

Onen hag oll

The Cornish Association of Victoria Inc. Ballarat Branch

A.C.N. A0008 264A

August 2021 Newsletter

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Saturday 7th August 2021

Unfortunately due to the Victorian Government regulations about the holding of meetings and the numbers allowed to meet, the meeting at Skipton Street has been cancelled and will be held via Zoom. The meeting will commence at 2.00 pm but feel free to join from 1.45 pm.

Austell Lanyon will be our speaker and his topic will be Modern Gold Mining.

Zoom Meeting details:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82910807851?pwd=Q05kcUZ4aVWxI dytI Z0dKzExK3Nrdz09>

Meeting ID: 829 1080 7851

Passcode: 795866

Phone in using this number 03 7018 2005 and use the meeting ID and # and Passcode and #

If you need help with Zoom, please contact Robyn on either 03 9478 6135 or 0419 551 320 and she will help you set it up.

From our Chairperson, Keith Lanyon:

We will defer the AGM until satisfactory arrangements can be made in the current circumstances.

Three possibilities if restrictions continue:

- 1) a Zoom AGM with proxies for members who wish to vote but unable to use Zoom,

- 2) A postal arrangement of letters to each member whereby they can exercise their vote,
- 3) a physical meeting conforming to the COVID restrictions with members appointing proxies of those attending to thereby exercise their vote.

Saturday 2nd October 2021 -

Val D'Angri will share insights into 'Restoring the Stawell mining banner'

Retirement of Ian Jennings

After many years serving as Treasurer, Membership Secretary and Amenities Officer for our Ballarat Branch, Ian Jennings has decided to retire from the Committee.

Thank you Ian for your many years of dedicated service to the Ballarat Cornish group and the CAV. Ian was awarded the Cornish Association of Victoria's *John Mildren Award* for outstanding service to the Cornish Association in December 2015.

(Ian seen here with Derek Trewarne)



80th Birthday Greetings to Joy Menhennet who recently celebrated this milestone.

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.



A Cornish Doctor in Rural Australia

This was the title of a paper I presented at the Kernewek Lowender Seminar held in May this year in South Australia.

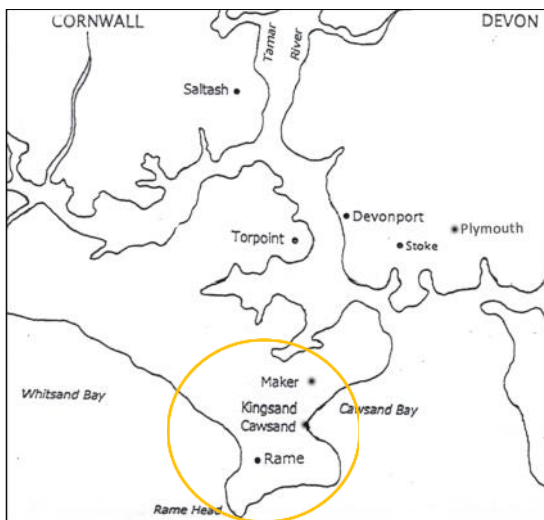
The theme for presentations this year was 'Cornish contributions to medicine, health and welfare'.

I became aware of Dr Adoniah Vallack through reading an article in the Ballarat Historical Society newsletter, *The Lamplight*, written by Dr John Garner concerning *Ballarat Doctors on the Goldfields* and Dr Vallack had practised at Ballarat for a couple of years.

The fact that he was Cornish prompted me to look into his life.

His was a life of service to the various communities, in which he lived and worked with lots of adventure and travel, offering friendship, medical skill and advice to many people in various countries and towns.

Adoniah Vallack was the seventh child of William Vallack (1770-1835) and his wife Judith (m/s Smith) from Maker on the Rame Peninsula in Cornwall. The Vallack family name seems to have been on the Rame peninsula from the early 1600s.



