



# Cowethas Kernewek Loundres

## London Cornish Association Newsletter



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

Winter 2018

### Nadelik Lowen ha Blydhen Nowydh Da

When I started to write this, the news was full of the awful wildfires in California. This has been such a tragedy that it is hard to get your head around it. The sheer scale, the loss of life and the damage to the environment is hard to comprehend. What is awful is that we are hearing of more and more extreme weather conditions around the world, most recently from Australia where Sydney had a month's rain in two hours and thousands of people have had to leave Gracemere, north of Brisbane, because of bushfire fears. Our thoughts are with our 'cousins' in California and 'down under' at this dreadful time.

On a more cheerful note, there has been a lot of coverage of the Duke of Cornwall's 70th birthday in mid-November. We, as an association, have had the pleasure of joining in some of the events leading up to this great occasion, notably a garden party at Buckingham Palace and a special Patronage Parade at the Royal Cornwall Show. We feel privileged to have been invited to take part in the excitement and we wish him all the best for the future.

We have reached the time of the year when we need to be thinking about nominating people for the *Paul Smales Award* and *London Cornish Association Shield*. These awards acknowledge the amazing work some of our Cornish cousins do to promote Cornwall and its heritage both in the UK and around the world. You will find the criteria on the flyer which is included with this newsletter. Please send confidential nominations (with a motivation) to the editor at [lbroekmann@outlook.com](mailto:lbroekmann@outlook.com). They will be passed on to the Committee who will consider them and pass on their recommendations to the Gorsedh. It is the Gorsedh who make the final decision. These are prestigious, in-

ternational awards and we know from what we read in the newsletters of other associations that there are many people with Cornish links who do so much to promote Cornwall and its heritage and would be excellent candidates. You know who in your area would fit the bill. Please nominate them and get them the recognition they deserve.

In September, I was contacted by South Australian, Denise Philips, the Vice-president of the Hocking Descendants Society. We met up when she was in London and spent a delightful couple of hours together sharing news of our parts of the diaspora over a Cornish cream tea (complete with Rodda's clotted cream!). You will find a report on this elsewhere in the newsletter. The excellent tea we had confirmed, what Council had been considering for some time, that a cream tea at the Imperial Hotel would be the perfect way to celebrate St Piran's Day on 2nd March. You will find more details on page 2. Make sure you book the date!

The Imperial Hotel is where we held our Annual Dining Event this year. Feedback from our members and visitors was so positive that we will be returning in March 2019. Please make sure you put 16th March 2019 in your diaries! You will find an invitation in this newsletter. Bookings are now open.

This last issue of the newsletter for 2018 introduces an exciting change to the hard copy - it is now in colour. We hope you enjoy the new look.

Now, there is just enough space left to wish you all a very blessed Christmas and a happy new year. We look forward to seeing many of you at our New Year's Lunch and at other events in 2019.

*Kernow bys vyken*

### Dates for your diary ...

#### Pre-Christmas Lunch

8<sup>th</sup> December  
12 noon

#### New Year's Lunch

12<sup>th</sup> January 2019  
12 noon

#### Richmond vs Cornish Pirates Rugby match

9<sup>th</sup> February  
3pm

#### St Piran's Day Celebration

2<sup>nd</sup> March  
2.30pm

#### Annual Dining Event

16<sup>th</sup> March  
12 noon for 1pm

#### Trelawny Lecture, AGM and Family History Day

13<sup>th</sup> April  
10am to 4.30pm

*Further details of these events can be found on page 2*



### 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](mailto:lca@londoncornish.co.uk) or at  
Chynoweth, 1a Dunwich Rd, Bexleyheath, Kent, DA7 5EW

**Deadline for the Spring 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.***

## **Pre-Christmas Lunch – 8th December 2018**

**Time:** 12 noon

**Venue:** Old Bank of England pub  
194 Fleet Street, London, EC4A 2LT  
Tel: 020 7430 2255

*(The nearest tube stations are Temple (on the District line) and Chancery Lane (Central line). Both are just a 5 minute walk away. The pub is close to the Royal Courts of Justice)*

**Contact:** Carol Goodwin ([Chynoweth@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:Chynoweth@hotmail.co.uk)) or Phone 0208 303 9054

**Please let us know if you are coming so we can book tables.**

*Do come and join us for an informal lunch in pleasant and welcoming surroundings.*

## **New Year's Lunch - 12th January 2019**

**Time:** 12 noon

**Venue:** Penderel's Oak - 283-288 High Holborn, London.

*(Nearest tube station: Holborn or Chancery Lane - on the Central Line.)*

**Contact:** Carol Goodwin ([Chynoweth@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:Chynoweth@hotmail.co.uk)) or Phone 0208 303 9054

**Please let us know if you are coming so we can book tables.**

## **Rugby Union Match – Richmond vs Cornish Pirates - 9th February 2019**

**Time:** 3pm

**Venue:** The Athletic Ground, Twickenham Rd, Richmond TW9 2SF

*We are sure the Pirates would love some Cornish encouragement so do go along and cheer them on. Enjoy the Match! Come on the Cornish Pirates!!*

## **St Piran's Day celebration – 2nd March 2019**

**Time:** 2.30pm

**Venue:** The Imperial Hotel, 61-66 Russell Square, London, WC1B 5BB.

**Cost:** £6.70 for cream tea with Rodda's clotted cream!

*(Nearest tube station: Russell Square (Piccadilly Line) is a 2-minute walk away. Train stations: King's Cross, Euston and St Pancras Stations are a short walk away)*

**Contact:** Carol Goodwin ([Chynoweth@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:Chynoweth@hotmail.co.uk)) or Phone 0208 303 9054

**Please let us know if you are coming so we can book tables.**

## **Family History Day (incorporating the AGM and Trelawny Lecture) - 13th April 2019**

**Time:** 10am to 4.30pm

**Venue:** Bloomsbury Central Baptist Church, 235 Shaftesbury Avenue, London WC2H 8EP

**Fee:** £15 for members (including LCA-affiliated societies and Cornwall Family History Society) and £20 for non-members. This fee includes a pasty and saffron cake lunch and a cream tea. Vegetarian pasties can be provided if ordered in advance.

**Getting there:** *The nearest tube stations are Holborn and Tottenham Court Road.*

We are delighted to have as our Trelawny Lecturer, **Paula Martin, who is CEO of the Cornwall Air Ambulance Trust** who will speak about The Trust and the work of the Air Ambulance.

