

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Dyth da. Fatla genes?



By the time you read this report the Association will have held its 39th Annual General Meeting, either by person at the Darebin North West Uniting Church or by Zoom.

Since the Covid epidemic there have been many changes to the Association including moving from Oakleigh and having to use Zoom in order to keep in touch with our members.

Unfortunately, our Association has a large number of members in the older age range and our numbers have fallen with only a few new members joining us.

This has been some concern to the Committee and we have spent the last few months discussing what we could do to keep the Association relevant to our changing society.

We have sent out surveys to our members to gauge their concerns regarding venues, speakers and the use of technology.

At the moment our average attendance at our meetings whether at Preston or on Zoom tends to be 25-30 people.

There were discussions on other aspects of Association including the number of meetings and what they should include; our website and the changes we could make to it to give it a more modern look; and is it time to adapt our current logo and other things into a more modern badging?

One of the most interesting of our discussions led to some ideas on doing some "field trips" with walks around areas of Melbourne with associations with Cornwall and include some visits to the Ballarat, Castlemaine and Bendigo areas.

We are calling these ideas a "Rebrand" or "Relaunch" of our Association.

Our wonderful Secretary, Ken Peak, has arranged two such trips - one to Williamstown, to revisit the plaque at the Royal Yacht Club and have lunch and also to have lunch at The Cornish Arms Hotel in Brunswick, where another plaque has been installed by the CAV.

Both these lunches are on a Wednesday to avoid the busy weekends at these venues.

The cost of venues and meals has become fairly expensive and so we will hold our Christmas function at the Darebin North West Uniting Church.

More details for these events will be provided closer to the dates.



CORNISH ASSOCIATION OF VICTORIA, INC.

**NEWSLETTER
No. 150**

August 2024

Corporation Reg. No. A0008264A

CONTENTS

President's Message	pp 1
Notices for Members	p 2
Snippets from Falmouth	pp 3-4
AGM Reports	pp 5-8
Re-discovering Cornwall #5 with Ted Curnow	pp 9-10
Some Festivals celebrated in Cornwall 10-12	pp
Aust. v Cornwall London 1908 Olympics	pp 13-14
Cornish Tidbits	pp 15-16

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Membership Fees

Single: \$40.00

Family: \$60.00

Life Single: \$400.00

Life Family: \$600.00

DIARY DATES

Saturday 17th August at 1.30

pm - Zoom - Brian Rollason will speak about places along the Helford River.

Wednesday 18th September -

Lunch at the Cornish Arms Hotel, 163A Sydney Road Brunswick (The hotel is located between Brunswick Road and Dawson Street)

Jewel Railway Station is about two and a half blocks away.

Jewel is on the Upfield Line and normally trains go from platform 2 at Flinders Street.

The hotel is between tram stops 21 (Barkly Square) and 22 (Glenlyon Road) in Sydney Road on the tram route 19 - North Coburg - from cnr Flinders and Elizabeth Streets.

Saturday 19th October at 1.30

pm - Zoom meeting

Wednesday 13th November -

Lunch at the Royal Yacht Club of Victoria - Re-Visiting the Spirit of Mystery

Saturday 14th December -

12.30 pm - **Christmas Lunch** at Darebin NW UC, 399A Murray Road, West Preston.

We will be asking people to bring a salad or dessert to share.

There is parking behind the church (enter from Murray Road) and also in Murray Road.

A route 11 tram, runs along Gilbert Road from Collins Street and it is just a short walk, a block and a half, from tram stop 43, on the corner of Gilbert and Murray Roads. (cross over the tram lines and walk east).

A Mernda Line train stops at Preston, (from platform 1 at Flinders Street and platform 9 at Southern Cross) and it is about a five-seven minute walk west along Murray Road to the church, past Preston West Primary School.

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 19th October 2024

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

Please include pictures or tables as a separate file.

The email address for the CAV Newsletter -

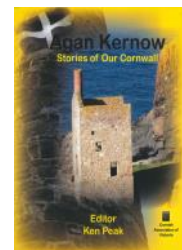
robyncoates@hotmail.com

Please mark - Article for CAV Newsletter.

Agan Kernow

The book is available for purchase by CAV Members, relatives and friends.

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



Pastoral Care

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

Evelyn's details are:

Ph: 0417 160 658

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

Our August meeting will be on Zoom and I will do a slide presentation of the Helford River.

I would like to thank Neil Thomas and the Geelong branch for their organization of the Cornish stand at the Portarlinton National Celtic Festival in June. We may be a small group but we certainly stood tall among those Celts from Scotland, Ireland and Wales and even managed a new member. The Cornish cookbook sold well so thanks to all those contributors and to Ken for the printing. It may have been cold but the sun came out for the festival and everybody enjoyed themselves except that we had to eat "Scottish" Cornish pasties.

My thanks go to all members of the Committee for their input into our discussions and we hope that our program will be of interest to all members and you will be able to attend at least one of our field trips.

Thanks again to Ken for the support Ken has given me over the last six months and I would like to report that I am well on the road to full recovery. Thanks also to Robyn Coates for our Newsletter - it has so many interesting articles some of which I believe are often copied by other newsletters. Also, to Arthur Coates who always seems unflappable when dealing with our technology to ensure that everything goes well. To all our members, please continue to support us and send in your ideas on our Association and spread the word to your families about the great heritage they have in being Cornish.

Oll an gwella,
Brian



SNIPPETS FROM FALMOUTH

THE PACKET SHIPS

In the 1680s, the conflict between England and France meant that communication between England and the Iberian Peninsula and the Mediterranean became difficult.

In order to overcome this, it was suggested that letters for these destinations should be sent by ships called "pacquet boats" on a regular service. Falmouth was chosen as a terminus for this service.

Although it was far from London with poor roads, it had a deep and safe harbour protected by the two castles.

