

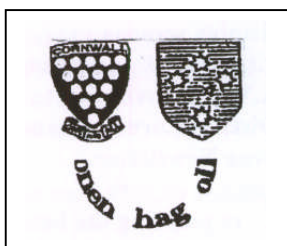
# The Cornish Association of Victoria Inc. Ballarat Branch.

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## MINUTES OF THE BALLARAT BRANCH OF THE CORNISH ASSOCIATION OF VICTORIA INC. 10<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2010

President John Mildren extended a warm welcome



to twenty two members and visitor Sue Walker. Vice President Joy Menhennet provided piano accompaniment for everyone singing "Hail to the Homeland"

**Apologies** were received from Lillian Dell; Glynis Hendrickson; Beverly and David Pratt; Kaye and John Morrish; Margaret Nankervis; Bill Whitford; Irene Young; Ian Jennings. Minutes of the meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> February 2010, as circulated, were confirmed on the motion of Anita de Little and Val D'Angri. Carried.

### **Business arising from the minutes.**

1. Vacancy for Catering Officer. Members were encouraged to volunteer for this position.
2. Welcome Back Cousin Jack Festival, held at Eaglehawk 18<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> March, 2010. President John expressed appreciation of members who attended and in particular the huge contribution made by Joy Menhennet and Wendy Benoit. Robyn and Arthur Coates photographs will be displayed during High Tea. Beryl Pearse and Glen Bray expressed delight at the large number who attended the Church service and Glen was the proud winner of the raffle prize, a beautiful crochet Cornish rug. This will be on display later. Wendy Benoit proudly carried our banner in the

procession, with John and Lenice Stuchbery carrying St. Piran's flags.

3. One, only, Cornish Calendar remains unsold. It was suggested that this be given to Mary Higginbotham of St. Cuthbert's Church.

### **Correspondence. Outward.**

1. Peter Trevorah, Cornish Language Group, re speaking at our A.G.M. 5<sup>th</sup> June 2010.
2. Robyn Nicholls re speaking at the 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2010 meeting.

### **Inward.**

1. June Whiffin, Secretary C.A.V. Inc., bookings for Eaglehawk Festival.
2. Desma Blow confirming her new address.
3. Cornish World magazine, number 68, with St. Piran's flag.
4. Derek Trewarne, President C.A.V. Inc. re display for Eaglehawk Festival.
5. Hocking Descendants Society newsletter.
6. London Cornish Association newsletter.
7. Cornish Association of South Australia newsletter and thanks for our newsletter which is mentioned on page 7.
8. Newsletter of the Bendigo and District Cornish Association.
9. Newsletter of the Southern Sons of Cornwall Inc. and request to receive our newsletters.
10. Arthur & Robyn Coates, web address of a selection of photographs <http://www.arcoates.com/cornish/>
11. Peter Trevorah, Cornish Language Group. He will inform us later if he is



able to speak at our A.G.M. Also a copy of 'Blas Kernewek' –A taste of Cornish.

12. Derek Trewarne, President of C.A.V. Inc. Heartfelt thanks to all who contributed to the Eaglehawk Festival.
13. Liz. Broek, London Cornish Association, thank you for our newsletter.
14. Tom Luke. C.D. containing photographs of headstones in the Pendeen Cemetery.
15. Tom and Libby Luke, from Rod Lyon, re petition for stadium in Cornwall.
16. Colin Roberts re St. Columb Hurling.
17. Cornish World, St. Piran's Day celebrations.
18. Tom Luke, Daily Mail article re recognition of Cornwall.
19. Cornish Association of Bendigo and District, new C.D. cost \$25.
20. Active 8 Cornish Activities web site [www.activecornwall.co.uk](http://www.activecornwall.co.uk)
21. Purely Cornish Farm Shop.
22. David Spencely, President C.H.H.A Family and Local History Expo to be held 6<sup>th</sup>- 7<sup>th</sup> November 2009.
23. Ballarat Community Health. National Bowel Cancer Screening programme.
24. Rosemary Gordon re William Roberts who is mentioned in "Cornish Pioneers of Ballarat".
25. Susie Spence, Trentham, re our proposed coach trip there.

Nita Bartle moved that the correspondence be received. Lorice Jenkin seconded the motion. Carried.

#### **Business arising from the correspondence.**

1. C.H.H.A .Expo will be discussed at the next committee meeting.
2. Coach trip to Trentham will be discussed by the committee.
3. President John conveyed thanks to Margaret Morrish for her newsletters.

