn – the initials HTP were a familiar sight on flour-distribution vehicles in the area through to the 1920s. Samuel's eldest son, Henry, was born in 1865 at Penmare House, and lived and worked in Hayle for most of his life, accruing much respect and renown in the commercial and agricultural sectors. Samuel passed away in 1898, and is buried at Phillack church, alongside his wife, Mary Cardell, and his parents.

Henry married in 1893 (to Louie Evans Harvey from Sennen) and the couple had one child – Leonard Henry – born in 1903. After Henry passed away, his family made a donation of 2 acres of land for the creation of a park in 1948 - a lasting legacy that brings enjoyment to local residents and visitors alike.



The gates to the park host two plaques: one commemorates the gift of land from the Hosken family, and the opening of the park by HRH Duke of Edinburgh (on 30th October 1952, the year that Queen Elizabeth came to the throne) in his capacity as the President of the National Playing Fields Association. The other records the dedication of the gates to Mabel Hosking, wife of the donor, Mr T G Hosking.



Thomas George Hosking had been born at Trevarnon Farm, near Gwithian, in 1880, the youngest of four children, and the only surviving son, of Thomas and Jane Hosking. He was living at Trevarnon in 1908, when he married Mary Mabel Williams from Fore Street, Phillack - the daughter of an outfitter - at Phillack church. Both he and Mabel were 28 at the time of

their marriage. Later, the couple moved to Godrevy Farm, near to the lighthouse, where their daughter Rona Jean was born in October 1913. She was baptised in December of that year, the delay perhaps indicating that she or Mabel were unwell in the months after her birth. Sadly, Rona died aged only 6 years old in 1920.

Thomas Hosking's wife, Mabel, passed away in October 1951, and the gift of the park gates was officially donated by Mr T G Hosking almost exactly one year later. In the newspaper report of the park's opening, it is not clear if Mr Hosking was present, but the report does record that he also gave a gift of swings for the park, in memory of his daughter, Rona Jean.

Mabel, Rona and Thomas are all laid to rest in Phillack churchyard, just up the hill from the park; a photo of their resting place is shown to the right.



The skate park facility was built with funds from the Jamie Farrar Memorial Fund, money that was raised by Jamie's family and friends after his death in a traffic accident in 2002 near Loggans Moor, aged only 12.

Jamie is also commemorated by the naming of a road: a development of houses offered for rent by the Penwith Housing Association, just up the hill from the park, was named Farrar Close in his memory.



Attend Services

Louise Hollick, the author of the Hayle Recreation Ground article, is the founder of Attend Services. She delivers flowers or other tokens of remembrance to burial sites or other special places for those who are unable to visit themselves. A photograph, taken at the time of delivery, is sent to the person making the request and a donation is made to the church concerned. You can find her details in this advert.

Five simple steps

to book

a graveside delivery
to locations in Mid & West Cornwall

We send you photos & a
letter about our
visit

Based in Cornwall

www.attendservices.co.uk

Use: DeIsave20 to save 20% on delivery

What do you know about Nickanan Night?

Nickanan Night – which has also been called *Hall Monday* or *Peasen Monday* - is a Cornish event which was normally held on the Monday before Lent. It was a time when local youths could carry out acts of minor vandalism or play practical jokes on family or neighbours - such as knocking on doors and running away.

A meal of pea soup and salt bacon was traditionally served on Nickanan Night.

Cornish author Thomas Quiller Couch described this event as follows:

On the day termed Hall Monday, which precedes Shrove Tuesday, about the dusk of the evening, it is the custom for boys, and, in some cases, for those who are above the age of boys, to prowl about the streets with short clubs, and to knock loudly at every door, running off to escape detection on the slightest sign of a motion within. If, however, no attention be excited, and especially if any article be discovered negligently exposed, or carelessly guarded, then the things are carried away; and on the following day are discovered displayed in some conspicuous place, to expose the disgraceful want of vigilance supposed to characterise the owner. The time when this is practised is called 'Nick-a-nan night' and the individuals concerned are supposed to represent some imps of darkness, that seize on and expose unguarded moments.

