



# Cowethas Kernewek Loundres

## London Cornish Association Newsletter



[www.londoncornish.co.uk](http://www.londoncornish.co.uk)

Winter 2022

It is hard to believe that another year has passed. For the LCA, it has been lovely to start getting back to some normality during this year. So far we have managed several successful lunches, and now we have a new venue for other social events, we can look forward to more varied get-togethers in the coming year.

One of our highlights this year was meeting Marion Stephens and her friend who were passing through London. Marion is President of the Toronto Cornish Association and it was great fun to have lunch with her and to catch up on TCA news. Hopefully, now that travel is becoming easier, more visits from Cornish cousins across the diaspora will take place. We would love to see you, so do let us know.

I apologise that this newsletter is late. The piskies have run amok lately, and postal strikes are not helping!

Christmas is a family time and now, after several years of non-Christmas-es, it looks as though we are, at last, going to be able to have a more 'normal' time. I hope you will be able to spend time with your families this year.

Best wishes to you and yours for this festive period.

*Kernow bys Vyken*

### Gorsedd Awards

Each year at this time, we put out a call for nominations for the two Gorsedd awards with which the LCA is involved:

The **Pewas Map Trevethan** (Paul Smales Award) is given to a member of a Cornish Association affiliated to the LCA or to a Cornish man or Cornish woman not currently living within Cornwall who has contributed in an outstanding way to the enhancement of the common good and welfare of the people of Cornwall, whether living within Cornwall or without, or to the furtherance and greater appreciation of the Cornish way of life, heritage or culture, such contribution being in a cultural, social, economic, charitable or other form.

The **London Cornish Association Shield** which is awarded for outstanding services to Cornwall and Cornish people.

**Please send nominations for 2023, with supporting documentation, to The Editor, Liz Broekmann - [lbroekmann@outlook.com](mailto:lbroekmann@outlook.com) - by Tuesday 28 February 2022**

Dates for your diary

### New Year's Celebration

Saturday 14th  
January  
12 noon

Further details of this event can be found on page 2

**Nadelik Lowen ha  
Blydhen Nowydh Da**



**Deadline for  
the Autumn  
Newsletter  
is  
5th February**

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

## Forthcoming events

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

### ***New Year's Celebration***

**Date:** Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> Jan

**Time:** 12 noon

**Venue:** Penderel's Oak 283-288 High Holborn, Holborn WC1V 7HP

Although Penderel's Oak will be closing in the next few months, it looks as though it will still be available for us to use for this event. If there is any change, we will put a message on the website - [www.londoncornish.co.uk](http://www.londoncornish.co.uk).

*It would be helpful, although not compulsory, if you could let us know if you are thinking of attending so we know numbers, and can also contact you in the unlikely event that the venue changes.*

**Contact:** Carol Goodwin -

**Email:** [chynoweth@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:chynoweth@hotmail.co.uk)

**Phone:** 0208 303 9054

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## Report on past events

### **Thursday 3rd November Get-together**

*We were looking forward to meeting up with some of our members early in November and had made all the arrangements for a get-together in Russell Square Gardens on 3<sup>rd</sup> November. Unfortunately, the best laid plans.... a transport strike was announced for that day! Fortunately, it was cancelled just in time to enable the event to go ahead, but it undoubtedly affected numbers. Carol Goodwin sent us this report:*

You know how it is when you are looking forward to meeting up at Russell Square Gardens where there is the possibility of outside seating but then, overnight and on the morning of the gathering, the heavens open and rain (lots of it) ensues!! That is what happened. BUT we are sturdy Cornish folk and know about rain!!

So we met – 9 members and one guest.

Café Tropea is such a good venue as it is situated in the Gardens but because of the weather, we were able to sit inside and have good meals and drinks – and of course, plenty of chat.

There was a mixture of sunshine and light rain again but it didn't bother us as it was so good to meet up

*Carol Goodwin*

### **Pre-Christmas Gathering**

We were so pleased that fifteen members were able to meet early in December at our favourite 'watering hole', Penderel's Oak in Holborn. At one point, it looked as though bus strikes an

nounced for that day would put a damper on the event but were grateful that at the last minute, the extent of the strike was reduced so the gathering could go ahead.

This was a lovely opportunity to enjoy a good meal and lots of chat with friends – and on this occasion, a drink was provided for everyone to help them get into the Christmas spirit. It must have been a good event as some guests were still there at 3.30!

We now look forward a good turnout at our next gathering on 14th January when we will welcome in the new year.



