

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Dyth da. Fatla genes?

A belated Bleden Nowydh da (Happy New Year) to all members of the Cornish Association of Victoria and I hope that 2025 will be a good year for you all.



My very best wishes go to Robyn who has slowly recovered from her long hospital stay and its aftermath and is now able to send you out this first newsletter of the year.

I would like to mention the enjoyable Christmas lunch that members and friends enjoyed at the Waverley RSL and thanks to Ron for organising this.

I apologize to members who I was not able to go and see at their tables but we all seemed to have a good time.

Cornwall seems to be the flavour of the month in many reports on social media especially on the impact the "emnets" (English) are having and there has even been a report on joining with Devon and creating a region called Devonwall. This has of course been laughed at as we could never mix with those who put cream before jam on their scones.

If you are on "Facebook" there are many groups which show excellent photos of Cornwall and I like one in particular called "Explore Beautiful Cornwall" which has some very good photographs and to my shame some places I have not visited.

The Association has planned a full program for you this year and we hope to see as many members as possible join us on Zoom. If you do not have Zoom enlist the help of your grandchildren who have the knowledge to work wonders with a computer. Our first Zoom meeting will be on the 15th February and the speaker is Phil Higgs who will talk on his family history.

I would also like to invite you to a St Piran's Day celebration on the 2nd March (three days before the real St Piran's Day) to be held at St Peter's Anglican Church in Neerim Road, Murrumbena at 10 o'clock which will have a Cornish flavour followed by a pasty lunch in the Church Hall, various bits of information on St Piran, a quiz, poems and some musical items. If you are able to come, please contact Ken so we can order the pasties by the **20th February**.

An email will be sent out as a reminder.

Thank you all for being members of the Association and welcome to those new members who have recently joined us.

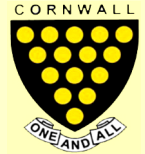
The Committee and I look forward to another year full of interesting talks on your proud heritage of being Cornish.

A special congratulations to our latest Cornish Bard, Arthur Coates, who looked splendid in his new blue robes and a worthy recipient of the order.

I hope that Arthur will give us a short talk on his experience of the day in one of our future meetings.

Oll an gwella.

Brian



CORNISH ASSOCIATION OF VICTORIA, INC.

NEWSLETTER
No. 151

February 2025

Corporation Reg. No. A0008264A

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Membership Fees

Single: \$40.00

Family: \$60.00

Life Single: \$400.00

Life Family: \$600.00

Cornish Tid Bits may be sourced from the Cornwall Council, BBC Cornwall, Pirate FM News, Falmouth Packet, CornwallLive, Kresen Kernow, Wikipedia

DIARY DATES

Saturday 15th February at 1.30 pm via Zoom

The speaker for this meeting is Phil Higgs and the topic is *'The Hawkers of Stratton and Morwenstow'*. Phil will talk about his family history and the connection with the Hawker Family. In May-June this year Phil Higgs was in Cornwall and visited the rectory in Stratton. There was a memorial plaque in the church for the Reverend Jacob Stephen Hawker who was for many years the Rector of Stratton. Reverend J. S. Hawker was the father of Caroline Hawker – Phil's Great Great-Grandmother, and also the father of the famous Reverend Robert Stephen Hawker of Morwenstow; the creator of the anthem we all know as **'Trelawney'**. Caroline Hawker married Dr John Dinham of Bude, and they both served the community as Doctors and Surgeons for many years. Phil married an Aussie and now lives in the Yarra Valley.

Sunday 2nd March celebrate St Piran's Day at St Peter's Church of England Murrumbeena - 371A Neerim Rd, Carnegie - at 10.00 am. A pasty lunch will follow. - orders to Ken by 20th February.

Sunday 23rd March - 9.00 am to 5.00 pm - Melbourne Highland Games and Celtic Festival held at Eastfield Park, Croydon - volunteers are needed to help set up at 8.00 am. Please speak with Ken if you can assist.

Saturday 12th or 26th April - TBA - we are hoping that Wendy Smith will speak about a Ship Wreck at Cadgwith - via Zoom

Kernewek Lowender - 12th –18th May - Copper Coast of South Australia - Moonta, Kadina and Wallaroo
<https://www.kernewek.org/>

Saturday 17th May - TBA - possible lunch gathering

Saturday 21st June - Elizabeth Freeborn - a Cornish speaker - Elizabeth will speak about her new album, including songs in Cornish

and her family's mine in Redruth

Saturday 19th July - Annual General Meeting

CAV NEWSLETTER

The CAV Newsletter is distributed via email and in some cases by mail.

Deadline for contributions for the next issue: 19th April 2025

Articles for inclusion are welcome at any time but **must be received by the deadline date**.

Please include pictures or tables as a separate file.

The email address for the CAV Newsletter -

robyncoates@hotmail.com

Please mark - Article for CAV Newsletter.

Agan Kernow

The purchase price is \$25 Australian plus the appropriate postage. For overseas postage rates speak with Robyn Coates 0419 551 320 This is a 262-page book of 76 stories by 51 authors from across the Cornish diaspora.

Pastoral Care

If you know of someone who is unwell, celebrating a special birthday or just needs a cheery greeting, please let Evelyn Jones know the details so she can be in touch.

Evelyn's details are:

Ph: 0417 160 658

ejo65074@bigpond.net.au



Vale

Richard Oates

16.08.1930 - 09.10.2024

Richard was a past member of the Geelong Branch of the CAV.

Richard was the proud owner of a ring made from gold (see photo) from the *Welcome Stranger* nugget found by his Cornish grandfather, Richard Oates, along with fellow Cornishman, John Deason at Moliagul, (about 60 kms west of Bendigo, in 1869.

Richard Oates was born about 1827, at Pendeen, in Cornwall and arrived in Melbourne on 25th July 1854 on board the 'Norwood'.

He was an unassisted migrant, aged 25 years at the time of embarkation in Liverpool, 17th April 1854, and his occupation was noted as a miner.

