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## Newsletter of the Cornish Association of New South Wales

### PROGRAM

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

Winter 'chills' - 3pm

Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> August

Spring news - late October

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

### Events in Planning so far



**KEEP WATCH FOR**

**END OF YEAR LUNCH**  
Thursday 28

**NOVEMBER, 2024 (tentative)**

(Details to be provided later in the year, however it is expected to again be informal lunch at a restaurant around Circular Quay, in Sydney city.)

**50<sup>th</sup> AGM - 1pm, Sat 8<sup>th</sup> 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

**Australian Celtic Festival**  
Glen Innes NSW

*The Year of Cornwall, Brittany & Wales*



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

*All Cornish people, by birth or descent are invited to join in the celebration, which also marks 50 years of the NSW Association.*

Program will be available at a later date.  
Recommended that however that accommodation be secured asap.

<https://www.australiancelticfestival.com>

Visitor Information office:

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



Copper Coast  
Cornish Festival

**KERNEWEK  
LOWENDER**

**12th - 18th**

May 2025

SAVE THE DATE

More information coming at:  
<https://www.kernewek.org>

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

IMPORTANT: Renewal forms have sent out in recent months. A copy can be downloaded / printed from our web site. Thanks to all those who have paid! Some members are still un-financial. Please pay as soon as possible. Envelopes 'date due' is highlighted yellow for those still recorded as not paid, and an email reminder will be sent to others.

**Committee News:**

Planning for our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2025 is progressing. Ideas welcome.

Bank account balance at 30/6/24: \$7,477.59  
Year to date: Income \$858, Expenses \$812.10 (inc. bulk pre paid envelopes) – Net \$45.90 surplus. [NB: Payments coming for 50 Yr plaque, and 2025 AGM room will be paid in the 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> qtr. of this year]

“Our association has received an invitation to join the NSW & ACT Association of Family History Societies Inc. On a trial basis we have done so, to see whether it meets the needs or interests of you our members. Although dealing primarily with family research they also are looking to cover regional and community (including ethnic) history interest groups.

For access to information about them, their website is at: <https://nswactfhs.org>

“This Association does not undertake genealogical research nor does it exist to help individual family historians - Rather, it can provide researchers with contact details of the most appropriate member society or societies to assist with their enquiries’:

Relevant news will be passed on as it is received by the Secretary. Feedback on this welcome”.

Chris Dunkerley, Secretary

”Looking forward to catching up with some more of you at our Winter zoom session.”

*Joy Dunkerley, President.*

**MEMBERS MILESTONES**

**VALE** **Wes Gibbons** who died on 6<sup>th</sup> June, aged 96. Our condolences to his wife, and our long term member, Margaret, and to their family and friends.

**Congratulations** to all those with birthdays or anniversaries during July & August.

**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 requite a kindness, placable to remit a wrong and tardy to retort injuries” ... John Taylor, Wandering to see the Wonders of the World, 1649.*

[Perhaps sparked the name of this video:  
<http://vimeo.com/41724325>]

**CORNISH SURNAMES – a short series**

**Part 5. Names taken from Animals. e.g.**

**Bligh / Blee** – blyth (in Kernewek); wolf

**Bath** – bath; boar

**Lewarne** – lowarn, fox

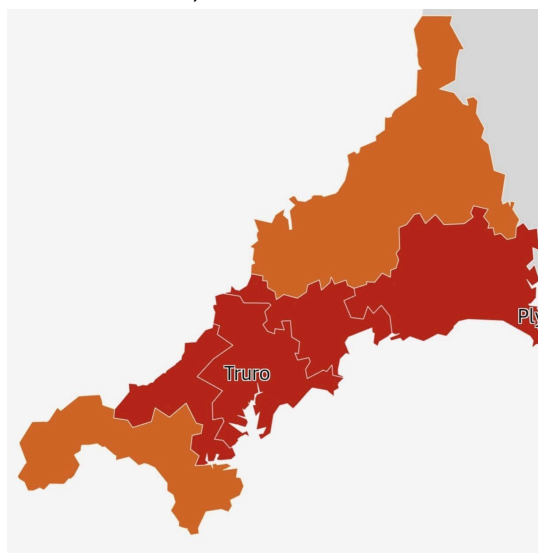
**Brock** – brogh, badger

Part 6, next time

*Source: ‘A Handbook of Cornish Surnames’, by George Pawley White, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. 1981.*

**NEWS**

In the **UK House of Commons General Election** in July 2024 the 'Tories' were completely wiped out in the Duchy (all 6 Conservatives losing). The new MPs coming from Labour 4, and Liberal Democrats 2 – see below. All six Conservatives lost their seats. Voter turnout 60-70% across Cornwall.