The following poem was recited by the children as they ran around creating mischief on Nickanan Night:

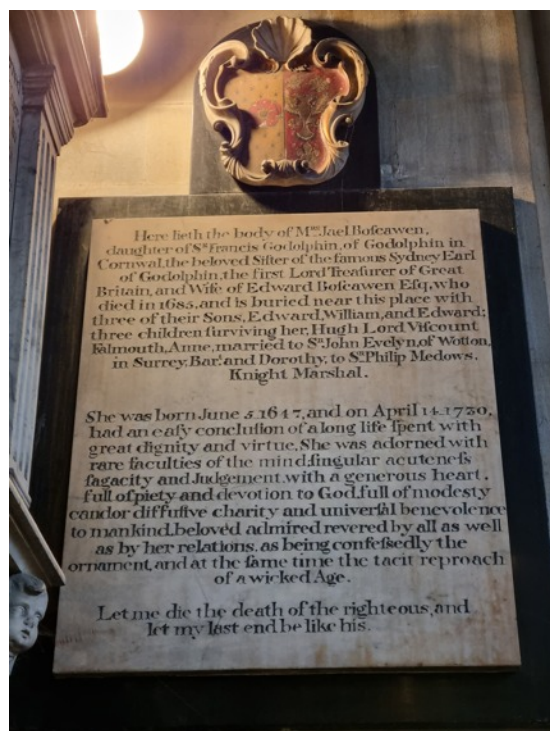
*Nicka nicka nan
Give me some pancake, and then I'll be gone
But if you give me none
I'll throw a great stone
And down your door shall come.*

Another custom linked to Nickanan in the past was the making of a *Jack o' Lent*. Jack was straw figure which was carried through the village while a barrage of projectiles was hurled at it. Finally, it was thrown onto a bonfire and destroyed. .

Does this tradition still continue? Do any of our readers have memories of Nickanan? Please share your stories with us. You can send them to the addresses on the back page.

A Cornish maid spotted in London

One of my favourite pastimes is visiting churches and cemeteries to read memorials. They are such wonderful windows on a community and its history. While killing a bit of time recently, I ventured into the beautiful church of St Mary Abbot's in Kensington. As I wandered round, I spotted a memorial to a Mrs Jael Boscawen. A name like that needed further investigation (!) so I went closer and saw that she was, as I suspected, Cornish.



The inscription on the memorial reads:

Here lieth the body of Mrs Jael Boscawen, the daughter of Sr Francis Godolphin, of Godolphin in Cornwall [sic], the beloved Sister of the famous Sydney Earl of Godolphin, the first Lord Treasurer of Great Britain, and Wife of Edward Boscawen Esq, who died in 1685, and is buried near this place with three of their Sons, Edward, William and Edward; three children surviving her, Hugh Lord Viscount Falmouth, Anne, married to Sr John Evelyn, of Wotton in Surrey, Bart and Dorothy to Sir Philip Meadows, Knight Marshal.

She was born June 5 1647, and on April 14 1730, had an easy conclusion of a long life spent with great dignity and virtue. She was adorned with rare faculties of the mind, singular acuteness, sagacity and Judgment, with a generous heart full of piety and devotion to God, full of

modesty candor [sic] diffusive charity and universal benevolence to mankind, beloved admired revered by all as well as by her relations, as being confessedly the ornament, and at the same time the tacit reproach of a wicked Age.

Let me die the death of the righteous and let my last end be like his.

I was keen to find out a bit more about Jael – partly to check I had got her unusual name correct. A trawl of the internet provided little information, but she is mentioned in the Spring 2014 issue of the *Kensington Parish News*. The following extract reveals some of her story:

Brought up during an era of Puritanism under Cromwell, Jael lived through the turbulent years of dynastic struggles and constitutional upheaval from the reign of Charles II to the accession of George II. She and her family were at the centre

of politics, with her brother, Sidney, 1st Earl of Godolphin, successfully surviving accusations of treason due to his Jacobite sympathies, to rise to the position of first Lord Treasurer of Great Britain in 1702, arguably the most powerful politician in Britain. Jael, his favourite sister, supported him throughout as well as acted as hostess for him after he was widowed in 1678.

