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NEW! Web Pages: www.celticcouncil.org.au/cornish/nsw.htm (Webmaster Email: jlsymo@ozemail.com.au) John Symonds

The Newsletter of the Cornish Association of New South Wales

Newsletter No. 330 Circulation 120 ISSN 1321-3199 December 2010 - January 2011

BLEDHYN NOWYTH DA ..

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

PROGRAMME 2011

Celtic Festival – Australia Day

Wednesday 26 January, 2010

Bradfield Park, Milsons Point

A Celtic Council event, with stalls, bands, dancers etc. Come and go as you please –
Meet at 11.30am, at the Celtic Council tent.
Cornish are welcome in opening parade; have a picnic lunch and enjoy the Celtic activities and Australia Day events on the harbour. Bus, or Train to Milsons Point station (parking is v.tight). Bring lunch, rug/chair, sun-hat & sunscreen, or wet weather gear.
More details: **www.celticcouncil.org.au**

Members Functions

Annual General Meeting

Notice of AGM to be held on

Saturday 5 March 2011

Ryde Eastwood Leagues Club, West Ryde

Starts sharp at 11:00am

Reports - elections of office bearers and new Committee for 2011/2012, consideration of motions, open forum. Please consider nominating for Committee, or for other Association roles. Bring your ideas for our future programme.

Notice of AGM motions – must be with Committee by 4 Feb 2010. Full details required.

(Note: Membership fees not due until March!!)

Saint Piran's Day Lunch

Saturday 5 March

Ryde Eastwood Leagues – at 12:30pm, $40 ea

A special invitation is included or will be sent to you!

Details being finalised – these will be in next newsletter & email news. RSVP by 27/2/2011

Country visitors may be billeted – but please contact us now if needed (02 9876.2893 or email)

Next South Coast Events

Southern Sons of Cornwall Inc

(CANSW members are welcome)

For more details contact:

Sonia Reuter is Events Co-ordinator, and her phone number is 02 4421 8187
Her email address is:
oneandall2@bigpond.com

Central Coast Cornish Interest (CCFHS)

Contact: Kay Radford ccfhs@hotkey.net.au

Family Outing

Sunday 3 April

Meet at 10am morning tea - for 10:30am to 12.30pm in zoo, then picnic lunch (venue to be decided)

Symbio Wildlife Park is an own award winning, family owned zoo, set in 16 acres of bush on Lawrence Hargrave Drive, Helensburgh - famous for providing genuine hands-on encounters with fascinating creatures from Australia and around the world, including ***Sumatran Tigers, Tasmanian Devils, and Red Panda.***

Car pooling, pickup from Waterfall station – let us know if interested .. more details next newsletter!

http://www.symbiozoo.com.au/

Other functions & activities

EVENTS STILL IN PLANNING

(more details in later newsletters – your ideas welcome)

Sun April 3 – *Family Outing* - Symbio Wildlife Park, Helensburgh *(they will have white tigers and red pandas by then – let us know if you are interested)*

Cornish Fayre Day - July 2010

Members meetings during the year

WIDER COMING EVENTS

Australian Celtic Festival

Glen Innes NSW

The Year of the Irish

Friday 29 Apr – Sunday 1 May 2010

For details of Accommodation, the draft programme & bookings contact the Glen Innes Visitor Information Centre - Tel: 02 6732 2397 Fax: 02 6732 6090 Email: info@gleninnestourism.com

Web site: http://www.australiancelticfestival.com/

Programme available from 30 January.

KERNEWEK LOWENDER

11 to 15 May, 2011

World's largest Cornish Festival - South Australia

Plan your trip away now!

Some members are interested in a group to fly and hire a car/s, and some shared accommodation. Are you? Let us know!

Web address: **http://www.kernewek.org/**

Includes Official Programme – view, download, or print

Lowender Office: Ph: 08 8821 4500

KL Office, 50 Moonta Rd Kadina 5554

Ticket sales from 1 February

Email: info@kernewek.org

Local info at: **http://www.moontaprogress.org.au/**

16th Gathering of Cornish Cousins (North America) "REMEMBERING CORNISH HERITAGE - MAKING THE CONNECTION" on from 10–14 August, 2011 at Mineral Point, Wisconsin, USA info@cornishfest.org or contact CANSW Secretary for a copy of the flyer

Committee News:

CANSW bank a/c balance at 31/12/2010 was **$6,406.46** (subject to final bank statement)

The Committee will meet on 23 January and discuss coming functions and ideas for 2011. Our membership is now 89 households (about 150 adults plus some children). New ideas for promotion and gaining new members are welcome.