*We hope you will join us for an interesting and informative day in friendly company.*

**Contact:** Gill Penny [[g.n.penny@btinternet.com](mailto:g.n.penny@btinternet.com)] OR Carol Goodwin [[chynoweth@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:chynoweth@hotmail.co.uk)].  
For urgent messages on the day - 020 7240 0544

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## **133rd Anniversary Dining Event 16th March 2019**

**Time:** 12 noon for 1pm

**Venue:** The Imperial Hotel, 61-66 Russell Square, London WC1B 5BB.

**Tickets:** £28 per person

After the success of last year's event, we will again hold our Annual Dining Event at The Imperial Hotel, Russell Square.

**To get there:** Turn left as you exit Russell Square Tube Station and then left onto Russell Square. The hotel is a short walk down, on the left. To get to the entrance, pass through an archway to a courtyard.

**Bookings are open now.**

*A booking form is enclosed with this newsletter*

### **Menu**

#### **Starter**

Honeydew Melon with Mango Coulis

#### **Main Course**

Beef Bourguignon

*Vegetarian Option is available on request*

#### **Dessert**

Almondy Daim Tart

Coffee and mints

# News of Past Events

## Family History Day – October 2018

In mid-October, members and friends of the LCA gathered in London for the Family History Day, where they had the pleasure of hearing two interesting and inspiring talks, interspersed with pasties, saffron cake and splits!

The talk in the morning was given by Mark Penrose, Chairman of the Morrab Library in Penzance. He spoke about the library's origins and gave us some insight into its role today. It is a very special library which was set up in 1818 and which has retained its independence. The library, which is housed in a Victorian mansion in the Morrab Gardens holds over 55 000 books as well as archive material and a photographic collection.

Unfortunately, our original afternoon speaker was not able to make it on the day but member, and a past Chairman of the LCA, Dick Richards, gave a fascinating talk on the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, focusing on its history and legacy. This was a most apt topic as the meeting was just 3 weeks before Armistice Day. The number and variety of questions and comments from the floor afterwards, showed what an interesting and relevant talk this was.

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## New Bishop of Truro is named

At the end of August it was announced that Philip Mountstephen was to be installed as the new diocesan Bishop of Truro. He will succeed The Rt Rev Tim Thornton, who left to become Bishop of Lambeth in 2017, and will become the 16th Bishop in the Diocese of Truro. This diocese was formed in 1876 and its first bishop was Edward White Benson

Revd Mountstephen is currently the executive leader of the Church Mission Society. He previously worked for the Church Pastoral Aid Society and at St Michael's Church, Paris as well as in parishes in the Dioceses of Oxford and Southwark.

Before becoming a priest, he trained as a teacher and taught for four years in a rural comprehensive school in Oxfordshire.

Although he was born in Hampshire, he has strong Cornish roots. Several of his ancestors lived in Tregony from the mid-18th century, until they moved to Truro in the mid-19th century.

Philip will be consecrated as a Bishop in St Paul's Cathedral on 30th November. There will then be a special service to welcome him to his new diocese at Truro Cathedral on 12th January 2019. At this service he will formally occupy his 'cathedra' (official seat) and the Dean of Truro will present him with Bishop Benson's crosier, providing a special link to the first Bishop of Truro.

## Carols from the Cornish Diaspora

*An exciting event will take place in Truro Cathedral on Thursday 20th December 2018*

When the Cornish emigrate they don't just take goods and chattels – they take their culture – their ways of doing things, their humour and yarn spinning skills, their carols. This Christmas we celebrate the global Cornish tradition of carols...

Truro Old Cornwall Society, in association with Lovely Productions and Dr Kate Neale, and with the generous support of Truro Cathedral and Arts Council 'England', FEAST, Garsedh Kernow, Federation of Old Cornwall Societies and Truro City Council, extends an invitation to your members and other supporters to attend a Service of Carols from the Cornish Diaspora on Thursday 20th December 2018 at 7pm in Truro Cathedral.

Most of the carols will be performed by community choirs drawn together for this very special occasion, led by Emma Mansfield and Hilary Coleman. There are three choirs (East, Mid and West) so we will be hearing from people all over Cornwall.

The carols have been collected and studied by Kate Neale whose PhD took her to Australia and the USA. It has stirred people's interest and she is very keen to support events such as this which bring the carols alive and encourage sharing between all the different Cornish communities world-wide.

With this in mind we will **live-stream the service (via Truro Cathedral Facebook)** to people of Cornish descent wherever they are in the World.

We hope that your members will attend this special service for a very special Cornish experience. No tickets are required – there are 900 seats to fill! The service will be led by Dean of Truro and Rector of Truro St Mary's, the Reverend Roger Bush.

*Bert Biscoe*

*President: Truro Old Cornwall Society*

## New Members

We welcome the following new members who have joined the LCA since the last newsletter

Mr Robert E V Semos	Sidcup, Kent
Mrs Morwenna R Semos	Sidcup, Kent
Ms Paula Martin.	Bodmin, Cornwall
Mrs Rosemary Bennett	Ickenham, Middlesex
Ms Margaret J Gale.	London W11
Ms Sallie Eden	London SE19.

*Do you know anyone who has Cornish connections – whether by birth, descent or marriage? Why not encourage them to join the LCA? They can obtain an application form from:*

The Membership Secretary

Chynoweth, 1a Dunwich Rd, Bexleyheath, Kent  
DA7 5EW

or on the website: [www.londoncornish.co.uk](http://www.londoncornish.co.uk)

## A visit to the Kresen Kernow site on 15<sup>th</sup> September 2018

Do you ever think that 'it seems like a good idea at the time'? Yes, me too!

Well, I was waitlisted for a tour of the Kresen Kernow site in Redruth (the site of the old Brewery). Then, I had a call to say that there was a space available for the 10.00 am tour on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> September. Kresen Kernow is where all archives etc from both the old Cornwall Record Office in Truro and also the Cornwall Studies Library, will be stored. All being well, they will take a large percentage of our LCA archives – which are at present in my garage!

As it was a whistle stop tour to Redruth I booked a train for the Friday (which was oversubscribed of course, but at least had a seat! – and I booked an overnight stay in Camborne.

To get to the site on the Saturday morning I took a bus from Camborne. This bus went everywhere and just managed to get to the site on time. Everyone on the bus was very friendly and the bus driver too waved as he went by!

The site tour took an hour. We had to wear hard hats, gloves, boots and hi-vis jackets.

The actual opening date of Kresen Kernow will be late Summer 2019. They have achieved quite a lot so far but there is still lots of scaffolding of course. The area for the archives is huge and they will have rolling shelves which will increase the storage area while also making it easy to find documents.