Seats, new MP, party:

- Camborne & Redruth - Perran Moon, Labour
- North Cornwall - Ben McGuire, Liberal Democrat
- South East Cornwall - Anna Gelderd, Labour
- St Austell & Newquay - Noah Law, Labour
- St Ives & Scilly - Andrew George, Liberal Democrat
- Truro & Falmouth - Jayne Kirkham, Labour

All 6 new MPs took their oath in English and then in the Cornish language (Kernewek).

**Golowan**

What does 'Golowan' mean?



The word 'Golowan' is a contraction made up of two Cornish/Kernewek words: Gool Jowan. Gool means feast/festival and Jowan is the Cornish name for John - so Golowan means the Feast of St John! Saint John' Eve, starting at sunset on 23 June, is the eve of the feast day of Saint John the Baptist.

The festival was revived in 1991 by Alverton Primary School Penzance, members of Kneehigh Theatre, Penwith Peninsula Project, and Penzance Council. You can find about more about it's history on the Golowan Festival Official Page website:

<https://golowanfestival.org>

Today Golowan is a 10-day festival of arts, performances, culture and parades, with the 2024 theme being 'Together We Shine'



**Tansys Golwan – Kit Hill, Cornwall**



The Gool Jowan period is also the summer solstice, when the days start getting shorter leading to the dark months. So traditionally across Cornwall bonfires have been lit. This one was lit at Kit Hill, in far eastern Cornwall this June by the local Old Cornwall Society.



This bonfire or 'beacon' was lit at Sancreed Beacon in west Penwith, by a local Old Cornwall Society.

A useful resource for these coming seasonal festivals, and many others, is the book (now online)

<https://www.cornwallforever.co.uk/year/>

**FEATURE STORIES**

## ***Notable Cornish people, people of Cornwall, and of the diaspora***

### **An ongoing series – Governors of NSW, with Cornish Connections**

#### **Part 1A**

#### **Philip Gidley King**

This is an extract of a paper written by Chris Dunkerley and given at Kadina in May 2023 by Robyn Coates, at the Cornish Assoc of SA Cornish History Seminar, during the Kernewek Lowender. [Proceedings book is available].

‘Governors of NSW, with Cornish connections’, referring to place of birth or recent ancestry. There were two (2) Governors of Cornish birth, and two (2) with some discernible Cornish ancestry. The 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Governors of Cornish birth, and the 30<sup>th</sup> and 34<sup>th</sup> Governors on Cornish descent. All men, no Cornish cousin women alas, so far.

#### ***The Launceston born naval man - Philip Gidley King 1800-1806 Governor No. 3***

Philip Gidley King was born at Launceston, Cornwall, on the 23 April, 1758. His father Philip was a draper (as his father before him) with a shop in the town, and his mother was Utricia Gidley, a lawyer's Exeter born daughter from across the border and the Tamar in Devon, England. They had married on 15 Jan 1757 in the parish church of St Thomas the Apostle, Launceston. Although there are many old King families across Cornwall it is not unique to the Duchy, and little could be found of the longer history of this King family in Cornwall. Let us rest with his birth there from at least two native generations of his family.