As a close friend of Sarah Churchill, Duchess of Marlborough, Jael undoubtedly moved in influential circles. Little has been written about her, thus leaving her memorial inscription as a testament to her success at fulfilling society's expectations of her as a virtuous woman, managing domestic arrangements and participating in religious and charitable activities, while skilfully engaging her intellect in social and political realms in a patriarchal society.

Coulson Park, Lostwithiel

By Gillian Parsons

For those of us, who, during the pandemic, were able to take our daily walk, it was a pleasure to stroll in our local, natural park. This piece of land which was at the beginning of the 20th century, rented as allotments to local residents to store their rubbish, was earlier about to be cleared by the local corporation when a generous benefactor donated £40 with another £60 to follow to improve the site for the pleasure of local children and for residents to enjoy a leisurely walk.

This benefactor was Nathaniel Thomas Coulson, known in his childhood as Tommy.

Tommy was born in Penzance 8th August 1853 but by the time he was seven months old his mother had died and his father had left the home, hence with his brother and his sister they were placed in a workhouse at Plymouth and later at Bodmin.

As part of their day out the children were brought to the Midsummer Festival at Bank Methodist Chapel, Albert Terrace, Lostwithiel (now closed). Tommy was so well behaved that he caught the attention of the organist Miss Abigail Santo who offered him comfort and sympathy.

By the age of ten children were expected to work so, accompanied by his small bible, he was apprenticed to a relative of Miss Santo's, Mr

William Hoar at Penquite Farm, just off Tanhouse Road, Lostwithiel. Tommy was very well looked after by the local family with good food, accommodation and new clothes, attended the Bank Methodist Chapel regularly and was encouraged by Mr Richard Foster, who founded Foster's Penny Bank in the town, to study and save his money.

Four years later Tommy decided to join the Navy but after six years of travel he bought his discharge and returned home. His dream was to go to the west coast of North America and he soon set sail to New York and then went on to Pennsylvania where he found employment as a clerk in a factory before travelling west to California.

When he inherited some money at the age of 21 he travelled to New Zealand to find his father, but this reunion was not successful so he gained a place on a ship back to England where he stayed with a vicar friend in New Maldon, Essex for a short time before returning to California to a job as a stocks and bonds clerk.

With his aim of improving himself, he enrolled at University and gained a degree in dentistry. He became Dr Nathaniel Thomas Coulson, Doctor of Dental Surgery. He became very successful and soon owned three dental surgeries in San

Francisco. With his new wealth he remembered, with donations, his birthplace of Penzance and the kindness of people in New Maldon, Essex.

In 1900 he returned home for a visit including to Lostwithiel. Here he gave away sixpences to the local children, visited the Bank Methodist Chapel and paid for a headstone for an old friend's grave. He travelled to Oxford University, to the Bodleian Library, founded by Sir Thomas Bodley a relative of his mother, Mrs Mary Bodley Coulson.

After his visit to the town it was made known that Dr Coulson had donated nine gold links to the mayoral chain and had promised a donation to provide a place where the local children could play and the for residents to enjoy a leisurely walk. As the site by the river was in the process of being cleared by the local corporation, this site was deemed ideal. £40 was forwarded with a further £60 to be sent at a later date. This money would provide shelters, play equipment and seats.

Unfortunately before the final payment was made the great earthquake of 1906 occurred in San Francisco and Dr Coulson lost his entire fortune of three surgeries, and twenty four flats. The Corporation offered Nathaniel his £40 back but he refused and promised that he would work hard and rise again despite not being able to claim insurance as the earthquake was deemed an 'Act of God'.

The park continued being built and was opened on Thursday 18th August 1906 and named after its benefactor 'Coulson Park'.

