

Onen hag oll

The Cornish Association of Victoria Inc. Ballarat Branch

A.C.N. A0008 264A

April 2025 Newsletter

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Saturday 7th June - AGM

Meeting - Saturday 1st February 2025

An interactive session began Keith Lanyon's talk for the afternoon's meeting.

"When I say Cornwall or Cornish what comes to mind?"

Answers included – wonderful singing; a well kept secret; beautiful coast line; family connection; ancestral villages; Cornish pasties; Roskilly Ice cream; Rodda's cream; cream teas; smuggling; ancestors; Duchy; isolation; Doc Martin; well educated mining men.

"Where did your sense of Cornwall come from? Why does it stick?"

Through visiting; from birth; family history; watching TV shows like Doc Martin; books and films.

Over many years, Cornwall has featured in entertainment and Literature.

Pirates of Penzance by Gilbert and Sullivan – kind hearted pirates

Poldark and the adventures of Ross Poldark in both film, TV series and books.

Dr Philip Payton has written extensively about Cornwall and the Cornish Diaspora

Cornwall in Literature

Robert Louis Stephenson's *Treasure Island* - Admiral Benbow Pub in Penzance – Jim Hawkins and Squire Trelawney – band of buccaneers/pirates – Stephenson used Cornwall as a source of ideas and

Saturday 5th April - Visit to Chinese library on the corner of Lydiard and Sturt Streets - we will meet at Skipton Street for afternoon tea at 2.00 pm and assemble at the library at 3.15 for a 3.30 pm Tour.

Thursday 1st May - Sunday 4th May - Australian Celtic Festival at Glen Innes NSW - this year is the year of Brittany, Cornwall and Wales.

12th - 18th May - Kernewek Lowender - Copper Coast of South Australia - book early as accommodation can be tight - check out the website:

<https://www.kernewek.org/>



Normally meetings are held on the even months at Skipton Street Uniting Church Hall, cnr Darling and Skipton Streets, Ballarat.

Meetings begin at 2.00 pm and are followed by a shared high tea.



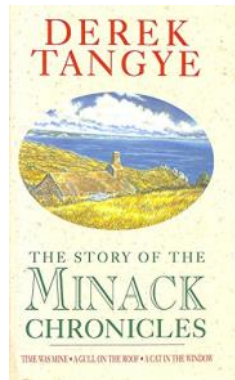
also as an escape from Scotland.



E V Thompson – Ernest Victor Thompson – resident of Cornwall - writer of historical novels – mining - Methodism

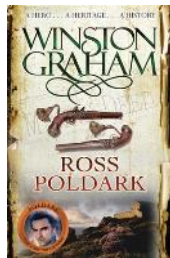


Derek Tangye – he and his wife Jeannie, escaped London and lived in Cornwall, near St Buryan, for about fifty years – grew daffodils - wrote *The Minack Chronicles*-



Rosamond Pilcher – born in Cornwall – wrote many romantic novels featuring Cornwall – some of which were made into films and TV series

Winston Graham – lived for many years at Perranporth - *Poldark* series show cased the beautiful Cornish scenery



Hammond Innes – World War 2 stories – *Wreckers must breathe* – a story about the German U Boats operating from a secret base in Cornwall.

Killer Mine - set among the ruins of an abandoned Cornish tin mine

Jack Higgins – *Cold Harbour* – set in a Cornwall fishing village which is in reality a secret nerve centre for British espionage

Daphne du Maurier – moved to Cornwall in the late 1920s – she gained inspiration from the towns and landmarks around Cornwall for her novels – she lived at or near Fowey and later *Kilmarth* overlooking St Austell Bay



Following Keith's talk, a discussion took place about some of the difficulties facing current residents of Cornwall and the associated problems in trying to preserve its sense of community and culture.

Afternoon tea and the opportunity to have a good chat concluded the afternoon.



2025 St Piran's Day

On Sunday 2nd March Skipton Street Uniting Church congregation welcomed members of the Cornish Association to join with them in Worship celebrating their Cornish heritage.