### **A new President for the FOCS**

The Federation of Old Cornwall Societies recently elected a new President. He is Nev Meek. Previously he was the Recorder for St Gerrans & Porthscatho OCS. We wish him well in his new role.

## Lorna Leadbetter

It was with great sadness that we heard recently of the death of LCA member Lorna Leadbetter. Until she developed health problems, she was an incredibly active and greatly valued member of the Association. Her friendliness, helpfulness and winning smile will be greatly missed.

Five members of the Association travelled to Brighton at the end of October to attend Lorna's funeral. Dick Richards who worked closely with her when he was Chairman of the LCA and when they were both part of the Association's Family History group, shared memories of his '*Cornish Friend*'. He highlighted the incredible contribution Lorna made to both the London Cornish Association and the Cornwall Family History Society over about 30 years. In particular, he mentioned:

- That for 10 years, she was Convenor of the LCA's twice yearly Family History Conferences.
- That she always attended the Royal Cornwall Show when the LCA used to have a stall there.
- That she headed up a transcription team at The National Archive, Kew in developing a Cornish Master Mariners Database.
- That she was a major contributor to Cornwall's War History Project.
- That she wrote many articles for the CFHS Journal and the LCA Newsletter.
- That she helped many members of both organisations with their research.

She was the online Parish Clerk for the parish of Probus for more than 10 years and in that role was responsible for transcriptions and answering enquiries.

Lorna was recognised for her contributions to Cornish Family History:

- In 2013 she was elected a Fellow of the CFHS (awarded to about 1 in 100 of members)
- In 2016 she was awarded the LCA Shield by the Gorsedh Council of Kernow for '*Outstanding Services to Cornwall and Cornish People*'.

Lorna left a legacy of transcriptions and databases but will be primarily remembered for her generosity of spirit in sharing her expertise and helping others.

Dick ended with a message to Lorna:

*So Lorna – the time came to switch off the computer, put down the pen – job done – in fact proper job done – RIP Lorna.*



Lorna with the LCA Shield. Next to her is Francis Dunstan

## Mousehole Methodist chapel plans to sell old Sunday school

A Grade II listed Methodist chapel in Mousehole is faced with £500,000 repair bills because of woodworm and dry rot. The chapel was closed during the pandemic but reopened again afterwards. Unfortunately, it had to be closed again last April on health and safety grounds.

The chapel has a rich history. It was founded in 1784 but demolished and rebuilt in 1833. Chapel secretary Laura Newton said about the chapel '*Whether people come and worship or not, I think if even just for history purposes, it deserves to be saved and restored and kept for the future.*'

An important reason for the chapel to be restored is its link to the Penlee lifeboat disaster.

Sixteen people died on the night of 19<sup>th</sup> December 1981, eight of them lifeboat men from Mousehole. The chapel is the home of the Solomon Browne Memorial Corner which remembers those men.

Until the chapel can be repaired, services are being held in the old Sunday school building. There are plans to sell this building to help raise funds for the repairs. The chapel has also started crowdfunding. Any donations can be made via their justgiving page -

<https://www.justgiving.com/.../restore-mouse-hole...>



## Thirty-six Views of Newland Island

Cornishman (and LCA member) Jonathan Hooper is a mixed media artist who is based in London. His latest project is entitled *Thirty-six Views of Newland Island* and focuses on a small, uninhabited island off the Cornish coast. The title is inspired by woodblock prints of Mount Fuji which were created by Katushika Hokusai.

Hooper is currently collaborating with American composer Todd Gautreau to produce an album – *'Floating World'* – which is a response to the paintings of Newland Island, encouraging another viewpoint.

You can find out more about Jonathan's art and also the Hooper-Gautreau collaboration on the following websites:

<https://whitelabrecs.com/2022/10/25/coming-soon-tapes-and-topographies-floating-world-reflections-on-36-views-of-newland/>

[www.jonathanshooper.com](http://www.jonathanshooper.com)

## Gorsedd Kernow 2022

*Member Sallie Eden was present at the Gorsedd Kernow ceremony in September, an event she describes as 'like the monsoon season (but with pasties)!' Here she shares her experiences and impressions.*

After weeks of sunshine, rain fell on the weekend of the annual Gorsedd Kernow ceremony, held this year in Hayle. Although it meant the event had to be moved indoors, the bright colours of the banners representing various Old Cornwall societies provided a wonderful contrast to the grey skies outside.