At age 7 he was sent to Mr Bailey's Naval School on the Isle of Wight. What triggered this seems to have been a fall in the fortunes of his father's business, but why to sea? Was there some connection in the families or was this the done thing at this time for children of his trade class with no land and seemingly reduced prospects? At 12 he was assigned to HMS Swallow, as a quote 'servant' of Captain Shirley. At 17 and

after service in the East Indies he was now a trusted midshipman on the Swallow and rated by another officer as "one of the most promising young men I have ever met". Thence promoted to Lieutenant on HMS Renown patrolling the Channel. Some perhaps over enthusiasm saw him punished in this time, but by 1782 he was with Captain Arthur Philip, who had taken a shine to him, on the gunship HMS Europe. With general peace briefly breaking out he and Captain Philip were on half-pay; and King had a hand at farming for 2 years (some exposure that may have been useful later on Norfolk Island).

In October 1786 Arthur Philip received his commission as prospective Governor of New South Wales. Andrew Tink writes that "*Having been impressed by King on the Europe, Philip had arranged for his young protegee to serve on his First Fleet flagship*". On the Sirius, he was 3<sup>rd</sup> in command, but also reported to Philip. Arriving in Botany Bay on 17<sup>th</sup> January, 1788 a shore party met indigenous men, brandishing spears.

Just days after these colonists moved their focus to a more sheltered large and deep harbour just miles north, Port Jackson - other Europeans arrived, the French. On 1<sup>st</sup> February King was ordered to take HMS Supply with a party of fifteen 1,670km east to uninhabited Norfolk Island to stop any French claim (though their commander Comte de La Perouse had already passed by it). Female convicts had not yet landed and the colony not yet established, but King took 6 volunteering female convicts (including Ann Inett) from the Lady Penhryn as well as Flax Dressers (as the island was thought (erroneously) by James Cook a good source of mast timber and flax). As designated "Superintendent and Commandant" of Norfolk Island this 31 year old navy officer performed just as well, if not better, as an administrator. Though it was perhaps just as tough initially as Port Jackson to make a go of; rats and grubs and clashes between convicts and marines abounding, ultimately it's produce

was one key in the early survival of the mother settlement. Though performing ‘divine service’ each Sunday, King and his now ‘house’ keeper convict Ann Innet were in ‘cohabitation’. A boy, named Norfolk was born on 8 January, 1789. This is the time when another Cornishman, convict James Ruse was helping establish food supply back near the Parramatta River. The story of the infant colony and its two early settlements on the other side of the world – away from those who sent them - is a large and fascinating one, but this talk is about the man – Cornishman King.

Events required King to return to the UK as Governor Philip’s emissary, and advocate for the needs of the colony. He returned in 1791 from London with a big addition. A wife - his cousin Anna Josepha Coombe. At Port Jackson was waiting a new illegitimate son, Sydney. Tink writes *“Though domestic arrangements were now complicated, they were not acrimonious and when King returned to Norfolk Island, they took young Norfolk with them, leaving baby Sydney in the care of his mother on the mainland”*. King ‘governed’ well, but not without rancour, a much enlarged Norfolk Island population, until 1796 when ill health, at times debilitating gout, meant that he would return to the UK.

**Continued next time .. Part 1B**

## Our Cornish Places



Named after Richard Randall Knuckey, one of the many surveyors whose names were perpetuated in Darwin (at the time called Palmerston) NT streets by George W. Goyder

on his 1869 survey expedition to the Northern Territory. Knuckey arrived in SA in 1849 from Cornwall.

