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Newsletter of the Cornish Association of New South Wales

<https://www.australiancelticfestival.com>
Visitor Information office:
<http://www.gleninneshighlands.com/>

PROGRAM

 *Zoom Keskrows* - **Seasonal
Online ZOOM 'tea & cake' chats**

Winter 'chills' - late July

Spring - mid October

Date/Time and Zoom link will be emailed a week prior

Events in Planning so far



KEEP WATCH FOR

END OF YEAR LUNCH – NOVEMBER, 2024

(Details to be provided later in the year)

50th AGM - 1pm, Sat 8th March, 2025

and our JUBILEE celebrations + Perrantide

Saturday 8th March 2025
2pm

Cornish Association of NSW
50th Celebration



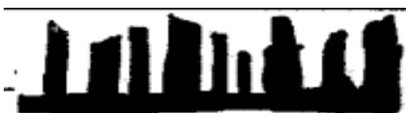
Let's Get Together
You will be welcome!



FESTIVALS 2025

32nd Australian Celtic Festival
Glen Innes NSW

The Year of Cornwall, Brittany & Wales



**Thursday 1st –
Sunday 4th May,
2025**



PAST EVENTS

Australian Celtic Festival, Glen Innes

was held over the weekend of 3rd to 5th May, 2024 and we counted 10 members present over the weekend (including locals). Friday morning saw the weather good enough for the Opening Ceremony in the Town Hall square. Thanks to Donald Tom for carrying our flag for the ceremony.... (cont. over)



Past events continued ..



Our Guardians of the Stones (Pamela O'Neill (Deputy Chief Guardian), Joy Dunkerley, Chris Dunkerley, and Susan Thomas) were part of the official party, and they then went on to the official Guardian's Lunch. Here are Sue & Joy below:



Saturday morning is time for a dawn ceremony, up at the stones, to which Joy and Pamela went in official capacities. A feature was the dancing procession of 'Manx Fairies' with lights on their 'wings'.

Then the morning street parade, which this year drew a large crowd along Grey Street. We had 9 people marching representing Cornwall, in tartans, and with flags and our banner - see photos below:



Below are members Josephine & James Polmeer, and Lyn Schumacher, marching:



On the Sunday morning the site was very sodden with heavy rain the evening before so our 26th Cornish Stone ceremony was moved inside into town, to the Town Hall (along with the other 5 Celtic nations ceremonies).



With no sound system or musicians the ceremony went ahead, but as it revolves around the Stones at the site on the hill, it had to be heavily modified. Nevertheless around 50

people were present, and seemed to go off OK. Thanks to those involved.



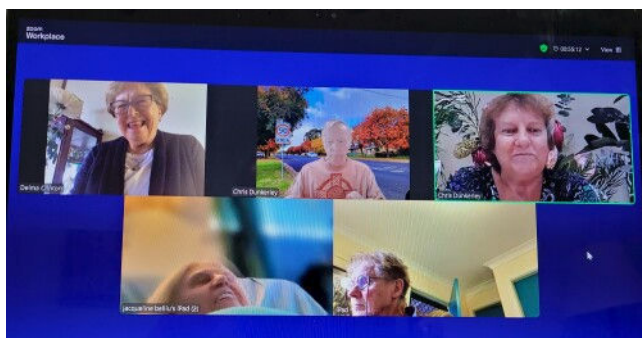
On the Saturday also the Australian Standing Stones Guardians Ceremony was held. Celtic Council of Australia awards are usually given, and this year Celtic honours were given to our CANSW members

- Susan Thomas, a member of the CCA Committee, who received the honour of D. Ua [Duine Uasal (Honoured Person, in Irish)],
- and Dr Pamela O'Neill, current CCA President, an upgrade to T.En.E [Tus Enorys Ewn (Truly Honoured Person, in Cornish)]

– see below:



Seasonal Zoom Meeting – Autumn 12/5/24



MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR 2024/20245 fell due from the 3rd March, 2024

IMPORTANT: Renewal forms were sent out with the last newsletter to paper copy receivers and those receiving by email. A copy can be downloaded/printed from our web site. Please pay as soon as possible. Envelopes are highlighted for those still recorded as not paid, and an email reminder will be sent to others. Sending an updated form to us, by post or email/SMS helps ensure our records are up to date. Please let us know of any address, phone, and/or email changes now, or as they occur.