It was a day of celebration attended by bards, dignitaries, guests, banner bearers, OCS members and others. Nineteen new bards were welcomed from as near as Liskeard and Bude and as far afield as the USA, with delegates from Gorsedhow in Wales and Brittany also participating.

Welcoming everyone, The Grand Bard of Cornwall, Pol Hodge, highlighted the need to ensure that Cornwall's distinct status and culture is acknowledged and respected and encouraged everyone to find respect for every nation and every culture.

The London Cornish banner was carried past the assembled bards by a member of a local OCS and both it and the new Federation of Old

Cornish Societies banner at the front of the procession were much admired.

The ceremony was only one event in several days marking the Esedhvos Festival of Cornish Culture. For more information and lots more photos look at [Gorsedd ceremony at Hayle 2022 - Gorsedd Kernow](#)

*Sallie Eden*

*St Gerrans and Porthscatho Old Cornwall Society*



*Grand Bard midst an array of OCS banners*



*The London Banner*

## Gorsedd Announcement

The Gorsedd has announced that the Esedhvos in 2023 will be held in Padstow. The last time Padstow hosted this event was in 1951. In making the announcement, Grand Bard Pol Hodge said *Padstow traditions are at the heart of Cornish culture, and it is very fitting that the Esedhvos should be held in the town.*

## Passmore Edwards Bicentenary

John Passmore Edwards was born in Blackwater, a small village between Redruth and Truro. He trained as a journalist, and was for a brief time, an MP. He was a very generous benefactor, funding 70 major buildings, including hospitals, convalescent homes, schools, libraries and art galleries – as well as 11 drinking fountains.

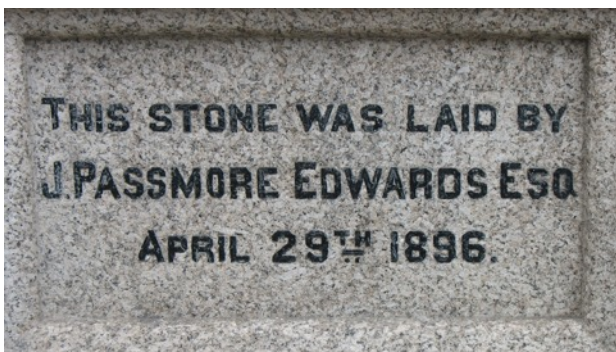
2023 is Passmore Edward's bicentenary and plans are afoot to mark this anniversary. A crowd-funder platform has been set up to raise money which will be used to design and produce material for use in exhibitions and hopefully also to support some events.

Anyone who would like to donate to the fund can do so via the following link:

[https://crowdfunder.intercom-clicks.com/via/e?ob=6IUyl7+a35QEzsLJseQgk9ehc9rCaXgcxvUJ+bCqECP6ArMos0vot7zKLY7aBlx/5/3Qm5+4IM9zZ2F5SexNeHY2updUCnf+11ldQ8/yoWI=&h=d9e11d68ee329548dfb5e1bba5d5de3d22344d46-ohx9ivi5\\_24231002225099](https://crowdfunder.intercom-clicks.com/via/e?ob=6IUyl7+a35QEzsLJseQgk9ehc9rCaXgcxvUJ+bCqECP6ArMos0vot7zKLY7aBlx/5/3Qm5+4IM9zZ2F5SexNeHY2updUCnf+11ldQ8/yoWI=&h=d9e11d68ee329548dfb5e1bba5d5de3d22344d46-ohx9ivi5_24231002225099)



*St Ives Library*



## Passmore Edwards Bicentury: A commemorative event for members living close to London – 22 April 2023

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

If you would like more information, visit the Kensal Green website at [www.kensalgreen.co.uk/events.php](http://www.kensalgreen.co.uk/events.php)

The event is free, although contributions are welcome. To help with catering, please book online at [www.kensalgreen.co.uk/events.php](http://www.kensalgreen.co.uk/events.php) or contact the organiser, Irina Porter (Tel 02082003438 OR Mob. 07510933282

### Cornwall loses a champion

It was with great sadness that we learned of the death, in July, of Dr Alan Kent. He was one of Cornwall's greatest poets and writers and did so much to promote the Duchy and its culture.

After school, Alan went to the University of Wales in Cardiff where he studied English Literature. He later studied Celtic Literature at the University of Exeter.

Several years ago, members of the LCA had the pleasure of hearing him speak and in the early days of my newsletter editorship, he used to send copies of his books for me to review, which I thoroughly enjoyed. He did so much for Cornwall and will be greatly missed.