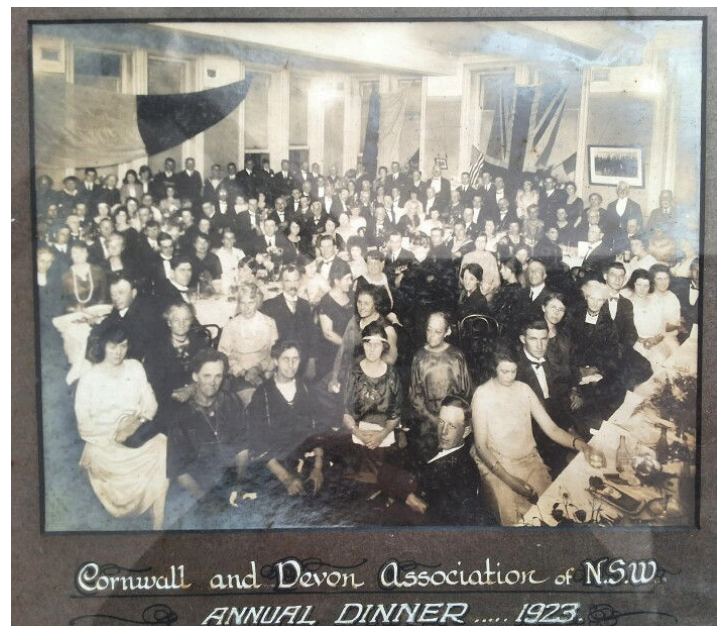
## 50<sup>th</sup> Year during 2024/25

Our Association began, as the Cornish Association of Sydney, on 16<sup>th</sup> April, 1975 at a meeting at Old Toongabbie in Sydney. More on that next time. However, we aren’t the first Cornish group in NSW – perhaps not even the 2<sup>nd</sup> one!

In the 1890s, as elsewhere in Australia, there reportedly was an active gathering of Cornish people (eg. The current Cornish Association of SA dates to 1890). Certainly the 1<sup>st</sup> photo below is titled ‘a picnic in a park’ in Sydney - in 1916 - of Cornish people.



the 2nd photo below is this time titled ‘Cornwall and Devon Association of NSW Annual Dinner .. 1923’.



Some research has been done on these groups (and more could be) but we know at least that the Cornish were gathering together in NSW socially and probably culturally from at least the late 1800s until WW2 and some people were active during the 1950s and 1960s – some were even Barded in the 1950s - but such activity seems dormant by the time of our Association's formation – a lesson for us? These photos were passed on by the last contact for the C&DA in late '70s.

## AN GOV & THOMAS FLAMANK STATUE

Commemoration in June 2024 of the 1497 Uprising by the Cornish, this one at St Keverne (location of An Gov (the Smith) one of the two key leaders (with Bodmin lawyer Thomas Flamank (who reputedly had royal Cornish bloodlines). The



## BYNG CEMETERY NEWS



Keen readers of our newsletter may recall that Jenny Howarth <[jenniferhowarth@bigpond.com](mailto:jenniferhowarth@bigpond.com)> is doing research on the burials in Byng Church Cemetery. She promised to update us, and has extremely kindly done so:

*"I just wanted to let you know that my research is going well. I am up to 246 confirmed burials at the Byng Cemetery, from the original 152 headstones. I am gathering funeral notices from newspapers, as well as death certificate transcripts where possible to confirm Byng/Cornish Settlement as the place of burial. I am creating family trees for all of those buried in the cemetery, in order to link their relationships to the Byng community at the time of their deaths."*

*"It's incredibly interesting and rewarding, but slow going it seems. I am doing a lot of background reading at the moment to gather names of other families who were settled at Byng, or in some cases, just passing through with the mines, and so a family will have only a single burial. I have included the burial of Joseph Stock of 1880 who is mentioned on your website. I have his DC [death certificate]. .. "From memory, four of these burials relate to memorials only, as the person is physically buried in another cemetery. One gentleman was re-interred in Orange Cemetery when his wife died many years later." [Ed. A current list of burials has been sent for our information – let me know if you want a copy]. Thanks Jen.*

## HOLY WELL

### St Ia's Holy Well, St Ives

Location OS SW51501 40737



In plain sight on the main road, at the bottom of the cemetery. You may have driven past this many times and not noticed it. The well is dedicated to saint Ia, an Irish saint (and the sister of St Euny) who gave her name to St Ives.

She came over from Ireland on a leaf (or so the story goes)! The original well was the main source of water for the town right up to 1843 but the present day well is fairly modern. A restored well in the middle of town.

## **PLAS AN TAVES**

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

**Pronunciation?** *Cornish is mainly phonetic!*

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

In this issue you will learn about: A greeting and possible response ..

*Piw os ta?* Who are you?

[Your name] ... ov vy I am ... [Your name]  
eg. Perran ov vy! I am Piran!

*Dydh da,* Hello/G'day

*Fatla genes?* How's it/you going?

