



**CORNISH ASSOCIATION  
OF  
VICTORIA, INC.**

**NEWSLETTER  
No. 146**

**August 2023**

**Corporation Reg. No. A0008264A**

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**PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

**CAV Annual General Meeting  
President's report**



When writing this report, I have had time to reflect on how the year has gone since I accepted the role as President of this Association.

After joining many years ago, I did not think that a time would come when I actually became President.

This has been an exciting year for me and I have come to realise that the first year of being President feels like learning to drive a car.

There are expectations as a leader not only as a figurehead but as a person who is seen to be keeping our association alive.

As our previous President Ken, mentioned we have come through a period of difficulty which has affected all our lives and the society we live in.

It seems that the Covid epidemic is still with us and having an impact on our lives and we must still take precautions.

Under Ken's leadership, with the involvement of committee members, several important decisions were made including moving our Library to Castlemaine where it will be on permanent display for the use of those who wish to research their Cornish ancestors.

There will be a gala opening of the Library in October and all members who wish to attend will be very welcome.

Thanks to June Whiffin and Moira Drew for their continuing liaison with the Castlemaine Historical Society and help with the unpacking of the boxes and seeing the material was put in the correct place.

There will be a notice concerning this event, when we have completed all arrangements.

There was also the decision to leave the Baptist Church, at Oakleigh, where we had been for a number of years.

With the fall in the rate of attendance, we just could not justify the expense of hiring the Church for our meetings.

Thanks to modern technology we have been able to use Zoom, set up by Arthur Coates, which gives every member a chance to join the meetings from the comfort of their own homes.

There is a lot of potential using Zoom as we can even have speakers from Cornwall live, albeit at a later time in the afternoon.

The Toronto Cornish Association has certainly led the way using this format but the time is much kinder. Both Ken and I have joined a talk from them but it was at five o'clock on a Saturday morning.

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### Membership Fees

Single: \$40.00  
Family: \$60.00  
Life Single: \$400.00  
Life Family: \$600.00



**Saturday 19th August 2023 at 5.00 pm - Zoom**

**Meeting** - our speaker will be John Gamblin whose talk is titled, "The Pull of Penzance"  John shifted to Penzance about six years ago after a busy working life in Information and Communication Technology. The last 25 years were spent in Senior Management roles managing large IT projects in BT, Saudi Telecommunications and the NHS in Wales.

John takes a keen interest in cycling, art and travelling. He has three children and four grandchildren. John has completed many endurance events including two London Marathons in support of the Phylis Holman Adoption Society and cycling around Cuba to raise funds for Guide Dogs UK.

John is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts.

Zoom details:

Join Zoom Meeting  
[https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86292960723?](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86292960723?pwd=UWxSc0xlRGRNZmUrMFZxSnJlYXU2dz09)  
[j/86292960723?](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86292960723?pwd=UWxSc0xlRGRNZmUrMFZxSnJlYXU2dz09)  
[pwd=UWxSc0xlRGRNZmUrMFZxSnJlYXU2dz09](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86292960723?pwd=UWxSc0xlRGRNZmUrMFZxSnJlYXU2dz09)  
Meeting ID: 862 9296 0723  
Passcode: 624038

Please join about 5 minutes beforehand.

If you have trouble connecting on the day, please phone Robyn Coates - 0419 551 320

**Saturday 16th September 2023 - 1.30 pm** - this will be a zoom meeting.

Speaker to be advised

**Wednesday 18th October 2023**  
Official launch of the CAV Library at Castlemaine Historical Society (CHS),

7 Goldsmith Crescent, Castlemaine (Former Court House) - see notice on page 7.

**Saturday 21st October 2023 - 1.30 pm**

Brian Rollason will speak about his holiday in Cornwall during August/September.

This will be an in-person meeting as well as on Zoom. Venue - Darebin NW Uniting Church, 399A Murray Road, West Preston. BYO lunch at 12 noon.

### 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](mailto:ejo65074@bigpond.net.au)

### CAV NEWSLETTER

The CAV Newsletter is published in February, May, August & November and distributed via email and in some cases by mail.

Deadline for contributions for the next issue:

**Saturday 21st October 2023**

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](mailto:robyncoates@hotmail.com)

Please mark - Article for CAV Newsletter.

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

We have also, at the kind invitation of Robyn Coates, had some open meetings at the Darebin North West Uniting Church, in West Preston. At our first visit, we were warmly welcomed by a Cake decorating class and their leader gave us an unbelievable cake decorated in Cornish colours and containing a figure of a bard and a Cornish person. What a welcome!

We will continue to meet on Zoom but will also have some open meetings with a speaker, at the Uniting Church.

We have already had several meetings at the Church and certainly there has been an increase in numbers including four new members.

We have had wonderful lunches of pasties from Marcus Curnow followed by scones and cream and hevva cake.

There was enough left over to end the meetings with afternoon tea.

I particularly want to welcome Judy Wright and her husband, Stephen, to our Association.

Judy is the present President of the New Zealand Cornish Association and has moved to Melbourne because of her Stephen's job.

She is originally from Hayle and they will be a great asset to our group.

Thanks to Helen Morgan who has taken on the role of organising the very interesting talks for the Association.

It is not an easy task to organise interesting speakers and she has done a wonderful job.

Helen gave a talk on the Blewetts of Penzance and also showed buildings in Melbourne which have Cornish Associations.

There were talks from Neil Thomas about his own ancestor, James Martin, from South Australia. Neil wanted to give his talk to a live audience and he turned up resplendent in his Cornish kilt and associated clothes.

Ken Peak shared information about his great, great grand uncle, William James Peak (Bill) from Drayton, near Toowoomba, in Queensland, including his involvement in the local council.

Dr Lesley Trotter, from Cornwall presented on Zoom, live from Cornwall, and shared stories from her book *The Married Widows of Cornwall: The Story of the Wives Left Behind by Emigration*.

Other speakers were Robyn Coates on her visit to the Isles of Scilly with slides; Dr Charlotte Mackenzie on her talk "Cornish healthcare in Georgian Cornwall"; Dr Stephen Morey with his talk on "Rotten boroughs of Cornwall" which

recalled the political systems of England and Michelle Scott Tucker, a talk on the story of Elizabeth Macarthur who came from a Cornish background.

These talks were certainly very entertaining and makes us relish the knowledge we have a Cornish heritage.

I certainly enjoyed my two invitations to the Ballarat Branch.

The St Piran's Day celebration was held at the Skipton Street Church followed by lunch at the Buninyong Grand Pub and then a guided tour of the areas associated with the Cornish settlers.