### Flora day moves its date as a mark of respect

Flora day is traditionally held on May 8th - unless this date falls on a Sunday or Monday, in which case it is held on the previous Saturday. In 2023, it should be held on Saturday 6th, but this date has now been declared as coronation day, the day on which King Charles will be crowned. As a mark of respect, Flora day will now take place on Friday 5th May.



## News from Kresen Kernow

Kresen Kernow has been very busy recently, organising events for the public. During craft activities in late November, visitors were encouraged to make rainbow window stars or an item inspired by some of the maps in the museum's collection. In December, there is to be a performance of yuletide songs and music and there will be drop-in session for making decorations. On 17th December, visitors were able to make festive ship figureheads and paper boats, and on the 20th and 22nd December, visitors will have the opportunity to make a colourful stained glass candle holder.

The latest issue of the Kresen Kernow newsletter provides an update on an exciting project for which they have received funding from Historic England. This Cornish Camera Project will use images from the George Ellis collection to look at the history of Bodmin's working class. The newsletter goes on to say:

### Collection highlight

*For this project, Kresen Kernow is working in partnership with intoBodmin, a community interest company established in 2017 to bring about greater community cohesion and local pride through arts and culture.*



Photo: Kresen Kernow

*The George Ellis collection contains 95,000 glass plate negatives, covering 1939-1982, and is one of the most representative collections we hold. It includes images of individuals and families, weddings, shops and business, community and major events. The pictures also have the benefit of being largely within living memory so spark discussion and sharing, having a positive impact on wellbeing, creativity and connection.*

*Creative practitioner(s) recruited by IntoBodmin will create an exciting, interactive series of engagement workshops working with individuals and communities in Bodmin celebrating the work of photographer George Ellis and the local area and we have been digitising some of Ellis's Bodmin based glass plate negatives and film as part of this work. Selected themes have included young people, out and about in Bodmin and the Bodmin Royal Cornwall Show.*

*The image above is one of the archways created from greenery as part of the Royal Cornwall Show celebrations in 1948, next to the Garland Ox Inn on Lower Bore Street, Bodmin (reference GE/2/E/16440).*

## A Cornish church memorial causes upset

A marble plaque in King Charles Church in Falmouth has been the focus of debate following the Black Lives Matter campaign. The memorial, which commemorates a 17th century slave trader, Thomas Corker, is in a prominent position in the church. Corker, who was born in Falmouth, worked for the Royal Africa Company in Sierra Leone. When he was sacked from their employ, he returned to England, bringing slaves back with him.

The Diocese of Truro was concerned that such a monument, with its eulogy, glorified the 'despicable' slave trade. There has been a consultation to gauge people's views and the church is looking at options for dealing with the statue. Some people are pressing for its removal but others, including the vicar feel that the history it represents should not be hidden. Instead, the monument should be presented in such a way that it could be used to educate the public.

### Are you planning to visit London?

Don't forget to contact the London Cornish Association and let us know when you are coming. If possible, we would love to meet you.

Contact us by email at [lca@londoncornish.co.uk](mailto:lca@londoncornish.co.uk) or at the address on the back page of this newsletter.

*A warm welcome awaits you at the London Cornish Association*

## One of Cornwall's interesting characters

### Jonathan Simpson, Highwayman

*This article comes from the book *Cornish Characters and Strange Events* by S Baring-Gould*

This great rascal was born at Launceston in 1654 of respectable parents, and his father, who was well-off, apprenticed him to a linen draper at Bristol when he was fourteen years of age. When he had served out his time, which he did with the repute of being a steady, industrious youth, his father gave him fifteen hundred pounds wherewith to set up in Bristol. About a year after he unhappily married a woman who was the cause of his downfall and finally of his death. She had two thousand pounds of her own, and this added to what he already possessed promised him a considerable extension of his business with corresponding profits.

But the girl he had chosen for his wife had previously engaged herself to a young man of small means, and her parents had forced her into marriage with Simpson as being better off and with good prospects. She resented her compulsory marriage and did not disguise her indifference to her husband. Although her former lover, in a fit of disgust at his rejection, had also married, Simpson ascertained that they corresponded.

Determined to find out the truth, that she still loved the man, he announced to his wife that he was going to Launceston for ten or twelve days to see his relations. As soon as he was gone his wife sent to invite her *galant* to supper and provided for his entertainment a couple of fowls and a bottle of wine. Either the fowls must have been very small, or their appetites voracious.