William Vallack was listed as a gentleman when he married his wife, Judith Smith (1782-1867), in 1802 - she was the daughter of an Anglican Minister.

William Vallack had inherited large sums of money and property and it has been suggested he was an importer of wines and spirits.

William was a Church warden of Maker Church and it is recorded that his father had been an Overseer of the Poor in Maker.

William and Judith Vallack had thirteen children – eight sons and five daughters.

The family seem to have followed the gentry pattern with their sons.

A Clergyman in the established church - Benjamin William Salmon Vallack

A position in the Government, Diplomatic or Civil Service – William Vallack

A Solicitor/Barrister at Law or a Judge - Henry Adoniah Vallack

An officer in the British Army or Navy - John Elias Vallack and another son, Edmund, in the Royal Navy

A Doctor - Adoniah Vallack

A son in Finance or Banking - Charles Salmon Vallack

Two surviving daughters, Albertine and Emily, married clergymen and one, Judith, did not marry.

Adoniah Vallack had studied to be an Apothecary in London.

He had served as an indentured Apprentice to William Smith, Apothecary of Dowgate Hill, City of London, for five and a half years and had attended the Aldersgate School of Medicine, where he graduated with a Licentiate of the Society of Apothecaries (LSA). The Aldersgate School was a private medical school founded in 1825.

Medical Registers list him as a Member of the Royal College of Surgeons, England from 1836 and holding a Licentiate of the Society of Apothecaries from the same date.

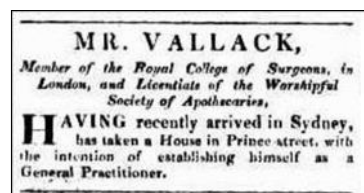
Following his studies in London, Adoniah left London on 1st July 1837 and arrived in Sydney aboard *Eweretta* on 31st October 1837.

He is listed as a surgeon and had travelled with the captain and eleven other passengers.

One wonders what induced him to leave the bustling city of London, where he had studied and worked, to travel to the fledgling Colony of NSW.

His older brother William Vallack, who was working in the NSW Colonial Secretary's Office, had arrived in 1826 and may have extolled the virtues of the new colony and encouraged his younger brother to take his chances and set up as a General Practitioner in Sydney.

By 11th December 1837, a month and a half after his arrival, he has advertised in *The Australian* newspaper that he was opening as a General Practitioner in Prince Street.



Australian (Sydney, NSW 1824 - 1848), Tuesday 19 December 1837, page 3

His qualifications are recognised by the NSW Medical Board in March 1839.

This Board had been formed to officially establish those who were legally entitled to practice as General Practitioners in the Colony, by examining the Diplomas and Testimonials rather than those purporting to be medically trained.

In March 1839, he moves to Patrick's Plains (now Singleton), a fairly new settlement on the Hunter River.



Moving from Sydney to a newly established area at Singleton, in the Hunter Valley, was risky as New South Wales, along with much of the World at that time, was experiencing a depression, with many people unemployed and much poverty prevalent.

However, Adoniah seemed always to possess an adventurous spirit.

Adoniah Vallack himself suffered financially and only managed to survive bankruptcy with the financial acumen and assistance of his younger brother Charles Vallack, who by then was living in NSW.

Adoniah was very much involved in the Singleton Community and seemed to have been liked and appreciated by his fellow residents.

From my research, he seemed to offer care to the local aborigines and was involved in many organisations in the small town, often holding office.

After nine years working in Singleton, as a doctor and also as an appointed Government Coroner, he was appointed Surgeon to Edmund Kennedy's expedition in 1848.

REQUIRED, a Medical Gentleman to accompany an Overland Expedition through Tropical Australia, and attend to the Botanical Department. Application to be made to Mr. KENNEDY, 60, Macquarie-street. April 8. 6886.

Kennedy's Advertisement for a Medical Gentleman to accompany the expedition – Sydney Morning Herald 11th April 1848.