Next Full Committee Planning Meeting

Now Sunday 23 January, 2011

11am – Eddie & Eileen's, 45 Mason St. Maroubra

All members welcome (rsvp) – working lunch, so bring a plate

Your ideas are always welcome

Remember - Maxine Gray volunteered to be our contact for **Family History enquiries** – 14 Janice Crescent, Moss Vale, 2577 (02 4869 4958) maxrose@exemail.com.au

Maxine would love to have your enquiries.

Our Lending & Research Library

Our wonderful Library is a tremendous source of information (books, video) for interest, research and entertainment - members should take the opportunity at meetings to have a good look. As have 475+ items (6 boxes) we can only bring 2-3 boxes to each of our Association members meetings, and other main events.

However, a book can be posted out to far flung or invalid members and then posted back-in once read (within a seasonal period). A particular book/video or box category can be taken to an event, if you contact our librarians by the week prior to the next meeting.

Contact *Eddie and Eileen* on **02 9349 1491**

Email: **ealyon45@gmail.com**

A fairly full listing can be posted to you on request, and is also available to view and /or download in both catalogue Id & alphabetical order on the members web site:

http://members.optushome.com.au/kevrenor/merlib5.htm

or short link **http://tinyurl.com/46c9cl**

Eddie Lyon, Librarian

News

Celtic Studies Foundation – Lunchtime lectures

Free - all welcome – Sydney University Celtic Studies Foundation. At Woolley Building (near to Parra. Rd footbridge) On the Last Friday of the month – 1pm.

Next meetings: From February - Contact Suzanne Jamieson on 02 9351 2081
s.jamieson@econ.usyd.edu.au

Institute of Celtic Studies, Newcastle

Latest programme out – contact Graham/Stella on 02 4929 1912 or http://www.celticstudies.com.au

PAST EVENTS

CORNISH STORIES (Oct 6)

A very big thank you to all who spoke, and so well, on this delightful afternoon. So many very interesting stories from interesting people!

Thank also to Graham & Stella for coming down from Newcastle to undertake the recordings.

27 members attended. The venue proved quiet good, for some events anyway, but we should be back at West Ryde most times.

MEDIEVAL YULETIDE LUNCH (Nov 28)

What a terrific idea from Jennifer Meston, and what a terrific spread! (see top right)
45 members and friends attended this pre-Christmas event. As Ursula Knight wrote, "Another wonderful party so beautifully arranged by Jennifer.." "

Jennifer and the range of food

We shared not only in some unusual and wonderful authentic medieval food, great atmosphere, charming company, and ingenuity in rain protection.

Enjoying John Coombs playing the harp prior to the lunch.

Thanks to Jennifer Meston for her hospitality and to her helpers for such a wonderful day; to John Coombs; to Eddie Lyon for forethought in bringing the huge tarp, and Owen Dunkerley for SES skills.

BYNG CHRISTMAS CAROLS (Dec 19)

Unlike last year when the paddocks were almost bare and it was tinder dry, arrival at Byng this time was in a torrential downpour!
Nevertheless 80 hardy souls, including 9 visiting members, all enjoyed an old style carol service; and a groaning afternoon tea trestle. Byng valley is green and lush, and the creeks run again.

News

A Surprise 2010 Cornish Family History Story

In the first week of November 2010, I received a not unusual email, asking for help on finding a copy of Yvonne McBurney's book, *Road to Byng*. The writer had seen our Web pages about Byng and had been searching, to no avail, for a copy of the book. He had discovered from the National Library in Canberra that it was still under copyright.

In offering to assist him, I asked whether he was researching any family connections here in Australia as it was apparent from his email address that he was residing in England. If he wished to use the content of the book in his family history research, it might be possible to send him a scanned copy of the book for private use only, provided he observed the copyright rules that would apply.