[Some answers:]

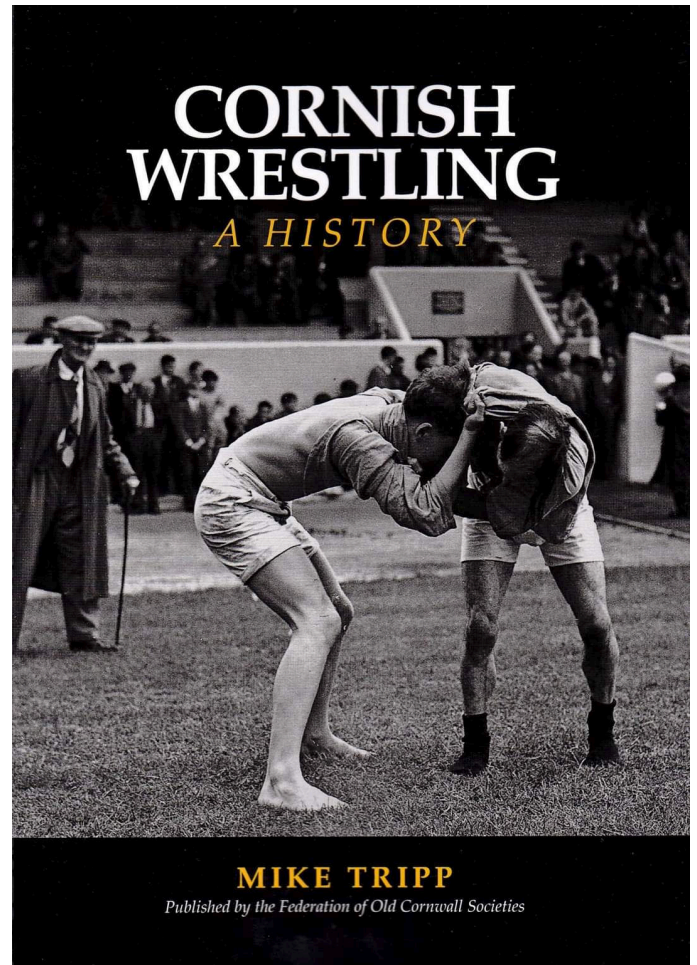
*Bryntin* - Brilliant; *Splann* - Splendid; *Pur dha* - Very good; *Da lowr* - Good enough/OK; *Drog* - Bad

*Duw genes!* Goodbye! [lit. God with you]



This above is a lovely painting of Mevagissey harbour, done by our multi talented former President the late Geoff Ford (drawer of our logo) – it was a wedding anniversary present from him to the late Ruth & Russell Cocks, also former Presidents and among our founders.

## **New Book – Cornish Wrestling**

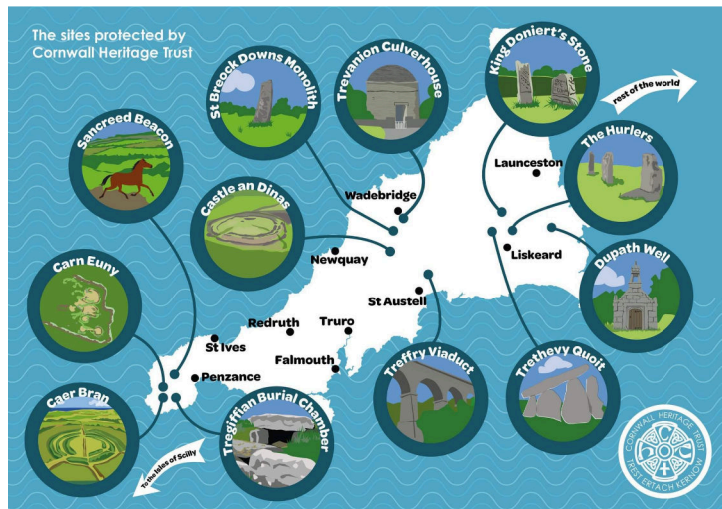


Sporty? Then you must be interested in Cornwall's oldest surviving sport, Cornish Wrestling or Wrasslin! If you don't know as much as you'd like about it, the very first history has been published by the Federation of Old Cornwall Societies, a brilliant study by Mike Tripp. This Gorsedh award winning book, not only looked at the history of the sport itself, but it sets it in its cultural and historic context, making it essential reading for those proud of Cornwall's past and indeed present. Obtainable from the Federation's bookshop at

<https://kernowgoth.org/product/cornish-wrestling-a-history/>

### Cornish Heritage Trust

Cornwall's own heritage organisation, which we have mentioned here a number of times. Here are the current sites owned/managed by them:



[Ed. Joy & I hope to visit at least 4 of these on our brief visit to east Cornwall in September, for the Gorsedh at Callington.]