After the 1869 find, Oates returned to Cornwall and married Jane Blewett Penrose.

He returned to Australia with his wife and they had four children - Richard, Sarah, James and Ann.

The Oates family, in 1895, purchased 3.2 square kilometres (800 acres) of land at Marong, Victoria, about 24 kilometres (15 mi) west of Bendigo, Victoria, which Oates farmed until his death in Marong in 1906, aged 79 years.

Ian Jennings

19.11.1943 - 14.08.2024

Ian, along with his wife Marilyn, was a foundation member of the Ballarat Branch, joining in June 1988

Over the years Ian held many roles - treasurer, assistant treasurer, amenities officer and membership secretary and in whatever role he was undertaking he showed great care, was conscientious in his tasks, was completely dependable and was always cheerful.

In December 2015, the CAV awarded Ian the John Mildren Award for outstanding service to the Cornish Association of Victoria.

Derek Trewarne presenting Ian with his award.



Announcement

CAV Secretary Ken Peak announced in September that it was his intention not to seek re-election as Secretary in July 2025. He wanted to give the CAV committee and CAV members enough notice of this.

He indicated that he intends to take a form of 'sabbatical leave' from the committee and focus on his health. He reiterated that the tasks he performs as Secretary were not difficult but the time it takes has taken its toll over the last few years in terms of his health and wellbeing. Ken said he will always support the objectives of the CAV and cherish his Cornish heritage but that his health must come first. He also suggested that if he does return to the committee at a later time, he would seek another role.

If there are CAV members who would like to join the committee, now is the time to get involved.

The CAV will give notice prior to our AGM about the election of office bearers, but if you would like to nominate for the committee now it will be gratefully received.

At the moment, Committee Meetings are held using Zoom, starting at 7.00 pm, usually on a Tuesday and go for about an hour to an hour and a half.

Changes to tax laws affecting Historical Societies

On July 1st, 2024, the tax law pertaining to not-for-profit organizations changed.

Under the previous law, the CAV was considered as tax exempt.

Under the new rules Ken Peak, as secretary and Max Procter, as treasurer, found that the CAV did not meet any of the exemption categories.

Tax will not apply to any of our members' money (subscriptions and life memberships).

The RHSV suggested that some organizations might need to consult a tax agent for guidance in these matters and was encouraging societies to become charities, but the CAV is not a charity.

Now we have had to connect the CAV with a MyGovID account, which most people have.

The CAV committee consulted an accountant familiar with small business tax law and after many hours of work, Ken, on behalf of the CAV now has a Digital ID which satisfies the Australian Taxation Office.

One of the changes we will need to make is alter our financial year from 1st July to 30th June rather than ending at the end of April. This has been a long drawn out exercise, over many months, and thanks to Ken it is now sorted.

This will be discussed at the AGM in July.

The Logan Rock

Have you ever thought, when searching for your family, that you might end up with a connection to someone or something famous?



When I first started looking or verifying “old wives’ tales”, with my paternal grandfather, I got told about the Pirates along the Cornish coast and that the play “Pirates of Penzance” was written from old folklore. When Pa started talking about Pirates, I thought my fascination with them and sailing ships had a family connection, little did I know.

After Pa had searched through some old paperwork I was given a copy of some papers that had been left behind in the family Bible.

The Logan Rock - Quaint Bill of Costs (I) for replacing it had been printed off and left with a copy of the verse The Logan Rock that lyrically told the story of Lieutenant Goldsmith and a band of men who pushed Logan Rock off its pivot.



(I) Summary of the accounts of replacing Logan Rock preserved by the Goldsmith family held in the Penzance (Morrab Gardens) Library dated Nov 2nd 1824

At Lands End, the Atlantic Ocean and the English Channel meet and hit the granite cliffs. A castle, Treryn, laid fort there and Logan Rock was to prevent pirates entering the coastline. Lieut Goldsmith was employed to keep them away but was known to join them if things were quiet.

The verse indicates crow bars and rope were used to overthrow with a thund’rous tone ... the rock went crashing down the slope. The Geographical Society found out Lieut Goldsmith orchestrated the tip over, so he alone

must pay but he didn’t have funds so a collection by the Society began.

The stone weighed over 60 tonnes and took from early September 1824 to November 2nd 1824 to be replaced.

A series of skilled tradesmen and labourers were used. There were carts and horses; there was the crew of the H.M.S Nimble; timber and lodging for the men; all were part of the costs to replace Logan Rock.

Fortunately, on the *Quaint Bill of Costs* some of the men are listed and I have found my great, great, great grandfather Methuselah Matthews and great, great, great grandfather Henry Harvey names appear there.

Methuselah would have been 25 or 26 at the time so in the prime of his life and hopefully health. As the name suggests, he did live for a long time; he was 87 when he died in 1885.

Methuselah married Grace and they were to have five children. Son Joseph and his elder sister Mary left Cornwall and came to Australia long after the gold rush in 1889.

Joseph’s daughter Mary Anne had married and she, with her new husband, George Williams, were coming to Sebastopol to start a new life.

Joseph with his wife and four children came out, as the farming on their farm named Roskestal, wasn’t bringing in enough to live on. The property was part of the Duchy of Cornwall and was on a 99 year lease. When Joseph left Cornwall his “in-laws” the Williams took over the lease.

A visit by my Mum and Dad, in 1989, to the property discovered the Williams family were still on the farm.

So, we weren’t pirates or smugglers but we did get our name recorded which helps with knowing where the family was and what they had done before coming out to Australia.

Now I go back to looking for a Pirate connection.

Contributed by the late Lynne McGregor
(friend of Di Christensen)

The Logan Rock

(from Wikipedia)

The Logan Rock (Cornish: *Men Omborth*, meaning balanced stone) near the village of Treen, in Cornwall, (about six kms inland from Lands End) is an example of a logan or rocking stone.

Although it weighs some 80 tons, it was dislodged in 1824 by a group of British seamen, intent on showing what the Navy could do.

