

The Cornish Association of Victoria Inc.

Ballarat Branch A.C.N. A0008 264A

August 2024 Newsletter

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Saturday 3rd August 2024

The Chinese History in Ballarat - Mr George Zhang will be the speaker

His talk will cover the last 170 years and will include why the Chinese came to Ballarat, the famous Chinese during the Gold Rush and the changes between the past and now.

George is a representative from the Chinese Australian Cultural Society in Ballarat. This group is involved in the Xin Jin Shan library located on the corner of Lydiard and Sturt Streets and has in excess of 140 000 books.

See ABC report from January 2023 about the library:

https://www.abc.net.au/news/2023-01-10/chineselibrary-ballarat-xin-jin-shan-opening/101828714

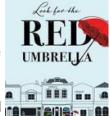
Please make a special effort to attend. If it is cold, we will meet in the Church Vestry which is snug and warm.

Saturday 5th October 2024

We are hoping to have Geoff McArthur as our speaker.

Geoff is the author of the book, *Look for the Red Umbrella*, a non-fiction book.

The story follows Margaret Muller, and her family, who went on to have a thriving chain of umbrella shops in Ballarat and Bendigo in the 1870s and 1880s.



GEOFF MCARTHU

Several of our members have heard Geoff speak and his is a great tale and the book is an easy read.

Saturday 7th December 2024 - Christmas Luncheon at the Grand in Dana Street

June Meeting - Saturday 1st June 2024 -

This was the Annual General Meeting and the Annual Election of Office Bearers and Committee took place during the meeting and was conducted by Ted Curnow, as Brain Rollason (President of the CAV) was unable to attend due to illness.

Those elected: Chairperson - Keith Lanyon Vice-Chairperson - Wendy Benoit Administrative Secretary - Wendy Benoit Treasurer- Jim Hocking Committee Members - Robyn Coates & Bev Hocking.

Following the AGM, Beryl Curnow gave an illustrated talk of the Four Seasons of Cornwall, featuring many photos taken by Ted whilst they were living in Cornwall for two years. Members were most interested and thoroughly enjoyed seeing all the photos.

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.



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Some Cornish Words

In June, *Learn some Cornish* week was celebrated - so whilst a couple of months late, here are some Cornish words

Hello	Dydh da
How's it going with you?	Fatla genes?
How are you?	Fatel os ta?
Okay	Da lowr
Good	Da
Very good	Pur dha
Very well	Yn poynt da
Splendid	Splann
And you?	Ha ty?
Good bye	Duw genes
See you	Dha weles
Thank you	Meur ras
Please	Mar pleg
Good morning	Myttin da
Good afternoon	Dohajydh da
Good evening	Gorthugher da
Good day	Dydh da

Significant rise' in people learning Cornish

There has been a "significant rise" in the number of people learning Cornish.

Speak Cornish said it was hosting a variety of events to celebrate its annual drive between 22nd June and 30th June 2024.

It said its Speak Cornish Week was aimed to get the language spoken in the community and this year's theme was "a warm Cornish welcome".

Run by An Rosweyth, a group of Cornish language community organisations, the events aim to encourage people to greet each other with one of the "many different Cornish welcoming words and phrases".



https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/ c0xx6170z8vo? fbclid=lwZXh0bgNhZW0CMTEAAR3plfZ9wc4 7oRs3XaowNRPYPoY1jYnmbbCY-_9igmc0-6Lb7LI3Dd3F_Yg_aem_qXkXyVBrHGlnZmk2bl unuA

Sourced from various Facebook pages with a commitment to the Cornish Language

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Callington

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



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.

Food manufacturers Ginsters and The Cornwall Bakery (both wholly owned subsidiaries of Samworth Brothers) are the largest employers in the town.

Ginsters uses local produce in many of its products, buying potatoes and other vegetables from local farmers and suppliers.

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.

Nearby ancient monuments include Castlewitch Henge, with a diameter of 96 metres and Cadsonbury Iron Age hillfort, as well as Dupath Well built in 1510, on the site of an ancient sacred spring.