What happened thereafter is an astonishing series of emails that will appeal to CANSW Members. Here is the unravelling of a story in over 90 emails which have been exchanged (so far) from 5 November to 27 December, plus another 40 emails to other people to put it all together as far as possible so far!

Colin Lee was interested in the story of the Hawke family in Byng because his ancestors were directly connected with them. If I wished to see who he was, he offered me a Press Pack Web page that showed his photo. I was astonished to find that he was taking the Tenor role of Count Almaviva in the opera, The Barber of Seville, at the Berlin State Opera House, not far from the Brandenberg Gate, and would not be back in London for several days. He was born in South Africa and, indeed, was related to the same Cornish ancestors as Will and Allen Hawke in Byng.
He asked if it would be possible to contact them by one means or another. With the wonderful assistance of Ruth Cocks, I was able to send him the email addresses for the two Hawke families in Byng. I sent both of them an email to acquaint them with my surprise contact from Berlin. Allen phoned me directly shortly after to say that he had other material available about which Colin Lee should be told and some huge email attachments arrived from Allen, Trixie, Will and Barbara Hawke. Allen not only had a copy of the George Hawke Journal, mentioned by Yvonne McBurney, but also that of Samuel Hawke, George's brother, who had gone to New Zealand. In addition, Allen explained that he had a typewritten story written by Hannah Hawke who had been in the USA from Cornwall with her parents, had returned to Cornwall later and eventually had travelled to NSW to finally live not far from Tamworth.

Meanwhile back in London, Colin has been building up his family history background on an extensive program that now includes over 14,000 folk in places extending from St Eval in Cornwall, out to Byng in NSW and to Victoria in Australia, to New Zealand, to the USA and, of course, to South Africa. Will and Allen Hawke have continued to receive replies from Colin Lee and the story is still growing!

There are many other side twigs in this Lee family tree which I have had much delight in helping him unwrap *the tangled web he weaves.* One wonderful aspect of it all is how it connects back to that little village which we all know is Byng and to the Hawke families with whom we have had a long connection through our Association.

From John Symonds, CANSW Webmaster
– December 28, 2010

THE HEADLAND HOTEL, NEWQUAY

Standing above and behind Fistral beach is an iconic building, a hotel, though often used in movies as a stand in for many scenes.

The Headland Hotel Company was formed in 1897 with the express intention of building the finest hotel in the south-west. When work commenced there was immediate opposition from the local fisherman, who claimed the hotel was being built on common land they had used to dry their nets for generations. Feelings ran high and local workmen were intimidated into stopping work. One night a group came up from the town and pulled down the foundation walls, burned the scaffolding and threw the foreman's hut into the sea. The Newquay Riots, as they were known, resulted in several men being fined and all work grinding to a halt. Two hundred unemployed miners from Redruth were recruited because the locals were unwilling to return to the site, and as the new workers arrived in Newquay, traction engines equipped with steam hoses were used to keep the resentful natives at bay.

The hotel was finished to the highest standards: a DC generator was installed in a remote underground

chamber; there were two bathrooms for gentlemen and two for ladies on each floor; every bedroom had a fire place, hot and cold running water, electric light, and an electric service bell. The third floor bedrooms, intended for guests' servants were furnished at 30/6d each (£1.52), those on the second floor at 45/- (£2.25), whilst the finest rooms on the first floor were furnished for £5 each. The ground floor has many interesting prints and archives relating to this period.

The Headland opened for business in June 1900. The first manager was dismissed for unexplained stock deficiencies six months later. The then Prince of Wales, later Edward VIII, whilst training at the Royal Naval College, Dartmouth, came to the Headland to convalesce after suffering from mumps. His younger brother Bertie, later King George VI, joined him for company. The two princes occupied Rooms 102, 103 and 104, all interconnecting at that time. King Edward VII and Queen Alexandra stayed at the hotel on several occasions in the first decade of the century.

Between the wars the hotel was very stylish. The Ballroom was formed in its present position, which had previously been a drawing room and a writing room, and was decorated in black and silver with many mirrors. Fashionable London orchestras were booked for the summer season and the BBC used to broadcast Palm Court band music regularly. The Ballroom floor is of the finest quality and is supported by some 2,500 small coil springs under the maple boards. There are several access points into which a large key can be inserted to alter the amount of spring the floor gives; 300 people dancing energetically and rhythmically can induce a floor movement of about 2 inches.