Despite the changes to the building, they will keep some of the historic structures and flooring.

The project is being funded by Cornwall County Council, private donations and an allocation, already received, from the EU.

It was good to see the site but perhaps it would have been better to visit around Springtime next year when the rooms and areas are more finalised.

Getting back home on the Saturday afternoon was another story!

*Carol Goodwin*



## And, an update from Kresen Kernow...

Construction work is continuing to go well on the Kresen Kernow site. The historic Brewhouse and the new archive store and staff areas have now been linked internally and across the roof, so the huge temporary cover over the central section of the building has come down. Much of the external scaffolding has also been removed, finally revealing how the finished building will look. It's a mix of repaired and repointed original granite and stonework, and modern concrete cladding (on the strongrooms), all under a roof that echoes that of the Brewery when it was last in use. Inside, the original granite flagstones have been re-laid in the exhibition area in the Brewhouse and many of the internal walls are being plastered. The final layer of flooring has been poured in the archive store rooms and our 14 miles of shelving is currently being installed. We've been busy choosing wall colours, carpets, desk and work top finishes, as well as finalising designs for the exhibition spaces.

[The] existing sites - Cornwall Record Office and the Cornish Studies Library - closed earlier in September to free staff up to prepare [the] collections for the move. [There are] around 1.5 million items to move, which includes over 100 000 books, 40 000 maps and 220 000 photographs and postcards.



## The London Cornish Pilot Gig Club makes waves on the Thames!

It is hard to believe the LCPGC is only a couple of years old as it seems to have achieved so much. One of the most exciting things happened recently when they acquired a clubhouse of their own at Richmond. This is a great milestone for the Club. It will be officially opened at a special event on 15th December, after which there will be a Christmas party.

In September, the club entered three gigs in the UK Traditional Boat Championship. This year about 330 crews set off from Millwall Slipway on the Isle of Dogs. Amongst the collection of craft were fifty-four gigs, the most gigs ever to enter this race. As Pete Chalkley of the LCPGC says 'The Cornish were well represented by St Piran's flags flying from the sterns. Great occasion'.

During this River Marathon, crews row 21.6 miles from London Docklands to Ham in Surrey. Some of the crews take it seriously and row to win or get a good time, but some just had fun 'with laughter, fancy dress and charity stunts.'

Next year's race will be on 14th September.



<https://www.facebook.com/londoncornishpilotgigclub/>

## Whence 'Cousin Jenny'

*The following typed article was found in the LCA archives after our Chairman, Francis Dunstan, passed away. It is undated but we felt it would amuse our readers – and maybe lead to some debate!*

Various explanations of the origin of the term 'Cousin Jack' have been advanced, the most common and plausible being that Cornish miners working overseas always seemed to have a 'cousin Jack in the ould country' who needed a job. The great frequency of John as a given name in Cornwall increases the likelihood of its being correct.

What is not usually mentioned is the origin of 'Cousin Jenny'. For example, one recent commentary on the Cornish in Butte, Montana says it 'just naturally followed' with no further explanation.

I would like to suggest that the 'Jenny' part was borrowed from livestock terminology and arose from the fact that a male donkey is called a jack ass and his female counterpart a jenny. With Jack already named it would indeed

naturally follow that his wife and Cornish adult females in general would be assigned 'Jenny'. Whether there was a perception of donkey qualities in Cornish immigrants is another matter.

*Dick Chamberlain*

*If you have any comments, or anything to add on this, please contact the editor using the details on the back page of this newsletter.*

## Support for the Cornish language is growing' says the new Grand Bard of Cornwall

'This is one of my first duties as the new Grand Bard of Cornwall,' said Elizabeth Carne, *Melennek*, as she prepared to present graduation certificates to successful candidates of the Cornish language, *Kernewek* at Lys Kernow (Cornwall Council Offices) in Truro.

The Cornish Language Board, KESVA - set up in 1967 by Gorsedh Kernow and the Federation of Old Cornwall Societies, recently announced an impressive set of results from the 77 candidates who took their exams back in the summer.

'I am so proud to congratulate our successful students, almost 15% up on last year, who are joining the growing number of people learning and taking exams in our precious Cornish language, *Kernewek*,' said the Grand Bard 'and as a Cornish language teacher myself I would like to encourage everyone to think about learning a little *Kernewek* to use in their everyday lives.'

Taking time out after a hectic few months in the run up to Gorsedh Kernow's Esedhvos Festival of Cornish Culture, where Mrs Carne was installed as the new Grand Bard, she expressed her enormous gratitude to all those, many of whom are bards of Gorsedh Kernow, working hard to help the language thrive.

'I can hardly believe it myself, but it's now forty years since I was invited to join the College of Bards for proficiency in the Cornish language and I have never lost my love for it.'

She gave particular mention to fellow bard Keith Syed, *Gwyk Los*, who was recently awarded a Gorsedh Kernow Awen medal in recognition of 34 years work on a translation of the Bible into Cornish.

'This is not the first time the Bible has been translated into Cornish,' said the Grand Bard, 'but access to such large volumes in print is not always easy and we are delighted to announce that this new translation is available through newly launched downloadable apps for tablets, smart-phones, pc and laptop.'

While warmly welcoming this move towards greater access to the Cornish language the Grand Bard once again drew attention to the lack of support from the British government for such an important part of Cornish culture.

'The Council of Europe has long since recognised the Cornish people and the importance of our cultural assets, such as *Kernewek*, under the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities' said Elizabeth Carne, 'and once again we call on HM Government to honour their commitment to the Cornish people and reinstate funding to the Cornish language.'



**CORNWALL INTERNATIONAL  
MALE CHORAL festival**  
2nd - 6th May 2019

The 9<sup>th</sup> biennial Cornwall International Male Choral Festival will take place during the early May bank holiday in 2019. There will be over 60 choirs, 13 of which will be coming from other countries – a record number. Eight of the entries are youth/boys choirs, half of whom will be from overseas. Performances during the Festival will take place in over 20 venues across Cornwall.

Of particular interest to me are the choirs which are coming from South Africa as two of them are from St Stithian's College near Johannesburg. This school, which is where my son was booked to go before we moved to Cape Town, was founded by two Cornish immigrants who had established a successful construction business, and wanted to set up a school for boys as a philanthropic act. It is now one of the top schools in South Africa.

There will be more information about the Festival, with details of venues and booking arrangements, in the Spring newsletter.