In the evening Jonathan Simpson returned, entered his house, and rushed to the dining-room. His wife had but just time to shut her *galant* into the oak chest; but not before Simpson had seen by the movement of the lid that he was there. However, he gave no token of having perceived anything, expressed his delight at so good a supper having been prepared, and despatched his wife to the further end of the town on an errand. No sooner was she gone than he sent for the wife of "Pil-Garlic," and on her arrival disclosed the man in the box and enjoyed the scene of recrimination that ensued.

The vexation at the discovery he had made that he could expect no domestic happiness created a great change in Jonathan Simpson's life. He

sold his business, refused to receive his wife back into his house again, and with all the money he could scrape together that amounted to five thousand pounds, quitted Bristol, and swore he would never re-enter it.

He now led a riotous life, spending his money so freely that at the end of eighteen months all his five thousand pounds was gone, and then he took to the road to supply himself with more. After a while he was arrested for highway robbery, and was sent to the Old Bailey, tried, and condemned to be hanged.

His relatives at Launceston now exerted themselves to obtain a reprieve, and by bribery and persuasion they got one, but only at the last moment. Simpson was already under the gallows, with the rope round his neck, when it arrived, and the execution was arrested.

As he was riding back to Newgate behind one of the sheriff's officers that man asked him what he thought of a reprieve as he stood on the scaffold. "No more," answered Simpson, "than I thought of my dying day."

On reaching the prison door the turnkey refused to admit him, declaring that he could not take him in again without a fresh warrant; and as this could not well be obtained, the sheriff's officer was obliged to let him go free.

"Well," said Simpson, "what an unhappy dog am I! that both Tyburn and Newgate should in one day refuse to entertain me. I'll mend my manners for the future and try whether I cannot merit a reception at them both the next time I am brought thither."

He was as good as his word, and after his release is believed to have committed above forty robberies in the county of Middlesex within the ensuing six weeks.

He was a good skater and made a practice of robbing people on the ice between Fulham and Kingston Bridge, in the great frost of 1689, which held for thirteen weeks. He would kick up their heels and search their pockets as they lay sprawling on the ice.

On one occasion a gentleman whom he stopped gave him a silk purse full of counters, which Simpson took for gold, and so did not examine them till he reached the inn where he put up. When he found that he had been outwitted he quietly pocketed the brass booty and abided his time till he should meet the same gentleman again. This he did at the end of four months, when he waylaid him on Bagshot Heath, where,

riding up to the coach, he said, as he presented a pistol at the gentleman's head, "Sir, I believe you made a mistake the last time I had the happiness to see you, in giving me these pieces. I have been troubled ever since for fear you should have wanted these counters at cards and am glad of this opportunity to return them. But for my care I require you this moment to descend from your coach and give me your breeches, that I may search them at leisure, and not trust any more to your generosity, lest you should mistake again."

The gentleman was obliged to comply, and Simpson carried off the breeches with him to his inn, and on searching them found a gold watch, a gold snuff-box, and a purse containing ninety-eight guineas and five gold jacobuses.

On another occasion he robbed Lord Delamere in an ingenious fashion. That nobleman was driving over Dumoor Heath in his coach well attended by armed servants. Simpson rode up to the carriage and told his lordship that he had been waylaid and robbed by some rogues, two in number, at a little distance. Lord Delamere at once despatched his armed and mounted escort in pursuit, and Simpson took the opportunity of their absence to rob the nobleman of forty pounds. After that experience Lord Delamere vowed he would never again show kindness to a stranger.

At last Simpson was taken near Acton by means of two captains of the Foot Guards, where he attempted to rob both together. There ensued an obstinate fight between them, and Simpson behaved with so much bravery that in all probability he would have escaped, had not one of the officers shot the horse on which he rode, which, falling, carried Jonathan down with it. He had already been wounded in his arms and one of his legs, but both his opponents were also wounded and bleeding. Whilst on the ground he continued to resist with desperation whilst extricating himself from his fallen horse; but the sound of the fray had called up other passengers, and he was overmastered and sent to Newgate, where he found the keeper so much of a friend that on this occasion he was ready to receive him. Tyburn also was sufficiently hospitable not to reject him, and he was hanged on Wednesday, 8th September, 1686, in his thirty-third year.