By 1907 Dr Coulson had started to recover from the disaster and was able to start sending even more than the promised donations, which provided enough money for a bandstand to be built. Constructed of wood this decayed and was removed early in the 1960s.

To celebrate Empire Day on 24th May 1908, there was a half day school holiday. Residents met on the grass opposite the entrance to Dark Lane. Here the newly erected flag pole flew the Union Jack. In attendance was the Mayor Charles Liddicoat and Corporation, as well as the boys' fife and drum band. Schoolchildren received buns and nuts. There was a concert by the Borough Band and dancing on the green.

Dr Coulson continued to send home donations to the place which was so kind to him as a young child including money for a bridge to be built across the river to Madderley Moor but with such

opposition over many years to this idea the money was finally used in 1935 to provide a shelter to commemorate the Silver Jubilee of King George V and Queen Mary. Unfortunately, due to vandalism the shelter had to be demolished in 2011.

Nathaniel set up an Emigration Fund to enable young men from Bodmin and Lostwithiel to go to the USA to find work and after 'making good' to refund the money interest free. He also set up the Coulson War Fund to help the Red Cross in and around Bodmin and Lostwithiel. In 1924 Nathaniel sent a donation to pay off the debt on Luxulyan Institute, the birthplace of his friend and manager of his affairs in England, Charles Thomas Trevel. Lanlivery Church was given a grant towards the heating system.

In 1925 Dr Coulson retired and cruised around the world but still gave generously to deprived places he encountered on his tours.

During the great San Francisco earthquake in 1906 Grace Cathedral was destroyed and when a new site on Nob Hill was donated, Dr Coulson promised to donate a set of 44 chimes but a new tower was needed to house the bells - so he donated the funds to build the North Bell Tower. By 1938 the bells were ready to be cast, in England, with a special request from Dr Coulson that one of the bells, the twelfth, to be in memory of Abigail Santo in recognition of the kindness she had shown him in Lostwithiel Methodist Church all those years ago. The inscription reads 'SYMPATHY - ABIGAIL SANTO 'Jesus wept' '

Dr Nathaniel Thomas Coulson passed away aged 92 years in San Francisco 18th December 1945. His ashes were placed in a Columbarium Urn in Grace Cathedral.

Coulson Park has changed just a little over the years. Many years ago two local farmers had grazing rights for their cows to graze in the park until the tuberculosis regulations were introduced in the 1950s. This ended this practice and the local rubbish dump near Shirehall Moor was removed in the third quarter of the 20th century.

Thanks to Dr Coulson people from all ages, over a century later, continue to enjoy his legacy given to the residents of Lostwithiel who showed him such kindness at a difficult time in his childhood.

Gillian Parsons

Even turtles must have medical check-ups from time to time!

The story of Omiros, a blind Loggerhead Sea Turtle gives a fascinating insight into what goes on behind the scenes at an aquarium This article on a turtle's medical check-up comes from the Blue Reef Aquarium in Newquay.

Blind Loggerhead Sea Turtle has Bi-Annual Vet Visit

At Blue Reef Aquarium Newquay, Omiros, the rescue Loggerhead Sea Turtle, (*Caretta caretta*), has had his bi-annual vet visit.

Rescued off the coast of Greece in 2007, the 40 plus year old turtle has been living at the aquarium since 2009. It's important for Omiros to have regular health checks so the team at Blue Reef Aquarium Newquay know he's healthy.

Before opening doors to the public, the team of aquarists had attached a custom-made turtle carrier to a hoist above the display, so they could get Omiros safely out of the tank. General Manager/Group Curator Steve Matchett and Deputy Manager/Assistant Curator Lara Heaney headed up a group of aquarists who assisted in the vet visit.

Blue Reef Aquarium Newquay were joined by Dr. Bryony Chetwynd-Glover, vet from London Aquatic Veterinary Services who helped the team. Bryony performed a full health check which included taking bloods for routine laboratory analysis.