Committee News:

Bank account balance at 30/4/24: \$7,328.79

A Committee meeting via Zoom was held on 22 April. Matters dealt with were: Minutes, finances, membership (including very over due ones), 50 Year Wall Plaque and Stone, future meetings and events.

“I do enjoy meeting members, around the state, and on Easter Saturday we visited Maclean 125km north of us for the annual Highland Festival, due to my Maclean Scots heritage and our Celtic Council committee membership. It was great to briefly catch up with Cornish born Nigel Gregory, one of our 5 memberships living in Qld, who runs a Celtic stall – ‘Celtic Dawn’

<https://www.celtic-dawn.com>



We also met a lady wearing Cornish tartan and shirt – we gave her details of our contact. Hope to see some of you via Zoom in Spring”. Joy Dunkerley, President.

MEMBERS MILESTONES

Congratulations to all those with birthdays or anniversaries during May & June.

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

QUOTE

"Cornwall is the cornucopia, the complete and replete horn of abundance for churlish hills and affable courteous people: they are loving to require a kindness, placable to remit a wrong and tardy to retort injuries .." – John Taylor, 'Wandering to see the Wonders of the West', 1649.

CORNISH SURNAMES – a short series

Part 4. Names derived from Nicknames or from Personal Characteristics .. e.g.

Legassick – from *lagasek*, big eyed

Penneck – *penneck*, Big headed

Coath / Coad – *coth*, old

Couch – *cough/cogh*, dark red

Dowling – *deulyn*, knees

Tallack – *talek*, big browed

Cunnack - *connek*, clever/cunning

Angwin – *an gwyn*, the white/fair one

Part 5 next time

Source: 'A Handbook of Cornish Surnames', by George Pawley White, 2nd ed. 1981.

NEWS

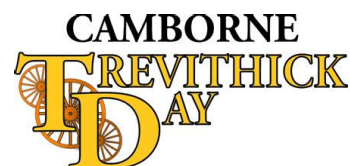
GORSEDDH GWARNYANS (GORSEDD PROCLAMATION)



The Gorseddh Kernow Proclamation ceremony is very similar to but much shorter than the main Bardic ceremony but many of the same elements are present – an official welcome by a representative of the townspeople, the sounding of the Horn to the four parts of Cornwall and the cry of Peace! The Proclamation ceremony held in April is also the first opportunity for everyone present to see who has been chosen to represent the town as the Lady of the Flowers and there is always a welcome to Celts from up country and overseas before the Grand Bard of Cornwall closes the ceremony with everyone singing “Old Land Of Our Fathers”, again the cry of “Peace!” and the Grand Bard’s final words “Until we meet again.”



It announced that Callington/Kelliwik will be the venue for this years Gorseddh on Saturday September 7 – an event where all things related to Cornish language, arts, history and sport are celebrated. The week long Eshedvos festival around the Open Gorseddh is held in a different town each year and last took place in the town in the 1980s. Bards will gather on the field at Callington College. The Town Council, Kelliwik Old Cornwall Society, Rotary, Lions Club, WI, representatives of Mayfest and Kelliwik Golowi, the Callington Youth Project, and local businesses are among those so far getting involved.



Cornishman Richard Trevithick is famous for his genius and his contribution to the industrial revolution and Cornwall's mining heritage. Born in 1771 at Tregajorran, a hamlet 4km southwest of Redruth, in the civil parish of Carn Brea., Trevithick spent his 62 years pioneering the development of steam-driven vehicles, most notably the 'Puffing Devil', which left an indelible mark on Camborne and beyond. His work not only revolutionized transportation.



This year was Richard Trevithick's 200th birthday. It was also the 40th anniversary of Trevithick Day in Camborne, an annual celebration of innovation, community, and the pioneering spirit of Richard Trevithick, the father of the steam engine, held in late April.

The popular pub song Camborne Hill alludes to the feats of 'Puffing Billy" from Camborne. There was Trevithick's Dance (for adults who live or work in Camborne), Bal Maidens & Miners Dance (children from local schools). Steam up! Steam engines from all over the Duchy, plus the countries of the UK, lined up in Basset Road and then paraded through the town, with stationary engines behind the library too.