By the 1830s, there were over forty vessels on the packet run sailing to Lisbon, Gibraltar, Malta, Corfu, Bermuda, Leeward and Windward Islands, Mexico, Rio de Janeiro and Buenos Aires. From 1775-1813, Falmouth became a fashionable place because of the numerous passengers going to and returning on the Packet boats. They included many wealthy plantation owners and their families going to plantations in the Caribbean.

Lord Byron even stayed in Falmouth in 1809 before sailing to Lisbon. He sailed on the "Princess Elizabeth" captained by Captain Kidd. He wrote to his friend Francis Hodgson on the 25th June 1809

"The town of Falmouth, as you will partly conjecture, is no great way from the sea. It is defended on the seaside by two castles, extremely well calculated for annoying everybody except an enemy." He also penned a poem on his experiences of the journey called "Lines on Mr Hodgson written on board the Lisbon Packet"

*"Huzza, Hodgson we are going,
Our embargo's off at last."*



Photo:

<https://www.falmouth.co.uk/discover-falmouth/history/packetships/>

FALMOUTH INTERNATIONAL SEA SHANTY FESTIVAL

If you are planning a visit to Cornwall in 2025, during the month of June, a visit to Falmouth between 13th and 15th will be very rewarding.

Falmouth holds an International Sea Shanty Festival, which is free, and takes place in many locations around the town including pubs, restaurants and on the seafront.

This festival is billed as a celebration of all things nautical and coincides with the famous yacht race, the Falmouth Classic.

There are over 80 shanty groups from France, the Netherlands, Spain, Canada and Ireland as well as many from the UK.

In the past, there have been well over 60000 visitors so be warned parking will be diabolical.

As well as all the groups you will be able to feast on Cornish staples such as pasties and saffron cake as well as some wonderful seafood including oysters and crab sandwiches.

THE WRECK OF THE QUEEN 1814

Just after Christmas 1813, the ship the *Queen* under the command of Captain Carr left Lisbon to join a small convoy heading for Portsmouth.

There were over 300 on board including the bulk of a British regiment which had been fighting in the Peninsular War and their families plus ten French prisoners-of-war.

The ship sailed through the Bay of Biscay and experienced severe weather and storms and great relief was had when they saw the coast Cornwall and in particular the entrance to Falmouth harbour.

They anchored in Carrick Roads, in early January 1814, and even though there were reports of a strong easterly wind and unsettled weather, the captain only laid out his port anchor and shortened cable.

The ship lay happily for three days until the afternoon of Thursday 13th January 1814, when she began to drag her anchor.

The watch on duty failed to notify Captain Carr. The starboard anchor had no cable secured to it and while it was being brought up the ship was being rapidly blown towards the shore.

The port anchor gave up the fight to hold the ship and soon there was pandemonium among all the passengers and crew as the ship smashed on Trefusis Point.

Huge waves continued to crash against the ship scattering the passengers and flooding the vessel from stern to stern.

There were attempts to fire the cannons as a distress signal but they were swamped by the waves and unusual, heavy snow began to fall obliterating the ship from the shore.

The captain ordered the masts to be cut down but they caused more chaos as they fell onto the deck and broke more of the ship and crushed passengers.

In less than twenty minutes, the *Queen* was reduced to matchwood.

Some of the troops managed to reach the shore but by daylight the whole horror of the crash revealed itself with scores of bodies washed about in the shallows many entangled in the ship's riggings.

Only 85 soldiers, nine women, one child and four prisoners survived as well as the bosun and a cabin boy.

Some 250 bodies were eventually recovered including those of the captain and crew.

Unfortunately, many of the bodies had been looted by the soldiers of which a number were eventually court-martialled for robbing the corpses.

Post script

There are two memorials in Mylor Churchyard to the many warriors, women and children who were drowned and a gravestone to the wife and five children of Lieutenant Robert Daniell of the 30th Regiment who was the only member of the family to survive.

Other memorials were erected in St Gluvias Church, Penryn and Budock Church, Budock but are illegible.

A local man from Illogan Highway, named Brian George, found while diving near Trefusis Point, in 1974, a cannonball and also a piece of wood with some nails in belonging to the wreck.

If you wish to read further about this wreck, you can go to TROZE and read a detailed account by Sue Kruk, from Falmouth, entitled "In search of the *Queen* Transport."

Troze is the journal of the National Maritime Museum Cornwall whose mission is to promote an understanding of small boats and their place in people's lives, and of the maritime history of Cornwall

The article can be found at this link:

https://nmmc.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/Queen_Transport-1.pdf

Brian Rollason

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE CORNISH ASSOCIATION OF VICTORIA

DATE: 20th July 2024

President's Report

DYTH DA. FATLA GENES? DOHAJYDH DA.

Welcome all members to our 39th Annual General Meeting and it is good to see you whether you are here at Darebin North West UC in person or on Zoom.

The past few years have been one of uncertainty for the Association, as we had to manage our lives through the Covid period and face up to the fact it is still with us.

It has been some concern to your committee over the past two years that our membership is ageing and many are not able to come to our meetings. Some of you have left Melbourne making it difficult to attend meetings and due to technology and some of you do not using Zoom.

This has been of great concern for the committee and we have had deep discussions on how we can make the Association more relevant to you the members.

There has also been some difficulty in obtaining enough speakers for our program with a Cornish aspect although I was very pleased when members gave a short talk reminiscing about Cornish places known to them.

The declining numbers at our meetings must not mean we accept the negative view but accept the challenge of a "rebrand" and find out who we are and what we do.

We must look at different aspects of our Association including our website, our logo and the day we meet.

One of the interesting ideas we had was to make some of our meetings more of a social event and perhaps not focusing on a speaker. Several suggestions centred around places associated with a Cornish flavour such as an area in Melbourne or a pub.

This could also include a short walk looking at buildings designed by a Cornish architect.

I am very pleased to announce that our Secretary, Ken, has arranged two such functions which will be held on a Wednesday and take the place of our Saturday meeting.