Steve Matchett, said: *'As part of Omiros' ongoing health care programme, he was removed from the display for a thorough examination by our vet and blood is taken to ensure there are no internal issues that can't be spotted externally day to day by staff.*

'He is a huge favourite with both staff and visitors, and we are privileged to be able to host him here at the aquarium.' Steve added.

Loggerhead turtles are named for their overly large heads with heavy, strong jaws that allow them to crush hard-shelled prey. Omiros was found with a fishhook wounding one eye and damage to his other eye, eventually leading to blindness in both eyes. He wouldn't be able to survive in the wild on his own, so he lives at Blue Reef Aquarium Newquay and is cared for by a team of aquarists.

The Loggerhead Turtle is target fed so he gets his daily meals and touches the sides of the ocean tank so he can feel his way around.

From the local Cornish coast to the Tropical Reef, Newquay Blue Reef aquarium has an exciting world of underwater adventure waiting to be discovered. More than 40 innovative displays bring to life the sights, sounds and smells of the sea, with regular feeding displays and informative talks.

Situated on Towan Promenade in the heart of Newquay, Blue Reef Aquarium not only offers a beach on its doorstep but also an amazing experience, whatever the weather! For more information on how to purchase tickets visit www.blureefaquarium.co.uk/newquay/ or call 01637 878 134.



Omeros, the Loggerhead Sea Turtle who has just passed his bi-annual health check

Photo:

<https://www.blureefaquarium.co.uk/newquay/>

Condolences

Roger Penny

It was with great sadness that we heard recently that Member Roger Penny had passed away on Christmas Eve.

Roger regularly attended Family History Events where he was an invaluable support to his wife, Gill, and always an extra pair of hands during the event. Many members will remember their lively chats with him. We offer sincere condolences to Gill, her family and friends.

Sadly, since Roger died, Gill has fallen and suffered injuries which mean she will have to remain in hospital for several weeks. We wish her well and hope for a smooth recovery.

News from other Cornish Associations

UNITED STATES

The **Cornish American Heritage Society** is developing a completely new website which they hope will be ready to launch by St Piran's Day.

In January, the Society had a useful zoom presentation on *Researching Cornish Wills* during which they hear about internet sites where they could find information on Cornish wills for free!

At their Spring meeting, Jane Howells of Bewnans Kernow will talk about '*protecting and promoting Cornish culture, heritage and identity*'.

The CAHS has established an informal Book Club which will meet quarterly to discuss books with a Cornish link. Their first book is the autobiography *The Salt Path* by Raynor Winn.

At the end of October, **Keweenaw Kernewek** of the Upper Peninsula or Michigan celebrated its 30th anniversary. There was a musical entertainment and everyone enjoyed pasties and a special cake.

CANADA

The **Toronto Cornish Association** held their Christmas event at their '*favourite watering hole*', the Duke of Cornwall, where they enjoyed a Christmas meal. After lunch, there was a storytelling session, a chat about their visit to see *Fisherman's Friends* and a quiz – whose scores revealed that '*we all need to go back to school!*'

Later, President Marion Stephens was presented with a number of gifts to acknowledge the role she played in '*keeping this mob together*' during Covid.

The afternoon ended with a rousing rendition of *Trelawny*.

Zoom meetings resumed in January with a presentation on the The Middle Years of the TCA, the period 1904-1961. This meeting was attended by many 'visitors' including Bert Biscoe from Cornwall and LCA President, Sir John Trelawny. There were other visitors from the US and the UK, demonstrating how zoom meetings, imposed on us during the pandemic, are really bringing cousins together.

The Association will hold their annual flag raising ceremony at the Town Hall on 3rd March and will then '*march to the Duke of Cornwall for refreshments.*'

AUSTRALIA

Members of the **Ballarat Branch** of the **Cornish Association of Victoria** celebrated Christmas with a traditional Christmas meal in a beautifully decorated room at the restaurant in the historic Ballarat Club.

They will celebrate St Piran's Day with a church service, after which they plan to travel to Buninyong for lunch and a tour of historic sites in Buninyong.