How he was appointed is a mystery, but his brother, William, who by this stage held a significant position in the Colonial Secretary's Office may have suggested him to Edmund Kennedy or Sir Thomas Mitchell, the Colony's Surveyor General. Edmund Kennedy had been employed by Sir Thomas Mitchell to find a way to the Gulf of Carpentaria which was to be then followed by extensive exploration of Cape York Peninsula with an overland return to Sydney.

On 28th April 1848, Edmund Kennedy and twelve men set sail from Sydney. arriving at Rockingham Bay, near the present town of Caldwell, on 24th May 1848.

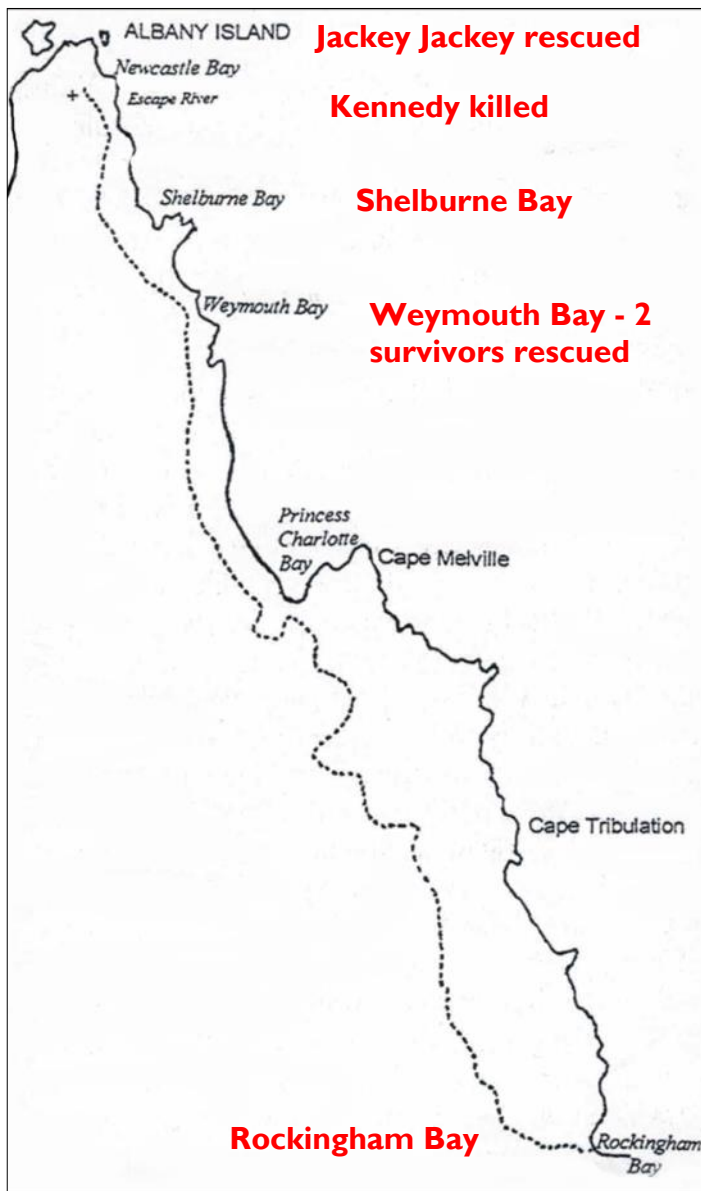
Hastily selling his possessions, Vallack sailed off into the unknown to meet up with the Expedition Party in far north Queensland, leaving Sydney aboard the *Ariel* with Captain Dodson, for Cape York with Government Stores, on 19th September 1848, to join the Edmund Kennedy expedition.

Kennedy and his party encountered terrible terrain - mangrove swamps, mountains, lagoons, rivers, and thick rainforest that made it almost impossible to travel with horses, carts, and sheep.

After nine weeks, they had travelled just 40 miles from the coast, and 12 miles north of the landing point.