We will be having lunch at the Cornish Arms Hotel,

in Brunswick, where there is a plaque put up by the Association to commemorate the role of the Cornish Arms in looking after Cornish miners on their way to the goldfields and a trip to the Williamstown Royal Yacht Club to revisit the commemoration of the "Mystery."

Due to the costs in finding a suitable restaurant in the city we will be holding our Christmas lunch at Darebin North West UC.

Many of you will have received a questionnaire from the secretary who will later on in the meeting discuss the results.

It was also discussed that as we were using Zoom, we would look at our annual subscriptions especially as we do not have to cover the renting costs which occurred at Hughesdale.

You will have the opportunity to ask questions on any aspects I have mentioned, during general business.

Due to having to battle with lymphoma during the year, I have not always been available to attend various functions but I assure you that I am now recovered and hope to make up for lost time.

I would personally like to thank Ken, our wonderful secretary, for the wonderful job that he has done to make sure our Association does not go the way of others and fold. He has true Cornish blood.

My thanks also go to Robyn Coates for all the work she does for our Association and the newsletters which are the envy of other Associations.

To Arthur, our technology whiz, who ensures that our Zoom sessions run well and also for our website.

To Evelyn, our welfare contacts who makes sure that cards are sent to all those in sickness or bereavement.

To all the committee members thank you for your support that you give me and the many ideas you come up with. Just a plug for any members who would like to join the committee you will be very welcome.

Unfortunately, Helen Morgan who arranged the monthly talks had to take leave and we hope that she will eventually join us again.

My thanks to Ronald Hawken who has accepted the role as Vice-President.

I also would like to thank Neil Thomas and his members of the Geelong branch for their wonderful organization down at the Celtic Festival in Portarlington of which I was able to attend for a few hours.

Thanks to those who went to the Celtic festival in Croydon where I believe our Cornish recipe Booklet went down a treat.

Many thanks also to the Ballarat branch for their St Piran's Day activities which was enjoyed by many members and an event which to look forward to.

Unfortunately, we lost several valued members who had played an active role in the Association especially Lindsay Chapman, Gwen Phillips and John Mildren and we remember all the good times we had with them.

Thanks also to Max Proctor, our Treasurer, who manages our finances so well.

Also, to June Whiffin and Moira who saw that the transfer of Library to Castlemaine and the organization of the shelves went smoothly and we look to the time when we can have an official opening of the library.

My final thanks are to my fellow Cornish born member and president of the New Zealand Cornish Association, Judy Wright, for her valuable contributions and to bringing fresh ideas to the committee and look forward to future talks and quizzes.

I look forward to being your president for another year and hope we can provide a stimulating and interesting year for all members of the Cornish Association of Victoria.

Brian Rollason
CAV President

Ballarat Branch Chairperson's Report

I believe this can be seen as a good year given the circumstances.

Many similar community groups are struggling post COVID and with generational change.

We also feel that pressure, with issues of health and ageing of our members and the seeming lack of interest of younger folk in their Cornish heritage. Nevertheless, we have enjoyed each others' company and the interesting presentations at our activities.

Our CAV President, Brian joined us for our 2023 AGM and spoke to us of the St Mawes Castle built by Henry VIII to protect Falmouth Harbour from Spanish attack but saw its most significant action during the Civil War.

Jenny Burrell delivered an interesting presentation in

August, the story of the Monster Petition and the role of Ballarat women in this unprecedented movement.

October was notable for the visit of Simon Dennis, a resident of Buninyong who told us of his Cornish origins and their settling in Buninyong.

We were joined for our Christmas lunch by our fellow members from Melbourne and Geelong enlivened by Wendy's quiz and singing. (thanks Robyn)

February 2024 saw local author Phil Roberts share some of the skills, travail and satisfaction of writing books.

Then, in March, we were hosted by the congregation of the Skipton St UCA for a St Piran's Day service followed by lunch a Craigs Hotel and visits to St Paul's Anglican Church and Lydiard St Uniting Church.

David Pratt is a long time member of that congregation and spoke to us of Cornish connections there.

The St Piran's Day theme was continued at our April meeting by Robyn's exploration of St Piran's celebrations around the world.

The low notes of our year have been the illness and passing of some of our members, most notably of John Mildren, founding member and longtime President of the Ballarat Branch of CAV.

We miss him!

For me the best things of this year have been the warm friendship in our group and the interesting presentations.

Keith Lanyon

Geelong Branch Chairperson's Report

It is with pleasure that once again I present this annual report as Chairperson 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.

Once again this year our branch participated in the National Celtic Festival held at Portarlinton over the King's Birthday long weekend in June.

We had a good number of branch volunteers and a number of volunteers from Melbourne assisting. A pleasant time of fellowship was enjoyed by the members.

We operated our stall from a marquee decorated with colourful Cornish tea towels along with other Cornish memorabilia.

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.



At our September meeting, member Bruce Mills spoke of his Retallick ancestors. Coming from Roche in Cornwall, they spent time at Moonta then Lexton near Ballarat. Member, Liz Krause mentioned she may be related.

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

Over the past year we have lost three of our dear friends. They were Shirley Lindsay, Margaret Hocking and Dick Keuris. Dick had been the branch treasurer and was awarded a Certificate of Appreciation for his services to the branch. Shirley was our branch secretary for many years and was also awarded a Certificate of Appreciation for her services to the branch. A number of our branch members attended each of the funerals.

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



Neil Thomas.
Photo shows Neil Thomas presenting Bill Martin with a certificate of appreciation for his

wonderful work as treasurer for the Geelong Branch for the past 22 years. Well done Bill.

Welfare Report

During the year four get well cards were sent to those who were unwell or had surgery, as well as three special birthday cards.

Sadly nine sympathy cards were sent to members who had family members die during the year.