Callington was recorded in the Domesday Book as Calwetone (1086); the manor had four hides of land and land for thirty ploughs.

The lord had land for three ploughs with eleven serfs. Twenty-four villeins and fourteen smallholders had land for fifteen ploughs.

There were also one and a half square leagues of pasture and a small amount of woodland. The income of the manor was $\pounds 6$ sterling.

In the 19th century, Callington was an important mining area. However, trade was limited by the difficulty of conveying the products to market: pack horses were used as far as Calstock, where there was a quay on the tidal River Tamar for onward coast-wise shipping transport.

The chief mineral was copper ore, with some tin and arsenic; timber and coal were brought in to serve the mines.

Deposits of silver were found nearby in Silver Valley. Later, a narrow gauge railway line, connected mines and quarries in the Callington and Gunnislake areas with shipping at Calstock on the River Tamar. Today, the area is marked by mining remains, but there are no active mines.

Granite is still quarried on Hingston Down.

The former Callington constituency, *a rotten borough*, elected two members to the unreformed House of Commons but was abolished by the Reform Act 1832.

The town is now in the South East Cornwall constituency.

Born in Callington: Sir John George Bice KCMG

(24th June 1853 – 9th November 1923)



John Bice was a blacksmith and a politician in the colony and State of South Australia.

He was born in Callington, Cornwall, the son of Elizabeth (Rowe) and Samuel Sandoe Bice a mining captain who went to South Australia, in 1864, to work for the Wallaroo and Moonta Mining Company, for whom he worked for twenty six years.

John began his working life in the Moonta mines, improving his education at night school He was soon indentured as a blacksmith's apprentice, and qualified as a tradesman.

He married Elizabeth Jane Trewenack (1853-1922) in 1875, at Moonta Mines.

She was the daughter of John Trewenack and Clarinda Orchard - both born in Mawgan in Meneage - John and Clarinda had married in Holy Trinity Adelaide in 1851.

Elizabeth's parents were lost in the sinking of the steamship *Gambier* on 23rd August 1891. The sinking followed a collision in Hobsons Bay with the steamer *Eastly* and resulted in the loss of lives of fifteen passengers and crew. The ship was travelling from Brisbane via Sydney and Melbourne to Adelaide.

John and Elizabeth had a home, *Norleybank*, at Beaumont, then moved to 37 Bishop's Place, Kensington.

In 1876, John took over a machinist's business at Wilmington owned by the Trewenack family of Port Augusta.

In 1880, he and William Henry Trewenack, Elizabeth's brother, took over John Trewenack's blacksmith and wheelwright's business in Port Augusta and prospered.

As a student at night classes, he joined the local literary and debating society and helped found the Masonic Lodge.

Bice was for eight years a member of the Corporate Town of Port Augusta council, and was mayor from 1888 to 1889.

In 1894, he was elected to represent the Northern District in the Legislative Council. In 1897, he was appointed to the Pastoral Commission, and in 1908 joined the Price-Peake administration as Minister for the Northern Territory and Minister of Water Supply.

He held those portfolios until 30th December, when after the death of Tom Price he became Chief Secretary and Minister of Industry in the first Peake Administration.

He held that office until 3rd June 1910.

Mr Peake again returned to power on 17th February 1912, and Bice was Chief Secretary for the term of that Ministry, which lasted until 3rd April 1915, when the Vaughan Government came to power.

On 14th July 1917, when Peake again assumed office, Bice was given the portfolios of Commissioner of Public Works, Minister of Mines, and Minister of Marine.

He also took up the post of Chief Secretary and from 1920 he was Chief Secretary and Minister of Marine; his Ministerial career extended over a longer period than almost any other Minister.

He was knighted in 1923.

He died of double pneumonia at a private hospital in Adelaide. He had been a pipe smoker for 50 years. At the time of his death, he was arranging South Australia's participation in the 1924 British Empire Exhibition, in England.

He was given a State funeral and buried in the West Terrace Cemetery.