## Reflection on the Cornish language by the President of the Cornish American Heritage Society

*In the Fall issue of Tam Kernewek, the President of the Cornish American Heritage Society, Thomas Rusch wrote about his interest in languages and their history, and expressed his support for greater recognition of the Cornish Language. The following is an extract:*

I stated in my last President's Message how I began to recognize and acknowledge the difference between Cornish and English cultures. I am still processing some of my experiences from my May trip to Cornwall. As I have grown with my exposure to all things Cornish, I have begun to discern the underrecognition and so the underappreciation of the Cornish and Cornwall in modern terms.

As a student of many languages, I have learned the characteristics of Cornish as it relates to the other Celtic languages. The Celts inhabited most of central Europe a couple of millennia ago. The tribes were pushed to the west by the powers of the Romanization from the south and the Germanic tribes from the north. When people ask me now about the Cornish language, I raise both hands showing three fingers on each to represent the Celtic languages; on the left hand the fingers represent the Goidelic languages (Irish, Manx, and Scottish Gaelic) and on the right the Brittonic languages (Welsh, Breton, and Cornish). At that linguistic realization, I acknowledge the separate and equal status of all the languages and their cultures.

The two languages and their representative cultures, Cornish and Breton, have been eclipsed by their overshadowing identification of their ruling countries, Great Britain (England) and France. Though the Cornish language is barely alive (but slowly growing), there are 210,000 native speakers of Breton in the Brittany region of France. Only Welsh has more native speakers!

But back to Cornish recognition.

We are fortunate to live now. Minority cultures are gaining status. Language and cultures are flourishing more. This has been aided by the UK recognition of Cornish as a national minority. The proposal was accepted on April 24, 2014, under the European Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities (FCPNM). This declaration states the same status as the



Scots, the Welsh, and the Irish, who all have *the right to express, preserve, share, and develop their distinct culture and identity*. As stated on the website of Kernow bys Vyken, the framework means that the UK government should:

- Help Cornish people to maintain and develop their culture and identity.
- Recognize the right of Cornish people to use the Cornish language in public and to display information in the Cornish language.
- Try to ensure the use of the Cornish language for street and place names.
- Provide opportunities for Cornish people to learn the Cornish language.
- Help Cornish people to take part in the cultural, social, and economic affairs of the UK, particularly those affecting them.
- Help Cornish people to learn about their own, and other people's, culture, history, language, and religion.

One organization that is promoting this framework is *Bewnans Kernow*, whose subtitle states: '*Protecting and promoting Cornish culture, heritage and identity*.' It has been an organization since late 2008, and now they are opening a brick-and-mortar office and cultural center in downtown Penzance...

## Great news for the LCA

Because of the pandemic and the fact that our usual venue was no longer available, it has been some time since we have been able to meet for a social gathering. The good news is that we have just found the perfect venue not far from where we were before. It is a hall behind St George's Church in Bloombury. It provides all we need for the meeting and catering, and is wheel-chair friendly. There are also good tube links, with the church lying mid-way between Holborn and Tottenham Court Road stations.

We are hoping to hold functions at St George's in April and October. More details, and instructions for getting there will be included in the Spring newsletter. Hopefully, many of our members will be able to join us in April.

## Making the most of a Bournemouth visit

Several LCA members who attended the annual dinner of the Bournemouth Cornish Association in October decided to spend the weekend at this lovely seaside resort. On the Saturday, four of us headed off on an open-topped bus to Swanage. The one-hour trip passed beautiful scenery and included a trip on a car-ferry. What we had not bargained for was some rather heavy rain after we had set off. Not a good thing on an open-topped bus! We were wet, but our spirits were not dampened! Fortunately, before we got to Swanage the sun had come out and we had lovely weather for the rest of the day. Needless to say, our first stop was a delightful coffee shop where hot coffees and delicious cakes soon warmed us up. We then set off to explore this attractive town, including its museum and harbour and some of its fascinating shops. The return journey was uneventful and dry and we were back to Bournemouth in good time to prepare for the evening's dinner.



## Royal Cornwall Museum

In July, the Royal Cornwall Museum in Truro faced closure because the funding it normally received from the Cornwall Council had been withdrawn. The good news is that after negotiations with Cornwall Council, they have been given £100 000. This will enable the museum to remain open while it reviews its business plan and looks for future funding.