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

Evelyn Jones

Some notes from the AGM

President Brian Rollason
Immediate Past-President Ken Peak
Vice-President Ronald Hawken
Treasurer Max Procter
Secretary Ken Peak

Committee Members

Robyn Coates
Evelyn Jones
Neil Thomas

Subscription fees remain as they are currently:

Single -\$40;
Family - \$60;
Life - \$400;
Family Life - \$600

The Committee will undertake a review of subscription fees at the end of the 2024/2025 Financial Year and make recommendations to the next AGM.

A copy of the Consolidated Financial Statement is included on page 8

Proposed Meetings for 2024/2025

It was decided that the CAV adopt eleven monthly gatherings - no meeting in January.

These to include:

- Six Zoom only meetings.
- Five in person social gatherings/activities (no hybrid meetings i.e. zoom and in person meetings).
- As part of the in person meetings, a Christmas meeting.
- As part of the in person meetings, an AGM.

These arrangements to begin in August 2024 and to be reviewed at the next Annual Meeting. (see Diary Dates page 2 - Zoom meeting details will be distributed closer to the dates)

CORNISH ASSOCIATION OF VICTORIA INC. Reg. No. A0008264A**Consolidated Financial Statement for Year ended 30 April 2024**

	<u>CAV</u>	<u>CAV</u>	<u>CAV</u>	<u>Total</u>
	<u>Melbourne</u>	<u>Ballarat</u>	<u>Geelong</u>	<u>CAV</u>
		<u>Branch</u>	<u>Branch</u>	
	\$	\$	\$	\$
Balance-: 1 May 2023	20,600	4438	4149	29,187
Receipts				
Subscriptions - members	3351	792	464	4,607
Meetings Collections	301	124	76	501
Interest on term deposit	425			425
Donations	113	17	25	155
Book Sales	147	80		227
Book (pamphlet) sales	84			84
Newsletter subscriptions		15		15
Catering Revenue	125			125
Total Receipts	4546	1028	565	6,139
Payments				
Use of premises rental or donation	500	240	120	860
Newsletter - printing and Postage	771			771
Catering			349	349
Payments for speakers	189			189
Zoom licence	231			231
RHSV Membership and Insurance	460			460
Registration With Consumer Affairs	124			124
Agun Kernow underwriter reimbursement	200			200
Other promotion literature etc.	111			111
Welfare administration	47			47
Branches share of subscriptions	826			826
CAV HQ Share of subscriptions received			176	176
Office costs	2			2
Donations by C.A.V. to related causes	100			100
Memorial flowers etc.				0
Total Payments	3561	240	645	4,446
Net receipts/ (- Payments)	985	788	-80	1,693
Closing Balance 30 April 2024	\$ 21,585	\$ 5,226	\$4,069	\$30,880
Westpac Bank Operating Account balance	8489			
Term Deposit with Westpac Bank 033-065 18-0891 ,	13096			
Total Funds Balance	\$ 30,880			



Max Procter, Treasurer CAV 21 May 2024

RE-DISCOVERING CORNWALL #5

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.

Property Values.

Resources for change and survival could be a struggle for a local church and property rationalization was often left to the local Congregation.

Five of the then property 'hot-spots' in the UK during our time were found in the South West. In one decade, prices in Truro had risen 270%. This huge increase and vote of confidence in the region also led to crisis.

The County Council (2004) received 1000 building applications for new housing but 48,000 people were listed as house seeker.

Amid relics of the past and sweeping change, property issues, the emerging church and Methodist institutions, like Cliff College, were shaping future faith issues.

The Cornish Evangelism team and the show-case "Easter People Convention" were encouraging signs at that time within Methodism.

Word Windows.

Up-a-long, down-a-long, motorways, towans, queuing, cow parsley, bungalow, gorse, campion, blue bells, foxgloves, yellow gorse, white swans, water wheels, apple orchards and cider, red poppies, the British Legion, market town, hedgerows, church-town and market-town, traffic warden, pies with peas, engine house, gigs, 'me-lovely' and 'hello me ansome'.

The names of small villages and places were all new to us and these objects, names, and expressions were also, but we learned to integrate into our new surrounds.

Keeping Tradition.

While Australia is still growing in its sense of history, the Cornish were single minded in their resolve to respect the past and to keep with tradition.

The singing of St Ives Carols was not just a matter of singing, it was a matter of how they were sung. This seemed like a world apart.

The different way we celebrate is stark and the juvenile infancy of our culture was illustrated at that time when Dame Edna Everage was feted as a

national icon and her picture placed on a postage stamp.

Can you imagine a farmer in Australia giving days to decorating streets/ halls, then dancing to celebrate?

In Australia economics rather than tradition factors tend to drive our participation and determine our holidays.

Love of Festivity/Singing.

When it was possible we tried to enjoy public festivities.

There was preparation for the Maisy Day Parade at Penzance, Murdoch Day at Redruth, Obby-Oss at Padstow, Trevithick Day at Camborne, St Piran's Day at Perranporth.

There was the Harvest of the Sea, Ploughing matches and Feast Days besides the normal Christian Calendar.

This love of festivity envelops the community. There was a beautiful, joyous enthusiasm about special days.

Lorinda, our daughter, with the help of local artisans, spent hours in a workshop preparing a giant figure that she later enjoyed walking in procession through the streets of Penzance.

Then I recall standing in a tight circle in the streets of Helston surrounded by ships on the bay singing at top volume, 'Hev-away, hove-away, we are bound for South Australia.'

I always felt a deep bond with the 'cousins' on those 'buddy' occasions.

In the evenings we would sometimes sneak down to the Cadgwith pub on the Lizard.

In those moments we would blend our harmonies to sing, 'Lily of the Valley', 'The White Rose', 'Grandfathers Clock', 'Bound for the Rio Grande' and 'Going up Camborne Hill'.

Birds and Animals.

During our time, the backyard of our manse at Hayle was visited by animal friends.