When his men became so weak and they were unable to travel, eight men were left at Weymouth Bay and three men were left at Shelburne Bay, as Kennedy decided to push on, with just his aboriginal guide, Jackey Jackey,

Tragically, about 20 miles from the tip of Cape York, Kennedy was speared several times and died in Jackey Jackey's arms.



After an extraordinary feat of endurance of about ten days with no supplies, Jackey Jackey made it to the supply ship alone on 23rd December 1848, near Albany Island, and was taken aboard the *Ariel*. Once rescued, Adoniah Vallack cared for him – both his exhaustion and a nasty spear wound over his eye. Vallack was able to record a detailed statement of the disastrous happenings during the expedition, as recounted by Jackey Jackey.

At the time, Aborigines were not able to give evidence in a Court of Law and Vallack, as a Colonial Coroner, would have been aware of this, so it was vital that Jackey Jackey's deposition was recorded accurately and promptly, because at that stage he was the only known survivor.

The ship continued down the east coast, where two of the eight men left behind were rescued at Weymouth Bay - William Carron and William Goddard.

All of the others had died.

Both men were in a severe state of exhaustion, with

one having the appearance of someone in the last stages of consumption, as well as suffering from the symptoms of malaria and with legs swollen to three times their normal size.

Dr Vallack's medical skill and expertise certainly saved both their lives.

The *Ariel* with its three surviving expeditioners returned to Sydney arriving in March 1849.

After official enquiries were conducted, Vallack and Jackey Jackey returned to Singleton – it may have been due to his concern for the health of his patient or to offer protection to Jackey Jackey, as rumours had been circulating that he had actually killed Kennedy.

The Singleton residents were immensely proud of the achievements of their former doctor and also Jackey Jackey who lived in the Jerry Plains district, not far from Singleton.

Later in 1849, Adoniah Vallack left Australia's shores for California where he tried his hand at seeking gold and after little success he is recorded as working in Monterey, California as a physician. Monterey is due south of San Francisco.

He returned to Sydney in August 1852 and soon after travelled to Victoria where he was recorded as working as a Doctor on the Ballarat Goldfields.

Returning to Sydney in 1854, he then travelled to Cornwall in early 1855 with his two nieces, daughters of his brother William, who was about to re-marry. He again practised medicine in Cornwall and it is assumed that his nieces were schooled over the next five years before all three returned to Sydney in 1860.

However, Adoniah is recorded as being back in Cornwall in the 1861 census, again practising medicine.

After a short stay in Canada, working as a doctor on the shores of Lake Huron during the 1860s he returned to Cornwall and is listed as a non-practising surgeon in the census of 1871.

Adoniah Vallack returned to live at Wringford Farm. This farm seems to have been in the possession of the Vallack family for many years. Wringford is situated just above the village of Cawsand, and the hamlet of Forder.

Adoniah Vallack died on 5th June 1872 and is buried in the graveyard at Maker Church where many of his extended family are also buried.

Maureen Fuller very generously offered to drive from Saltash to Maker to take some photos of the grave of Adoniah Vallack and to record the inscriptions on his and other members graves.



The inscription on his tomb reads:
In Memory Of
Adoniah Vallack M.R.C.S. London
Who Died On the 5th Day of June 1872 Aged 60
years.

Also in Memory of
Henry Adoniah Vallack Solicitor Torrington
Who Died on the 27th day of December 1877 Aged
71 years.

In the background is the grave of his parents
William and Judith and some of his siblings.
The inscription reads:
In Memory of William Vallack Esq. of this parish
who died on the 12th October 1835, aged 65years.