However, following complaints from local residents for whom the rock had become a tourist attraction and source of income, the seamen were forced to restore it.

The word "logan" (pronounced "logg-un") is probably derived from the word "log", which in an English dialect means "to rock".

It should also be noted that the name for rocking stones could be a modified form of the Danish word "logre," which means 'to wag the tail,' and this suggests possible Norse origin.

Today, the Logan Rock still rocks, but with much less ease than it did in the past.

The South West Coast Path, which follows the coast of south-west England from Somerset to Dorset passes by on the cliffs to the north.

Modred, in William Mason's dramatic poem "Caractacus," addressing the characters Vellinus and Elidurus, says of the Logan Rock:

*Thither, youths,
Turn your astonish'd eyes; behold yon huge
And unhewn sphere of living adamant,
Which, poised by magic, rests its central weight
On yonder pointed rock: firm as it seems,
Such is the strange and virtuous property,
It moves obsequious to the gentlest touch
Of him whose breast is pure; but to a traitor,
Tho' ev'n a giant's prowess nerv'd his arm,
It stands as fixt as Snowdon.*

The full poem can be found at:

<https://quod.lib.umich.edu/cgi/t/text/text-idx?cc=ecco;c=ecco;idno=004861169.0001.000;node=004861169.0001.000:5;seq=7;view=text;rgn=div1>

The above quoted verse is found at page 38 under Chorus

St Just Ordinalia

St Just Ordinalia is a unique community theatre project on an epic scale, staging the Cornish Ordinalia trilogy of Mystery Plays in one of the oldest working amphitheatres in Great Britain - the Plen an Gwari (Playing Place or Place of the Play in Cornish) in St Just, Cornwall.

The Ordinalia was last staged in St Just in September 2021, with a cast, choir and crew of over 230 volunteers, supported by a paid professional production team. Audiences of almost 6000 people experienced these very special Medieval Cornish plays being brought to life.

The three Ordinalia plays are the oldest surviving trilogy of plays in Great Britain, and one of the oldest written examples of the Cornish Language. The plays were written primarily in Cornish with stage directions in Latin, and include stage plans detailing how the plays were performed in the round.

There are only three surviving Ordinalia manuscripts - an original fifteenth century manuscript, held in the Bodleian Library Oxford, a second in the Bodleian Library, and a third in the National Library of Wales. You can read more about the history of the Ordinalia plays on our website.

<https://www.stjustordinalia.com/#section-5d88a3d43be4d>

St Just Ordinalia is a project organised by St Just and District Trust CIO, a charity whose aim is to support heritage and cultural projects which highlight the significance of St Just in Penwith.

The St Just Ordinalia is more than the performance of three plays, it is an educational, community-engaged heritage, language and arts project, providing voluntary and paid opportunities to hundreds of people. It is a flagship of Cornish culture and the Cornish language that is vital to the celebration and development of our heritage.

As Pol Hodge, Former Grand Bard of the Gorsedh Kernow, has said:

“the Ordinalia is quite simply the root, spirit and soul of Cornwall.”

Why we are Crowdfunding?

We can use the funds you donate to our Crowdfunder as 'match funding' for grant applications to Arts Council England, National Heritage Lottery and other potential funding bodies.

<https://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/p/st-just-ordinalia-2026>

Lunch at the Cornish Arms Hotel

On September 18th, 13 CAV members met and had lunch at the Cornish Arms Hotel in Sydney Road Brunswick.



Pictured above at the Cornish Arms Hotel are from left Ian Bond, Brian Rollason, Derek Trewarne, Ronda Henderson, Jeannette and Ronald Hawken (at the back), Ken Peak, Evelyn Jones, Neil Thomas, Floss and Max Procter Nancy and John Trungove (taking the picture)

The Cornish Arms Hotel

The Cornish Arms Hotel was one of Brunswick's earliest hotels, built in the heyday of the gold rush that saw Melbourne catapulted onto the world stage.

It was built in 1854, by Cornishman Thomas Manallack, a lucky digger during the Victorian gold rush.

Manallack, was Brunswick's earliest brickmaker in 1849.

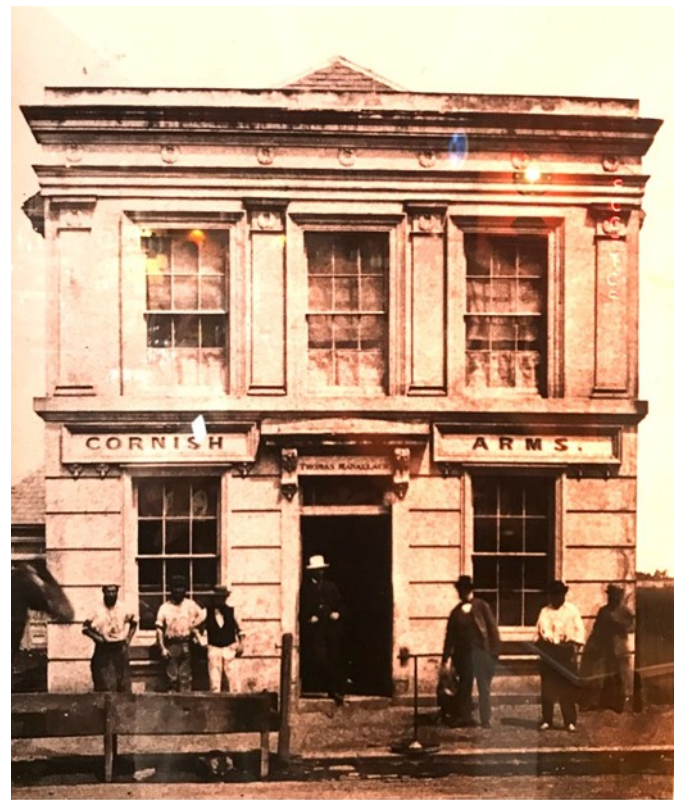
The original hotel was a two-storey rendered brick building built using Manallack's own bricks although the appearance of the original building has since changed.