### A little bit of Cornwall in Israel!

On the Mount of Olives in Jerusalem, there is a cave where, tradition has it, Jesus taught his disciples the Lord's Prayer. A Byzantine church was built there in the 4th century AD but was subsequently destroyed by the Persians. It has been replaced many times over the centuries. The site on which the church was built was named Pater Noster by the Crusaders and has retained that name to this day.

Today there is a humble chapel containing the cave and a convent church and there is a garden around both. The only decoration in the church and garden are ceramic tiles showing the Lord's Prayer in over 70 languages.



One of these is in Cornish as can be seen in this photograph.

Compared with all the other churches we saw in Israel, this was simple and had a powerful message of inclusivity. From Sinhalese to Maori to Chinese to Cornish, the message was the same and displayed with equality and pride.

*Sue Jones (friend of Chairman, Carol Goodwin)*

### Calling all Hockings!

Do you have Hockings in your family? - many of us with Cornish roots do. If you do, and you are doing your family history, you might want to get in touch with the Hocking Descendants Society. The Society was originally set up in 1988 by a group of people who were researching the family name of Hocking (including variant spellings: Hackin, Hawkin(s), Hawken(s), Hockings, Hocken(s) and Hockin(s) and Huychen.). It is based in Australia but is a world-wide organisation with representatives in New Zealand, Canada, United States of America and the United Kingdom. Its database holds over 37000 names and data pertaining to 339 family trees.

If you would like to find out more, please visit their website - <http://www.hockingdescendants.com/> or contact them at [hockingdescendants01@gmail.com](mailto:hockingdescendants01@gmail.com)



I recently had the pleasure of meeting up with Denise Phillips Vice President and Research Director of the Hocking Descendants Society while she was in London. We spent a lovely couple of hours chatting about family history, Cornwall, Australia... over a Cornish cream tea, complete with Rodda's cream.



## The Royal Family of Prussia

From: *Cornish Characters and Strange Events* by S. Baring-Gould

"Over against Mousehole, across the great bay of Penzance, is Cudden Point, jutting out into the sea, forming one horn of a promontory of which the Enys forms the other, looking in the opposite direction. Between these two lie three little coves, that of the Pixies, too exposed and rocky for a harbour, but with its sides riddled with caves.

"Bessie's, called after Bessie Burrow, who kept the *Kidley-wink* on the cliff, which was the great resort of the smugglers, bears on its face to-day the traces of its history. A spot so sheltered and secluded that it is impossible to see what boats are in the little harbour until one literally leans over the edge of the cliff above; a harbour cut out of the solid rock, and a roadway with wheel tracks partly cut and partly worn, crossing the rocks below high-water mark; and, climbing up the face of the cliff on each side of the cove, caves and remains of caves everywhere, some with their mouths built up, which are reputed to be connected with the house above by secret passages. These are the trade marks of Bessie's Cove, and the world has not yet known the degree of innocence which could believe that these were made for the convenience of a few crabbers.

"The eastern and the most open is Prussia Cove. Here still stands to-day the house in which John Carter, 'the King of Prussia,' lived and reigned from 1770 to 1807."

The origin of the Carter family is obscure. It is supposed to have come from Shropshire, and the name is not Cornish. But what could have brought it to this wild and remote spot in the south-west is quite unknown. The father, Francis Carter, was born in 1712 and died in 1774, and his wife, Agnes, died in 1784. They had eight sons and two daughters. The eldest of the sons was John, the famous Cornish King of Prussia. He obtained this nickname in the following manner: He and other boys were playing at soldiers, and the renown of Frederick the Great having reached him, John dubbed himself the King of Prussia, and the title not only adhered to him through life, but he has bequeathed

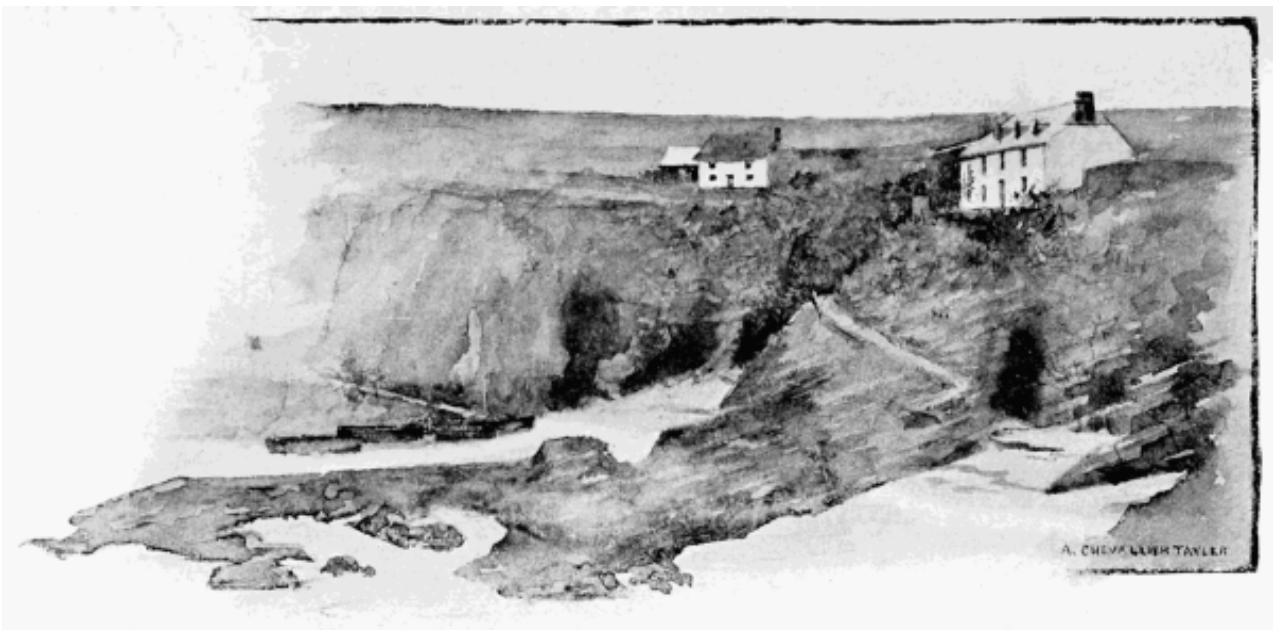
the name of Prussia to the cove, which formerly bore that of Porthleah.

John Carter, when he grew to man's estate, made himself fame as a daring smuggler, and he was ably seconded by his brother Henry, who contrived to his own satisfaction to combine perfervid piety with cheating the customs.