#### **Treasurers Report and accounts passed for payment.**

Marjory Foo reported that the balance brought forward was \$2186.98. Receipts were subscription \$27. Donation \$3. Calender sales \$8. Total \$38. Expenditure was Hall hire \$20. Newsletter \$50.75. Cornish World subscription \$106.17. Courier death notice for Audrey Peet \$40.70. 40% of subscription to C.A.V. \$10.80. Total \$228.42. Credit balance at 10<sup>th</sup> April 2010 \$1996.56. Accounts passed for payment for April newsletter \$59.75. April meeting hall hire \$20.00. Total \$79.75



Marjory Foo moved that her report be adopted. Robyn Coates seconded the motion.

#### **Librarians Report.**

Wendy Benoit reported that new cuttings have been added to the Scrap Book- Maisie Cunningham, Val D'Angri and Lenice and John Stuchbery. Bendigo newspaper mentions the Eaglehawk Festival but not the Cornish participation.

Lenice and Wendy attended the C.H.H.A meeting and were presented with our prize, a certificate, plastic sleeves and boxes. The latest Cornish World magazines will be placed in the library. Sales at our stall at Eaglehawk totalling \$286.60 were three copies of Cornish Pioneers of Ballarat Volume 1, two copies of volume 2, two copies of Our Heritage, nineteen magnets and craft toys made by Joy Menhennet.

Purchases were volume 3 of Ian Glanville's book for the library \$10 and six mugs@\$3 each to be used as gifts for speakers.

Val D'Angri's photos take at Christmas will be added to the album

Wendy moved that her report be adopted. Barbara McDonald seconded the motion. Carried.

#### **C.H.H.A. meeting report.**

The secretary and Librarian reported that they, together with Chrissy Stancliffe, attended the meeting at Invermay on 13<sup>th</sup> March 2010. Lauren Burke of the Public Record Office of Victoria presented the awards and mentioned a CD of Land Records that is available for \$49.95. PROV web site is [www.prov.vic.gov.vic](http://www.prov.vic.gov.vic) Dot Wickham has been nominated for a Francis Brown award. A book listing Learmonth heritage buildings will be launched on 25<sup>th</sup> July. Ballarat Heritage Weekend is 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> May when C.H.H.A will have a stall at the Mining Exchange. C.H.H.A members will receive a reduction in the cost of trestle hire at this year's Expo.

Moved by Dolly Whitford. Seconded by Val D'Angri. Carried.

#### **Cornish Segment.**

Helen Lewers spoke about her Pryor family who originated from Wendron. She thanked Joy Menhennet for her assistance in tracing her Cornish roots. Helen has found Family History to be fascinating and addictive. She is 3/8<sup>th</sup> Cornish which Helen believes to be typical in an area such as Ballarat with marriages between Cornish families being common.

The first of the Pryor family to come to Australia were John Pryor and his wife Charlotte



nee Williams. They settled at Garibaldi and eleven of their descendants were pupils at Buninyong Primary School. John was at one time a miner at Little Bendigo. There are many descendants.

Joseph Pryor was an important public figure in Ballarat. He was elected to the Ballarat East Council in 1916 where he remained until Ballarat East and Ballarat Councils amalgamated to form the City of Ballarat Council in 1921. He served there for a further 25 years and was three times Mayor of the City.

Alfred Pryor owned a quarry in Winter Street which was the source of bluestone foundations for many significant Ballarat buildings, including the Ballarat Town Hall and the Arch of Victory.



Helen kindly donated a "Pryor" book to our branch. President John thanked Helen for her interesting talk.

### Cornish Quiz.

Librarian Wendy tested our knowledge of Cornwall, with chocolate frogs being given for correct answers. The following are examples:-

Q. What are Fair Maids and Mahogany?

A. Fair Maids are smoked pilchards once exported to Italy and Spain. Mahogany was two parts gin to one part treacle. Fishermen drank it for its warming qualities.

Q. Where would we find the deepest mine?

A. Dolcoath Mine between Cambourne and Tuckingmill. It was/is the deepest mine in the British Isles and was the premier tin mine in the country until it shut down in 1921 following the tin slump.

Q. Where would we find the last Cornish Beam Engine?

A. At South Crofty near Redruth. (Interesting details given by Wendy).

Q. Where would we find the Giant's Hedge?

A. From Lerryn to West Looe, over a distance of 7 miles runs a great rampart of earth with a ditch at its foot. Uphill and down dale through woods and fields it links the Looe River with Fowey. It probably demarcated a tribal territory some 15 centuries ago. An old rhyme says

"One day the devil having nothing to do,  
Built a great hedge from Lerryn to Looe."