Since 1925, the pub has been renovated several times with its distinctive tiles at the front.

In the 1990s, the hotel changed its name to the Rainbow Hotel and altered its character to a music venue.

Since then, it has been used as one of the venues for the Brunswick Music Festival.

The name subsequently reverted to the Cornish Arms, and today it has carved out a niche as a pub with vegan-friendly fare and a rooftop bar serving a new snack and cocktail menu.



Thomas Manallack

Thomas Manallack was born in Sithney, Cornwall, in 1808.

Sithney is a small village between Breage and Helston.

Thomas, (a blacksmith), his wife Mary and six children ranging from four to nineteen, arrived in Australia as assisted emigrants on the ship 'Lysander' in January 1849.

Mary died off the Bay of Biscay on the voyage to Australia.

Shortly after his arrival, Thomas purchased land and operated as a blacksmith in Little Collins Street, Melbourne.

He also purchased land in Phillipstown.

Thomas Manallack established Brunswick's first brickmaking business in the 1840s from a site near Union Street behind the Cornish Arms Hotel in Sydney Road.

Famous brickmaker John Glew worked there for a short time in 1849. Thomas began a pottery as well as brickworks, operating for two years until 1851 when he left for the goldfields with his son Thomas and brother Francis. When he returned a couple of years later in 1853, having done well on the goldfields, he opened another brickyard in Albert Street. Manallack was a Methodist, and his brickworks supplied the bricks for the 1853 Wesleyan Chapel which was later demolished in 1888.

In 1854, Thomas built the Cornish Arms Hotel using his own bricks and held the licence from 1857 until his death in 1891.

The Cornish Arms is one of Brunswick's earliest hotels. Many Methodists are teetotalers but apparently his religion did not prevent him from owning a pub. Thomas professed to be teetotal all his life.

The Manallack family is therefore a link to the important brick-making industries in Brunswick as well as the running of the Cornish Arms Hotel. The house at Union Street (see photo below) was erected in 1883 for Thomas and his family and he later bought another house further down Union Street.

Manallack Street, near Union Street in Brunswick was named in his honour.

Thomas Manallack was also notable for having three wives and they all died of natural causes. It has been suggested by local oral history that Trinity Street nearby was named to commemorate this.

Thomas had five sons and four daughters.

He died at the Cornish Arms Hotel on the 9th of January 1891. He lived a long life of 82 years and was buried in the Melbourne General Cemetery.



Thos Manallack Union St Home Cornish Arms today

Early Brunswick

Brunswick is on the traditional land of the Wurundjeri-willam (Woiwurrung) people who occupied this area they knew as Iramoo for many thousands of years.

Brunswick was first surveyed in 1839 by Robert Hoddle, providing sixteen farming allotments from 100 to 300 acres.

The area destined to be Brunswick, was determined by two straight lines (later Park Street and Moreland Road), drawn from Moonee Ponds to the Merri Creek.

In the 1840s the settlement at the southern end of Brunswick on the west side of Sydney Road was

known as Phillipstown, either because it was on a hill with a view of Port Phillip, or after a village in Ireland.

A north-south track, originally Pentridge Road, became the Sydney Road in 1859.

The area achieved local governance as the Borough of Brunswick in 1857 and is now part of the City of Merri-bek.

The Cornish Arms Hotel was the meeting place of the first Brunswick Council in 1857.

The council meeting rooms moved from the Cornish Arms to another site, and adopted the motto 'Unity is Strength', reflecting the uniting of all the original estates and villages in the area.

The first Chairman of the Brunswick Municipal Council was Thomas Wilkinson, known as the 'Father of Brunswick'.

Brunswick was named after his property between Albert and Victoria Streets.

He was a supporter of Princess Caroline of Brunswick, the estranged wife of George IV and this is the origin of Brunswick's name.

In the 1840s, Brunswick had the best clay and stone, and brickmaking and bluestone quarrying became the main occupations of the majority of the residents, including those from Cornwall.

Methodists had settled in Brunswick and most Cornish colonists were also Methodists. They established a church in Union Street in 1860. Methodist values were transplanted easily to the working-class community of Brunswick. This resulted in the formation of the Brunswick Mechanics Institute which eventually led to the establishment of Brunswick Technical School. The bluestone used to build the Old Melbourne Gaol, St Patrick's Cathedral, Victoria Barracks and Princes Bridge came from Brunswick.

The Cornish in Brunswick

Many immigrants to Victoria were from Cornwall, forced to leave home by the rural and mining depressions of the 1840s and 1850s.

The gold rush in 1851 saw thousands more pouring into Victoria. News of gold reached the copper mines in South Australia and many Cornish miners left immediately overland for the Victorian goldfields as well.

The Cornish Arms was frequented by Cornish diggers and other prospectors travelling along the Sydney Road from Melbourne to the Mount Alexander Road to the goldfields.

A camp was set up near the Methodist Church where people could rest and there was a 'Rag fair' where goldfield equipment was sold.

Many returning Cornish diggers, and some who never got there, settled in what was then Phillipstown, southwest of Sydney Road. They found work in the clay pits, quarries and potteries behind the shops and buildings in Sydney Road. Phillipstown became Brunswick in 1857.

Some enterprising Cornish folk tried to make their fortunes from supplying goods.

There are some streets in Brunswick with Cornish heritage.

These include Cornwall Street, Trenoweth Street, Boase Street, Manallack Street and Trinity Street.

Many businesses were owned by the Cornish who employed 'Cousin Jacks and Jennys' and so the area was known as 'Cornishtown'.