Smuggling in those days was carried on upon a large scale, in cutters and luggers armed with eighteen or twenty guns apiece. Harry Carter, in his autobiography, says: "I think I might have been twenty-five when I went in a small sloop about sixteen or eighteen tons, with two men besides myself as smugglers, when I had very great success, and after a while I had a new sloop built for me, about thirty-two tons. My success was rather beyond common, and after a time we bought a small cutter of about fifty tons, and about ten men." The measurements at the present day would be ten, eighteen, and thirty tons.

John Carter was never caught. On one occasion the revenue officers came to his house and demanded to ransack his sheds. One of these was locked, and he refused to surrender the key, whereupon they broke it open, but found that it contained only household articles. As they were unable to refasten the door, the shed remained open all night, and by morning everything it had contained had disappeared. The "King" thereupon sued the officers for all his goods that had been taken from him. It is perhaps needless to say that he had himself conveyed them away. The officers had to refund the losses.

On one occasion when John Carter was absent from home, the excise officers from Penzance came to Prussia Cove in their boats and succeeded in securing a cargo lately arrived from France. They carried it to Penzance and placed it under lock and key in the custom-house. Carter, on his return, heard of the capture. He was highly incensed, for the brandy had all been promised to some of the gentry round, and he was not the man to receive an order and fail to execute it. Accordingly, he made up his



AT PRUSSIA COVE. "BESSY'S" COVE FROM BATTERY POINT  
From a drawing by A. Chevallier Taylor in the possession of J. B. Cornish, Esq.

mind to recover the whole cargo. Assisted by his mates, in the night he broke into the custom-house store and removed every barrel that had been taken from him.

The most famous episode in John Carter's career was his firing on the boat of the revenue cutter *The Faery*. A smuggling vessel, hard pressed, ran through a narrow channel among the rocks between the Enys and the shore. The cutter, not daring to venture nearer, sent her boat in; whereupon Carter opened fire upon her from an improvised battery in which he had mounted several small cannon. The boat had to withdraw. Next morning the fight was resumed, *The Faery* opening fire from the sea. But in the meantime mounted soldiers from Penzance had arrived, and these fired from the top of the hill upon those working the guns in the battery, taking them in the rear. This was more than the smugglers could stand, and they retreated to Bessie Burrow's house, and were not further molested, the soldiers contenting themselves with remounting their horses and riding back to Penzance. Unfortunately, with regard to John Carter, the "King of Prussia," we have but scattered notices and tradition to rely upon; but it is otherwise with his brother Henry, who has left an autobiography that has been transcribed and published by Mr. J. B. Cornish under the title *The Autobiography of a Cornish Smuggler*, London (Gibbons and Co.), 1900.

But Harry Carter is somewhat reticent about the doings of the smugglers, and avoids giving names, for when he wrote "free trade" was in full swing. He wrote in 1809, when John his brother and the "Cove boys" were still at it, and Prussia Cove had not ceased to be a great centre of smugglers. He is much more concerned to record his religious experiences, all of which we could well spare for fuller details of the goings-on of his brothers and their comrades.

In 1778 an embargo was laid on all English trade, when the French Government made a treaty with the States of America, and not knowing of this, Henry Carter was arrested at S. Malo, and his cutter, with sixteen guns and thirty-six men, taken from him. He was sent to the prison at Dinan; and in like manner his brother John was taken, and they were allowed to remain on parole at Josselin till the November of 1779, when they were exchanged by order of the Lords of the Admiralty for two French gentlemen. "So, after I was at home some time, riding about the country getting freights, collecting money for the company, etc., we bought a cutter about 160 tons (50 tons), nineteen guns. I went in her some time smuggling. I had great success."

In January, 1788, he went with a freight to Cawsand in a lugger of 45 tons in modern measurement, and mounting sixteen carriage guns. But he was boarded, and so cut about the head, and his nose nearly severed in two, that he fell bleeding on the deck.

"I suppose I might have been there about a quarter of an hour, until they had secured my people below, and after found me lying on the deck. One of them said, 'Here is one of the poor fellows dead.' Another made answer, 'Put the man below.' He answered again, 'What use is it to put a dead man below?' and so passed on. So I laid there very quiet for near the space of two hours, hearing their discourse as they walked by me, the night being very dark on the 30th January, 1788. The commanding officer gave orders for a lantern to be brought, so they took up one of my legs as I was lying upon my belly; he let it go, and it fell as dead down on the deck. He likewise put his hand up

under my clothes, between my shirt and my skin, and then examined my head, and so concluded, saying, 'The man is so warm now as he was two hours back, but his head is all to atoms.' The water being ebbing, the vessel (that was grounded) making a great heel to the shore, so that in the course of a very little time after, as their two boats was made fast alongside, one of them broke adrift. Immediately there was orders given to man the other boat in order to fetch her, so that when I saw them in this state of confusion, their guard broken, I thought it was my time to make my escape, so I crept on my belly on the deck, and got over a large raft just before the mainmast, close by one of the men's heels, as he was standing there handing the trysail. When I got over the lee-side I thought I should be able to swim on shore in a stroke or two. I took hold of the burtens of the mast, and as I was lifting myself over the side I was taken with the cramp in one of my thighs. So then I thought I should be drowned, but still willing to risk it, so that I let myself over the side very easily by a rope into the water. As I was very near the shore, I thought to swim on shore in the course of a stroke or two, but soon found my mistake. I was sinking almost like a stone, and hauling astern in deeper water, when I gave up all hopes of life and began to swallow some water. I found a rope under my breast, so that I had not lost my senses. I hauled upon it, and soon found one end fast to the side just where I went overboard, which gave me a little hope of life. So that when I got there, I could not tell which was best, to call to the man-of-war's men to take me in, or to stay there and die, for my life and strength were almost exhausted. But whilst I was thinking of this, touched bottom with my feet. Hope then sprang up, and I soon found another rope, leading towards the head of the vessel in shoaler water, so that I veered upon one and hauled upon the other, that brought me under the bowsprit, and then at times upon the send of a sea, my feet were almost dry. I let go the rope, but as soon as I attempted to run fell down, and as I fell, looking round about me, I saw three men standing close by. I knew they were the man-of-war's men seeking for the boat, so I lay there quiet for some little time, and then crept upon my belly I suppose about the distance of fifty yards, and as the ground was scuddy, some flat rock mixed with channels of sand, I saw before me a channel of white sand, and for fear to be seen creeping over it, which would take some time, not knowing there was anything the matter with me, made the second attempt to run, and fell in the same manner as before.