You can learn more, or even join the Trust, at: <https://www.cornwallheritagetrust.org/>

### CANSW Public & Members Web Pages:

Please take time again to have a look through all the pages on our current 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](http://www.celticcouncil.org.au/cornish/nsw.htm)

### Sayings - Wise words on Ageing

"Nice to be here? At my age it's nice to be anywhere." - George Burns [Ed. One I relate to]

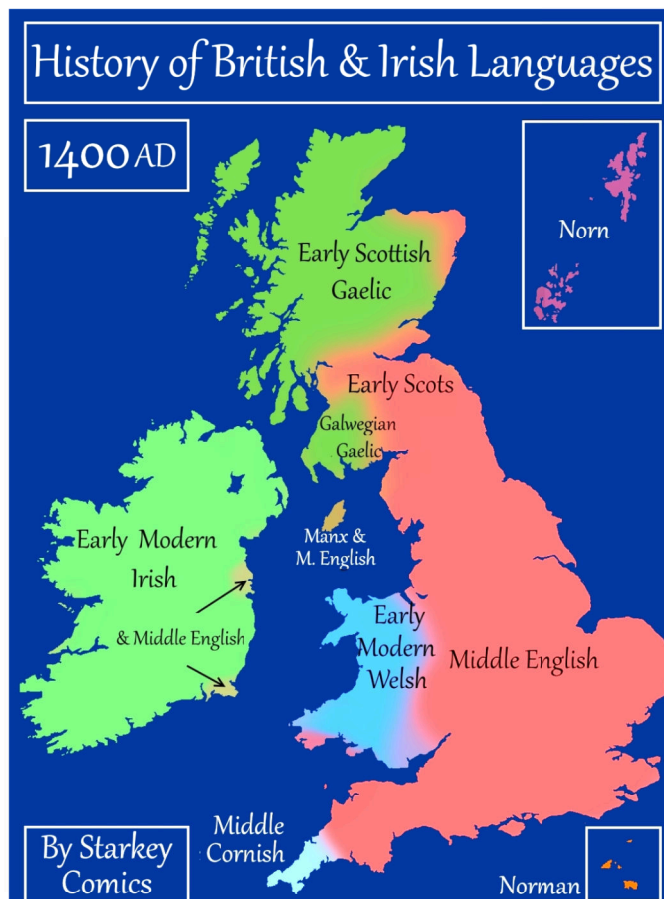
**Dates coming up ...** Feast day of St Samson of Dol 23<sup>rd</sup> July, St Sithney 4<sup>th</sup> August, Esedhvis Gorsedh 30<sup>th</sup> Aug - 8<sup>th</sup> September, Open Gorsedh Callington/Kelliwik Sat 7<sup>th</sup> September

### Poem – The My Beloved Kernow

As solid as rocky Carn it is  
 As deep as Dozmary Pool  
 As plain as the surf on the sea it is  
 ...The love I have for you  
 As fresh as new cut hay it is

As broad as widest bay  
 As true as fisherman's compass set  
 More love than I can say  
 As straight as longest furrow in field  
 As strong as coast winds blow  
 As clear as view from Trencrom Hill  
 My love for you just grows

by Mike Chappel (reprinted, with thanks)



The many languages of the British Isles & Ireland – Cornish deserves it's official place! Hopefully the new government will return some funding for education and community use.

**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!  
 The next Newsletter: No 411 due for the months of September / October, 2024 - copy deadline Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> September, 2024  
 Contributions, which may be held for future use - electronic - emailed - preferred) are welcome!

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