The second was to its AGM where I helped with their election of Office Bearers and gave an illustrated talk on "Pendennis and St Mawes Castles" followed by a very scrumptious afternoon tea of scones and cake.

The Kernewek Lowender (KL) was held this year and a number of our members attended and took part in some of the activities.

Ken Peak gave a talk on William Peak and Neil Thomas spoke on James Martin.

Well done Ken and Neil.

There was also a gathering of the Bards and we were represented by Leanne and Rob Lloyd, Neil Thomas, Robyn Coates and Ken Peak.

I believe from all the information received, the Cornish Association of Victoria was well represented at KL and thanks to all those members who went and showcased our Association.

One of the highlights of the year was our Christmas function.

Again, we broke from tradition and decided that we needed a central area which allowed people to come from all over Melbourne and meet in the city.

The venue chosen was Young and Jacksons at the corner of Flinders and Swanston Streets.

We had a large room to ourselves; the food was excellent and you could not wish for better company.

We had such a good time that we have booked the venue again for our Christmas function.

(Further information will be in the newsletter.)

I am pleased to report that although we have lost members, through death and moving out of Melbourne for retirement, we are gaining some new members and more people are coming to our open meetings as well as being on Zoom.

At our AGM we are having a “show and tell” segment so I will thank those members who will show off some of their Cornish treasures and memories

This augurs well for the continuation of our Association as I know that many associations and clubs are very much in decline.

Many thanks to those members who attended the Melbourne Highland Games and Celtic Festival at Eastfield Park in Croydon, in March, and showed that we are still a strong and vibrant part of the Celtic peoples.

We will be attending next year and hope to come up with some ideas for our stall.

Also, thanks to members of the Geelong Branch who yet again braved the cold weather to attend the Portarlington Highland festival.

There were a number of enquiries about the Association and membership forms were distributed.

Finally, I have a number of people to thank. for guiding me through my first year as your President. To Ken for all the magnificent work he did as our President and now as our Secretary. He always seems to be on top of the job and always faces any problems with a very optimistic outlook. I'd like to thank him for all his support and words of wisdom.

For Robyn and Arthur who seem to be able to run so many aspects of the Association that I often wonder where they get the time and do they have any leisure time. For the Newsletter, the management of the membership, the operation of our CAV, the editing and production of Agan Kernow.

To Evelyn Jones, our Welfare Officer, who ensures that messages are sent on all occasions.

To Helen Morgan for arranging our speakers and Christmas luncheon booking and to Max Proctor for taking on the role as Treasurer.

I would also like to thank the Committee members for their support and their positive input at our meetings.

I look forward to my second year as your President and hope that we can provide a stimulating and interesting year for all members of the Cornish Association of Cornwall.

Oll an gwella,

Brian Rollason

## **CAV Ballarat Branch – Chairman’s Report 2023**

COVID is officially over and we are still here.

That is good news! The effects of this pandemic and the attempts to control it have still got a way to go.

We as a group have to operate in a more than usually fluid social environment.

As do similar groups. Change presents challenges and opportunities, we need to meet the one with wisdom and courage and to recognise and respond to the opportunities that arise.

I ask you to consider what you get from our association and what others may also find of value. We certainly need to consider the future, especially with regard to people.

Good programmes, great speakers, and good fellowship need people to come to them.

John Mildren has spoken of this to us a number of times and I think we need to become deliberate in our efforts to grow or we will certainly slowly die out.

Effort goes into our programmes; I think our St Piran’s Day event was really good and I thank Robyn, Bev, and Jim especially.

We don’t put as much work into Publicity. I think we need to attend to this.

A third and unmeasurable dimension is personal invitation, to consider inviting people who may prove to share our interests.

I hope you have enjoyed our association as much as I have and I thank you for the privilege of office. Especially I thank the committee members for their service.

Keith Lanyon  
Chair

## **Annual Report of the Geelong Branch of the CAV 2022 – 2023**

It is with pleasure that once again I present this annual report as Chairman of the Geelong Branch of the CAV.

Our small group continues to enjoy each other’s company with our meetings having a happy and friendly atmosphere.

After a break because of COVID restrictions our branch participated in the National Celtic Festival held at Portarlington over the Queen’s Birthday long weekend in June. We had a good number of branch volunteers and a number from Melbourne, a pleasant time of fellowship was enjoyed among the members

as we operated our stall in a marquee. As always, interesting conversations were entered into. We are again appreciative of Nola Thomas for the use of her garage to store the equipment and Bill Martin for the use of his van to carry our display equipment to and from the venue.

For the November meeting eleven of our members attended a luncheon at the Clifton Springs Golf Club. A very pleasant day of fellowship was had.

At about that time, Ruth Eddy-Forster died. Ruth was a long serving member of the branch, condolences were passed on to her daughters from the branch. Ruth had left to the branch several boxes of Cornish memorabilia which were labelled "for my Cornish friends".

For our March meeting this year once again we had a luncheon at the Clifton Springs Golf Club. Following the meal we sat outside and conducted our meeting on a lovely sunny day. The meeting included the singing of Trelawny, much to the amusement of guests sitting nearby. Members brought along and spoke about items of Cornish memorabilia in their possession. As it was our Branch's 30th anniversary, member, Liz Kraus, brought along a cake to celebrate the occasion. We sang Happy Birthday to ourselves.

Following a photo of a lady cricketer proudly displaying a St Piran's flag in the Geelong newspaper, contact was made with her. Her name is Caitlin Burnett. Caitlin had been out here from Cornwall for the summer season playing for a Geelong club. Caitlin played a major role in that club winning the grand final. A group of our members attended an afternoon tea with Caitlin before she returned to Cornwall.

For our branch to operate in a successful manner I would like to express my appreciation of all members and especially Ruth Taylor for her work as Secretary, Bill Martin as Treasurer and Nola Thomas for her work as Meeting Hostess.

Neil Thomas.  
Geelong Branch Chairman.

## Recent happenings

In May, we welcomed historian Dr Lesley Trotter, presenting live from Cornwall – a first for the Association!

Lesley shared stories from her book *The Married Widows of Cornwall: The Story of the Wives 'Left Behind' by Emigration*, focusing on two women whose husbands emigrated to Australia to work in mining – Sophia Paynter and Mary Ann Dower. What struck me was that the detailed information we have on these women's lives comes not from them but from the letters their husbands wrote to them, which they and their descendants preserved. The husbands never seemed to keep their wives' letters!