- Thomas Manallack was from Sithney in Cornwall. He had clay pits, brick kilns and potteries. He also built the Cornish Arms Hotel in 1854.
- The first licensee of the Cornish Arms was Henry Ivey who was a relative of Manallack's first wife Jane Ivey.
- John Boase, farmer and builder, lived in Boase Street for 50 years. Manallack's mother's maiden name was Boase, so John was most likely related.
- John and William Lobb had horse farms at the corner of Stewart Street and Sydney Road and were active in State and local politics.
- Frederick Grylls was the first Secretary of Brunswick Municipal Council and Town Clerk from 1857 to 1870.
- John Sedgman was a carpenter and builder from Cornwall. Sedgman settled in Brunswick in 1848-9. His grandson was Frank Sedgman the famous tennis player.
- Quarryman William Truscott arrived from Cornwall in 1857.
- James Yendell had a clay pit and quarry in Glenlyon Road.



Plaque above the door of the Cornish Arms Hotel presented by CAV President Tom Luke 26th of May 2001 (below)

CAV at the Williamstown Highland and Celtic Gathering at Seaworks Williamstown



Pictured above is Neil Thomas at the CAV stall. Neil is dressed in his new Cornish themed hoodie.

Neil was joined by Ken Peak and Judy and Stephen Wright.

Ken, Judy and Neil pictured below.



‘Remembering the Spirit of Mystery’ Lunch
the Royal Yacht Club of Victoria in Williamstown
Wednesday 13th November 2024

The CAV held a special lunch and activity at the Royal Yacht Club of Victoria in Williamstown in November last year. Thirty-three CAV members and friends were in attendance.

CAV President Brian Rollason told the gathering that the lunch was held to remember the epic journey of the little Cornish built lugger called the *Spirit of Mystery*.



Like her predecessor, the original lugger *Mystery*, she sailed from Newlyn in Cornwall to Australia. The *Spirit of Mystery* arrived at Williamstown on March 9th, 2009.

That's almost sixteen years ago now and many CAV members present were also there on that day.

It was great to see Alison Chapman and members of Lindsay Chapman's family in attendance.



Ken Peak reminded us about the historical record of the seven Cornishmen who left Newlyn in November 1854, in the original fishing lugger known as the *Mystery*.

Arthur Coates had done a wonderful job of editing the original footage of the *Spirit of Mystery* event filmed by Lindsay Chapman on that day as part of the presentation.

Derek Trewarne reminded members that the CAV unveiled a plaque on the newly completed wall at the Yacht Club.

We were assisted at the unveiling by Phil Kelynack, a descendant of Charles Kelynack the brother of Job who was a member of the original *Mystery* expedition.

We also drank a toast to remember the work of Lindsay Chapman, former President of the Cornish Association who was one of the key players at the Australian end of the *Spirit of Mystery* project.

CAV President Brian Rollason presented Complimentary Life Membership Certificates to Janet Woolhouse, Gladys and Glenn Grigg on their 90th birthdays.



CAV Christmas Lunch at Waverley RSL
Wednesday 18th December 2024

The CAV held a special Christmas lunch at the Waverley RSL in December last year. Thirty-five CAV members and friends were in attendance.

The Waverley RSL was ideally located as it had a very big car park next to it and was only a few minutes' walk from the Glen Waverley train station across the road.

The Waverley RSL had a special Christmas Seniors' three Course Set Menu available to us.

The Set Menu included Soup and 2 alternate Mains of 'Duo of Roast' and 'Grilled Barramundi' with the risotto as the vegan option.

This was followed by dessert.

The meal was served in 'alternate drops', which was just like a wedding – a person gets one the next person the other and then you swapped.

It was a terrific meal and venue, and members and friends enjoyed themselves.

It was great to see Helen Morgan, Marjorie and John Barrett also in attendance.

A number of people thought that we should do this again next Christmas.



Special thanks to Ken Peak for his many reports and photographs on the CAV outings.

Gorsedh Kernow 2024

The Esedhvos Kernow Festival of Cornish Culture was held at Callington, from Saturday 31st August to Sunday 8th September 2024, with the Bardic ceremony held on Saturday 7th.

Callington is a town in the east of Cornwall about eleven kms north of Saltash and fourteen kms south of Launceston.

It has a population of about 6000.

Callington has been suggested as one of the possible locations of the ancient site of Celliwig, the earliest known location associated with the court of King Arthur.

At Callington, last September, Jenefer Lowe was installed as the new Grand Bard and Loveday Jenkins as the Deputy Grand Bard.

Two new Bards from Australia were admitted as Bards - Robynne Sanderson from Broken Hill and Arthur Coates from Preston.

192 Bards gathered alongside 38 banner bearers from Cornwall societies from around the world including Australia, New Zealand and the USA. It was a miserable day with many heavy showers of rain.

Photo galleries and video can be found here:

<https://gorsedhkernow.org.uk/galleries/>



Jenefer Lowe, Loveday Jenkins, Pol Hodge in procession.

Australian and New Zealand Bards and Banner Bearers.



RE-DISCOVERING CORNWALL #6

Over two years Rev. Ted and Beryl Curnow served the Methodist Church in Cornwall.

In this series they recall impressions and reminisce on their experiences.

The Seasons

Being residents for two years we were privileged, unlike the normal tourist to have experienced Cornwall through all of its distinctive changes and seasons.

Summer was wonderful because everything blooms and there was a canopy of green leaves.

Wheat ripens and fields turn yellow while hedgerows remain green.

In Australia, we have air conditioning while in Cornwall even the sea remains colder than cool. We enjoyed a range of summer fruits and berries, while long summer days gave way to short, dark overcast days and deciduous trees wintered.

In winter on one occasion, we sang Christmas Carols in a hailstorm.

The naked trees were soon clothed in spring and there were foxgloves, bluebells and gorse.

We enjoyed good household heating, and we wore layers while the 'gritters' spread sand on the roads to ensure traction.

Service Stations were few and far between.

Australia has 25 million people while the UK has 30 million cars.

The U.K. was congested by vehicles and a road tax was proposed.

There were very rough seas, especially on the north coast and at Penzance.

At times we could not remain standing upright in the gale force winds.

Gwennap Pit Service/Sermon

The Pit is a sacred place for Methodism.

Wesley had preached there to miners eighteen times.

On this day, 150 gathered to celebrate our faith and the Cornish/Australian roots.