PADSTOW May Day / Obby Oss



Padstow May Day is one of Cornwall's oldest and most interesting traditions. The festival takes place on 1st May every year (unless this is a Sunday, which means celebrations move to the 2nd). At the centre of May Day are the Padstow 'Obby 'Osses. These are round creatures meant to represent actual horses.

There are two 'Osses: The Red (Old) 'Oss and the Blue (Peace) 'Oss. Both dance through the streets of Padstow, joined by 'Oss parties. Each party takes it in turns to dance in front of their beast, which is known as teasing. Traditionally, people wear white clothes with red or blue to show which 'Oss they support. On the day, the streets of Padstow fill with people and buildings are decorated with greenery. Many feature young sycamore, which is associated with spring.

During the daytime celebrations, the "Day Song" is sung. The words and tune are unique to Padstow and represent the coming of summer and the history of this Cornish town. In the chorus the 'Oss symbolically dies, falling to the floor while the teaser tries to revive him. At the end of the chorus the 'Oss leaps back to life, madly dancing into the crowd.

HELSTON FLORA DAY

Helston Flora is one of the biggest and most popular events in Cornwall, with thousands of people visiting each year. The event is held every 8th May (or the Saturday before if the 8th is a Sunday or Monday). To celebrate the town's patron saint, St

Michael, local people decorate the entire town with spring flowers and greenery.

The main feature of the day is the Furry Dance, which sees hundreds of couples dance through the streets of the town.



The Furry Dance is halfway between a procession and a dance, and is unique to Cornwall. In Helston, the couples literally dance for miles around the town. The first dance starts at 7am, leaving from the Town Hall. This is followed by the children's dance at 9.40am, involving local school children dressed in white. The most colourful event of the day is the midday dance. At this time, couples wear formal costume, with top hats and morning dress for the men and ornate gowns for the ladies. The final dance of the day is at 5pm.



Another feature of Helston Flora is the Hal-An-Tow, which starts at 8.30am on St John's Bridge. This is a sort of sung play that may date back to medieval times. The players in the Hal-An-Tow wear colourful costumes representing characters from folklore and legend; some covered in spring greenery.

Helston Flora, like many other Cornish traditions at this time of year, is a celebration of

the start of summer and the end of winter. Well known in earlier times in Australia was the song and tune 'The Floral Dance' written by Katie Moss and presented by Peter Dawson,

33rd WORLD PILOT GIG CHAMPIONSHIPS



The annual world pilot gig championships have taken place out of St Mary's among the Isles of Scilly off Cornwall on the first weekend in May. With over 130 gigs assembled from Scilly and across Cornwall plus elsewhere in Europe. The historic tradition of gig rowing has been alive in Cornwall since the 18th Century. Once a lucrative form of employment for seafarers, and now a popular sport, pilot gigs clubs are found in nearly every seaside and harbour town throughout Cornwall.

A pilot gig is a long, narrow, paddle-powered vessel with 6 fixed seats for oarsmen and helmed by a coxswain. Gigs were originally used to transport a 'pilot' from land to large vessels in need of specialist navigation to get them safely into port. Whichever gig reached the ship first won the right to pilot her in, plus the pot of prize money. The crew also gained the work of repairing or servicing the boat during its stay. Gigs were also historically used as lifeboats (and for free trade/smuggling).

As the pay was so sought after, pilot gigs were made to be as fast as possible, due to each team being desperate for victory. Whenever a new gig was built, it would be tested against other boats in the fleet to ensure it was as agile and streamline as could be. Due to a healthy dose of competitive spirit and an element of sportsmanship, these trial runs became permanent fixtures between crews, and pilot gig racing came into fruition.

Gigs nowadays are created to the specifications of Treffry, a pilot gig that was built almost 200 years ago in St. Mawes. Treffry, crafted by

William Peters (who declared her to be “his finest gig yet”), measures 32 feet in length and 4 feet 10 inches in beam (width) and which is still in use today.

<https://www.wpgc.uk>

May Horns Penzance

Penzance May Horns is celebrated on the first Sunday in May every year. Like other May traditions in Cornwall, it represents the coming of summer and the end of winter.