"My brother Charles being there, looking out for the vessel, desired some Cawsand men to go down to see if they could pick up any of the men dead or alive, not expecting ever to see me anymore, almost sure I was either shot or drowned. One of them saw me fall, ran to my assistance, and taking hold of me under the arm, says, 'Who are you?' So, as I thought him to be an enemy, made no answer. He said, 'Fear not; I am a friend. Come with me.' And by that time were come two more, which took me under both arms, and the other pushed me in the back, and so dragged me up to the town. My strength was almost exhausted. They took me into a room where were seven or eight Cawsand men and my brother Charles, and when he saw me he knew me by my great coat, and cried with joy. So then they immediately stripped off my wet clothes, and sent for a doctor and put me to bed. The bone of my nose was cut right in two, nothing but a bit of skin holding it, and two very large cuts in my head, that two or three pieces of my skull worked out of afterwards."



He was now hurried off in a chaise to his brother Charles' house, where he remained for a week. Then as a reward of three hundred pounds was offered for his apprehension, he was conveyed to a gentleman's house in Marazion, where he remained concealed for two or three weeks, and thence was taken to Acton House, belonging to Mr. John Stackhouse, but only for a while, and shifted back to Marazion. Then again to the castle. The surgeon who was called in to attend him was blindfolded by the men sent to fetch him and conducted to the hiding-place of Henry Carter.

In October he sailed for Leghorn, then on the same vessel loaded at Barcelona with brandy for New York. It was no longer safe for him to remain in England till the affair was blown over, and he did not return till October in the year 1790, and was soon again engaged in alternate preaching in Methodist chapels, and in smuggling brandy from Roscoff. On one of these excursions in 1793 he was arrested at Roscoff, as war had been declared between France and England. This was during the Reign of Terror, at a time when the Convention had decreed that no quarter should be given to an Englishman, and an English prisoner was placed on the same footing as a "suspect" or "aristocrat," and stood a great chance of losing his head under the knife. He does not, however, seem to have been harshly treated, only moved about from place to place, sometimes in a prison, at others lodged in a private house; a good many of his French fellow-prisoners, however, suffered death. In his own words and spelling: "There was numbers of gent and lades taken away to Brest that I parssially know, and their heads chopt off with the gulenteen with a very little notice."

Robespierre was executed on 28th July, 1794; and soon after his death the Convention decreed the release of great numbers of "suspects" and other prisoners. It was not, however, till August, 1795, that Henry Carter got his passport and was able to leave. He arrived at Falmouth on August 22nd. "Arived on shore aboute three o'clock in the afternoon with much fear and trembling, where I meet with my dear little (daughter) Betsy, there staying with her aunt, Mrs. Smythe, then between 8 and 9 years old.... I staid that night at Falmouth, the next morning went to Penryn with my dear little Bettsey in my hand. The next morning, on Sunday, took a horse and arrived at Breage Churchtown aboute eleven o'clock, where I meet my dear brother Frank, then in his way to church. As I first took him in surprise, at first I could harly make him sensible I was his brother, being nearley two years without hearing whether I was dead or alife. But when he come to himself as it were, we rejoiced together with exceeding great joy indeed. We went to his house in Rinsey, and after dinner went to see brother John (in Prussia Cove). We sent him word before I was coming. But he could harly believe it. But first looking out with his glass saw me yet a long way off. Ran to meet me, fell upon my neck. We passed the afternoon with him, and in the evning went to Keneggy to see brother Charles."

The autobiography ends abruptly in the year 1795, but the writer lived on until April 19th, 1829, spending the last thirty years of his life on a little farm at Rinsey.

In addition to the two authorities quoted, both due to Mr. Cornish, there is a memoir of Henry Carter in the *Wesleyan Methodist Magazine* for October, 1831.

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## News from other Cornish Associations

### UNITED STATES

At the end of September, the **Southwest Wisconsin Cornish Society** hosted the Annual Cornish Festival and Celtic Celebration. This festival, which takes place in Mineral Point, started in 1991 as a way of preserving their Cornish heritage. Feed-back from this year's Festival shows that it was a great success – '*despite the chilly, damp-at-times weather.*' The theme this year was *Camelot comes to Mineral Point*. Events over the weekend included a pop-up museum, a pub night, and a performance of *Camelot*. For the first time, the Gymnfa Ganu (Welsh Hymn-sing) was added to honour the early Welsh settlers in the area.

Plans for Cornish Fest 2019 are well underway. The theme on that occasion will be *Mousehole Cat Meets Mineral Point*.

### CANADA

The **Toronto Cornish Association** held its annual picnic in August in the beautiful garden of one of its members. In early September, the Association had a booth in the Beaches Celtic Festival.

April 2019 will see the TCA celebrate its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary. They will mark this landmark with a special membership banquet and a '*wonderful night full of Cornish celebration and fellowship*'.

### AUSTRALIA

To mark the centenary of the 1918 armistice, a special open-air commemoration concert was held in front of the museum in Moonta. This building was the old Moonta Mines School. Dinner was served beforehand. Lilian James from the Yorke Peninsula, who was wearing her Cornish tartan skirt, said the Lord's Prayer in Cornish. The next day there was a service in front of the local war memorial followed by a parade through the streets of Moonta. Moonta is one of the towns of 'Little Cornwall' in South Australia.

In November, the Cornish Language Group of the **Cornish Association of Victoria** presented a play in Cornish which had been written by Vice-President, Ken Peak.

Recently, Ken gave a very entertaining talk on researching his family tree with the aid of DNA. This, and some clever detective work helped him put many of the missing pieces of his family history together. At an earlier meeting, Derek Trewarne spoke about his Cornish mining ancestors and '*even had us singing Cornish songs about underground mining*'.

In December, CAV members will hold a Christmas lunch. As previously, they will bring donations which can be put into hampers.

Professor Graeme Davison will be the guest speaker at the Association's February meeting when the topic will be *History and Family History – Allies or Rivals*.

In October, the speaker at the *Ballarat Branch* of the **CAV** was Jenny Burrell whose topic was *Panoramas of Ballarat*. This is the title of a book on the history of Ballarat which she and her cousin wrote some time ago.

At the beginning of December, they held their Christmas function.

The *Geelong Branch* of the **Cornish Association of Victoria** held its Annual Dinner towards the end of November.

In October, the theme of the meeting of the **Cornish Association of South Australia** was Cornish cooking. Members were encouraged to bring some food and share the recipe. They will hold their Annual Christmas Concert in December.