Wesley had made St Ives his base in Cornwall and he had reached out to St Just, Camborne, and Redruth.

Other historic, heritage places of Methodism included Three Eyes Chapel at Kerley Downs, Baldhu Chapel near Wheal Busy and a number of times we had visited Shebbear, the birth place of the Methodist Bible Christians.

Words and things to Learn

A split = a bread roll

oggie = pastie

crous = tea break

flowers wished out = flowers washed out.

In St Ives

macaroons are Ferrin's,

a kipper = smoked fish,

hogshead = keg,

lugger = fishing boat,

shout = life-guard call-out,

quay = jetty,

rota = roster,

emit = ant or tourist,

fip-flops = thongs,

creams = single or double whipped and clotted.

"What we belong to do = what we were meant for.

Proper job = well done, not sad to leave = not impressed with.

Things that did not Impress

- Watching the clock and hurriedly finding small change for the parking meter
- In Cornish, when you were not impressed it was, "not sad to leave." Thus we learnt to smile when the accent was not understandable.
- Noisy Heron Gulls and the lady who fed them at 3am.
- Pulling in side car mirrors to pass on-coming cars.
- The long waiting list when it came to the Health System.
- Reversing the car in narrow lanes into granite walls.
- Paying the visiting, enthusiastic window cleaner.
- Trying to predict the weather.

RE-DISCOVERING CORNWALL #7

Over two years Rev Ted and Beryl Curnow served the Methodist Church in Cornwall.

In this series they recall impressions and reminisce on their experiences.

Things to be learnt in Cornwall

I was not on a holiday.

Not only was I assigned to prepare and deliver a sermon each week but I was expected to engage with the Synod and do pastoral visitation.

We had to learn lessons about ourselves and how to talk about Australia; to articulate how we understood the strength and weaknesses of our homeland and what it meant to be a fifth generation Australian.

My random reflections and memories follow.

The Cornish were often transient.

People were dependent on the mines, always ready to move with seasonal conditions.

Many being nomadic were ready to move to a mine or harvest site or even migrate overseas.

My folk were farmers but they were also ready to travel to Australia and to mine sites to improve their lot.

Cornwall flourished amid the hard laboring of the industrial age.

My father, grandparents and Cornish ancestors earned a living as laborers by the sweat of their brow.

They were proud of their physical ability to work hard.

My vocation had been different but to this day like my father, I still enjoy the challenge of physical exertion.

The Cornish were stubborn, independent people and passionate about 'kernow bys vyken'.

Today hundreds of people are pulled from the Cornish surf by lifeguards because in their stubbornness they refuse to conform; to swim between the flags.

The Cornish enjoy a spontaneous male harmony that in early years was encouraged in small Methodist Chapels.

The male voice choirs and the love of singing still survives.

We have enjoyed a range of music and I have added my tenor harmony to singing on the streets in Helston, Falmouth and St Ives.

Australia society has been shaped by what Geoffrey Blainey calls "the tyranny of distance."

Not only were the Australian colonies remote from Cornwall, but they were also remote from each other.

In Cornwall there was a stark contrast.

The typical pastoral visitor visited by walking house by house on foot.

The many now non-conformist Chapels re-shaped into houses, still speak of the faith of our fathers. While this rich revivalist heritage has almost been forgotten, there is little doubt that something of my roots and spiritual awareness had derived from the background of my ancestors.

After five generations in Australia only faint shadows of the past way of life remain.

Our pioneers mixed farming with a love of the sea and their boat was moored in the SA mangroves.

There were quaint expressions, superstitions, bon-fires.

There were harvest festivals, ploughing matches and old customs passed down to Aussies.

A Cadgwith singer one day paid me a compliment by noting my 'vocal enthusiasm' and my range of familiar Cornish songs.

I had learnt that that the word "dreckly" was not a joke - it was deadly serious.

When the lady at the checkout called me, "me-

ansome", she was not flirting.

A car can make it up Winsor Hill in St Ives but only if you flatten the accelerator.

When Australia loses the cricket, I felt a strange pain and I was reminded, I'm not Cornish.

Never expect tourists to make way for approaching cars on Tregenna Hill.

There is a fisherman's superstition that says a clergyman visiting the Quay brings bad luck!!

The Inn at Cadgwith Cove is great for a sing on Friday night and if you want to hear some great harmony choose "Will your anchor hold".

In a land of pasties, clotted cream, fish and chips, the words 'cholesterol level' does not mean anything.

The powerful Whirlwind

Our two years in Cornwall had been a whirlwind.

Besides fulfilling my role as a circuit minister, adjusting to the 'Kernow' life-style and hosting Aussie guests, I had been spurred on by locals who I describe as, "Cardiac-celts".

They were folk like the late Howard and his sister Beatrice Curnow who encouraged us to share their world and passion.

People keen to preserve an authentic Cornish culture.

Over the months through the circuit work and social outings, our contacts had included.

Parishioners, County councilor's, a range of clergy, civic Leaders, dairy farmers, next door neighbors, business people and choir conductors.

After two years our accent had not changed but the Cornish had won our hearts so that it could be said that 'we almost belong we' and the smell of hot pastie had become an authentic 'turn-on'.

At the time of our welcome it was said that, 'almost belong we' and we had certainly identified with our Cornish cousins and the Kingdom of Kernow, although we still felt the pain of Aussies losing the test cricket.

Today's Cornwall

The Cornish born and bred are clearly a growing minority in their own land.

They are clearly politically, economically and socially disadvantaged.

Today Cornwall's wealth and harvest is not in the land or ore deposits, its wealth is in its outstanding natural beauty and the harvest of hungry, holiday tourism.

It is also in the preservation of the environment and memories of its old people and their traditions.

In these ways, Cornwall has unique opportunities for development.

Through networking, it has a unique international diaspora second to none.

It had been an awesome two-year whirlwind of discovery, adventure and celebration, but my public role as a Methodist minister also had to come to an end.