Q. Which is the largest town in Cornwall?

A. Falmouth.

Q. Which is the most southerly tip of England?

A. Lizard Point.

Q. Which is the most westerly town in Cornwall?

A. St. Just in Penwith.

Q. How many tourists visit Cornwall every year?

A. Five million. Most visit from other parts of the U.K.

**High Tea** was enjoyed by all present.

### The Annual General Meeting.

Notice is hereby given of the Annual and General Meeting of the Ballarat Branch of Victoria Inc. to be held in St. Cuthbert's Church Hall on the corner of Sturt and Elliott Streets, Ballarat West, at 5.00 pm on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> June 2010.

The ordinary business of the meeting will be:

To confirm the minutes of the A.G.M. held on 13<sup>th</sup> June 2009.

To receive the President's Annual Report.

To receive and adopt the financial statement submitted by the Treasurer.

Election of Office Bearers and Committee members.

### June Duty Roster.

Beryl Pearse, Margaret Nankervis,  
Lorice Jenkin, Maisie Cunningham.

Will those listed please arrive at the hall at 4.30 pm?

*##Thanks to Robyn and Arthur Coates a selection of beautiful pictures such as the following can be found on their web site.*

<http://www.arcoates.com/cornish/>



*##Nomination forms for the AGM and Reminder Notices that Subs are due are enclosed in this newsletter.*

## **HARVEST CUSTOMS**



Throughout history, man, for his own survival, has found himself relying on the seasons for life giving rains and summer warmth to ensure the growth of his crops. When all went well and the abundance of the fruits of his labours were harvested and stocked, he and his family were naturally thankful and happy knowing that, for another year they would not go hungry. They often attributed the seasons, good or bad, to 'the gods' and from country to country, over the centuries, various customs associated with the harvest developed. Fertility gods and goddesses were called upon to help produce a good harvest and were celebrated in many ways at the end of the harvest. While hand reaping lasted the LAST SHEAF was an important part of the harvest ceremonies. Some threw their sickles at it until nothing remained. Others thought it held an evil spirit and trampled it into the ground, but most treated it with honour.

The Druids believed that the corn spirit lived amongst the crop and the harvest made it effectively homeless. In Celtic tradition at CERRIDWEN, the Last Sheaf, which held the Harvest Spirit, was plaited and fashioned into a woman's form to represent this Corn Maiden, Mistress of the Corn or Corn Mother or as it is more commonly known, Corn Dolly. They believed that she slept there throughout the winter and transferred to the new seed to awaken it when it was sown in the spring. In Great Britain as in other Christian countries the Church often frowned upon these richly symbolic 'PAGAN RITES' but some of these customs were incorporated into acceptable forms of Christian worship. One of these is at "LAMMAS TIDE" held on 1<sup>st</sup> August, when bread made from the first corn is offered at Mass.

Cornwall, which has been a forerunner in industry, exploration and

engineering, can also lay claim to introducing to the religious calendar the more recent Christian HARVEST FESTIVAL. Tradition has it that the vicar of Morwenstow, Reverend Robert Stephen Hawker, wanting his parishioners, many of whom were farmers and labourers, to have a more 'visual' and meaningful way, within the Church, to express gratitude for fruitful harvests, began in 1843 by decorating his Church with the fruits of the land, field and hedgerow. He then called the people together to celebrate Harvest Home. This simple service created such a bond of affection and understanding between country and town folk that by 1860 Harvest Festival, next to Christmas and Easter, became the most popular time for Church going in Cornwall. The idea spread further afield in Great Britain and to other nations and lands far from Cornish shores.



Rev. Hawker, himself, was a very colourful character. He was a serious scholar and a prolific poet. A recent 'This England' magazine also describes him as "a highly eccentric character and a great practical joker. As a boy he once painted zebra stripes on a doctor's horse. He surprised all who knew him by marrying his godmother, who was even older than his mother---. On his honeymoon in Bude, he wrapped oilskins around his legs, draped himself with seaweed and, sitting on a rock some distance out to sea caused many to believe that they had seen a mermaid." Twelve hours before his death in 1875 he was admitted to the Roman Catholic Church.

However, this substitution of the old rites also led to the virtual extinction of other Cornish customs such as "'CRYING THE NECK'. Happily, the Old Cornwall Society has reintroduced this ancient custom to the harvest fields and it has again become one of the highlights

of the Cornish year. When the reapers are near the end of the crop, the farmer who has allowed his field to be used picks out a small bundle of the best ears of the crop that he can find and arranges it tastefully (as for the Corn Dolly). After the field is cut the harvesters and people gather together in a circle around him.