The service was led by Rev. Keith Lanyon, our Chairperson, with contributions from CAV Members Les George, Wendy Benoit and Robyn Coates.

The church musicians adopted the Cornish theme with music from *Pirates of Penzance* and the *Furry Dance* before and after the service.



Morning tea followed the service and then twelve members joined Skipton Street folk for lunch at the Flying Horse Bistro. Following lunch, the fittest of our members were given a tour of the Old Colonist Association building in Lydiard Street.



Thanks to Bev Hocking for these Photos



Kernewek Lowender update

From Cornish Association of South Australia Newsletter

We are pleased that husband and wife musicians, Hilary Coleman and Neil Davey (“Dalla Duo”) from Cornwall, have confirmed their attendance at Kernewek Lowender. They will be singing at the ‘Sup and Sing’ pasty tea and concert, and have also indicated interest in talking with local schoolchildren.

They are also both Bards of Cornwall (Hilary has produced two books on Cornish songs and music, and Neil is a brother to former Grand Bard Merv Davey who came to Kernewek Lowender, and played his Cornish bagpipes, in 2017.

Professor Malcolm Williams, from Exeter University, is coming to the Lowender, and is also interested in talking with local schoolchildren, particularly about Cornwall as it is now.

(Malcolm is also looking forward to seeing his old friend Philip Payton while in Australia!)

We are still hopeful that the current Grand Bard, Jenefer Lowe, will be at the Lowender, but family circumstances mean she has not yet been able to confirm that.

Our Seminar on “Cornish Australians in industry and commerce” is shaping up quite well.

Papers will cover business people such as Sir David Fletcher Jones, and the more recent activities of the fishing exchange between Port Lincoln and Newlyn. The Seminar will one again be in the air-conditioned Kadina Football Clubrooms.

However, age and health issues are beginning to take their toll on how much our Association members (and even our committee members) will be able to do during Kernewek Lowender, and seem to also be affecting how many people will travel from interstate.

Note:

Arthur and I were lucky to hear *Dalla Duo* perform at the Gorsedh Concert last year at Callington - they were so talented.



St Just Ordinalia

In September 2026, it is planned to hold the *Ordinalia* Plays at Plen an Gwari, St Just in Penwith.

Whilst the actors are not paid, the cost of the production is about £350 000.

The three *Ordinalia* plays are the oldest surviving trilogy of plays in Great Britain, comprising 'Creation of the World', the 'Passion of Christ', and the 'Resurrection of our Lord'.

They were written by the clerics of Glasney College in Penryn, the best known and most important of Cornwall's religious institutions.

There are three surviving *Ordinalia* manuscripts - an original fifteenth century manuscript, held in the Bodleian Library Oxford, from which the other manuscripts appear to have been copied.

A second text is in the Bodleian Library, and a third in the National Library of Wales.

In 1969 the Drama Department at Bristol University staged the *Ordinalia* plays for the first time in over 300 years at Perran Round in Perranporth - the other Cornish surviving Plen an Gwari.

In 2000, with a Millennium Festival grant, the St Just Ordinalia Company performed Origo Mundi (the first play). In 2001, they performed The Passion (the second play), producing The Resurrection (the third

play) the following year.

In 2004, they uniquely performed the full cycle of Ordinalia plays.

Seventeen years later, in September 2021 the Cornish Ordinalia plays were again performed in St Just - on this occasion all three plays being performed in repertory, a unique and spectacular experience.

Audiences of over 5000 people heard the Cornish Language being sung and spoken, as they witnessed this amazing medieval piece of theatre being brought to life.

The Cornish Language was one of the six European Celtic languages, and was in the Brittonic Group comprising Breton and Welsh - although more closely linked to the former.

Cornish died out as a spoken language in the late eighteenth century, and much of our understanding of it comes from the Ordinalia plays. Apart from Old Cornish fragments in the Bodmin Manuscripts, and some references in a Latin manuscript of Boethius, the only complete references are to be found in Middle Cornish manuscripts.

With the Ordinalia plays are the two other important records of the Cornish language - Beunans Meriasek, written around 1504, and Bewnans Ke, written around 1500, respectively commemorating the lives of the Saints Meriadoc and Kea.