# News from other Cornish Associations

## UNITED STATES

Over the weekend of 23-25 September, people with Cornish links gathered in Mineral Point, Wisconsin for the Cornish Fest. There had been a two-year break in this 'annual' event because of covid restrictions. When the 29th Festival did eventually take place, it began on the Friday with what the newsletter of the Southwest Wisconsin Cornish Society describes as '*a Cornwall fall day*'. *Saturday's weather was also a bit 'iffy' – 'Saturday was missely for sure and it did affect the number of people who arrived to celebrate our Cornish Live, but it didn't seem to affect most of the individual events on Saturday's schedule.'*

During the weekend, there was a pancake breakfast, a pasty supper, some hymn singing, a Cornish tea, a pop-up museum and visits to some of the heritage sites in the area. On the Saturday night, members enjoyed a performance of Gilbert and Sullivan's HMS Pinafore.

## CANADA

The **Toronto Cornish Association** has continued to have interesting and very different presentations. In September, Scott Baker talked about his Cornish ancestors who farmed in the Cobourg area of Ontario and in October, Jason Semmens, gave a fascinating presentation on witchcraft in Cornwall between the 16th and 20th century.

At the November meeting, there were two different presentations on Cornwall. President Marion Stephens spoke of her visit to the county in June (after which she came to London to meet 3 of our LCA members) while Scott Baker talked about his autumn visit when he came to undertake family history research.

At the end of November, they had a group outing to see *Fisherman's Friends – The musical*. The plan was to add their voices when the Fisherman's Friends sang Trelawny! They have ordered a DVD copy of the film and hope to have a Fisherman's Friends and pasties get-together some time in the future.

Christmas will be celebrated in mid-December with a social in-person gathering at The Duke of Cornwall Pub where members will enjoy lunch and entertainment.

Most TCA meetings are still held via zoom which enables people from all over the world to attend. At their November meeting, guests included Grand Bard Pol Hodge, and representatives from Victoria (Australia), Wisconsin, Truro and London.

## AUSTRALIA

After a break of two years because of the covid pandemic, the Australian Celtic Festival took place in Glen Innes in New South Wales. This year the focus was on Brittany, Cornwall and Wales. Twenty-three Cornish people joined in the celebrations. The events on offer included an opening ceremony outside the Town Hall, a Gaelic concert, a Medieval long-table dinner at the Stones and a chat night.

In May, the 2023 Biennial Seminar, which is held during Kernewek Lowender, will take place in Wallaroo, South Australia. The seminar theme will be *The Cornish in public life*. The call for papers recently closed and the CASA committee will now have to decide on who will be asked to do a presentation.

In 2023, Kernewek Lowender will celebrate its 50th anniversary. To mark the occasion, they are planning to create a recipe book of traditional recipes and are asking people to send in their traditional favourites..

After many years, the **Cornish Association of Victoria** has moved its home. At their last meeting in their old home, in August, members were able to get advice on family history research, after which they enjoyed an afternoon tea of scones and heava cake.

The association continues to hold some of its meetings on zoom as not all members are sufficiently confident to attend face to face meetings again. One such meeting was held in September when the presentation, by President Brian Rollason, was on *The churches of the Lizard Peninsula*. The October speaker was Neil Thomas who talked about one of his ancestors. After his presentation, there were contributions from members.

Their Christmas meeting will be held in mid-December with members getting together for a meal. In February, they will have a pasty lunch

and hear a talk by the author of a book on Elizabeth Macarthur.

The august meeting of the **Ballarat Branch of the CAV** heard a presentation by one of their members who is very involved with the Geelong Family History Society. This provided a *wonderful insight into the collection of material in the Ballarat and District Genealogical Society's holdings*. At their October meeting, the talk was on the Ballarat goldfields from the time gold was discovered to the establishment of large mines.

The branch held its Christmas Function at the beginning of December when they enjoyed a meal at a local hotel. The presentation at their February meeting will be on the *History of Ballarat Hospitals*. In March, they will celebrate St Piran's Day with a church service and a lunch.

The speaker at the October meeting of the **Cornish Association of South Australia** was Lainie Anderson who spoke about the pioneer aviators Sir Ross and Sir Keith Smith who were the first pilots to fly from England to Australia, in 1919.

Lainie is currently studying for a PhD, focusing on the life of Kate Cocks (of Cornish stock!). In 1915, she became the first policewoman in the British Empire to be employed on the same rank and salary as men.

On 11<sup>th</sup> December, the Association will hold their Christmas concert. This will comprise afternoon tea and a performance of Christmas music by the Association Choir.

## NEW ZEALAND

The **New Zealand Cornish Association** celebrated its 60th anniversary this year. There had been other Cornish associations before but they had closed. The first meeting of the current NZCA took place in Wellington on 15th August 1962. To mark this achievement, the Association has put together a commemorative booklet which will be given to all members. They have very kindly sent a copy to the LCA. It will be passed around for our members to look at.