The Paynter correspondence is held by the Cornwall Records Office and the Dower correspondence is part of the John Tregenza papers held at the University of Adelaide.

CAV member Ken Peak spoke at the June meeting, which was held both in person and via Zoom. Ken explored the life of his great great-grandfather's brother William James (Bill) Peak, in a presentation titled 'The Grand Old Man of Drayton', Drayton being a rural town near Toowoomba in Queensland. Ken situated Bill's life within the political context of the times as a Drayton Councillor amid the intriguing incidents of the 'Drayton Difficulty' and the 'Drayton Deviation'.

Bill was an elected council member for a record 52 years.

What struck me again was the wonderful treasure of Bill's 1897 diary of his big trip back to Cornwall being preserved by his family, and Ken's exploration of interpreting source material like this – what bits are 'correct' and what does it matter?

In contrast to the fate of Sophia Paynter's and Mary Ann Dower's correspondence, Bill's wife Jane's diaries were preserved and eventually donated to the National Library of Australia – a reminder of what riches lie awaiting discovery in the archives.

Thanks once again to our speakers for taking the time to prepare presentations and share them with us.

We are always on the lookout for interesting speakers who can present on Cornwall and things, places and people Cornish, including stories of the Cornish in Victoria and Australia. If you have something you'd like to present, or can recommend a speaker, please get in touch with CAV committee member Helen Morgan at [helen@helenmorgan.net](mailto:helen@helenmorgan.net) or 0401 873 385.

Helen Morgan

## Consolidated Financial Statement - Year ended 30 April 2023

	CAV Melbourne	CAV Ballarat Branch	CAV Geelong Branch	Total CAV
	\$	\$	\$	\$
<b>Balance - 1 May 2022</b>	<b>20,496</b>	<b>4128</b>	<b>3986</b>	<b>28610</b>
<b><u>Receipts</u></b>				
Subscriptions- members	3,712	120	480	4312
Meetings collections	150	185	42	377
Interest on Term deposit	67			67
Donations-	345	210	155	710
Book Sales	493	126		619
Newsletter Subscriptions		30		30
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>4 767</b>	<b>671</b>	<b>677</b>	<b>6,115</b>
<b><u>Payments</u></b>				
Rental of premises	800	300	120	1220
Newsletter printing and postage	722			722
Catering	55		203	258
Payments for speakers	310			310
Office supplies, equipment etc	29			29
Zoom licence	231			231
I.T. Domain	208			208
RHSV affiliation and insurance	803			803
Registration with Consumer Affairs	61			61
Cleanup Oakleigh premises	705			705
Book publishing	590			590
Books for promotion	100			100
Miscellaneous admin. Expenditure	50			50
CAV share of subscriptions received			192	192
Gifts/flowers		60		60
<b>Total Payments</b>	<b>4664</b>	<b>360</b>	<b>515</b>	<b>5539</b>
Net receipts/(payments)	103	311	162	566
<b>Closing Balance 30 April 2023</b>	<b>20,599</b>	<b>4439</b>	<b>4148</b>	<b>28186</b>
Rounding adjustment	1	-1	1	1
<b>Bank and cash balances</b>		<b>5</b>		
Westpac-term deposit	12,672			12,672
Westpac/CBA/Bendigo Bank	7,928	4,438	4149	16,515
	<b>20,600</b>	<b>4,438</b>	<b>4149</b>	<b>28187</b>

## **Holyer an Gof Awards 2023 - Short Listing for Agan Kernow**

The annual *Holyer an Gof* Awards scheme was launched, in 1996, and is named in memory of Redruth publisher and Cornish Bard Leonard Truran, whose Bardic name was *Holyer an Gof – Follow of the Smith* (Michael an Gof led the 1497 Cornish rebellion).

A team of forty reader-reviewers read and assessed about eighty books about Cornwall, set in Cornwall or in Kernewek, the Cornish language.

*Agan Kernow* was recently shortlisted in the Non-Fiction for Adults - Class 5a: Social, cultural and political history.

The various *Holyer an Gof* class winners were announced on Sunday 16th July, at Kresen Kernow.

Books in Class 5a were:

- A Murderous Midsummer* by Professor Mark Stoye published by Yale University Press London
- A Time to Build* by Michael Warner published by Scryfa
- Agan Kernow* by Ken Peak published by the Cornish Association of Victoria
- Illuminating our Lantern Crosses: A Catalogue of late medieval Cornish Lantern Crosses and related stone sculpture* by Andrew G. Langdon and Ann Preston-Jones published by Andrew Langdon
- Vaccination Wars* by Ella Stewart-Peters published by University of Exeter Press
- The Cornish Buildings Group: First 50 Years* by Paul Holden, John Stengelhofen, Joanna Mattingly and Patrick Newberry published by The Cornish Buildings Group.

The book adjudged the winner in this class was *A Murderous Midsummer*.

Dr Kate Neale, seen here at the awards ceremony, with Class 5a co-ordinator Linda Beskeen, accepted our certificate.



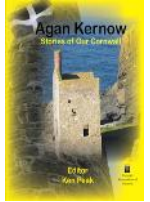
Photos:

<https://gorsedhkernow.org.uk/holyer-an-gof-awards-ceremony-at-kresen-kernow-july-15th-2023/>



## **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 Australian plus the appropriate postage. Overseas posting can be arranged - speak with Robyn Coates to arrange postage.

Brian Rollason, Ken Peak and Robyn Coates have copies for sale. Their contact details are on page 2.

## **Castlemaine CAV Library Launch - Wednesday 18th October**

7 Goldsmith Cres, Castlemaine Vic 3450 (Former Court House)

People are asked to arrive by 10.30 am when morning tea will be held.

CAV members are asked to bring something to share for morning/afternoon tea.

At 11.00 am, it is anticipated that there will be a driving tour of historical places/sites of Castlemaine and environs.

We will travel by car, in convoy, to a place/site and then a guide from Castlemaine Historical Society will detail the historical significance of the spot and then we will travel to the next place.

A pasty lunch will occur at about 1.15 pm after which the official opening will take place.

Cost for lunch \$15.00.

Following the official opening, afternoon tea will be served.

Castlemaine is on Bendigo Vline with trains leaving Southern Cross about every hour. If driving to Castlemaine is not an option for you, talk with Ken and someone may be able to collect you from the Castlemaine station.