Also of Judith, relict of the above, who died 8th
January 1867 aged 85 years.
Also of children and of the above viz. Edmund R.N.
who died at sea 5th June 1830 aged 20.
Charlotte Selina who died 5th July 1830 aged 15.
John Elias Lieut. of H.M. Ship Britomart who died at
sea 17th February 1842 aged 34.
And of Mary and Vaughan who died in infancy.
Inscription on the other side of William and Judith
Vallack's tomb:
Also in Memory of Charles Salmon Vallack JP for
the County of Cornwall, youngest son of William
and Judith Vallack, who died January 26th 1888 aged
73 years.
Also Judith Caroline Vallack, eldest daughter of
William and Judith Vallack, died June 21st 1905.

Through Maureen's efforts I was able to connect
with the owner of Wringford Farm who sent me
some photos.



If you would like to read more, you can click on the
link below for the Seminar Paper - this includes
some medical history, Jackey Jackey's deposition and
Dr Vallack's statements and more detail of the life
of Adoniah Vallack.

<https://www.arcoates.com/Adoniah-Vallack-Paper.pdf>

AN INTERESTING MAGAZINE

I am fortunate enough to have a subscription to *This England*, a quarterly magazine.

In recent issues there have been several references to places in our lovely duchy of Cornwall.

Issue Spring 2020 - page 79 briefly talks about the Caerhays Estate, in a sheltered valley between Truro and St Austell. Many beautiful plants, including those brought back from China.

It is a true plantsman's paradise.

<https://visit.caerhays.co.uk/>

Issue - Spring 2021 - has several references to Cornwall.

* A Taste of History by Alan Garnsworthy tells the story of the Cornish pasty.

In 2020, the world championships were held with some delicious entries - a ham hock, cheddar and apple chutney pasty took first place in the Open Savory Professional Category.

Visit: <https://cornishpastyassociation.co.uk/>

* St Just in Roseland, Cornwall - three pages written by Alice Johnson on this lovely little area, sometimes confused with St Just in Penwith.

It mentions that in 1261 this Anglican church was devoted to St Just by Bishop Bronescombe.

The priest in charge states that *St Just decided to withdraw from the world, which for him was the splendor and politics of a royal court, and came to this place to start a hermitage where he could be alone with God.*

It is also said that the boy Jesus landed here with Joseph of Arimathea, a tin merchant arriving on business in the area. This legend is still spoken of.

Australia is associated with this corner of Cornwall as John Garland Treseder, of Treseders Nursery, left for Australia in the 1850s where he prospered with horticultural related nurseries and businesses. He returned to Cornwall on the death of his father and found a very suitable spot near the church for tropical plants, in an area which has a microclimate suitable for tropical loving plants.

Since then the gardens have flourished and are visited frequently by many.

<http://stjustandstmawes.org.uk/>

*Trebah Garden. Cornwall. According to this short piece, this garden is a magical 26 acre sub tropical garden nestled in a valley leading down to a secluded Cornish beach on the river Helford. Many rhododendrons, camellias and magnolias flourish here.

Visit: <https://www.trebahgarden.co.uk/>

I have been reading and enjoying *This England* for many, many years and we have a collection dating

back to the 1970s when my mother had a subscription given to her.

It is a beautiful magazine with lovely photographs and many interesting articles of places throughout the British Isles.

You never know when you will find an article or photo of your ancestor's village or town

You can find *This England* on Facebook-
facebook.com/ThisEnglandMagazine

Di Christensen

BALLARAT REMINISCENCES

From *1904 Ballarat and District Directory*

Ballarat is a magnificent City, whilst Ballarat East is a beautiful Town, situated in the counties of Grenville and Grant the province of Wellington, and the Electoral district of Ballarat West and East.

Ballarat City, so proclaimed in 1870, has an area of 4,090 acres, a population of 22,817, and a rateable property of an annual value of £166,582. Ballarat East, proclaimed a Town in 1872, has an area of 4,331 acres, a population of 18,270, and a rateable property of an annual value of £82,100.