During the Second World War the hotel was requisitioned and became an RAF hospital for the duration. On many occasions since there have been reports of men in uniforms walking around the corridors late at night. A woman wearing a maid's uniform was also seen recently disappearing through a wall into the Ladies Powder Room, in exactly the same position where a door used to be in the late 1970s. Much work has been undertaken to ensure structural integrity of the building; this has even included the replacement of structural steel which had been severely corroded by the ingress of salt water over the preceding 100 years.

In 1987 the hotel was listed Grade II by the Department of the Environment as being a building of particular architectural interest. The site is also designated a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) being a raised beach containing many interesting fossils. The season has now lengthened and the Headland is now open for 12 months, closing just for a few days over Christmas and a 100 staff are employed year round. Guests come from all over the world, for surfing, family holidays, making films (The Witches being the best), fashion shoots (David Bailey was here in 1999 for Italian Vogue), conferences, weddings (the hotel has a civil licence), romantic breaks (including a Blind Date prize) etc. The BBC Clothes Show used the Terrace, and The Headland was the only privately owned site hosting the Radio One Road Show annually for more than a decade. The Headland has AA4 status.

The owners and staff are very proud of its Cornishness and have recently updated the staff uniforms to reflect this, the gold and black ties and scarves worn are made from Cornish national tartan.
http://www.headlandhotel.co.uk/

POEM – White Cross

I love the white cross on our banner,
I love the white cross flying high,
For love of our land, together we'll stand,
The flag of St. Piran to fly.

For centuries we've been a Duchy,
No county or shire have we been,
Kernow is ever a country,
And someday the truth will be seen.

I love the white cross on our banner,
I love the white cross flying high,
For love of our land, together we'll stand,
The flag of St. Piran to fly.

On dusty old shelves long have languished,
The laws that would prove our cause right,
But those shelves are all up in London,
Behind doors they keep locked up tight.

I love the white cross on our banner,
I love the white cross flying high,
For love of our land, together we'll stand,
The flag of St. Piran to fly.

How dare we not envy the English?
They cannot believe that it's true,
That given the chance to be English,
It's something we'd rather not do.

I love the white cross on our banner,
I love the white cross flying high,
For love of our land, together we'll stand,
The flag of St. Piran to fly.

They tried to make our flag illegal,
To fly it they said was a crime,
But shops throughout Kernow recorded,
The greatest flag sales of all time.

I love the white cross on our banner,
I love the white cross flying high,
For love of our land, together we'll stand,
The flag of St. Piran to fly.

Our children are taught to be English,
Forbidden to speak their own tongue,
But we'll teach the truth of our nation,
We won't let them brainwash the young.

I love the white cross on our banner,
I love the white cross flying high,
For love of our land, together we'll stand,
The flag of St. Piran to fly.

We're proud of our Celtic tradition,
No Angles or Saxons are we,
And Celts always share one position,
We fight to the end to be free.

I love the white cross on our banner,
I love the white cross flying high,
For love of our land, together we'll stand,
The flag of St. Piran to fly.
For love of our land, together we'll stand,
The flag of St. Piran to fly.

By Mike Chappel

GERMOE

Germoe, is located at the bottom of Tregonning Hill, between Penzance and Helston (near to Breage, which was covered in our newsletter recently). The 12th century church is the main feature of the village. A board in the Church records Vicars from 1219 William son of Humphrey, to 2007 Penny Prince. The original Norman church was built from local Breaca granite taken from Tregonning Hill, it is softer that most granite and easier to work.
As the population grew so did the church. In the 14th century the church was extended with the addition of the north aisle and the tower. The modification also includes the 'Germoe Monkeys' which are carved either side of the door on the church porch - it's thought they are intended depict the spirit of evil and mischief driven from the church door! The church and village are named after St Germoe, about which little is know but is thought to be one of a number Celtic saints who arrived from Ireland with their sister Brecca in the 5th century.

The parish of Germoe (In Cornish: *Sen Germow*) is situated in the Deanery and Hundred of Kerrier. It is bounded on the north, east and south by Breage, and on the west by St Hilary. Germoe has been considered as a separate parish for many years, but the Church has been subordinate to that of Breage.