This revived event starts just before sunset, when people dressed in green and white meet near the boundary between Penzance and Newlyn. As the sun begins to drop below the horizon, they start blowing horns and whistles, and banging drums. This comes from an old belief that the noise would “drive out the devil of winter” and help bring in the warmth of summer. The people (known as “Mayers”) walk towards Penzance town centre, joined by Old Ned: a giant crow with a huge crown on his head.

When the procession gets to Larrigan River (a stream between Penzance and Newlyn), the horns and whistles are blown especially loudly. This reminds everyone that blowing horns on May Day used to be banned by the local council in the old town of Penzance. At Penzance May Horns, traditional May whistles were/are created, which have a unique, high-pitched sound. These are made by gently loosening the bark around a stick of sycamore until it can be removed. A groove is made in the wood and a hole cut in the loose bark. The bark is then slid back on to the stick, making the whistle. The evening ends with a celebration in Penzance, with food, Cornish dancing and music.

St Ives May day

St Ives May Day is held on May bank holiday every year and is a celebration of the traditions once common in St Ives. The event starts at midday, when the Mayor of St Ives and the Grand Bard of Gorsedh Kernow choose the May queen, king, princes and princesses. This ceremony is known as the pee-whip. The name is also used to describe whistles made from sycamore that were once blown across Cornwall on May Day to signal the coming of summer. At this time, traditional “May Horns” are also blown.



During the day, the St Ives Guisers dress in mock formal clothing and perform Cornish dances. At 1pm the Mayor and Grand Bard lead a procession to the harbour area of the town. Following them are a number of people wearing flower head dresses and carrying sticks with flower decorations attached, known as “May Sticks”. Following the procession, local children dressed in red perform a maypole dance. Like many traditions in Cornwall at this time of year, St Ives May Day celebrates the coming of summer and the end of the cold, harsh months of winter that have come before it. A useful resource for these coming of summer festivals,

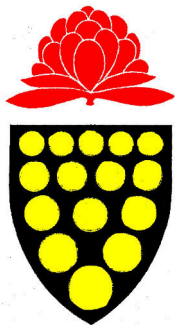
and many others, is the book (now online) <https://www.cornwallforever.co.uk/year/>

FEATURE STORIES

50th Year during 2024/25

We entered our Jubilee or 50th year as an association on 16 April. We were established on 16 April 1975 at a meeting in the Old Toongabbie Methodist Schoolroom, the Cornish Association of Sydney was formed - now renamed the Cornish Association of New South Wales (CANSW) by mainly Cornish born people.

Celtic Family Wall Plaque & Stones – Glen Innes



Cornish Association of NSW

Celebrating 50 years
Founded
16 April, 1975

Onen Hag Oil!
Kernow bys Vyken!
Stone: Byng NSW



The above is a draft of the plaque design & wording; to be produced by the Uralla Foundry, and 'unveiled' in a short ceremony at the 2025 Australian Celtic Festival at the Standing Stones above Glen Innes. Stones from Byng.



CANSW Public & Members Web Pages:

Please have a look through all the pages on our web site; especially the NSW 'Sites' pages developed by our own (late) Dr John Symonds. Tell your friends! Suggested updates or new content are welcome.

www.celticcouncil.org.au/cornish/nsw.htm

Sayings - Wise words on Ageing

"Don't let aging get you down. It's too hard to get back up. - John Wagner " -

Dates coming up ... Feast days of St Petroc & St Breaca 4th June, St Paul Aurelian 12th, St Samson of Dol 23rd June.

PLAS AN TAVAS

This is *Plas an Tavas* = Language Place - Introducing you to some daily *Kernewek*, the ancient Celtic language of Cornwall today, to practice.

Pronunciation? Cornish is mainly phonetic!

More: <https://www.cornishdictionary.org.uk>

In this issue you will learn about:

TUS • PEOPLE

Kowethyansow • relationships



kernewek • english

Editorial note: Content of this newsletter does not necessarily reflect official views of the CANSW, but rather contributors and sources! If someone is sick let me know (get-well message), or other news please! Note: With this you will also receive a copy of the Members List. This includes all those considered members, whether financial or not. Check it and let us know of any corrections, or recent changes!

The next Newsletter: No 410 due for the months of July / August, 2024 - copy deadline Friday 12th July, 2024

Contributions, which may be held for future use - electronic – emailed - preferred) are welcome!

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