A shy fox visited in the twilight a number of times and a Hedgehog crawled across our back yard.

Beautiful robins also regularly visited a berry bush near our gateway and 'twitchers' (bird watchers) would line the banks of the estuary with field glasses during the migration season.

At St Ives. we were blessed with two lovely, friendly dogs next door and Heron Gulls were always

looking for nesting places.

The gulls were very clever at stealing ice-creams from the cones that you held in your hand.

Then, it was not unusual to wait for a herd of cows to re-locate to another field while the traffic waited for them to pass.

The excitement of horses and hounds on Hunt days was another spectacle adding color to the roads and back lanes.

The Surprise 60th.

Unbeknown to me, Beryl had arranged an afternoon coffee gathering at the "Mad Hatters" to celebrate my 60th birthday.

I was pleasantly surprised by the informal gathering of Cornish cousins.

I was astounded to discover that people had travelled from Launceston, Falmouth, Truro, Penzance, Sithney and Hayle.

It was a network of friends that left me astounded because not only were friends present but even our boss and District Chairman Rev Chris and Joy Blake joined us in down-town Hayle on that memorable occasion.

(to be continued)



SOME FESTIVALS CELEBRATED IN CORNWALL

These festivals are included from a presentation from Judy Wright at a recent CAV Meeting.

BLACK PRINCE FLOWER BOAT PROCESSION - Monday 6th May 2024 - RAME PENINSULA

The *Black Prince* is a boat named after Edward, the Black Prince who became the first Duke of Cornwall.

This traditional 19th century festival originally came from local shipbuilding apprentices carrying a boat through the fishing villages of Millbrook, Kingsand and Cawsand that was highly decorated with flowers.

While other people carried cross hooped garlands and collected money and played instruments.

Its May custom and beauty made it an important part of local Cornish heritage. The festival traditionally was to banish the winter cold and welcome in spring and sunny days.

The *Black Prince* Flower Boat Procession died out about 50 years ago but the festival was revived in 1986 and has been popular ever since. One of the great purposes of the event, besides everyone coming together in a day of family fun, is that it raises funds for local charities.

The local men who historically carried the boat were replaced by young Royal Navy ratings from HMS Raleigh in Torpoint.

The community has involved the local schools and now school children perform the beloved Maypole dance at the beginning of the procession as well as being part of the crowning of the King and Queen. Morris dancers, travelling from near and far attend the celebration and dance behind the boat giving great pleasure to the spectators.

The boat is finally launched from the beach at Cawsand, folks sing "Farewell winter, sail far away... Welcome summer, come again today."

TRAFALGER AND NELSON REMEMBRANCE - Sunday 20 October 2024 - MADRON

What does the village of Madron, the battle of Trafalgar, one of Britain's most famous wartime victories fought against the France in 1805 and Admiral Nelson, who commanded the British fleet of ships and was killed by a French sniper have in common?

The story goes that after the battle, a ship called the *Pickle* was sent back to Falmouth with the news.

On the way, it passed fishermen in Mount's Bay, near Penzance, who heard about the death of Lord Nelson, who promptly returned to port and spread the news.

It was only a short distance from the shore to the Assembly rooms, now the Union Hotel, where at the time, the mayor and council of Penzance were having dinner.

When they heard the news, the mayor made a speech from the balcony to announce the death of this popular leader.

The mayor and councilors of Penzance hastily organized a service of thanksgiving at Madron Church, which at the time was the principal church for Penzance and the tradition was born.

The 'Nelson Banner' which was hastily prepared to mourn the death of Nelson, was paraded for the first time.

For many years a similar service was held to mark this occasion, but in 1946 the tradition of holding an annual Commemoration involving the Royal Navy was started by Reverend Michael Hocking, a former Naval Captain, and the Parish vicar of Madron at the time.

So many wished to attend that it had to be relayed outside while recordings were made by the BBC.

The annual parade and church service in Madron, takes place in or around the 21st October to remember Trafalgar and Lord Nelson with civic dignitaries and naval personnel past and present still

marching through the village.

A band plays, salutes are taken and everyone present honours one of England's most popular heroes. As for the "The Banner" it is kept in Madron Parish Church and paraded each year at the memorial service to his 'Immortal Memory'.

THE KNILL CEREMONY - Saturday 25th July 2026 - ST IVES

This ceremony unique to St Ives is held every five years and follows a request John Knill made before he died.

Born in Callington, John Knill came to work for a firm of solicitors in Penzance and then became the collector of taxes, and the customs officer in St Ives in 1762.

He held this position for twenty years and grew to love the town, becoming mayor in 1767 aged 34.

In 1782 he bought Worvas Hill and paid £226 to have his own mausoleum built on the summit, with the intention that he should be interned in a vault within.

The huge granite pyramid has Knill's coat of arms and motto "Nil Desperandum" (Never Despair) above it the inscription "Resurgam" translates to "I shall rise again" and on another "Johannes Knill 1782".

It is built with views over St Ives Bay and is known locally as "Knill's Steeple."

Sadly, John Knill died in London in 1811, aged 78, so his wishes to be interned were not fulfilled and he was buried in Holborn.

In addition to the building of the mausoleum. John Knill left money and specific instructions in his will for a celebration to be held every five years on the feast of St James – 25th July.

He appointed three trustees – Customs Officer, Vicar, and the mayor to ensure that the memorial ceremony be carried out so that he may be remembered.

What are these instructions?

Setting aside a budget of £25 for each event the money was to be spent as follows: -

£10 for a dinner for the trustees and dignitaries (including two guests each) to take place at the George and Dragon Inn in St Ives, which unfortunately no longer exists.

£5 to be split between ten girls, dressed in white, not exceeding 10 years, being native of St Ives who must be daughters of either fisherman, tanners or seaman.

£1.00 pays for the fiddler.

£2.00 is set aside for two widows, aged over 64 years, being widows of fisherman, tanners or seaman. £1.00 for the purchase of white ribbon for breast knots.