In December, the **Cornish Association of South Australia** held its Christmas concert during which they sang a selection of the songs they had performed during 2022 plus Christmas music and carols.

They will celebrate St Piran's Day with a lunch and in May, will participate in the Celtic Festival in Glen Innes.

The big event of 2023 is Kernewek Lowender which will take place from 15th to 21st May. This will be the 50th Anniversary of this special event. The theme of the Seminar on 18th May, will be *The Cornish in public life*, the Bardic ceremony is on the 20th and the event winds up on the 21st with a Heritage Church Service.

KL takes place in the Copper Triangle in South Australia's Yorke Peninsula. Many Cornish miners went to the area to get work and in 1865, Cornish immigrants accounted for 42% of South Australia's population.

NEW ZEALAND

The **Christchurch Branch** of the **New Zealand Cornish Association** held its Christmas celebration early in December, welcoming 16 members and two special guests.

Special guest, Nadine provided the musical entertainment, and everyone joined in singing some favourite carols. An adaptation of '*The Green Man*' was presented by members of the Committee. The adaptation, in word and song, told about the mythological green man figure, well known in the UK.

All who attended were given a copy of the excellent 60th anniversary booklet which was recently published. The LCA was most grateful for the copy of this booklet which was sent to us. It was passed round our members at a recent event and received many positive comments.

Crowdy Crawn

A reminder about the Passmore Edwards Bicentenary festival

On Saturday, 22nd April 2023 the *Passmore Edwards Festival* will take place in Kensal Green Cemetery, where Edwards is buried. It will include a wreath laying ceremony at his grave, with representatives from Cornwall and London, a tour of philanthropists at Kensal Green Cemetery, an exhibition at the Dissenters' Chapel, presentations on Passmore Edwards life and legacy, and refreshments.

The event is free, although contributions are welcome. To assist with catering, those who hope to attend are asked to book online.

You can find out more at <https://www.kensalgreen.co.uk/events.php>

Christmas memories

Thanks to Bert Biscoe for letting us know about a recording of the *Carols of Redruth service* which took place at St Andrew's Church, Redruth shortly before Christmas. The event featured carols from Thomas Broad, Thomas Merritt and Nicholas.

This service marked the centenary of the Redruth, Camborne and Truro Old Cornwall Societies.

You can watch the Red River Singers performing at the service in the following YouTube link: [Red River Singers - Redruth Wassail \(Trad.\) - YouTube.](#)

The clip starts with the seasonal wassail song.

Cornish concern over proposed flights to Newquay

In November, Ryanair announced that it would be introducing new flights to and from Cornwall this summer. The initial plan was for a schedule of 25 flights a week between Cornwall and several other destinations including London, Dublin, Alicante, Faro and Malaga. In January, the airline announced a further two flights a week, this time between Cornwall and Edinburgh. This means that Ryanair's summer schedule will include 30 flights a week between Cornwall and six other destinations.

Locals are concerned at the impact this could have on the county. They fear that improving

access to Cornwall could result in an increased demand for second homes, adding to the already difficult housing situation.

Ryanair has countered by saying that it is contributing to the Cornish economy by bringing in tourists and supporting 90 local jobs.

More people officially acknowledge their Cornishness

The data from the 2021 census shows that there was a substantial rise in the number of people who identified as Cornish in the 2021 census compared to the previous census of 2011.

Although there was no 'tick box' for Cornish on the census form, almost 80 thousand people living in Cornwall gave their nationality as 'Cornish'. This compares to about 53 thousand in 2011. If the figures for those living in other parts of the UK who identify as Cornish are included, the overall figure climbs to close on 100 thousand.

Before the census, Cornwall Council tried to get a Cornish tick-box added to the form but this was refused. This was despite the fact that the UK Government recognised the Cornish as a national minority in 2014. The 2021 results should strengthen the call for a tick-box in the future.



Spotted in St Just

The deadline for the next issue of the LCA Newsletter is

5th May

Please send all contributions to:

*The Editor
55 Brownell Place
London
W7 3AZ*

Or email to lbroekmann@outlook.com