He had two daughters (Clara and Nelly) and a son, who survived him - his son John Leonard Sandoe Bice served on the Legislative Council from 1941 to 1959.

His other son, Frederick William Bice, was a metallurgist who was accidentally killed 16th July 1906 at the Blinman Mines, SA, where he was employed as an assayer.

Notes from Wikipedia and Australian Dictionary of Biography. Photograph State Library of SA.



Some snippets from *Transcontinental* (Port Augusta, SA : 1914 - 1954), Friday 16 November 1923, page 4 found on Trove

By the death of Sir John Bice, the State has lost one of the oldest sitting members of the Legislative Council, a firm and courageous administrator, and a man whose life was a splendid example of the opportunities Australia offers to those who are prepared to grasp them.

Although all Sir John's days were not the days of a laborious life, he had to struggle hard to rise from the position of the village blacksmith at Beautiful Valley and Port Augusta to the high office of Chief Secretary, as well as, on occasions, to that of acting Premier.

Sir John was born on June 24, 1853, at Callington, Cornwall.

When his father, Captain Samuel Sandoe Bice, stepped off the clipper Eastern Empire at Largs Bay in 1864 it was natural that his steps should be directed to the little Cornish settlement at Moonta.

The young man's education, begun at Callington, was continued at night, at Moonta.

It was inevitable that such distinguished service should earn the gratitude of his Majesty the King, and when, in June of this year, his Excellency the Governor announced that the honour of Knight Commander of St. Michael and St. George had been conferred on Mr Bice, it is safe to say that the distinction carried with it the good wishes and approval of every South Australian.

As an administrator Sir John upheld the rights of the State and devoted all his efforts to its welfare.

Cornish Festivals - July - August

July 7th - Bodmin Riding and Heritage Day

The annual Bodmin Riding custom is held at Bodmin on the Sunday and Monday after 7 July (St Thomas Becket's Day - the moving of Thomas Becket's body in 1220 from the Canterbury Cathedral crypt to his shrine upstairs).

Accounts over its long history vary, but it involved a horseback procession around the town, carrying two large garlands, and probably originated as a Guild Riding custom.

The earliest documentary evidence of the custom is in the Bodmin Parish Church rebuilding accounts of 1469-72, and it ceased in the early 19th century.

The celebration was revived in the 1970s and now includes the excellent addition of the "Beast of Bodmin" which celebrates the ancient custom of guise dancing. The terrifying beast is chased through the streets of the town by the Heliers; a group of hunky young men, dressed in vests and kilts and with woaded faces who goad and ultimately capture the Beast then gruesomely pull his tongue out.

The Beast is then placed on trial by the Ragadaziow, mock magistrates who carry a casket allegedly containing the bones of St Petroc.

This trial takes the form of a mummer's play, acted by mysterious creatures in leather masks who weave both history and current political and social commentary into their script. (Sally Bell -

https://thisissallybell.wordpress.com/2016/07/02/bodminriding-and-heritage-day/)

Sunday nearest 10th July

St Stythian Day- there is a considerable difficulty in identifying this saint.

References to the parish in 13th and 14th century records show various spellings: Stethyana, Stediana, Stedyan, Stediane, and Stidianus.

Rev Sabine Baring-Gould's "Cornish

Dedications" (1906) makes a connection with St Etaine of Tumna in Ireland, while Rev Michael Warner (Vicar of Stithians 1983-1993) suggests St Stephen.

The Saint's feast day is the Sunday closest to 10th July, and Stithians Show is held on the Monday following Feast Sunday.

Stithians Show is one of the largest one-day agricultural shows in the UK: the show is held annually in July and the attendance is in excess of 20,000.

Established in 1834, it has been held continuously since then (except for three years during World War I; five years during World War II; there was no show in 2001 due to the nationwide outbreak of foot and mouth disease and for two years in 2020 and 2021 due to the COVID19 Pandemic).

Up until 1992, the Show was sited on fields in the centre of the village.

Then the threat of rental increases as well as the show's increasing size encouraged the Agricultural Association to purchase its own land at Kennall Farm and establish a site there.