£5.00 goes to the man and wife, widower or widow who shall raise the greatest family of legitimate children who have reached the age of 10.

And the remaining £1 is set aside for a vallum book for the Clerk to the Trustees to record the proceedings.

With the demise of tin mining and fishing the qualifying credentials of the girls have been stretched in recent years and the finances left by John Knill no longer cover the ceremony, so certain more obscure aspects of his bequest have been dropped. However, the crowds congregate at the steps of the guildhall to hear the mayor read out the conditions of the will of John Knill and to witness the girls, widows and fiddler be rewarded with their token payment from the Knill's chest.

The Knill's chest is unlocked by the Customs Officer, Vicar, and the mayor.

Each hold a key and as such all three keys need to be used to open it.

The money is distributed in white silk purses.

At the 2021 celebration the ten dancing girls received £5 each, whilst each widow received £10 and the fiddler £25, this was far more generous than the amounts originally set aside by John Knill.

The £25 that John Knill provided for each celebration would actually be worth thousands of pounds in today's money.

Following a procession through the town, the trustees, dignitaries, widows, fiddler and the ten dancing girls proceed up to the Knill Steeple, these days by bus, where the crowds will be waiting for the ceremony to take place around the monument.

Keeping with tradition, The Master of Ceremonies asks the three trustees if they believe that all has been done as John Knill requested.

If they all agree then the crowd disperses and the ceremony is over for another five years.

Despite changing times and necessary amendments to the proceedings, every five years since July 1801, at which John Knill was present, his wishes have been carried out.

With the help of the Knill Trustees and the support of the local community, long may this tradition and connection to the past continue.

MAY HORNS - Sunday 5th May 2024 - PENZANCE

Penzance May Horns is a parade from Newlyn into Penzance to herald the start of summer and is celebrated on the first Sunday of May. Participants are called “Mayers” and traditionally dress in green and white and come decked in greenery carrying horns, drums and whistles.

The origins of making this noise are not known, but it is almost certainly related to welcoming summer and inviting its blessing on the towns inhabitants. The May horns are designed to make enough noise with an eclectic collection of horns to scare the devil of winter away

The tradition of May horns in Penzance dates back to the 19th century with a description of the events published in Robert Hunt’s “Popular Romances of the West of England” in 1881.

(Editor’s note -

Page 382 at <https://archive.org/details/popularromanceso00huntuoft/page/20/mode/2up>)

May horns were banned, when a bylaw was passed by Penzance Borough in 1932 after complaints about the “abominable” noise which led to the death of the tradition.

The bylaw has never officially been repealed but in 2008 the Cornish Culture Association revived it. Since the May horns custom was resurrected the Mayers led by the Lord and Lady of the May are joined by “Old Ned” a guise beast who takes the form of a giant crow with a hugh crown on his head. “Old Ned” who dies three times along the way, overcome by winter, is brought back to life by the noise of the horns and drums around him.

The parade pauses at the boundary of Newlyn and Penzance and are formally reminded by the Lord of the May that what was a parade is now an illegal act! The parade carries on with the teaser continuing to entice “Old Ned” towards Penzance.

The parade continues along the promenade and then makes its way up to Chapel Street. Finally ending up in front of the Admiral Benbow pub, where “Old Ned” dies for the third and final time.

Thankfully, he was once again revived by the sound of the May horns, driving the devil of winter out of the town, and bringing in the summer.

The Mayers then rejoice with a celebration in Penzance with food, dancing, and music.

BOLSTER DAY - Sunday 5th May 2024 - ST AGNES

Bolster was one of a number of Cornish Giants who spent their days on the hilltops idling the hours away by throwing rocks at each other.

In his prime he was tall and proud and could comfortably stand with one foot on St. Agnes Beacon and the other on Carn Brea.

Bolster was a tyrant. In addition to his battles with other giants he terrified the villagers (regularly eating small children) and he mistreated his wife making her supply him with ammunition by carrying rocks up to the top of The Beacon.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YDrpsDTS3qY>

Editor’s notes

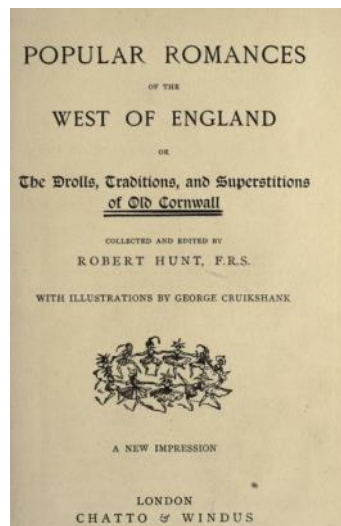
Photos from this year’s festival can be seen here:

https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/gallery/2024/may/05/bolster-the-cornish-giant-stars-in-clifftop-pageant-in-pictures?CMP=share_btn_link



Robert Hunt’s Book - Popular romances of the west of England; or, The Drolls, Traditions, and Superstitions of old Cornwall can be found at:

<https://archive.org/details/popularromanceso00huntuoft/page/20/mode/2up>



Some more about Australia v Cornwall at the 1908 London Olympics

(In addition to what was mentioned by Judy at a recent CAV Meeting)

In 1908, the first Australian rugby team to tour the British Isles left Australia for a six week sea journey. The squad left Sydney, bound for Melbourne, on 8th August 1908, aboard the SS Omrah, an ocean liner for the Orient Steam Navigation Company, operating a passenger service between the United Kingdom and Australia.



Photo:

<https://artsandculture.google.com/asset/rms-omrah-with-team-autographs-j-roberts/aQE8fgmY20M7Yg?hl=en>

On the way, the team played a game at the MCG against a Victorian XV which was won 26–6. After docking in Fremantle, the team played and won a fixture against a Western Australian XV scoring 58–6.