Order your pasties through Ken Peak by 9th October 2023 ([pkicons29@bigpond.com](mailto:pkicons29@bigpond.com))

## **Christmas Function - 9th December**

We are keen to hold the function again at Young and Jackson's, corner of Swanston and Flinders Streets, in the city, due to its location and the wonderful meal we had last year. The price for the meal is \$60 for two courses, bread and tea/coffee. The minimum spend per person will be around \$70, as we have a minimum spend for hiring the room. Per person this means buying one or two drinks at bar prices in addition to the \$60 cost for the food. If you are interested, please email Helen Morgan [helen@helenmorgan.net](mailto:helen@helenmorgan.net) or phone 0401 873 385 so we can confirm a booking.

We need 30 people.

## Golden Embers

Following our trip to Kernewek Lowender in May this year, and after meeting Lillian James at the Bardic Ceremony, I re-read my copy of Lillian's 2019 book: *'Golden Embers: A Childhood Memoir of East Moonta'*.



The first chapter is full of poignant memories, especially her first memories at four years of age of swinging on a wooden gate on the side of her house chanting: *"Bring some lollies home for me"* over and over.

Her sadness and despair were caused by the death of her father, in 1931, from nephritis aged just 38. He would come home from work and would always have a lolly for Lillian in his pocket. Lillian looks back with pride and amazement at her mother's: *"...fortitude and resilience during those very difficult times."*

Well into her 90s today, Lillian is a kindly spoken and friendly woman, and I couldn't help but be impressed by the way she helped organise the Bards into some semblance of order at the rehearsal the day before the Bardic Ceremony. Before her appropriate intervention, the rehearsal was like herding cats.

Lillian is a Bard of the Gorsedh Kernow and a stalwart of the Cornish Association of South Australia. (Ula Ruthvelen - Tawny Owl). She still teaches the basics of the Cornish Language at Kernewek Lowender.

Lillian's grandfather was William Daw from St Mellion, in Cornwall, who came to Australia and worked in the mines at Moonta in 1862. As a result, Lillian has such a passion for all things Cornish and her story, in our book, *'Agan Kernow'*, of her trip to Cornwall in the 1980s, epitomised that passion.

However, *'Golden Embers'* is more than just a trip down memory lane. It's like flying on a magic carpet back in time and witnessing life in East Moonta, South Australia in the 1930s.

According to Lillian she wanted to: *"...revive those years with glimpses into its past as I remember the golden days of my youth spent in the area."*

I remember Penny McGuire-White speaking to us about growing up in Penzance during WW2. I remember thinking that this was part of an oral history that should not be lost and resulted in our book: *'Agan Kernow'*.

*'Golden Embers'* is another set of oral history stories now in writing that will not be lost to our collective consciousness.

I lent the book to my father-in-law, who was the same age as Lillian, and he recalled quite similar memories of life growing up back then.

But those recollections that related to her Cornish heritage add to our Cornish collective consciousness; or what we call *'Cornishness'*.

Lillian went to the Moonta Mines School, first established in 1877, with 667 students. Many of the students had a Cornish heritage.

After a time, a *'minchy'* man was appointed to follow up any students who were regular truants; *'minchy'* based on the Cornish word for truancy.

Most miners began work as *'pickey'* boys on the surface of the mine at about 11 or 12 years of age before they went underground. However, most mine managers required them to read and write hence the importance of the school at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

At school Lillian recalls the games played in yesteryear. These included *'Three Little Pigs'* and *'Blackie up the Chimney'* focussed on the story of a wolf. In addition to *'Tiggy'* and *'Hidey'* they played *'Twos and Threes'*, *'The Farmer in the Dell'*, and *'Three Billy Goats Gruff'*.

Girls' games of skipping ropes included *'All in Together'* and *'Rock the Cradle'*, *'Alphabets'* and *'Here comes the Postman'*.

*'Knuckle Bones'* and *'Hopscotch'* were also favourites, as was *'Red Rover all over'*.

Lillian outlined all the games in detail that she and the boys played in the yard.

As she grew older Lillian played many games at home.

A favourite was the card game, *'Big Kasata, little Kasata'* which was handed down from her Cornish grandmother.

She also remembered *'Bonfire Night'*, on Mid-Summer Eve as well as *'Maypole dancing'* following



the Cornish custom.

Remedies were handed down from her Cornish grandmother.

Ear ache was treated by pouring warm olive oil in to the ear and cough medicine was a drop of eucalyptus oil put onto a teaspoon of sugar.

Butter balls were made for a sore throat and vinegar was rubbed into sunburn.

Vinegar on brown paper was used to cure headaches, and for nose bleeds, a key was placed into the clothing at the back.

Lillian recalls that even though there were few shops in Moonta, most things like groceries, meat and bread were all home delivered.

She describes her family's small Cornish cottage and the great joy from their first electric fridge in the 1950s.

Ironing was done with a flat iron that was kept on top of the stove and clothes were washed using a copper in the wash house.

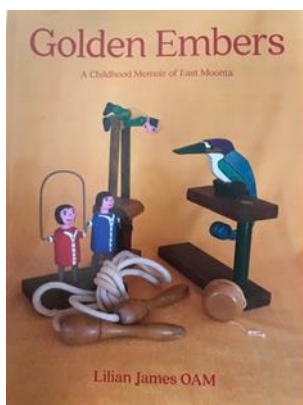
The chapter of recipes includes Cornish pasties (of course) and she describes the legend of the 'piskies' (or 'knockers'), who would be given the crimped end of a pasty down in the mine. 'Thunder and Lightning' was bread, golden syrup and cream; a recipe that came from Illogan in Cornwall.

Sayings like: "You'd think she'd been pulled through a gorse bush backwards" (messed up hair), and, "You haven't got your eye in" (can't see straight) were regular sayings of her Cornish grandmother.

I believe that Lillian has achieved her wish to: "bring to life those golden embers" and I enjoyed the brief glimpse into the past through her story.

They are a legacy to cherish and nurture.

Ken Peak  
July 2023



**Vale - Keith Mallalieu Stodden**  
29-08-1931 to 14-06-2023



Keith was born at Epworth Private Hospital to Ada Isabel (nee Mallalieu) and William Albert Stodden.

His mother had been a school teacher before her marriage and his father was an accountant at the time of his birth.

Keith had one sister and one brother.

His maternal grandfather was a Methodist Minister (Rev. Paul Mallalieu) and Keith grew up in the Methodist church attending church in the morning and evening and Sunday School in the afternoon.

Keith's Cornish ancestry came through his great grandparents - Richard Stodden and Ann Platt whose marriage is recorded at Gwennap in 1853.