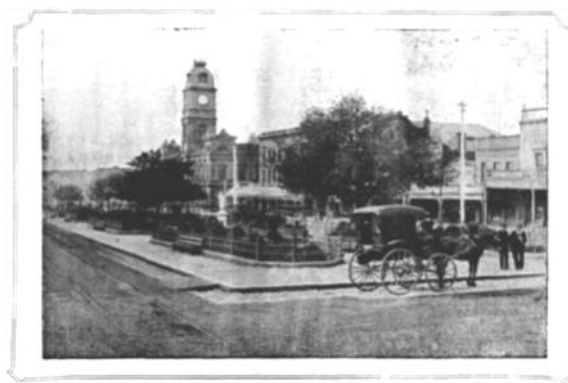
Although the two are under separate and distinct local Government and Parliamentary representation, they are generally considered and spoken of as one and the same place, as they are in reality, only separated by a street.

Ballarat, then, is a place second to the Metropolis only in importance in Victoria.

It is unquestionably the leading centre of the Gold Mining Industry of Victoria.

Ballarat possesses a healthy climate, and it is also the oldest established Gold Field in the States. It lies 100 miles W.N.W. of Melbourne at an elevation of 1413 feet above the sea level.

Our Public Buildings are elegant structures. The City Hall in Sturt Street is a handsome bluestone and brick building.



SHOPPER SQUARE, STURT STREET

The Post and Telegraph Office, and Money Order Office are situated at the corner of Sturt and Lydiard Streets. Mechanics' Institute is situated in Sturt Street, whilst almost opposite is situated the Ballarat Public Library.

Ballarat Fine Art Gallery, Lydiard Street North, is open to the public daily from 11 am. to 1 p.m., and 3 p.m. to 6 p.m., where a choice selection of pictures are to be seen, superior to many in the Melbourne Art Gallery.

We have two daily papers, the Ballarat " Courier" and the Ballarat " Star, " whilst we have the Ballarat "Evening Echo " as an evening paper, and the " Sporting World " as a weekly sporting paper.

The Ballarat Botanical Gardens and Lake Wendouree are reached by tram, either via Sturt or Lydiard Streets.

The Gardens comprise an area of about 100 acres, and are planted with all kinds of trees, flowers, and shrubs. Beautiful Aviaries and Breeding Ponds are situated near the Fernery, which is considered by tourists the most exquisite spot in the whole of Australia.

Last but not least we might mention our magnificent Statuary, which is, undoubtedly most unique. The Flight from Pompeii, Modesty, Ruth, Rebekah, Susannah, also the statuary representing Summer, Autumn, Winter, and Spring Wallace, and others too numerous to mention. These are splendid samples of sculptor's art, which bring pleasure to the heart of man to look upon.



Lake Wendouree is a magnificent sheet of water, covering over 600 acres in extent, and is stocked with several varieties of English and Native fish and wild fowl.

The lake possesses a large fleet of Rowing and Sailing Boats, and a large number of Steamers and Yachts. You see regularly in the summer months, every Friday and Saturday, the skill displayed by our Ballarat yachtsmen in handling the yachts, whilst anglers may be seen towards tea hour carrying home their afternoon's sport in the shape of trout, tench, etc., which, you may depend, affords a hearty meal. The lake is surrounded by beautiful drooping willow trees, beneath which is a splendid cycle ride,

esplanade, small plantations, jetties, docks, and boat houses, which add greatly to the attraction, and from many points on its borders views of great beauty present themselves.



The Benevolent Asylum, situated in Ascot Street, between Dana and Eyre Streets, is a handsome and striking structure, surrounded by an admirably cared for garden, and within its walls a noble work is carried on, sheltering the declining days of many of the pioneers of this country, who have fallen upon hard times.

The Asylum is about 15 minutes walk from the General Post Office, and many an old man there can supply you with reminiscences of the early days of Victoria.

The Ballarat Hospital, a deserving institution, and one worthy of support, is situated at the corner of Drummond and Sturt Streets, and may be reached by Sturt Street tram car for 2d.

The Observatory is situated at Mount Pleasant, about 1½ miles from the Post Office ; to reach same is a nice walk on a moonlight night, when you are permitted to look through the Telescope at the Planets.