25th July - Knill Ceremony

John Knill (1 Jan. 1733 – 29 Mar. 1811) He was born at **Callington** in Cornwall and was said to be was an eccentric mayor of St Ives, in 1767 and was the Collector of Customs at St Ives from 1762–1782.

Some articles also suggest that he may have been a smuggler!

Knill was a lawyer and when he became a member of Gray's Inn in 1782, he left St Ives for London. He was called to the Bar in 1787 and died at Gray's Inn in 1811 aged 78.

He built his own memorial, a 50-feet (16 metres) high granite obelisk known as Knill's steeple but it was never used as a a mausoleum.

He was buried at St Andrew's Church in Holborn. The obelisk bears inscriptions on each of its three sides: on one is 'Resurgam' (I shall rise again) with the Coat of Arms and motto 'Nil Desperandum' (never despair); 'I know that my Redeemer liveth' on another and 'Johannes Knill 1782' on the remaining side.

In his will Knill left money for the upkeep of his obelisk and also $\pounds 25$ for celebrations to take place every five years on St James' Day, 25th July.

He directed that every five years, $\pounds 10$ should be expended on a dinner, and that ten young girls dressed in white should walk in procession with music, from the market house to the monument, around which the whole party was to dance singing the Hundredth Psalm (All people that on earth do dwell).

This quintennial commemoration (held every five years) has made the occasion for a good deal of jollity, in which the entire population joins, indeed the whole proceeding is quite mirth-provoking; nor is the least laughable part of it the looks on the faces of the vicar and mayor, as they sedately waltz around on the upper step of the monument, hand in hand with the ten young girls. (St Ives Nuseum)

The first ceremony, in which Knill himself participated, took place in 1801.

The £25 was to be spent:-

 $\pounds 10$ for a dinner for the Trustees, who are the Mayor, Vicar, and Customs Officer, and two guests each.

This to take place at the George and Dragon Inn, Market Place, St Ives.

 $\pounds 5$ to ten young girls who have to be the daughters of either fishermen, tinners, or seamen.

£1 to the fiddler.

£2 to two widows.

£5 to the man and wife, widower or widow who shall raise the greatest family of legitimate children who have reached the age of ten years.

£1 for white ribbon for breast knots.

£1 to be set aside for a vellum book for the Clerk to the Trustees to record the proceedings.

The next festival will be held on 25th July 2026.

Ist August - Morvah Fair and Pasty Day

Morvah was prior to the 20th century the home of the Morvah Fair (held on August I every year) which has been described as the biggest Lughnasadh (Harvest Festival) celebrations outside Ireland. The fair was attended by large numbers from across

West Cornwall. The fair was also associated with the legend of Jack

the Tinkard. In the 19th century, three acres of the moor were set aside for the Morvah Fair on 1st August, a time for horse-racing, merrymaking, courtship games, and storytelling, featuring the hero Jack the Tinkard. The Morvah legend begins when Tom, a local giant, uses an axle-beam and cartwheel to overcome an evil giant whose uprooted tree cannot save him in combat. Tom moves into the evil giant's castle, assumes his great wealth, marries, and has a family. Soon Tom is joined by yet another giant, Jack the Tinkard, who is initially hostile but eventually becomes an ally.

Like the Irish hero Lug Lámfhota, Jack is the master of many skills, which encourages Tom to allow him his daughter's hand.

To make a home for his bride, Jack kills the giant of Morvah by taking the cover off an old mineshaft and letting his opponent fall into it.

Jack's wedding and the union of Jack and Tom's families takes place on 1st August.

In the late 19th century, the then priest of Morvah lead a successful campaign to ban the celebrations due to the excess of drunken and promiscuous behaviour.

In a proclamation he stated:

"The Church-Town of Morvah has for many years past been much resorted to on the First Sunday in August by disorderly persons of every description, much to the annoyance of the parishioners, he hereby cautions all such persons from assembling on that day for idle and profane amusement, so revolting to that great command of the Law of God - "Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy" Strict orders have been given to the Constable and Officers of the Parish to take into custody any person who shall be found desecrating the Lord's Day."