In addition to circuit ministry, hosting friends and pastorally relating to a wide range of 'cousins' in their homes, we had learnt about where we had come from and over the rest of our lifetime, we would make our contribution to the stories of the Cornish diaspora.

** In concluding this series, we give thanks to God for those privileged two years to serve in Cornwall and to its people there.



Year Dates - Old Calendars

found on a Facebook page

A gentle reminder please to all researchers that prior to 1752 the English year ran from March 25th to March 24th.

January, February and most of March were at the end of their year, coming after November and December.

This can lead to some situations that look wrong to our modern eyes.

A will could be written in December 1715 and proved in March 1715. It was proved three months after it was written

A couple could marry in June 1750 and have their first child born in wedlock in February 1750. Nine months after they married.

A person could die the 24th Mar 1728 and be buried 26th March 1729.

Although it looks strange to us you have to keep it in mind when you are working with events prior to 1752.

If need be draw a time line.

Put March 25th on the left hand end and March 24th on the right. Then plot the events on the line.

Ballarat News

Ballarat Group will gather for Worship at Skipton Street Uniting Church for a St Piran's Day Service at 10.00 am on Sunday 2nd March.

Following morning tea, they will have lunch at the Flying Horse Entertainment Centre, Cnr Bell & Sutton Streets, Redan.

In the afternoon, there will be a tour of the Old Colonist Association building in Lydiard Street.

If you would like to attend you would be welcome.

At its 2025 February Meeting, Keith Lanyon shared some thoughts about Cornwall and its representation through Entertainment and Literature. At times this was interactive.



Poldark, *Treasure Island*, *Pirates of Penzance* and *Doc Martin* all featured in the entertainment.

Cornwall in Literature was more extensive.

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 also as an escape from Scotland.

E V Thompson - Ernest Victor Thompson - resident of Cornwall - writer of historical novels - featured mining and 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 several TV series

Winston Graham - lived for many years at Perranporth - his *Poldark* series showcased 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 - *Rebecca*, *Jamaica Inn*, *Frenchman's Creek*.

Afternoon tea concluded a very pleasant and informative time for the seventeen people in attendance.



Restored in 1852, then further in 2009, an archaic bolted wooden door welcomes pilgrims and those with a careful curiosity to enter the small, cool space to view the now fishless water.

It's now filled with coins holding wishes and other offerings, as well as some rather large spiders.

St Neot, was a Saxon monk that settled in the Cornish village of Hamstoke (later named after him), for a life of isolated prayer. According to legend, God sent an angel to St Neot explaining that his needs would be provided for. Supposedly, the angel informed Neot that he could find three fish at all times within the local well.

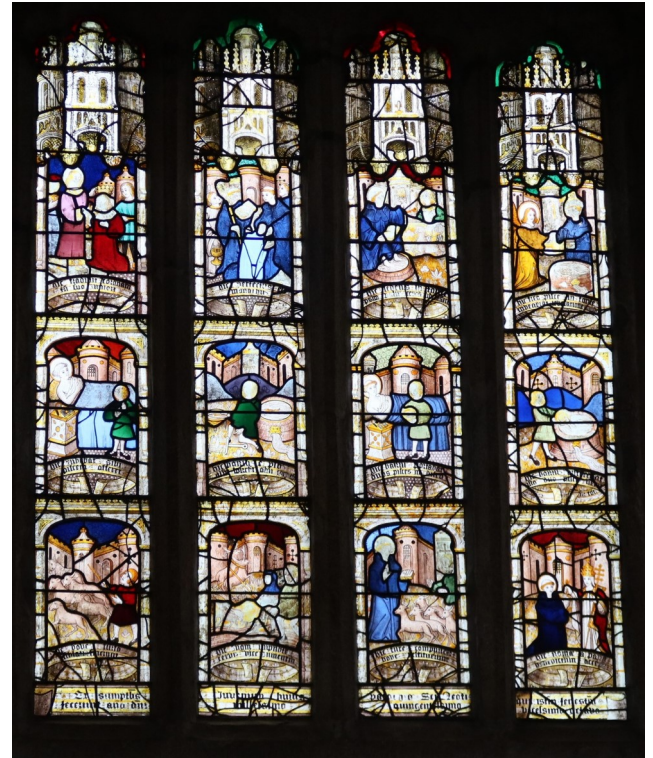
Neot was told that each day, one of these three fish was his to eat, and if only one fish was taken daily, their number would never decrease.

This provided food for him until one unfortunate day, St Neot became ill and was forced to rely on his servant, Barius.

A well-meaning servant, Barius took a double serving of fish from the well to assist in his master's recovery, thereby breaching the promise made with the angel.

Upon discovering the breach of the agreement, Neot prayed for God's mercy and returned the fish to the well where they were restored to life, thereby restoring the miraculous three fish living in the well.

Though now fishless, the well of the Patron Saint of Fish is said to cure illnesses within children.



The well is situated within a grassy mound just a short walk along the River Loveney from the village church, where a stained glass retells the legend.

CORNISH TIDBITS

Cornwall rowers finish Atlantic race in 40 days

A rowing team from Cornwall have finished their "epic adventure" to cross the Atlantic Ocean after 40 days at sea.

Oars Of Thunder was comprised of champion gig rowers Nathaniel Rothwell and Harry Poulson, as well as Looe Rowing Club members Kim Tolfrey and Sally Crab.

The team travelled 3,000 miles (4,828 km) as part of the World's Toughest Row race and finished first in the mixed class, fifth in the four-rower class and sixth overall.

Ahead of their launch, Ms Crabb told BBC Radio Cornwall the group had fears including how they would cope missing family and friends, whether they would be sea sick and if they would encounter any sharks.

But the conditions were generally good.

The Looe-based team even encountered plenty of wildlife throughout their journey, including a marlin and a turtle that they managed to save from netting. Despite their stop off, the crew still managed to finish well and needed to put everything into keeping their position.

