

Pentewan Old Cornwall Society

60th Anniversary Dinner

The Pentewan Old Cornwall Society celebrated its 60th Anniversary recently with a dinner at 'Bosuns' Charlestown. The society was formed on Monday 18th January 1954 when a meeting was convened by Mrs. M. Jolly and Mr. Cyril Evans and held in the Hillside Methodist Schoolroom. There were thirteen people present and after a talk on the history of Pentewan which was presented by Mr. Evans, it was decided to form an Old Cornwall Society. Officers and a committee were elected and an annual subscription was set at three shillings and sixpence. Since the formation of the society membership has fluctuated over the years but it now stands at a healthy fifty-five, members traveling to meetings at Pentewan village hall from St Austell and Mevagissey, but unfortunately only a few members from the village. Apart from monthly meetings with a speaker and subject on some aspect of Cornish history, the main aim of an Old Cornwall Society is to collect and record the history of their area, including place names, dialect, antiquities and any changes which are taking place. Over the years Pentewan Old Cornwall Society have helped to maintain the holy well at Towan, repair the sluice gate at West End, and recently cut the branches which were growing over the dock gate winch on the harbour. The society, have an extensive archive of photographs and researched material and this will be on show in an exhibition which will be held in the village hall on the 16th, 17th and 18th May 2014.

The society President Robert Evans welcomed everyone to the celebratory dinner and said how it was his father who was one of the founder members sixty years ago, and how he was very pleased that the society was now in its sixtieth year. Unfortunately the longest serving member Mrs. Marjorie Trevanion was unable to attend so the guest of honour, President of the Federation of Old Cornwall Societies Duncan Matthews, was asked to cut the cake which had been made by member Rosemary Netherton. Mr. David Stark chairman of St. Austell Old Cornwall Society proposed a toast to Pentewan and added congratulations from the St Austell society. After an excellent meal, entertainment was provided by 'The Pressgang' who sang a selection of Cornish songs and sea shanties and the evening ended with a rousing rendition of 'Trelawny'.