Only three manuscripts of the Ordinalia remain, and with only two other extant manuscripts in written Cornish (lives of Cornish saints), they are a major source of understanding the Cornish language, which died out in 1777. The timeline for the revival of Kernewek after that can be found here

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From:

<https://www.stjustordinalia.com/>

THE CORNISH

Ballarat Courier - 5th March 1892

Cornerisms – Tom Touchstone (Tom Bury)

Tyre, which was “the queen of cities” long before Athans or Rome were founded, still exists in the little Syrian town of Sur, with a population less than that of Creswick.

The Phoenicians did their work well in their day and generation, but it is not to Tyre and Sidon that we must go to see the fruits of their labors and genius. If the English are a great mining people it was the Phoenician colony of Cornwall that led the way, and set them at it, and probably the Cornish can claim to be the purest specimens of the old Phoenicians in the world.

It is not quite twenty years ago that an old woman died who was remarkable for being the last to be able to speak a language unspoken then by any people in the world.

It was said to have been " Old Cornish," which I suppose would mean old Phaeacian.

The Cornish are accused of being clannish, and no doubt they are, for the reason that they are to a great extent a distinct people, a little nation within a nation.

Defoe, in his great poem of "The True-born Englishman," shows how, from the time of Julius Caesar, all the adventurers of Europe poured into England, and that the Englishman's pedigree is a very mixed one indeed, and nothing to be very proud of. But the Cornish, like the Welsh, kept to themselves more, and in my opinion they are none the worse for it.

The Cornish have many of the characteristics of

their original forebears, as for instance in their love of the sea, and for music, and religion and mining, and the love of the old house at home.

On my voyage to England, I noticed the extra eagerness with which the Cornish folk looked forward to seeing the homes of their youth once more, and the extreme delight with which they anticipated the meeting of old friends again.

If a Cornishman succeeds in life away from home he seems to have a natural way of remembering those at home.

The other day I was amused at reading of the observance of a curious custom in the village of St Ives, which bears out this fondness of Cornish folk for childhood's scenes.

One John Knill, who was born in St Ives in 1733, went up to London and was very successful there as a barrister.

When he was well in funds, he constructed for himself a mausoleum of granite, and of pyramid form, on the top of Worvas Hill, which pyramid is visible on a clear day, sixty miles out at sea.

By a deed of trust in 1797, he enacted that at the end of every five years, on St James' Day £25 should be expended as follows: -

£10 in a dinner for the mayor, collector of customs, and vicar, and two friends each;

£5 to be divided equally among ten girls, natives of the borough, and daughters of fishermen, seamen, or tinnerns, each of them not exceeding ten years of age, who shall, between ten and twelve o'clock in the forenoon of that day, dance for a quarter of an hour on the ground adjoining the mausoleum, and after the dance sing the Hundredth Psalm of the old version, to "the fine old tune" to which it was then sung in St. Ives Church;

£1 to the fiddler who should play to the girls; £2 to two widows, sixty-four years or upwards, who should accompany the dancing and singing of the girls;

£1 for white ribbons for the girls, and a cockade for the fiddler; and several other similar little bequests. The old gentleman had the desire to be buried there on his native heath, and to have at times the young and the old dancing merrily over his grave; but, for some reason, his remains were not laid there, but in a London cemetery, though the wishes in his bequest are carried out in great form and glee to the letter as was seen on the 25th July last year.

The old man wished to make his townfolk happy even when he lay low, and could not hear and see

their glee; and in that he seems to me to represent a very pleasing characteristic in fairly good Cornish folks.

As an instance, I noticed in a late Cornish newspaper very neat little remarks about the fact that our own Hon. David Ham, M.L.C., had again handsomely and affectionately remembered his native parish of Launcells by sending the needy parishioners a timely Christmas-box just to help them to see the silver linings to the clouds.

I hope Mr Ham will not be offended at my linking his name with a species of clannishness to illustrate my argument re the nostalgia of Cornishmen.