The 1908–09 Australia rugby union tour of the British Isles was a collection of friendly rugby union games undertaken by the Australia national rugby union team against invitational and national teams from England and Wales, as well as several games against sides from North America. This was the first Australian tour of the Northern Hemisphere.

Newspapers in England initially gave the team the name 'Rabbits' but the Australian players thought this nickname derogatory and replaced it with 'Wallabies'.

Both the New Zealand and South African teams had toured Europe in 1905 and 1906 respectively. Despite the success of these two touring teams, Australia suffered poor press and with only a single win, after the teams' first twelve international matches in its history, few people suggested the

team would do well.

Against low expectations, the Australians played really well, winning 25 of 31 matches played on the tour and with some commentators writing that the team would have achieved better results if they had not incurred so many injuries - two of their members broke legs.

This Australian team went on to compete for gold in the 1908 London Olympics. However, the interest in the Olympic rugby final was only lukewarm, with the final being held in the last week of the Games, that had taken place over six months - 27th April to 31st October 1908.

The 1908 Games were originally scheduled to be held in Rome, but were relocated on financial grounds, following the violent eruption of Mount Vesuvius in 1906

In 1908, the Twickenham Stadium was still being built so the match was played at the White City Stadium, London. The White City Stadium, built in short time for the Games, held 68 000 people.

The stadium track was three laps to the mile with a pool (for swimming and diving events) and platforms (for wrestling and gymnastics) in the centre of the oval.

Some 1908 Games footage can be seen here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c-sFWDzvgyw>

Both Scotland and Ireland had declined the Rugby Football Union's invitations to participate in the Olympic competition and France withdrew, so the Australian team played the team from Cornwall, which was representing Great Britain. Australia had beaten Cornwall, the English county champions, earlier in their tour, in their third match at Camborne RFC on 3rd October 1908 scoring 18 to 5.

At the Olympics, Australia competed as Australasia, with a team of twenty seven Australians and three New Zealanders. There were 30 competitors for Australasia who competed in 20 events in six sports winning gold for rugby, silver for boxing (Snowy Baker), silver and bronze for swimming (Frank Beaurepaire) and bronze for walking (Harry Kerr NZL)

The Rugby match was played on an area alongside the Olympic Games swimming pool, which measured 110 yards in length, with a long line of netting stretched beside to catch flying balls. Large mattresses were spread along the rim of the pool to prevent injuries to falling players.

(pool can be seen on right hand side of photo)

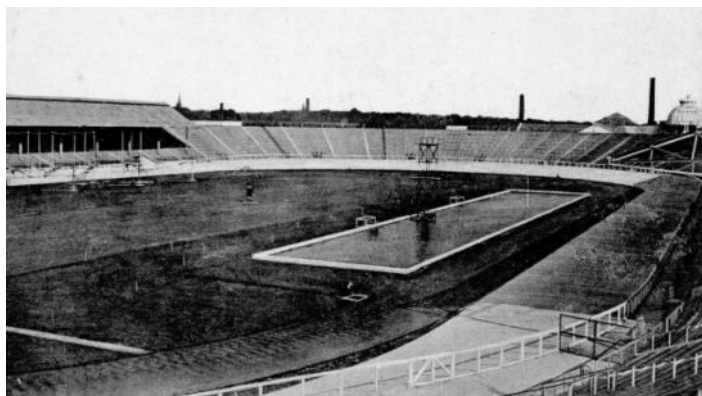


Photo:

<https://lbhflibraries.wpcomstaging.com/2016/08/31/looking-back-at-the-olympic-games/>

One day was allocated to the Olympic rugby tournament, with the game taking place in a thick mid-week London fog, at a virtually deserted White City, in very wet conditions.

Often, a kick saw the ball end up in the pool, and it was said that the Australians were more adept at handling the slippery ball.

Australia outscored Great Britain six tries to one to win the gold medal by 32-3.

Silver was awarded to Cornwall and with only two competing teams, no bronze was awarded.



Photo of final:

[State Library of NSW - Davis sporting collection](https://www.libraryofnsw.gov.au/collections/davis-sporting-collection)

The Cornish silver Olympic medal was 'drawn' by the players and won by Thomas 'Chicky' Wedge and it has been on display at the St Ives RFC clubhouse ever since.

After the match, the Cornish players were hosted at dinner by the Cornish Members of Parliament.

Australian Team



Photo:

http://www.rugby-memorabilia.co.uk/1908_aus_squad_2.jpg

Team members:

Back Phil Carmichael

$\frac{3}{4}$ -backs Charles Russell, Daniel Carroll, John Hickey, Frank Smith

Halfbacks Christopher McKivatt, Arthur McCabe

Forwards Thomas Griffin, Jumbo Barnett, Patrick McCue, Sydney Middleton, Tom Richards, Malcolm McArthur, Charles McMurtrie, Robert Craig

Cornwall Team



Photo:

<https://www.cornwallforever.co.uk/history/cornwall-v-australia-london-olympic-games-rugby-union-final>

Team Members:

Back John Jackett

$\frac{3}{4}$ -backs Barney Solomon, Bert Solomon, Frederick Dean, Jimmy Jose

Halfbacks Thomas Wedge, Maffer Davey

Forwards Richard Jackett, E. J. Jones, Arthur Wilson, Nicholas Tregurtha, A. Lawrey, Charlie Marshall
A. Wilcocks, John Trevaskis

CORNISH TIDBITS

BBC series filming continues in Devon and Cornwall

The cast and crew of the BBC TV children's series, Malory Towers, have been back filming in Devon and Cornwall.

The thirteen part drama series was inspired by the series of twelve children's books written by Enid Blyton about life at an all-girls boarding school in the 1940s.

Hartland Abbey, in north Devon, has been used as the boarding school throughout the six series with street scenes filmed in Bodmin and beach scenes at the natural sea pool in Trevone, near Padstow. There have been thirty-six days of filming during June and July at the historic abbey.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/c72733v7077o>

One million trees planted for Forest of Cornwall

One million trees have been planted as part of an initiative run by Cornwall Council.