Morvah now celebrates 'pasty day' on the same date. This began in the 1970s and is now a community celebration.

During the festival pasties are available to buy and there is an extensive programme of music and entertainment.

5th August - Goldsithney Charter Fair

According to Popular Romances of the West of England by Robert Hunt:

On the 5th of August, St James's day (old style), a fayre is held here, which was originally held in the Churchtown of Sithney near Helston.

In olden time, the good St Perran the Little gave to the wrestlers in his parish a glove as the prize, and the winner of the glove was permitted to collect the market toll on the day of the feast, and to appropriate the money to his own use.

The winner of the glove lived in the Church-town of Sithney, and for long long years the right of holding the fair remained undisputed.

At length the miners of Goldsithney resolved to contest the prize, and they won it, since which time the fair has been held in that village, they paying to the poor of the parish of Sithney one shilling as compensation.

As stated, the miners of Goldsithney entered the wrestling contest and won it, and from that day onward, the red glove was kept and presented as a token to open the fair in Goldsithney, becoming a symbol for the village.

By the 1600s, the fair day in Goldsithney, with its famous red glove, became so important to the village that it was granted a Royal Charter by King James, which still holds to this day.

P 444 Robert Hunt book: <u>https://archive.org/details/</u> popularromanceso00huntuoft/page/20/mode/2up



Agan Kernow

The book is available for purchase by CAV Members, relatives and friends. This is a 262-page book of 76 stories by 51 authors from across the Cornish diaspora. The purchase price is \$25 - speak with Robyn Coates to purchase a copy.



Cornish snippets

All six new Cornwall MPs swear oaths in Cornish

All six of Cornwall's newly elected MPs swore their oath of allegiance in Cornish in the House of Commons recently.

Labour MPs Anna Gelderd, Jayne Kirkham, Noah Law and Perran Moon made their affirmations in Cornish as well as in English, as did Liberal Democrats Andrew George and Ben Maguire. Members of both Houses of Parliament have to take an oath of allegiance to the Crown using a religious text or make a non-religious affirmation by law. The oath must first be made and taken in English and members can follow this with an oath in Welsh, Scottish Gaelic or Cornish, the law stipulates. MPs take the oath by holding a sacred text and saying the words: "I swear by Almighty God that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to His Majesty King Charles, his heirs and successors, according to law. So help me God." MPs cannot take their seat, speak in debates, vote or receive a salary until taking the oath or affirmation.

The Conservative candidates lost all six Cornish seats in the general election, with four going to Labour, and two to the Liberal Democrats. Labour claimed the constituencies of St Austell and Newquay and South East Cornwall for the first time. https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cx823elg8110

Possible reprieve for wrecked paddle steamer

A wrecked paddle steamer moored in Truro may be saved from being broken up.

The Compton Castle has been moored on Lemon Quay since 1982 and has been reported to house rough sleepers at times.

In March the Cornwall Harbours board agreed to break the boat up at a cost of £200,000.

A planning application has now been submitted by a couple who are part of a steamer restoration group outlining their idea to remove and restore the boat on farmland near Truro.

A report by the Cornwall Harbours board said the boat, which has previously been a restaurant, café and music venue, had become home to rough sleepers.

In March the board agreed to start the £200,000 break-up process of the paddle streamer and seek match funding from the Truro Town Deal board, while also pursuing recovery costs from the boat's owner, Porthia Ltd.

Paul Bent and Manti Tauren-Bent, of Treheveras Farm, Kenwyn, have sought permission to move the Compton Castle to their property to restore it. Their application said the couple, both members of the Paddle Steamer Renovation Society, want to crane-lift the boat, move it to their land and "renovate to its former glory".

https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/c4nge7n2lwwo

Work starts on new Isles of Scilly ferries

Work on building two new passenger and freight vessels to operate between Penzance and the Isles of Scilly has begun, a ferry company has said. The Isles of Scilly Steamship Group (ISSG) said the first steel for the new ships was cut during a special ceremony at Piriou's Shipyard in Vietnam. The firm said work was expected to progress rapidly over the coming months and the ships would enter service in 2026.

https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/c033ldp7k260

Royal Mail says sorry for delays caused by seagulls

Residents in a town in Cornwall have received a letter from Royal Mail apologising for late mail explaining that its delivery workers were being hampered by dive-bombing seagulls.