I may also remark that in that paragraph the writer noted the fact that when "General" Booth was in Ballarat, Mr Ham took a leading part in supporting him on the platform.

For my part I have an idea that Ballarat is somewhat indebted to Mr Ham for inducing the "general" to alter his tone, which had been so very bellicose a day or two previously, in reference to Ballarat and its by-laws regulating street processioning.

I know for one, feared that "General" Booth would leave instructions to recommence war on the by-laws, in spite, too, of the election soon as he was over the border and far away with the wherewithal; and I was highly gratified to find that the Salvationists seemed have come to the conclusion to follow on the lines of John Wesley, George Whitfield and other great revivalists to preach Christ and Him crucified to the people without the big drum.

From Chrissy Stancliffe



Joseph Antonio Emidy (1770-1835)

Joseph Emidy was born in Guinea and kidnapped into slavery by a Portuguese captain.

He worked on a sugar plantation in Brazil where he had a kind owner.

When the owner decided to return to Lisbon, he took Joseph with him.

His owner had enjoyed Joseph's talented violin playing and had nurtured his talent.

In Lisbon, his owner gave him his freedom and he became a virtuoso violinist with the Lisbon Opera Orchestra.

One night, some of the officers from the crew of HMS Indefatigable saw Joseph and wanted him to play

on board their ship.

They sent the bosun and some strong sailors to capture him as he left the Opera House.

Once again poor Joseph became a slave and spent the next five years playing dances for the sailors as the ship sailed up and down the English Channel whilst on patrol.

The crew treated him very badly as he was the only black person aboard the ship.

In 1799, Emidy was discharged in Falmouth, Cornwall after the Captain, Sir Edward Pellew, was transferred to another ship.

In Falmouth, he earned his living as a violinist and a teacher.

In 1802, he married Jane Hutchins, a local tradesman's daughter and they had eight children. They moved to Truro around 1815.

He became the leader of the Truro Philharmonic Orchestra, and went on to become one of the most celebrated and influential musical figures in early 19th-century Cornwall.

He composed many works, including concertos and a symphony, but no known copies survive.

He died in Truro, Cornwall, and his grave is in Kenwyn churchyard.

Transcript of his gravestone reads:

HERE LIE DEPOSITED

The mortal remains of Mr Jos-h Antonia Emidy

Who departed this life,

on the 23:rd of April 1835

AGED 60 YEARS

And sacred to whose memory
this tribute of affection is erected
by his surviving family.

He was a native of PORTUGAL
which country he quitted about
forty years since and pursuing the
Musical Profession, resided in
Cornwall until the close of
his earthly career.

Devoted to thy soul-inspiring strains,
Sweet Music! thee he hail'd his chief delight
And with fond zeal that shunn'd nor toil nor pain
His talent sear'd, and genius mark'd its flight
In harmony he liv'd, in peace with all
Took his departure from this world of woe,
And here his rest, till the last Trumpet's call,
Shall 'wake mankind to joys that endless flow.

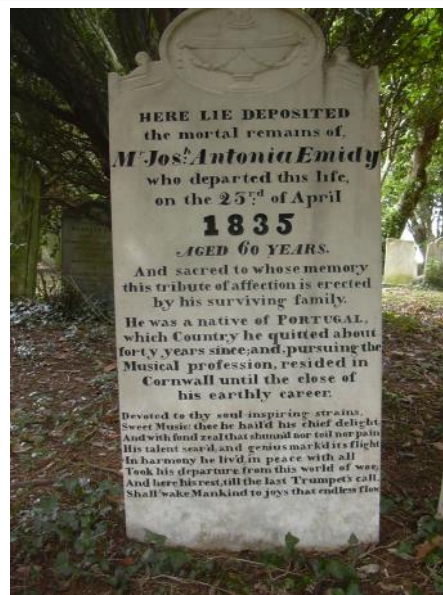
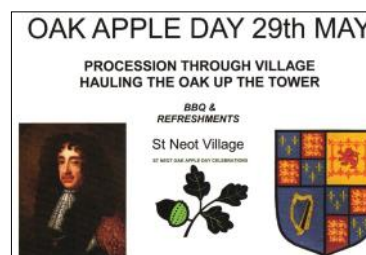


Photo - https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Joseph_Antonio_Emidy



Oak Apple Day – 29th May – St Neot



On 30th January 1640, King Charles I was beheaded outside his Palace of Whitehall in London. Prince Charles fled to France and Holland during the ensuing Civil War.