## NEW ZEALAND

Genetics was the topic of conversation at the September meeting of the *Christchurch Branch of the New Zealand Cornish Association*. 28 members and friends enjoyed a pictorial visit to Cornwall guided by Barbara, Jenny and Heather who had undertaken a trip there during the past northern summer.

## Books

### ***The married widows of Cornwall: The story of the wives 'left behind' by emigration***

By Lesley Trotter

Publisher: Humble History Press

For some time, social historian Lesley Trotter has been looking into the stories of some of the wives who were 'left behind' when their husbands headed off to far-flung parts of the world and several years ago, the LCA was privileged to hear her to speak on this at a Family History Day. She has now published a book on the subject.

The marketing blurb states

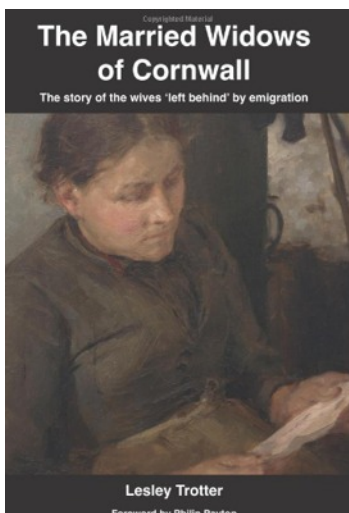
*One of the untold stories of 19<sup>th</sup> century emigration from Cornwall is that of the thousands of wives 'left behind' by men leaving to work overseas.*

*The Married Widows of Cornwall explores the lives of these unsung heroines of many a Cornish family. It describes the resources they drew upon in the absence of their husbands, and the challenges they presented to the authorities.*

*It shows the wives not simply as the passive victims of emigration but also active participants and influential voices in family plans.*

*However, coming from a time when married women had few rights and opportunities, poignant individual stories highlight the risks and vulnerability of being a 'married widow'.*

The book can be purchased on Amazon or ordered through bookshops.



The ladies also spoke of having DNA tests carried out and it turned out that other members had done so too, so results were compared

## UK

Despite recently losing their President, several members of the **Thames Valley Cornish Association** went ahead with their annual picnic at Marlow as they knew that that is what President Gomer would have wanted. The weather was perfect, making it an enjoyable late afternoon on the banks of the Thames. At the end of November, some members shared in a pre-Christmas get together with a delicious buffet lunch and some entertaining quizzes put together by Kath. They will get the new year off to a good start with a lunch in January.

In October, 'cousins' from many parts of the UK descended on Bournemouth for the Annual Dinner of the **Bournemouth Cornish Association**. This is always a most enjoyable evening and a wonderful opportunity to catch up with friends from other associations. Many took up the invitation to join the BCA for a pasty lunch on the Sunday before heading home.

### ***Antique Maps of Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly***

By RCE Quixley and JME Quixley

2<sup>nd</sup> Enhanced edition

Publ: RCE Quixley

ISBN-13: 978-1527215030

This is a new edition of the book by RCE Quixley which was published in 1966. It covers maps of Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly from Saxton's county map of 1576 through to the mid-1800s.

The book is available on Amazon or could be ordered through bookshops.

## Condolences

### **Alan Horton**

We were saddened to hear that long-standing member Alan Horton passed away in August. We send sympathy to his wife and family.

### **Gomer Walters**

It was with great sadness that we heard that Gomer Walters, President of the Thames Valley Cornish Association had died in September. He was 92. He will be greatly missed by the membership to whom he was an inspiration, always cheerful and encouraging.

We offer condolences to Gomer's family and the members of the TVCA.



## My Meanderings

I hope you have had an enjoyable summer. We have had a very hot July, August and September and now into October the temperature is above average. I am wondering what our winter is going to be like?

Have you noticed that Cornwall is often mentioned in the newspapers? Recently, there was an article about pasties in which it was suggested that Royal Cornwall Hospitals NHS should be offering healthier alternatives such as replacing the traditional pastry with a lower fat filo pastry. What an insult to the traditional Cornish pastry!

My wife, Jenny, reacted to the above and gave me the following:

*'There has been a lot seen in the press about NHS Cornish pasties, so I will now tell you of my experience of an NHS Cornish pasty when I was in hospital earlier this year. Our daily menu request arrived and it was with some trepidation that I ticked 'Cornish Pasty'. When it arrived, I was very disappointed, and I am sure you will now hold up your hands in horror when I tell you it was made with puff pastry and filled with what tasted like sausage meat with grated carrot and potato. The next day I wrote on my menu that it was nothing like a Cornish pasty and would they kindly have some lessons from a Cornish man or woman on making a true Cornish pasty. However, nothing happened and to my relief the kitchens didn't go on strike and to this day I do not imagine the pasties have improved.'*

A mini headline seen in The Daily Express on 19<sup>th</sup> January 2008: was *'Fight to protect Cornish pasties'*. Cornish pasty producers want their 'snacks' to win protected status, so that only pasties made in Cornwall in the traditional manner could legally be called Cornish. I agree with the basis of this, but surely a pasty is a **MEAL** not a **SNACK!** Also, it said that *'the real thing has a D shape and is crimped on one side, never on top'*. Real thing – what a way to describe a Cornish pasty! I always understood that the position of the crimping related to where in Cornwall they were made.

There was also an article regarding scones with jam and cream which said that in Cornwall jam goes on first then a good dollop of Cornish clotted cream on top. If you do cream first with jam on top you don't get such a good helping of cream! It was interesting to read in the newspaper that for Royal tea parties the Queen prefers the Cornish method of jam first, topped with clotted cream. I support this entirely as I do like Cornish clotted cream.

The newspaper also stated one day that 'Land's End' has an official apostrophe. I looked up some old maps and they did use the apostrophe. What was the problem?

Cornwall had many tin mines for centuries, but they gradually closed over the years with, in 1998, South Crofty being the last mine to close. It had been worked for 400 years. But I read in a newspaper earlier this year that with soaring prices there are now plans to reopen South Crofty Mine. I wonder if any others will also reopen?