Keith joined the CAV in April 1989 and was awarded Complimentary Life Membership in 2021, on turning 90.

In 1952, Keith graduated with a BA with Honours (French and German) from the University of Melbourne and was fluent in both languages. Whilst at school, he worked part time for the Immigration department and this continued when he was at University and later as full time work.

Keith married in 1962, Alison Hull, and they lived in Elsternwick where he joined St John's church which was to be his life long church and where he was a wonderful worker.

In 1997, Keith featured in an SBS program, *Tales from a Suitcase*, detailing his work of processing immigrants coming to Australia.

Keith worked for over 50 years with the immigration department. Part of his work involved travelling from Fremantle to the east coast of Australia, on ten occasions between 1957 and 1960.

In recent years he had been cared for by Glenn Bray, whom he married in March 2018, before transferring to Graceland Manor, in Elsternwick.

Keith's Service can be viewed here.

<https://view.oneroomstreaming.com/index.php?data=MTY4NzAyNDEyMTI1NzEwMCZvbmVyb29tLWFkbWlujmNvcHlfbGluaw==>

Researched from sources found at TROVE, Victorian BDM, Cornwall OPC and from his Thanksgiving Service.

## Cornwall's Greatest Mining Disaster

by Peter Gardner

On the 9 July 1846, a local thunderstorm formed over the East Wheal Rose mine workings between Newlyn and Mitchell\*.

A 'tremendous' downpour continued for an hour and half and the works were soon flooded. Set in a natural amphitheatre, the water "poured off the hills in broad deep waves" and descended the shafts in 'torrents'.

Attempts to divert the water away from the underground workings were unsuccessful and there were 200 men underground at the time.

HL Douch in his East Wheal Rose (D. Bradford Barton Ltd. Truro 1979)\*\* wrote:

*"News of the great storm was not long in spreading and soon rumour reached Newlyn Churchtown and the neighbourhood of a disaster at the mine... Wives and children, friends and relations made their frantic headlong way to the count-house..."*

The scene they came across was chaotic – the ground thickly covered with slime from the dumps, timber and machinery scattered about and "the two 70 inch engines and all the hauling gear were put to work raising men from below."

There were tales of heroism and a lucky escape, "one of the timber men, Samuel Bastion, at surface at the time, went down a ladder way in Michell's shaft and lay across a manhole to divert the course of the water, thus saving eighteen lives."

The men came up against the weight of the water "clinging desperately to the kibbles and chains 'like a string of onions'".

There were 38 fatalities.

The casualty list was as follows:

from St. Allen# – William Hosking, William Jeffrey, Francis and William Lampshire, Josiah and Reuben Lanyon, John Rowe and John Stevens;

from St Newlyn East – James Clift, William Eastlake, Silas Ellery, William Kevern, William Pearce and son Francis, Henry Rowe, Richard Tippet, Francis Waters and Samuel Wherry;

from Perranzabuloe – John Bennetts, James Coade, Samuel May, Luke Phillips, James Pollard and Francis Stevens;

Martin and Thomas Bice, and Richard Michell from Kenwyn,

Isaac Bartle and Matthew Wilkins from St Agnes, John Bailey from Chacewater,

Thomas Bishop of Zelah, James Clarke of Mitchell, Simon Merrifield from St Enoder, William Pengelly from Redruth Highway, John Tonkin of Blackwater, George Trebilcock of Perranporth, Peter White of Breage and William Williams from Lelant, In the North Wheal Rose - then worked independently, Frederick Sanders probably from Newlyn was a casualty.

A number of miners gave evidence at the Coroner's Inquest, including Captain Middleton, and a subscription for the relief of the miner's wives and families raised £1,718 14s 11p mostly contributed to by the mine adventurers.

Whilst the lower levels of the mine were flooded and there was much damage, the mine was back in full production by November.

The following year almost matched the record production of 6,885 tons of 1845 but thereafter there was a continual annual decline in production. By 1852 annual production was estimated at 1500 tons and the mine closed in 1857 – a decline coinciding with gold discovery and boom in Australia.

### Notes

\*the mine was located near the former rotten borough of Mitchell recently highlighted in a CAV lecture by Stephen Morey

\*\*quotes and information almost entirely from this source

#home locations of fatalities:

Newlyn (also known as Newlyn Churchtown and on maps as Newlyn East or St Newlyn East) was the nearest town to mine about 2 km distant;

St. Allen 10km ;

Perranzabuloe 12km;

most of these casualties came from an area within 12 km of the mine although there were exceptions from Breage west of Helston and Lelant near St Ives.

## RE-DISCOVERING CORNWALL #1

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.

Seven posted articles follow here and may be enjoyed by continuing to scroll down.

### The Dramatic Departure

We had expressed interest in a short-term appointment in England and when an urgent need had arisen overseas, we were ready to move on from our current Settlement.

With a few weeks to re-organize, store our goods/belongings, and to sever our ties, we grabbed and filled just two suitcases.

We realized that we could end up being sent anywhere in the United Kingdom, but we were ready for a change.

The drama of our fast-tracked re-location and posting began with a week of orientation sponsored by the UK Methodist Church near London.

We had only travelled overseas once before so we were on a sharp learning curve.

After the transit drama and panic of losing, then re-claiming one of our two suitcases, three aspects impressed themselves upon us.

1. Our overall security could not be grounded in our luggage or in 'things'.
2. 'Jehovah Jira' would need to be our primary provider in a new land.
3. The warmth/generosity of the people of God soon confirmed that the universal Church was indeed our true extended family.

Situated on St Ives Bay in West Penwith, an area of Cornwall known for its outstanding natural beauty, sat the old industrial town of Hayle.

The miracle was that we were finally sent to Hayle, a circuit just 6 miles from the last home place of my Curnow ancestors.

What was more remarkable was that on my family tree, I actually had an existing living relative, a sixth cousin, living in Hayle.

(Much later, during our stay and after an overnight bed and breakfast stay in Garris on the Lizard, I discovered another fifth cousin, Mr James (Jim) Sydney Curnow, with family roots to an even earlier relative, a Mr Nicholas Curnow).

There were two local welcomes.

The first was organized and well planned.

The Methodist Church officially installed me to minister to the families of the Hayle Congregation. We were warmly welcomed but told in the abrupt Cornish way that we had a Cornish name, but with our accent we were certainly not "one of we".

A second completely unplanned, spontaneous welcome to Cornwall was organized by the local Curnow clan.