On 23rd June 1650, Prince Charles returned and landed in Scotland and on 1st January 1651, he was crowned King Charles II at Scone.

He fled from the Battle of Worcester after being defeated by Cromwell's Parliament Forces. During his flight, he hid in a Oak Tree on 6th September 1651.

King Charles II travelled to Brighthelmestone (Brighton) in disguise and then to France sailing from a creek near Shoreham.

Oliver Cromwell died in 1658 and his son Richard Cromwell became the second Lord Protector. He only lasted 264 days and General Monk invited King Charles II back to England. Richard Cromwell was very unpopular even amongst the Parliamentarian Forces and had the nickname *Tumbledown Dick* and *Queen Dick*.

King Charles II rode into London on 29th May 1660 – his thirtieth birthday. The day became known as *Oak Apple Day* and from 1660 until 1859 was a public holiday.

In St Neot, there is an annual ceremony of Hauling an Oak Branch up to the top of the Church Tower, in remembrance of King Charles II finding an Oak Tree after the Battle of Worcester in 1651.

St Neot, being a Royalist Town, has maintained the tradition of celebrating the *Oak Apple Day* continually since 1660, when King Charles II declared it a public holiday.

The vicar leads a procession through the village. He is followed by the Tower Captain holding the Oak bough.

A large number of the villagers follow walking to the Church.

A story of the history of the event is told and then the vicar blesses the branch.

The Tower Captain throws the old branch down from the top of the tower and a new one is hauled to the top.

Everyone is then invited to the vicarage gardens for refreshments and a barbecue.

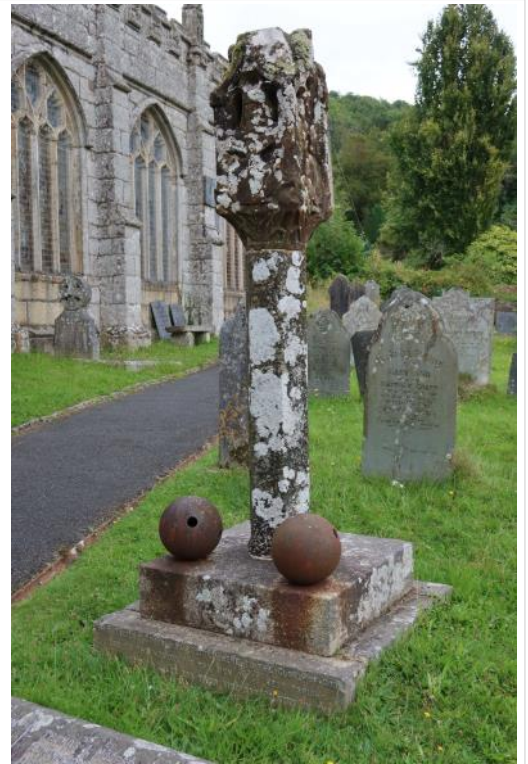
A Red Oak Sprig is worn during the morning of *Oak Apple Day* and at midday must be changed to a sprig of Boys Love (*Artemisia abrotanum*) - tradition dictates that the punishment for not doing this results in being stung by nettles.



Oak Bough on Church Tower



Trewarne Cross outside St Neot Church



This cross was found in the 1790s at Trewane Manor in the parish of St Kew, near the north coast of Cornwall.

It is cut from Cataclews Greenstone. It dates from the second half of the 15th century. It is mounted on a column of a particular form of decorative granite known as Luxulyanite.

Trewane was the home of the Grylls family. Around 1816, the cross was moved to Luxulyan where Gerveys Grylls was vicar and it was mounted on a Luxulyanite shaft. In 1852 the cross was moved to Helston and in 1866 to Lewarne in the Glynn valley, south east Cornwall.