This was eminently a mining parish, but it also had some good farms. Originally, the houses and shops were built to satisfy the needs of miners digging for tin and china clay, but today both these industries have ceased and the village survives with about a third of the population that existed in 1841. A war memorial stands on Tregonning Hill, the highest point in the parish. The Godolphin family were the principal landowners in the parish. The chief villages were the Churchtown, Tresowes and Boscreege. There is a large sandy beach at Praa Sands, which is within the parish.

Nearby the Church, next to the lane is a well, which has been renovated in recent years. The churchyard also contains a curious little twin arched building known as St Germoe's Chair.

According to the respected antiquarian John Leland the strucure was a shrine covering the bones of St Germoe. However, there is in fact no trace of Germoe's or anybody else's bones under the structure.

Germoe's most reknowned son was William Lemon (presumably whom Lemon Quay in Truro is named after). Born in 1696 and educated at the village school, Lemon went on to conceive the idea of working mines on a large scale using steam powered pumps and all the engineering technology of the day.

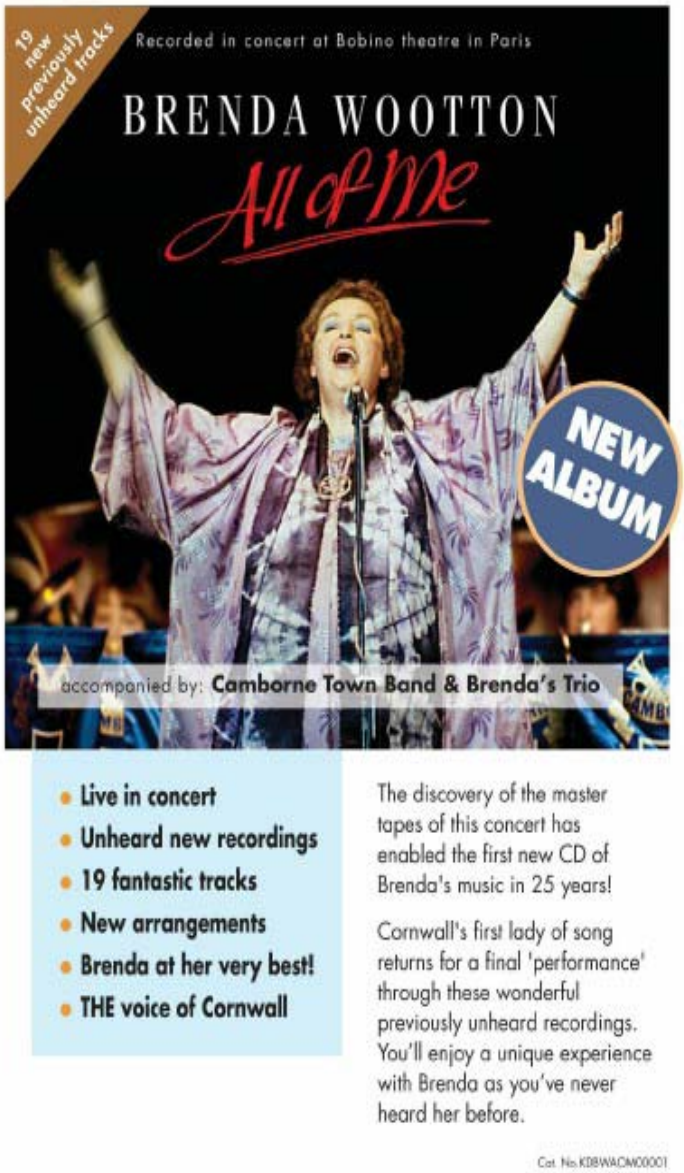
CHARLESTOWN SHRAPNEL

Our foundation member Ted Stark has long connection with the port village of Charlestown on the south coast of Cornwall. During the WW2 many such locations were the target for bombing. Ted had in his possession for many years a piece of shrapnel that told of those wartime days. Coming to Australia he brought the cherished piece with him. A house "The Grove' was hit in 1940 with minor damage. Ted, in school and aged 10, obtained the peice. Recently he wrote to the Cornwall Museum in Truro about it. On a visit there he handed over the shrapnel to the museum Curator. And they are delighted to have it for a refurbished display featuring war-time Cornwall (it will be shown with a photo of Ted, aged 10).