18 members of the **Taranaki Branch** met for an early Christmas lunch in mid-November. They enjoyed festive food, held a successful raffle and heard news from Cornwall. The previous week, 20 members of the **Christchurch Branch** met for their meeting. Les told the group about the daring exploits of Captain James Williams, a mid-1800s smuggler from St Ives. Members

then played a Cornish version of 'housie' with Cornish names, and questions being substituted for numbers on the cards. The meeting ended with carol-singing as a warm-up for their Christmas party in December.

## UNITED KINGDOM

On 15<sup>th</sup> October, the **Bournemouth Cornish Association** held its Annual Dinner. Five members of the LCA attended the event where our President, Sir John Trelawny was guest speaker. His very interesting talk was on his ancestor, Bishop Trelawny.

In November, Bournemouth members held a pasty supper. Their Christmas party will take place on 15th December.

As reported in the last issue of the newsletter, the decision had been made at their AGM to dissolve the **Thames Valley Cornish Association**. To mark this event, several members gathered for a meal early in October where they shared their memories, celebrated 50 good years and bid the Association farewell. Although a sad moment, everyone enjoyed spending a relaxing time together.

It was decided that members would meet up from time to time as Cornish cousins and the first of these meet-ups took place in mid-November. A lovely time was had by all. We were pleased that the last TVCA President, Ossie Williams was able to join us. At the meeting, we were told that the funds which remained in the Association's bank account had been donated to the Cornwall Air Ambulance – and a nice thank-you letter was passed round.





# Crowdy Crawn

## Desert Island Discs has a Cornish theme

Member Jenny Bray tipped us off that the guest on Desert Island Discs on 18th November was Professor Jean Golding.

Jean Golding is an epidemiologist who is renowned for her founding of the *Children of the Nineties* study (also known as the *Avon Longitudinal Study of Parents and Children*) This is the most detailed study of its kind in the world and has been following the lives of children who were born in Avon during 1991 and 1992. This work has made valuable contributions to medical knowledge and has influenced government policy. She was awarded an OBE in 2012 for this work.

Jean was born in Hayle in 1939. After school, she went to Oxford to study mathematics.

As a Cornishman, it is not difficult to guess what her first musical choice was ...*Trelawny*, sung by the fisherman's Friends!

Anyone who would like to listen to the programme can find it on BBC Sounds at <https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/m001f5dv> .

The programme will be available for one year but unfortunately, I think this can only be accessed in the UK.

## The return of the choughs – two decades on

Choughs feature in the Cornish coat of arms and in its folklore. According to folklore, when the legendary King Arthur died in battle, his soul entered the body of a chough. The bird's red bill and legs are supposedly caused by the blood shed by Arthur when he was wounded. This strong link with Cornish heritage made it especially sad when, in 1973, the last Cornish chough died.

In 2001, a group of three to five choughs arrived in Cornwall. Three of them appeared to settle on The Lizard. In 2002 – 20 years ago – one pair produced three chicks. They were the first choughs to hatch in Cornwall in over 50 years. Since then, there has been steady growth in the number of hatchings. According to the Cornish Chough Conservation Network, 25 pairs raised more than 70 chicks this year, bringing the total

number of birds in Cornwall at present to about 200 birds.

## Tall ships are returning to Falmouth!!

After 9 years, Falmouth will, once again, host the start of the prestigious Tall Ships Race, Magellan-Elcano, which will take place from 15th to 18th August 2023. This will be the sixth time Falmouth has hosted the race since it first did so in 1966.

There will be many celebratory events prior to the start, including a Parade of Sail. There will also be an opportunity for the public to board some of the historic tall ships.

## Good news for bees

Two bee species which have not been seen in Cornwall for a very long time have recently been seen at sites in Cornwall.

The large scabious mining bee which was thought to exist in only four areas in Cornwall has been found in two new areas – one near The Towans and one near Rock. It is the first time, for almost 40 years, that this bee has been seen on one of these sites.

The Towans was also found to be hosting another scarce bee, the red bartsia bee, which had not been seen in Cornwall for almost 20 years.

The bees were discovered during Buglife's North Cornwall B-Lines project. Buglife has worked with landowners and communities along the north Cornwall coast to restore species-rich grassland which will encourage pollinating insects. This has involved planting a large amount of Cornish wildflower seed and will have the added bonus of producing beautiful meadows along the north coast

***The deadline for the next issue of the LCA Newsletter is***

***5th February***

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