The Ballarat Mining Exchange and most of the Mining Offices are situated in Lydiard Street next to Ballarat Post Office. The large Hall is open daily, and visitors may attend any meeting of the Exchange on being introduced by a member.

Old Colonist's Hall, adjoining the Mining Exchange, is nicely fitted up with the usual conveniences of a first-class club.

Ballarat City Oval, Western end of Sturt Street This is undoubtedly one of the finest sports grounds in

Australia. and has cost the citizens about £10,000 up to date.

Bicycle Track, Grandstand, and every other convenience.

Swimming and Turkish Baths are situated in Armstrong Street North, opposite Haymarket. The Ballarat Town Baths in Peel and Eastwood Streets.

There are many other places of interest the tourist might visit in and around Ballarat, such as the Old Curiosity Shop in Queen Street, a little south of Victoria Street; the cab leaves the Buck's Head Hotel, corner of Bridge and Sturt Streets every quarter of an hour; fare 3d each way.

The Ballarat Orphan Asylum and the Eureka Stockade are close by.

Dowling Forest, situated about seven miles from Ballarat, is undoubtedly one of the prettiest racecourses in Victoria, and one worthy of visiting. Another nice drive is to Clark's Hill, about 10 miles distant from Ballarat. Take a buggy, go out past the Gong Gong, and then you will see one of the best Agricultural spots in Victoria, in reaching Clark's Hill you obtain a beautiful panoramic view of the country.

After leaving this Hill, and before reaching Dean, return by an angle road on your left, which brings you back through sound, thickly timbered country, *via* the New Cemetery to Ballarat, a splendid drive

Sebastopol, a suburb of Ballarat, can be reached by tram from Armstrong Street. Permission can be obtained from the Legal Managers to descend the mines.

CORNISH snippets

COVID 19 Numbers

The figures below show the number of coronavirus cases per 100 000 people in the seven days up to and including 23rd July in the South West.

The breakdown of the figures by local authority area is:

- Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly - 319.5
- Plymouth - 616.9
- Exeter - 369.1
- Mid Devon - 262.4

- East Devon - 342.5
- Torbay - 521
- Teignbridge - 349.6
- South Hams - 311.5
- West Devon - 220.4
- North Devon - 431.3
- Torridge - 303.2

By comparison the total for England is 401.4. cases per 100 000 people.

Cornwall A30 dig finds artefacts thousands of years old

Archaeological artefacts thousands of years old have been found on the route of a new dual carriageway. An archaeological dig is taking place for the A30 upgrade between Chiverton and Carland Cross in Cornwall.

Flints, pots and roundhouses have been discovered in a "rare opportunity" to record the history under the ground.

The archaeological team say communities from pre-history and through Roman times lived and worked alongside the route.

Archaeologists from Cornwall Council have been working with contractors as work on 8.7 miles (14km) of new dual carriageway continues.

The archaeologists say they have found:

A flint scatter representing a working area which probably dates to the Mesolithic/Neolithic transition period, about 6,000 years ago

Pots, pits and roundhouses from about 4,500-3,000 years ago

Evidence of medieval ironworking and activity from the 12th-13th Centuries

A World War Two US D-Day embarkation camp.

The most significant discoveries will go on display at the Royal Cornwall Museum in Truro.

Funding for coastal dunes

Cornwall Council has secured funding to protect sand dunes which act as vital sea defences for coastal communities.

Cornwall is one of 25 areas in England in line to benefit from a share of £150M in funding through the Flood and Coastal Innovative Resilience Programme.

A total of 40 sandy beach dune locations around the Cornish coastline have been identified as having sustainability issues and will be subject to 'state of the dunes' assessments

Articles and Cornish Snippets may be sourced from the Cornwall Council, BBC Cornwall, Pirate FM News, Falmouth Packet, Cornwall Live, Kernow Matters and Wikipedia