In 1918 the cross was re-erected in its present location in St Neot churchyard as the parish war memorial. On the west face of this step is an inscription which reads:

'This ancient cross was erected here to the glory of God and to the memory of the men of St Neot parish who gave their lives for their king and country 1914-1918'.

On the west end of the top step are two iron cannon balls, one on either side of the cross shaft.

New plant varieties in Eden's Australia exhibition

Five plant varieties from Australia have been put on display in Cornwall.

The Eden Project has added the new cultivars of kangaroo paw to its collection.

The plants were bred at the Western Australian Botanic Garden, at Kings Park, in Perth and grown in the Eden Project's nursery.

They have been added to the Western Australia exhibit in the Mediterranean Biome which has more than 20 different cultivars of kangaroo paw.

Catherine Cutler, the Eden Project's head of horticulture, said the masquerade variety features iridescent teal-blue flowers which were an uncommon colour in horticulture and were "highly sought".

The other new varieties are Aussie spirit with its green-yellow colour combination, the crimson pink bush crystal, the bright yellow bush zest and carnivale which has purple and pink flowers.

Ms Cutler said the new additions offered the opportunity "to see these wonderful cultivars for the first time in the UK" and "help us tell the story of how important biodiversity is in Western Australia".

Kangaroo paw, named due to its paw-like flower head, is endemic to Western Australia and the red and green species, *Anigozanthos manglesii*, is the official floral emblem of the state.

The plant produces a large amount of nectar which attracts a variety of pollinators and makes it an essential part of Western Australia's ecosystem, Ms Cutler added.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/c0rqk7zql2ro>

Duchy of Cornwall celebrating success of nest box initiative

A project to boost biodiversity by building nest boxes into new homes is celebrating ten years of success.

The Duchy of Cornwall has been working with the RSPB since 2014 to incorporate the boxes into the walls of its developments.

The initiative aims to enhance wildlife across its communities and inspire other new developments to do the same.

So far, 1,289 integrated nest boxes have been installed at the Duchy's projects in Nansledan and Tregunnel Hill in Newquay, Trevethow Riel in Truro, and Poundbury in Dorset.

The Duchy has pledged to install an average of one

nest box per home built, including at its proposed new 2,500-home development at South East Faversham in Kent.

There is also evidence to suggest that the longer the nest boxes have been in place, the more likely they are to be used.

Ben Murphy, estate director at the Duchy of Cornwall, said: "When we started this initiative with the RSPB over 10 years ago, our aim was to help address the decline in wild bird populations as part of our plans for boosting biodiversity by pioneering the use of built-in nest boxes in new developments. "With thanks to the RSPB for their guidance in the design and installation of these boxes, we're delighted to see year-on-year increases in the rate of occupancy, and the extent to which the wider housebuilding industry is taking on board the importance of supporting wildlife in this way."

The most commonly identified species using the boxes to nest were house sparrows with 163 confirmed nests, followed by starlings with 86, and house martins with 69.

All these species have shown long-term decline across the UK.

The Duchy's nest box initiative is supported by biodiversity expert Dr Thais Martins.

Since 2019, she has worked every year with residents of the Duchy developments to conduct The Big Duchy Bird Box Survey of nest boxes to find out how many are being used, and by which species of birds.

"It's hugely encouraging that the total percentage of nest boxes showing signs of use continues to increase and now stands at more than 600 across these Duchy sites.", Dr Martins said.

<https://www.falmouthpacket.co.uk/news/24957999.duchy-cornwall-celebrating-success-nest-box-initiative/>

National Trust in talks to run Heartlands site

The National Trust and two charities say they are in discussions with Cornwall Council over the future of a mining heritage site.

They said they wanted to "look at how a sustainable future could be secured for Heartlands, an important cultural heritage and community site in Cornwall".

The site in Pool, owned by Cornwall Council, has been closed since January 2024 and most of the businesses based there have left.

The attraction opened in 2012 after more than £20m in lottery funding was used to regenerate the derelict mining area.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/c8e79608rg1o>