The community planting programme, dubbed the Forest for Cornwall, began in 2019 and involves businesses, farmers, community groups and schools across the county.

The council said the forest - which includes woodland, hedgerows as well as individual trees - now covers a total of about 1,000 hectares (2,471 acres).

It said the aim was to see more planting across 1,500 hectares (3707 acres) by spring next year. The authority said the aim of the scheme was to increase nature for residents and absorb carbon emissions.

As part of the scheme, the council said 11,000 trees had been planted on Bodmin Beacon, 500 trees at Prislow Fields in Falmouth, 400 trees at Bude Stratton School and 1.3 hectares (3.2 acres) of fruit and nut orchards at Cotehele.

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

Children's no dig fruit and veg farm reaps award

A primary school in Cornwall has won a sustainable farming award with its no dig project.

Pupils at Sir Robert Geffery's primary school in Landrake have been avoiding digging into the soil by laying cardboard with compost on top to retain nutrients in the soil.

They have also been making their own compost by collecting manure from the school farm's sheep, chickens, donkeys and guinea pigs.

The school won the bronze demonstration school award from charity Linking Environment and Farming (Leaf), which has been working with schools to promote sustainable ways of growing vegetables.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/crg7pxp71rro>

'Breakthrough' as rehomed falconet lays eggs

One of the world's smallest birds of prey has laid eggs in a Cornish wildlife sanctuary.

Paradise Park Wildlife Sanctuary said it held the only collared falconets in UK and EU zoos after an attempt was made to bring them into Europe illegally.

Two females and one male were rehomed at the sanctuary in early 2021.

Curator David Woolcock said staff were celebrating a "breakthrough" as one of the falconets laid eggs for the first time at the park.

However, it is not known which falconet laid the eggs as the staff do not want to frighten the birds or disturb the eggs.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cjer0lzl4q5o>

Cornwall mineral exhibit opens after £476k revamp

A mineral exhibition containing thousands of samples has reopened to the public after a makeover costing hundreds of thousands of pounds.

As part of the revamp the Mineral Gallery at the Royal Cornwall Museum has new exhibits, a high-tech video display and a new lighting system. There are 12,000 mineral samples in the collection, which bosses say give a unique insight into Cornish mining history.

Staff at the museum in Truro said they were "delighted" with the new display.

The gallery has been closed since January for the revamp which has cost £476,000.

The chair of the Royal Institution of Cornwall, the charitable body behind the museum, Julie Caplin Grey said it was crucial that they made the collection more accessible to all people.

The money for the work came from the Town Deal Funding.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cy79p1nd3ylo>

Dry weather exposes treasures below Stithians Reservoir

A collection of cup-marked stones are among the artefacts to have emerged at Stithians Reservoir near Falmouth.

There is also evidence of medieval farmsteads and modern pottery on the shoreline that is usually under water.

According to South West Water, the level of the reservoir in July was 57% of its capacity.

Cup-marked stones, and other remains of buildings and roads are also known to be beneath Drift Reservoir near Penzance.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-cornwall-62222719>



An example of a cup-marked stone

Divers discover new beds of rare seaweed

Divers have discovered large beds of a rare pink calcified seaweed growing off the coast of south Cornwall.

The areas - known as maerl beds - form the basis of marine food chains in the area, and are hugely important for the local ecosystem, say experts.

The team and specialist survey divers found 79 different types of animal living on the maerl off the Roseland Peninsula and St Austell Bay.

Natural England said maerl plays a crucial role in supporting fish populations and underpinning healthy fisheries, and is classed as an "irreplaceable habitat".

Experts said maerl beds in the Fal and Helford estuaries have long been known about, but far less is known about the maerl in the bays along Cornwall's south coast.

Earlier in July, Natural England set out on an expedition involving Porthkerris Divers and an underwater drone to find out more.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/ceqd4271v6zo>

Mousehole is the most stylish place to live in Cornwall

Mousehole is the most stylish place to live in Cornwall, according to a new survey published this week - with Falmouth coming in third place.

The fishing village was the highest rated location in the duchy in a list of the 60 most stylish places by online store Furniturebox.

In second place, in Cornwall, was the Lizard, Falmouth was third, Polperro was fourth and Port Isaac was fifth.

Locations were ranked according to the beauty of the buildings, the stunning scenery, how 'Instagrammable' were the best features and their popularity as a filming location.

Furniturebox polled 5,000 people, with panels in each big city and county including Cornwall.

Countless film and TV productions have been filmed in Mousehole including Poldark and the Onedin Line. Mousehole was 16th on the main national list, which was won by Grassington in North Yorkshire where the hit TV drama All Creatures Great and Small is filmed.

A tourism hot spot, Mousehole is centred around its harbour and was described as the loveliest village in England by the poet Dylan Thomas.

<https://www.falmouthpacket.co.uk/news/24464016.mousehole-stylish-place-live-cornwall/?dicbo=v2-pRfgV3K>



Future of 146-year-old signal box in Cornwall now safe

The future of a 146-year-old signal box in Cornwall - one of the oldest still standing - is now safe thanks to a new use.

Par signal box will now be used as a training facility. A ceremony was held recently to handover the keys to the signal box from Network Rail's operations team to the maintenance team.

Built in 1878, Par signal box was finally closed on 4th March this year, when a new digital signal system was launched in mid-Cornwall.

But the Grade II listed box will now continue to serve the railway for decades to come.

The box will be used to help train signallers with skills gained in mechanical signalling equally valuable on a digital system.

Mechanical signalling is also still in use in West Cornwall, with signal boxes at St Erth, St Blazey, Goonbarrow and Liskeard to operate the St Ives, Newquay and Looe branch lines.

<https://www.falmouthpacket.co.uk/news/24480464.future-146-year-old-signal-box-cornwall-now-safe/>