Looking in my 1897 Kelly's Directory I read:

*'Redruth is the mining capital of Cornwall, the Mining Exchange being held here, and public sales-by-auction of tin, known as 'tin-ticketings', are held at Tabbs Hotel; at these auctions about 200 tons of tin are competed for, and purchased fortnightly by the smelting firms of Cornwall, of whom there are six; some of the mines, and amongst*

*these 'Dolcoath', which is the largest tin mine in the world, sell their tin by private contract. The bulk of the population in Redruth and the adjoining districts of Illogan, Carn Brea and Camborne are employed in tin mining and at the numerous tin streaming works: it is estimated that about 5,000 to 6,000 persons, including women and children, are so engaged.*

Once again I have decided to meander through my previous *Meanderings* as well as looking through the books. You may therefore remember the following extracts from *'My Meanderings'*

**Cornwall's future.** Looking back over the past century the rate of progress in mechanisation, transportation and communication has been so rapid that this greater use of machinery and technology has resulted in less manpower requirements - fishing boats are much larger with their catches vastly increased, on farms a horse drawn plough is a 'thing of the past' and milking is done by machine. Among the results is the demise of mining and the decrease in both the fishing and farming industries. Progress has taken these from us. But there is a great asset that Cornwall still has - it's much varied and beautiful scenery, together with its history, both pre-industrial and industrial, including our mining heritage.

Today Cornwall relies on tourism with some parts being more popular than others. Promoting tourism in Cornwall is ongoing and relies on marketing efficiency. It will provide the prosperity that has been lost to parts of Cornwall. Who, looking to the past, developed the first steam driven locomotive? And who developed mine pumping engines that have been used all over the World? If the Cornish could do that let them proudly take up the challenge and, just as they did with today's Eden Project, with its futuristic biospheres, let Cornwall make full use of the benefits offered from this modern 'tourism industry'.

Previously I have commented on the lack of statues in Cornwall which record our mining history. This has, surprisingly, drawn no comments. Is our heritage of fishing and mining to remain unrecognized, apart from derelict ruins and a few museums and heritage centres? In Penzance there is a statue to Sir Humphry Davy, the inventor of the Miner's Lamp and in Camborne there is a statue to commemorate Richard Trevithick and his steam engine inventions. Although neither mining nor fishing, there is Lander's Monument in Truro overlooking the City from its plinth at the top of Lemon Street. I am sure that other Cornish towns and villages display statues with pride, but what about our heritage industries and the actual miners and fishermen, are we not proud of our forefathers?

In my last *'Meanderings'* I mentioned how I was on the beach at Hayle in September 1942 when the gas works at St. Ives was bombed. I have since had a response from Margaret Bunney, a long standing member, saying that she was in the sea at Porthminster Beach, St. Ives on that day when the planes flew over machine-gunning and then carried on to bomb the gas works. I wonder if anyone else can remember being on the beaches on that day? Thank you, Margaret, for your interesting response.

In the last *'Meanderings'* I asked if anybody knew about a restaurant in Causewayhead, Penzance that was, or is, called *'The Lantern'*. So far I have not had any response; surely someone must know of it.

Well that is all for now. I hope you found something of interest in these 'Meanderings'. If you have any comments or queries about these snippets, please don't hesitate to contact me.

I end with my usual request for your support for the London Cornish Association. Please remember that new members are always welcome, so do refer them to the Membership Secretary whose contact details are in this Newsletter.

I now wish you all a very good and happy rest of 2018 and also a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.  
*Kernow bys vyken*

Graham Pearce, 'Pengwyth', 17 Trellyn Close, Barming, MAIDSTONE, Kent, ME16 9EF

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## Crowdy Crawn

### Really?

While reading Margot Fonteyn's autobiography recently, member Hilary Paddon came across a curious passage.

Apparently, towards the end of the book, Fonteyn describes a ballet which she performed in Brazil, called *The Amazon Forest* (or *Floresta Amazonica*). She wrote:

Each performance ended with a Grand Finale for thirty-six corps de ballet, eight principals and two parrots. The parrots, in a cage hanging near the backdrop, delighted everyone with their vivid additions to the orchestration. (I was telling Sir Steven Runciman, the British historian, about them, and he said that in the nineteenth century a parrot held the Chair of Cornish Language at London University. Apparently, he belonged to an old lady who was one of the last people to speak Cornish, and when she died, only her parrot could speak it, so he was made a professor.)

Although Hilary suspects this to be a joke on Sir Steven Runciman's part, she is curious to know if anyone can throw any light on this. If you have heard this story, or can help get to the bottom of it, please let the Editor know via the addresses on the back page.

### Bacteria Named after Cornwall

*From the Ballarat newsletter – Oct 2018*

A new bacterial strain will be named after Cornwall following its identification from a skin infection.

*Staphylococcus cornubiensis*, named after the medieval name for Cornwall, *Cornubia*, was isolated from a sample submitted to the laboratory by a local GP.

Cornwall-based researchers at the University of Exeter Medical School and the Department of Clinical Microbiology at the Royal Cornwall Hospital in Truro, investigated its similarity to known related bacteria. They found that the strain was unique and likely belonged to the *Staphylococcus intermedius* group (SIG), a group of bacteria that is also associated with pets.

The work was in part funded by the Wellcome Trust and the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC)

<https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2018/09/180911152422.htm>

## You could be forgiven for thinking you were in Cornwall!



While driving through the Burren in County Clare in the summer, I came across this structure, quite unexpectedly. I was amazed at the similarity to the Trethevy Quoit in Cornwall.

Like the Trethevy Quoit, this dolmen is a Neolithic burial tomb. In 1985, a crack was found in one of stones. The dolmen was dismantled and the cracked stone was replaced. During the excavations, 33 people, both adults and children were found buried under the monument, together with some personal items including a polished stone axe, a bone pendant, quartz crystals, weapons and pottery.

### Now the NHS takes on the pasty!

According to a recent article by Kathryn Flett in the Telegraph, the Royal Cornwall Hospital NHS Trust wants to serve 'healthier' pasties. Their solution to this is to replace the traditional full-fat shortcrust pastry with filo pastry or pasta! For Cornish people, this is sacrilege - and seems to forget that historically, the pastry on a pasty had to be tough because it needed to cope with being taken down a mine. To change this is to tamper with history, tradition and memories. We all have special memories of eating pasties. Mine is sitting on the cliff overlooking The Crowns at Botallack, watching the waves crash on the rocks below while eating one. It is hard to imagine doing this with filo or pasta pasty - and what would look like if they were put in a backpack? Kathryn ends her column with the following thought... 'As to the pastapasty, will future generations recall wistfully their first taste of this tragic Mary Shelley-esque freak of a foodstuff I somehow doubt it' Hear Hear!

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

**5th February**

*Please send all contributions to:*

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*Or email to [lbroekmann@outlook.com](mailto:lbroekmann@outlook.com)*