Oars of Thunder hope to raise £50,000 for the RNLI following their journey.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cn7g10d05z2o>

Outrage as tonnes of sand 'stolen' from one of Cornwall 'best' beaches

There are again concerns that sand is being 'stolen' from a Cornish beach and no-one is doing anything about it. Residents and visitors to Hayle have once again raised the issue that diggers and lorries are scooping the sand from the beach along the estuary and taking it away.

The issue is not new and was last highlighted in the summer last year when voices were raised against the practice. Taking to social media, people have been commenting that the beach is being dug up, claiming it's damaging to the environment and is a hazard to beach goers.

Cllr Peter Channon, Cornwall councillor for Hayle West and a member of the Cornwall Harbours Board, said the harbour is regulated by and operates under the Hayle Harbour Act (HHA) 1989.

He said the first furore about sand being dug up

came about when failed bankrupt developer Simon Wright, who was behind the collapsed companies that were building the North Quay development, took sand from the area known as Riviera Fields, which is part of the dunes system now overlooking the unfinished development.

He said people got angry but the new contractors, Arpenteur, appointed by the administrators after Mr Wright's businesses went into administration this time last year, are no longer doing that.

Cllr Channon said the issue is complicated by the fact that the harbour at Hayle is privately owned along with the area of the river estuary and bit of beach where Gilbert's is located.

The beach is not owned by Cornwall Council, it's part of the harbour and it's privately owned. The river has to be dredged on a regular basis or the channel becomes too shallow for boats. Put simply, the harbour at Hayle will cease to exist if there is no dredging.

Hayle Harbour gets silted by both Atlantic storms churning up the sand in St Ives Bay and dumping it along the river bank and estuary and by the muddy river flowing down.

Cllr Channon said dredging and keeping the river deep enough for boats to get in and out is paid for by the sale of the sand taken away. He said that it is illegal for the Hayle Harbour Authority to dump dredged up sand back in the bay, which is why it has to be taken off site and sold.

Up until the 1970s dredging of the harbour was done through sluicing. There were four sluicing points in the harbour which would release vast quantities of water at once at low tide which would force the sand in the channel out to sea and clear it until the next storm would come and undo it all. Since the closure of the factories and the end of the coal boats coming from Swansea to power the various heavy industries on Hayle Quay, dredging has been done with diggers and lorries as no-one in Cornwall has a dredger big enough to do the job or any sand sucking machines that can do it cheaply. Dredging at Hayle has nothing to do with Cornwall Council but is regulated by an act of parliament. The Hayle Harbour Act (HHA) 1989 gives the Hayle Harbour Authority (HHA) the authority to dredge Hayle Harbour, operate the harbour, ensure safe navigation, and give the HHA the power to maintain and improve the facility.

Hayle Town Council said it is aware of the concerns from residents and visitors and are currently in talks with representatives of the Hayle North Quay developers, Environmental Agency, Natural England, Cornwall Council and Hayle Harbour Authority on the matter.

https://www.cornwalllive.com/news/cornwall-news/outrage-tonnes-sand-stolen-one-9897472?utm_source=taboola&utm_medium=display&utm_campaign=exchange

Improvements completed on 75 miles of coast path

Work to improve a section of coast path along the north Cornwall coast has been completed. Natural England said it had funded repairs and improved drainage on a stretch of 75 miles (121km) from Marsland Mouth near the Devon and Cornwall border, to Newquay.

The path has also been realigned with the South-West Coast Path and some of it moved closer to the sea, the organization said.

The work formed part of a plan to create The King Charles III England Coast Path around the entire English coastline, which would be the longest managed coastal walking route in the world and the UK's longest national trail.

The organization said it had, for the first time, established wider coastal access between the trail and the sea, including cliff tops and beaches.

A spokesperson explained Natural England had also secured "legal provision for the trail to 'roll back' in response to coastal erosion" which they said would protect the investment that has been made.

The path is managed by Cornwall Council which undertook the work with its civil engineering contractor, Cormac.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/c4g95590p72o>

Researchers study 'complex' sand dune changes

Researchers measured the impact of Storm Lorenzo in 2019 on the dunes at Crantock.

Experts in coastal processes have found sand dune systems in Cornwall need to be studied individually to project changes over time due to their "complex nature".

Researchers at the University of Plymouth have been monitoring 31 sites along Cornwall's north and south coasts as part of the project.

A principle called the Bruun Rule is commonly used to make projections about how sand dunes will change, but the team found its predictions had not matched what they had witnessed at sites including

Crantock and Par Sands.

Prof Gerd Masselink, who led the project, said: "Some shorelines are advancing despite rising sea levels, and others are retreating much faster than predicted."

The data available went back to 2007, and the team was able to track changes to the dunes until 2020, including seeing how they had been affected by "the most energetic storms ever to hit the Cornish coast".

Some areas had seen dunes retreat and others had advanced.

Researchers found dunes at Par Sands near St Austell had grown by about 3ft (1m) a year, as sand from the beach is blown into them.

At Crantock near Newquay, they found dunes had retreated by about 10ft (3m).

They attribute this to changes in the river channel as it flows into the sea caused by storms, especially in the winter of 2014.

Writing in the journal *Ocean and Coastal Management*, they predict Lelant Towns, Crantock and Rock Dune could retreat more than 328ft (100m) by the year 2100.

The dunes at Par Sands and Hawkers Cove near Padstow are predicted to advance seaward by more than 328ft (100m) in that time, the team said.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/c30d6g0d8q7o>

Woman travels to Manchester via Spain to save cash

A woman from Cornwall has flown more than 2,000 miles (3,218km) to Manchester via Spain to pick up a new car because it was cheaper than getting a train.

Kristina Coulson, from Lansallos near Fowey, bought a car in Crewe, Cheshire, after her previous car was written off due to damage in a crash in December.

She said she was inspired to take an "extreme day trip" to Málaga with her husband after search results showed the rail journey could cost up to £203 each. The flights for two people from Newquay to Málaga, and Málaga to Manchester, cost about £108, she said.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/ce3n23ex14lo>