They arranged for a car to wait at the chapel, and at the conclusion of my formal Induction we were whisked off, to the Marazion Yacht Club, to meet other friends and people bearing the Curnow name from the Lizard, USA and Marazion.

### Significance of Kernow/Curnow.

I was amazed at the response that my surname provoked. We were clearly welcomed as one of the 'Cornish Diaspora'.

I found to my fascination that the history of my Curnow name and roots intensified with what I detected to be a genuine warmth that claimed me to be an authentic son of the homeland.

This familiar link of my surname name to the place of my family origin never ceased to surprise me. Although an Aussie, I really was "one of we,"—a son of Cornwall.

Two exciting frenetic years in Cornwall would be divided into three areas that will be reflected in these following brief notes.

1. In Circuit ministry, I had a public and pastoral role with obligations to people and the Methodist Church.
2. While we had not anticipated it, we discovered we constantly needed to offer hospitality to visitors and overseas friends. This involved finding time to socialise and to share our Cornish discoveries with friends in-between my Circuit work.
3. We were keen to participate in the Cornish way of life and festivities, to discover a new culture and explore a new and ancient landscape.

As an itinerant minister, I had always regarded the place of my birth, at Salisbury in South Australia, as my home, but I was about to discover an authentic second home on the other side of the world, the birthplace and roots of my ancestors.

## Family Origins.

Between 1841 and 1901 more than a quarter of a million people left Cornwall - a period that saw the country lose around a fifth of its male population.

“Hell Fire Corner” was a drama performed in the Hall of Cornwall at the time of the “Dehwelans” in 2004.

Dehwelans is a Cornish word for ‘Homecoming’. The ‘Homecoming’ attracted hundreds of people from all over the world, including many local people too.

The staged production depicted the struggles of Cornish families during the period of the closing of the Cornish mines and mass migration.

The after-show event we attended enabled the cast to publicly share the history and stories of their own friends and relatives who, during that period, re-located in countries across the world.

Attending and listening to those stories, I was deeply moved as I realised my own forebears were caught up in that very same period of change. I felt a strong connection and oneness with my Cornish cousins.

Their stories depicted the story of struggle and that of my very own Cornish ancestors.

(to be continued)



## **From Cornwall to Melbourne**

David Harland appointed Director and Chief Executive of Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria

David Harland will take up the role of Director and Chief Executive of Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria, following the retirement of Professor Tim Entwisle in August.

A highly regarded leader in the global biodiversity sector, David has held several executive roles at the internationally renowned Eden Project, a leading visitor attraction and botanic garden located in Cornwall, in the United Kingdom, which comprises two largescale biomes, an outdoor garden and integrated educational programs.

He was CEO of the Eden Project during the pandemic 2020-2022 period, overseeing a major reorganisation of the operational, educational and commercial aspects of the business, and as CEO of Eden Project International, has led Eden’s expansion through multiple projects and iterations across the UK and the world.



He was born and raised in St Austell, Cornwall, five kilometres from the Eden Project.

<https://www.rbg.vic.gov.au/news-and-stories/david-harland-announcement/>

## **Heritage Standards for the Burra, Mintaro and Moonta Mines State Heritage Areas**

[https://yoursay.sa.gov.au/heritage-standards-burra-mintaro-moonta-mines?fbclid=IwAR2wZUTj3Ci\\_Q4APXqre-R6ej0YJpkse4f6gDilegS8HAg-ulnhnOdDlm2k](https://yoursay.sa.gov.au/heritage-standards-burra-mintaro-moonta-mines?fbclid=IwAR2wZUTj3Ci_Q4APXqre-R6ej0YJpkse4f6gDilegS8HAg-ulnhnOdDlm2k)

### **What's being decided?**

The draft Heritage Standards for the Burra, Mintaro and Moonta Mines State Heritage Areas are now open for public consultation.

The Heritage Standards will affect how development is undertaken in the Burra, Mintaro and Moonta Mines State Heritage Areas. Owners, community groups and others with an interest in the State Heritage Areas are invited to provide feedback.

### **Background**

\*Burra State Heritage Area is one of Australia’s earliest, largest and best-preserved 19th century mining towns and was declared a State Heritage Area on 28 January 1993.

\*Mintaro State Heritage Area is a rare example of a well-preserved colonial town; its overwhelming character is that of a small mid 19th century rural town. Mintaro was declared a State Heritage Area on 20 September 1984.

\*Moonta Mines State Heritage Area contains one of South Australia’s most important collections of 19th century mining structures and relics and was declared a State Heritage Area on 10 May 1984.

Heritage South Australia is in the process of writing Heritage Standards for all South Australian State Heritage Areas to make sure they are fit for purpose, consistent with the Planning and Design Code and reflect the Statement of Heritage Significance for each State Heritage Area.

Have your say by:

- completing the online survey - <https://yoursay.sa.gov.au/embeds/projects/87116/survey-tools/95777>
- emailing a submission to [DEW.StateHeritageDA@sa.gov.au](mailto:DEW.StateHeritageDA@sa.gov.au)
- posting a written submission to: Department for Environment and Water Heritage South Australia GPO Box 1047 ADELAIDE SA 5001.

## **Bernard Deacon's writings**

I enjoy reading Bernard Deacon's articles and have printed a few in the newsletter.

I first read about 'The Cornish Victorian Lives Project' some years ago where he decided he would look at the children who were eleven years of age in the 1861 census and try to track where they were living, where they had travelled to or whether they had died by the 1891 census. He decided that trying to track all of these children would take too long, so settled on tracking 50% which still left over 4000.

The basic data collection was completed just before the pandemic hit and he is now entering it into a database alphabetically by parish.

I include a record about an author (Silas Kitto Hocking born 24th March 1850) from St Stephen in Brannel - St Stephen village is 6.5 km west of St Austell, on the southern edge of Cornwall's china clay district.

## **St Stephen in Brannel: a million-selling author**

In earlier times, inland parishes such as St Stephen in Brannel in mid-Cornwall were places where the fiercely independent tinner-farmers of Cornwall flourished.

This class had energetically enclosed the downs, carved out their smallholdings and built their cottages.

However, from the early nineteenth century their way of life was being progressively undermined by the expansion of more capitalised mining concerns as well as commercial farming, which competed for the land.

In St Stephen, the burgeoning clay works in the eastern part of the parish brought with them greater dependence on wage labour as well as physical obliteration of the former smallholdings. However, in the lower part of the parish, the old ways clung on and families could still be found who combined mine work with small-scale farming.

In the hamlet of Terras, one of these was the household of James and Eliza Hocking and their seven children.