He then cries out in a loud voice  
“I have’n. I have’n. I have’n.”  
and the reply from the onlookers comes  
‘What ‘ave ‘ee? What ave ‘ee? What ‘ave ‘ee?

The farmer continues  
“The neck”. “The neck”. “The neck”.  
Then everyone shouts  
“Hurrah! Hurrah! Hurrah”.



Time has seen the passing of many of the old customs. If it has been a wet harvest and the corn lies damp, nobody bothers to remind himself to whistle in the fields for a breeze before the cutting starts next year! It is also no longer considered lethal to a swarm of bees to move them on any day other than Good Friday! etc.etc.

However it is probable that one of the ancient customs that remains alive and well even today is Harvest Supper when sumptuous Cornish Fare such as Swab/ Lammy/ Herby Pies, Figgy ‘Obbin and Saffron Cake perhaps washed down with Apple Cider are still enjoyed.

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### **Sins of the father.”**

*Judy Wallman, a professional genealogy researcher in Southern California, was*

*doing some personal work on her own family tree. She discovered that Senator Harry Reid’s great-great uncle, Remus Reid, was hanged for horse stealing and train robbery in Montana in 1889. Both Judy and Harry Reid share this common ancestor.*

*The only known photograph of Remus shows him standing on the gallows in Montana territory. On the back of the picture Judy obtained during her research is this inscription:*

*‘Remus Reid, horse thief, sent to Montana Territorial Prison 1885, escaped 1887, robbed the Montana Flyer six times. Caught by Pinkerton detectives, convicted and hanged in 1889.’*

*So Judy recently e-mailed Senator Harry Reid for information about their great-great uncle. Believe it or not, Harry Reid’s staff sent back the following biographical sketch for her genealogical research:*

*‘Remus Reid was a famous cowboy in the Montana Territory. His business empire grew to include acquisition of valuable equestrian assets and intimate dealings with the Montana railroad. Beginning in 1883, he devoted several years of his life to Government service, finally taking leave to resume his dealings with the railroad. In 1887, he was key player in the vital investigation run by the renowned Pinkerton Detective Agency. In 1889, Remus passed away during an important civic function held in his honour when the platform upon which he was standing collapsed.’*

Thank you to *The Ballarat & District Genealogical Society Inc.* who gave permission to copy the above from their newsletter Ballarat LINK, FEBRUARY, 2010.



In **Crantock** (above) there is a plaque (above right) recording the last use of stocks in the village. It contains the following inscription: “The last man in Crantock stocks (circa 1817) was William Tinney of West Pentire, a smuggler’s son and vagabond. He robbed with violence a widow woman of Cubert Parish and was placed to abide justice in Crantock stocks then standing in the church tower. By negligence or design he was insufficiently secured and shortly afterwards appeared on the top of the tower. He had cut the rope from the tenor bell and by this he lowered himself to the nave rood climbing to the eastern cable of the choir and sliding down it he dropped to the churchyard grass and in the sympathetic view of certain village worthies bolted, got off to sea and was never brought to justice or seen in the neighbourhood again. This record was taken down in April 1896 by George Metford Parsons, vicar, from the testimony of Richard Ghegwidden of Crantock he being then 88 years of age and well remembered as a witness the events described.”

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**The Rabbit Whisperer**

From Herald Sun, Friday 16, 2010.

A few words from Cliff Penrose and even the most badly behaved bunny is like putty in his hands. He is Britain’s only rabbit whisperer, a master of the little known art of hypnosis.

His technique is guaranteed to place a patient in a trance, lying flat on its back with paws in the air up to for 10 minutes.

Mr Penrose, 60, uses his skills to prepare sick rabbits for surgery or simply to calm those showing signs of stress.

This has placed him in great demand among local vets in St Austell, Cornwall.

After making a high pitched squeak to get the rabbit’s attention, Mr Penrose strokes it and applies a little pressure to the body.

Having relaxed it, he “bows” to the animal by lowering his head so that it does not feel threatened. He then closes its eyelids, leaving it perfectly still.

“They emerge from a trance a happier, more relaxed pet.” said Mr Penrose, who does not charge for his services. “Once I’m holding an animal, it is only a matter of seconds before they are totally relaxed.”



DAILY MAIL.

**Redruth.** The following extract is taken from the very informative newsletter from ‘The southern Sons of Cornwall’.” The name Redruth (pronounced R’druth) derives from its Cornish name, Rhyd-ruth, an older form of the ‘Res’ which is a Cornish equivalent to a ford (across a river). It is the ‘ruth’ and not the ‘red’ part which means the colour red.”

On the same theme it is interesting to note that the well known village of **Mousehole** derives its name from “Moz Hel”, The Maiden’s River.