Royal Mail said those living in the affected zone in Liskeard could choose to wait until the birds were not aggressively protecting their young, or nominate a new address.

One Liskeard resident described it as "deadly" to go outside when the birds were nesting.

In the letter, Royal Mail assured customers the company would be "monitoring the situation on a daily basis".

https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/c0333d1v9g9o

Work begins to preserve 16th Century Cornish cannon

Work is under way to preserve an historic collection of cannon and guns at St Mawes Castle in Cornwall.

The weapons include six 300-year-old cast iron cannon and a bronze gun dating back to the mid-16th Century.

Conservators said exposure to salt in the air due to the castle's coastal location, means some iron items deteriorate quickly.

The three-week project will involve removing rust and treating the items with a layer of protective paint.

Experts said each cannon will need to be lifted out of its wooden carriage before being assessed and treated.

The carriages will also be washed and treated with a compound to prevent wood rot and insect attacks. The star of the collection at the Tudor fort - the Alberghetti gun - will be treated with hot wax instead of paint as it is the only cannon made from bronze at the castle, staff said.

https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/c9rrvvyexgvo

Pub in Cornwall named best in England

Visit England has awarded a pub in St Agnes, Cornwall, the title of the best pub in England. The Peterville Inn was awarded the gold award for pub of the year at the Visit England event in Liverpool.

Owner Lara Trubshaw said she never thought it would be possible to win such a top award. https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cgxxkvdkl9jo

Minister for Cornwall needed

The leader of Cornwall Council and the chair of the Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Economic Forum have written to the new Prime Minister calling for the appointment of a Minister for Cornwall. In the letter, ClIr Linda Taylor and Lord Hutton have told Sir Keir Starmer that 'a Minister would be pivotal to unleashing Cornwall's ability to support the ambition of a stronger and more sustainable United Kingdom through our ability to contribute significantly to powering, feeding and acting as the lungs of the country.'

The letter also calls for fairer funding going forwards, and invites Sir Keir to visit Cornwall as soon as possible to 'witness our positive progress and amazing potential first-hand'. Letter can be read at this link:

https://www.cornwall.gov.uk/council-news/councilbudgets-and-economy/council-leader-calls-for-newgovernment-to-create-new-minister-for-cornwall/

Blue Flag for Beaches

Fifteen of Cornwall's stunning beaches have been awarded Blue Flag or Seaside Award status ahead of the summer season.

Seaside Awards are presented to the best beaches in England and celebrate the quality and diversity of our coastline.

The coveted Blue Flag is only presented to beaches with water that has achieved the highest classification, as set by the EU Bathing Water Directive, and that have an environmental education programme.

Seven beaches owned by Cornwall Council have been awarded both Blue Flag and Seaside Award status for 2024.

They are:

Crooklets, Bude Gyllyngvase, Falmouth Polzeath Porthmeor, St Ives Porthtowan Porthmissen/Trevone, Padstow Widemouth Bay

Carbis Bay in St Ives, which is privately owned, has also been awarded both Blue Flag and Seaside Award status.

A further seven beaches owned by Cornwall Council have received Seaside Award status for 2024.

They are:

Crackington Haven, Bude Great Western, Newquay Porth Porthminster, St Ives Portreath Sennen Cove Summerleaze, Bude

https://www.cornwall.gov.uk/council-news/ environment-culture-and-planning/fifteen-cornishbeaches-to-proudly-fly-blue-flags-or-seaside-awardsthis-summer/

Cornish Snippets maybe sourced from the Cornwall Council, BBC Cornwall, Pirate FM News, Falmouth Packet, CornwallLive, Kresen Kernow, Wikipedia