The bald census entries in 1851 and 1861 merely enumerated James as a 'miner'.

But in addition to mining, where he advanced to become a mine captain, he had built his cottage, cleared away the gorse and rocks and planted an

orchard.

When the lease on his holding expired James moved a few hundred yards south and started over again.

Here he built another cottage and farm buildings and took in land, only to see all his hard work go to waste yet again as the landlord evicted him when his three-life lease ran out.

James and his eldest son spent some time in California in the 1860s.

James soon returned to his smallholding, although his two eldest boys both ended up in North America (along with a quarter of the 25 St Stephen survivors in the database).

While later visiting the US, James's third son Silas, who features in the database, did not emigrate. Instead, he became one of Victorian Britain's most popular novelists, selling over a million copies of his book *Her Benny*, published in 1879.

Coming from a staunchly Bible Christian background, Silas had shown an early aptitude for reading, and not merely religious texts.

His autobiography lists an impressive number of authors read, including Shakespeare, Walter Scott, Dickens, Fennimore Cooper, Goldsmith, Byron and Milton – and all before he was 16.

Although he began training as a mining surveyor, a local Methodist minister persuaded him to become a minister for the United Methodist Free Church, a somewhat more democratic offshoot from Wesleyan Methodism.

Silas then served in circuits around England and Wales – first at Pontypool, then Lincolnshire, followed by Liverpool, Burnley, Manchester and Southport.

After giving up his preaching career in the 1890s, Silas moved with his wife and family to London, where he concentrated on his writing.

His novel *Her Benny* was based on his experiences in inner-city Liverpool. The ten-year old Benny of the title is a waif from the Liverpool slums. His mother dead and father a vicious drunk, Benny and his sickly and frail sister Nelly survive by running errands and making matches. When Nelly dies Benny is distraught and threatens to go off the rails.

But after many disasters offset by fortunate coincidences and help from kindly characters,

Benny succeeds in leading a morally upright life and gets rich, or at least comfortably off, into the bargain.

The novel may well be too full of timely coincidences and chance meetings to be convincing and too explicitly religious for modern tastes. Yet its sentimental sympathy for the poor and rags to riches message was perfect for the respectable Victorian readers who devoured it in their droves.

Silas followed up the success of *Her Benny* with an astonishing output of 100 other published novels before his death in 1935. Even more remarkably his younger brother Joseph also had 100 novels published between 1887 and 1936 while his sister Salome wrote nine published novels.

For more on this talented Cornish family see *Pulp Methodism* (2002) by the late Alan Kent, who himself grew up in the same small district of mid-Cornwall as did the talented Hockings.

<https://bernarddeacon.com/2023/02/01/st-stephen-in-brannel-a-million-selling-author/>

**Silas Kitto Hocking** - in the UK and Ireland, Newspapers.com™ Obituary Index, 1800s-current

### Produced a novel a year

Silas Hocking held a peculiar place in English literature.

In literary circles, many knew no more about him than the title of the most famous of his 50 odd novels, "Her Benny."

But "Her Benny," a children's story of life in the Liverpool slums, which appeared in 1879, long ago reached its millionth sale, and Mr. Hocking estimated that he had made £60,000, out of a public which at one period bought 1000 copies of his books every week.

His first writing was an unsuccessful attempt to win a prize offered by a magazine.

He sold the copyright of "Her Benny" for £20, and its publisher made a fortune out of it.

Thereafter, for 35 years, Mr. Hocking produced a new novel every year.

He went to London and in 1895 resigned his pastorate in order to give himself more fully to the novels that suited so well the simple and rather austere tastes of the people to whom he had ministered.

His career ended only this year with the publication of his reminiscences, "Looking Back."

He had written, he said, over six and a half million words.

In spite of this, Mr. Hocking found time for a good deal of public work.

His attitude to war resembled Mr. Lansbury's, and during the Boer War, he was mistakenly regarded as a pro-Boer and had to be given police protection. Though brought up as a strict Sabbatarian, he had wider views and got into trouble in some quarters for supporting the Sunday opening of cinemas. He was sympathetic to contemporary young authors, but complained that he found it hard to find a well-told story.

"The better the story," he stated, "the better the novel."

His own books continued to mingle the social with the religious appeal, and he summed up his achievement, "I know I have no place among the immortals, but I have found a place in the hearts of millions of my own generation."

*Midland daily Telegraph* - 16 Sep. 1935

### Cornish Death

Rev Silas Hocking, the author, died at his London home yesterday. He was 85.

His death removes from the literary world one of two famous brothers both novelists and Nonconformist ministers, whose output over many year had been extraordinarily prolific

Both Mr Silas and Mr Joseph Hocking found much of the material for their stories, which have enjoyed continued popularity from Victorian time right up to the present day, in their native county of Cornwall. His labours ended this year with the publication in serial form of reminiscences on his youth entitled "Looking Back"

Two years ago, he estimated that he had earned at least £60000 by his writing.

Mr Hocking was born in the picturesque village of St Stephens near St Austell on March 24 1850.

*Herald and Express* - 16 Sep. 1935 - *Torquay Devon*

England & Wales, National Probate Calendar (Index of Wills and Administrations), 1858-1995 for Silas Kitto Hocking

**HOCKING** Silas Kitto of 10 Avenue-road Highgate **Middlesex** died 15 September 1935 Probate **London** 25 November to Esther Mary Hocking widow and Ernest Lloyd Hocking consulting engineer. Effects £19836 4s. 7d.

This link has a photo and further information about Silas Hocking.

<https://www.cornwalllive.com/news/cornwall-news/million-selling-author-silas-hocking-6684883>

## **Wreck found off Cornwall thought to be WW2 storm-hit vessel**

An unexpected wreck found by divers could be one of six Royal Navy vessels that sank in a storm during World War Two, experts have said.

The divers found the wreck off Cornwall in April while searching for another vessel.

During the storm in 1944, six landing craft tanks got into difficulty off the Cornish coast and more than 50 sailors died.

Divers have worked with the University of Plymouth to identify the wreck.

The volunteer diving team - known as Gasperados - found the wreck at a depth of about 330ft (100m) off north Cornwall.

Six landing craft tanks - 480, 488, 491, 494, 7014 and 7015 - were lost at the height of the storm, along with 55 men.

But more than 100 sailors were saved.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-cornwall-66242387>

## **185 new houses in Cornwall to built at Tolgus near Redruth**

A proposal for almost 200 homes to be built in Redruth has been unanimously approved despite a planning committee hearing concerns that it could cause flooding in the area.