MINI-QUIZ

Jennifer Meston enjoyed her trip to Britain last year, but was puzzled about this St Piran's flag of which she took a photo – it is not flying in Cornwall! a) Where is it flying? b) Why? Answers page 8.

NEW BRENDA WOOTON DVD



'This is a wonderful mixture of music: Cornish, jazz, folk, and popular, sung by our own lady of song, and great patriotic Cornish-women, the late Brenda Wootton'. (Chris Dunkerley)

For more details including price and to order online – go to: **http://www.brendawootton.com/**

The price to Australia p&p paid will be approx. £16 or about $27. '*The quality is superb and makes the sound of the Camborne band 'live'*'. Contact: john@knightdesign.co.uk for more details

INTRODUCING SOME CORNISH WEB SITES

A series looking at some of web sites that have become available on the Internet:

http://www.cornishstory.com/

Cornish Story is an initiative of the Cornish Audio Visual Archive (CAVA) and designed by Project Brokers Digital Media with the support of the Heritage Lottery Fund. CAVA is based at the Institute of Cornish Studies, University of Exeter at Tremough with its recordings publicly available at the Cornwall Centre/Kresenn Kernow in Redruth.

http://www.peransans.org/

Cowethas Peran Sans - Fellowship of St Piran - *Walking the Way of Cornwall's Celtic Saints.* Cowethas Peran Sans was founded on the most glorious of summer's days at the ancient Oratory of St Piran on Perran Sands on 26th July 2006, the place which has the best claim to be the spiritual heart of Cornwall. Consider how Cornwall's Celtic spiritual heritage might best be rediscovered.

http://www.magakernow.org.uk

MagaKernow – the Cornish Language Partnership, set up in 2005 to oversee the Cornish Language Development Strategy. Maga promotes Cornish and development of it further in Cornish life. This site helps beginners – learn some Cornish today! *Learn a new language - Dyski taves nowyth*

MEMBERS MILESTONES

We think of those who are unwell (let us know please), or with long term chronic illness.

GET WELL: Best wishes to Eileen Lyon and Geoff Ford who are recovering from recent major operations. Hope test results went well for Ursula Knight.

New members: John & Linda Blackhall of Middle Dural. Interests – visiting Cornwall, coast walking.

Congratulations to:

Wedding: grandma Ursula Knight reports that Naomi will marry Evan Webb on 18 January – congrats! But is he a Cornish Webb Ursula?

CANSW Public & Members Web Pages:

This is the public face of the Association – Thanks to John Symonds, our hard working Webmaster.

John has greatly updated the ***'Stories Site'*** part of our web pages in our new look at

www.celticcouncil.org.au/cornish/nsw.htm

At this new location you now can explore:

- John's wonderful CANSW ***Stories Site*** (Cornish settlements at Byng, Cadia, and Cobar, first find of payable gold in NSW, etc. Make sure you have a look good at all of this!!
- Links to ***Members*** 'stuff' – membership form, rules, sample newsletters, many talks & articles, list of sales items, and the library listing, etc.
- ***Links*** to other interesting sites; and other pages

Note: John's eyesight means he can't spend much time on the computer now, but along with the pages updated, he will update any details on the surnames page – please email him with update details of your family interests to jlsymo@ozemail.com.au

Editorial note: The content of this newsletter does not necessarily reflect official views of the CANSW, but rather of the various contributors and sources! If someone is sick then please let me know for a get-well message, or other news please!

The next Newsletter is February / March 2011
Deadline is 5 February. Items (emailed, or on disk, or even typed for scanning) very welcome!

MINI-QUIZ answers: a) The St Piran's flag is flying on the Isle of Man (3-legs o'man flags are a giveaway. It is nearby to the Great Laxey Wheel, from the top of which the photo was taken; b) The Great Laxey Mine Railway which runs to the wheel was once part of the mining industry with two small steam engines. These were Cornish engines and Cornish worked on both the mine and the Wheel. It was with Cornish help that the engines were restored and in recognition of those links the flag of St Piran flies proudly with the Legs of Man. Work continues to restore the old narrow gauge line and stock. One link between Celtic Kernow and Celtic Ellan Vannin.

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