The Cornwall Council-led project will see 185 houses built on land at Tolgus alongside a number of commercial buildings.

The homes will be built by council-owned Treveth on two parcels of council-owned land on the edge of Redruth, near the A30.

<https://www.falmouthpacket.co.uk/news/23677197.185-new-houses-cornwall-built-tolgus-near-redruth/?ref=rss>

## **Lithium firms welcome new UK battery factory plans**

Two companies involved in plans to mine lithium in Cornwall have welcomed intentions by Jaguar Land Rover-owner Tata to build its flagship electric car battery factory in the UK.

Tata's new plant in Somerset is expected to create 4,000 UK jobs and thousands more in the wider supply chain.

Imerys British Lithium said the proximity of the new factory to "one of Cornwall's mining heartlands is another big milestone in establishing an industry that will help achieve the government's net zero goals".

Electric vehicles use batteries made up of several hundred individual lithium-ion cells.

It is understood the government is providing subsidies worth hundreds of millions of pounds for the Tata factory.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cv2p80x9nz3o>

## **Co Cars and Co Bikes collapses into administration**

An electric bike and car-sharing social enterprise company supported by hundreds of thousands of pounds of public money has collapsed.

Co Cars and Co Bikes said its car club and e-bike rental service in Devon and Cornwall would stop trading on Friday.

It said a range of issues including fuel prices and vandalism made it "impossible" to remain viable.

Devon County Council has spent more than £300,000 on the electric bike scheme.

The Co Cars company also raised more than £600,000 in a community share offer that ended in July 2020, with more than 300 investors.

The company, founded in 2005, offered "on-demand" e-bike and car rental in Exeter, Truro, Falmouth and Plymouth.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-devon-66196193>

## **Falmouth Rugby Club in Cornwall celebrates 150 years of rugby**

THE Spirit of Falmouth Rugby Club could not be dampened as 160 members spanning generations focused in on the marquee at the Recreation Ground, to come together and celebrate 150 years of continuous Rugby in Falmouth and the surrounding areas.

The Gala Dinners star speaker Gareth Chilcott former Bath, England and British & Irish Lions prop erupted the tent with his quick-fire wit and tales of days of old. While the new guard received their Club colours, and long-serving Jon Baglow was revealed as the 2023-24 Club Captain, along with co-captains Alex Bullock and Finn Deavin.

<https://www.falmouthpacket.co.uk/news/23676575.falmouth-rugby-club-cornwall-celebrates-150-years-rugby/>

## **A30 Cornish hedging rebuilt**

A multi-million pound upgrade to the A30 in Cornwall has taken an "environmental" turn as contractors build animal crossings and Cornish hedges.

Those behind the work said it was being designed with the hope of "leaving a lasting environmental legacy".

As well as animal crossings and the relocation of heathland habitat - eight miles (13km) of traditional Cornish hedging is being built.

In 2022 the building of the walled hedges did not go to plan with the structures beginning to crumble. Members of the Guild of Cornish Hedgers have been on site teaching contractors how to get it right. It is hoped the area will become a wildlife habitat for nesting birds and pollinators. National Highways said 33 animal crossings were being installed on the stretch of road and efforts had been made to relocate half a hectare of heathland. The agency said 150 reptiles had already been rehomed nearby.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/c9r17nw6zp2o>

#### **4 Cornwall beaches included in top 50 list for the UK**

Four Cornwall beaches have been included among the top 50 in the UK according to *The Times* and *Sunday Times*.

In their annual best beaches guide for Britain, Porthcurno, Porthminster, Grebe and Constantine Bay are featured.

It's the first year the guide has been nominated by readers of papers who put forward their favourite beaches for a detailed inspection.

Following that, *The Times's* chief travel writer Chris Haslam then assessed the beaches using a rigorous checklist.

Weymouth was crowned the best overall and the best in the South West of England with Cornwall's beaches featuring in four of that region's spots.

<https://www.falmouthpacket.co.uk/news/23669631.4-cornwall-beaches-included-top-50-list-uk/>

#### **1 in 5 people in England will live with a major illness by 2040**

It's been revealed that an additional 2.5 million people in England will be living with major illnesses by 2040, new research has found.

The study from the Health Foundation found that 9.1 million people in England will be diagnosed with some of the most serious health conditions.

However, researchers also found that the average life expectancy is set to rise to 83.1 years by then.

The experts used health and death records to look carefully at the 20 health conditions that account for 65% of the burden of illness in England.

What major illnesses will an additional 2.5 million people in England have by 2040?

Cases of dementia are expected to rise 45% by 2040, heart failure by 92%, cancer by 31%, diabetes by 49%, chronic pain by 32% and anxiety or depression by 16%.

At the age of 70, people will have an average of three long-term conditions, rising to more than five by the age of 85, researchers said.

They said four-fifths of the jump in major illnesses will be driven by an ageing population, with people living longer meaning they are more likely to encounter – and live with – ill health.

Around 80% (two million people) of the projected increase in major illness will affect those aged 70 and over.

Only one out of 20 conditions listed – coronary heart disease – is expected to drop due to declining smoking rates and the use of medications such as statins.

The study suggested that some gains, such as fewer people smoking and lower cholesterol rates, will be offset by the impact of obesity as many people who have been obese for long periods of their lives then reach old age.

<https://www.falmouthpacket.co.uk/news/national/uk-today/23677253.1-5-people-england-will-live-major-illness-2040/>

#### **Historic Cornish-Welsh collaboration agreement is signed**



A new and historic agreement to strengthen ties between Cornwall and Wales has been signed by Cornwall Council Leader Cllr Linda Taylor and the First Minister of Wales, the Rt Hon Mark Drakeford MS.

It will see representatives of Cornwall Council and the Welsh Government meeting at least four times a year to share best practice and to develop solutions to areas of mutual challenge.

This high-level agreement includes sustainable housing provision, achieving net zero, thriving rural economies and celebrating culture and language as key areas of co-operation.

Cllr Taylor first met with Mr Drakeford in February last year to discuss developing the relationship between the two Celtic 'nations', acknowledging the many areas of common interest shared between them.

Now a formal arrangement, the 'Celtic Heritage – Cornwall-Wales Collaboration Agreement' has been signed to strengthen the bonds already in place. Future meetings will be held virtually to minimise the financial and carbon impact of the arrangement.

<https://www.cornwall.gov.uk/council-news/environment-culture-and-planning/historic-cornish-welsh-collaboration-agreement-is-signed/>