



Patron Bill:

Tribute: William (Bill) Robinson Phillips
Rev E.A. (Ted) Curnow, 18 Sept. 2014.

Patron Bill, esteemed Bard of the Cornish Gorsedh, managed with wisdom, respect of culture and the rich things past. Intimate connections to Grand Bards through the ages, many cousins, many branches of trees.

A Patron: *“One who is a protector---one who gives help and favour.”*

He phoned a sick member just last week---becoming a steadying father figure to many.

He learnt we were transferring from South Australia to Victoria. He arranged that we should sit with him at the Kernewek Lowender.

Patron Bill, a man of well worn complexion, of rough Cornish countenance, a love of the old country equal to none. A man proud of family, both at home and abroad. International friendships groomed over the years. Becoming a celebrity in the best sense of that word.

Patron Bill and his lady Gwen lost count of the visits made, but they knew the riches of Cornwall, knew them like the back of a hand. A passionate man of many stories. *“Did I tell you about the time I was in Camborne?”*

A warm social creature who enveloped people---put people at ease, a disarming smile or twinkle of eye. A man of the field, a golfing prowess, meeting mates on the course. Enjoying research, records of relatives. He arrived with the story of the lost town -**Timor**.

Patron Bill sang **Trelawney**---loud as if he meant it; as if we were all marching to ‘*London Tower*.’ He sang Cornish harmonies with three of us at the *“Quiet Man,”* a quaint Melbourne pub. Always a no nonsense man, chaired the annual elections, displaying a precision of Major General in charge.

He tried hard not to interfere, but his special knowledge was equal to none. CAV’s strength - family research - and for this man, we’re the best in the land.

Patron Bill, an unashamed man of faith, 63 years a lay-preacher. We were there in Sithney Church West Cornwall one evening. He rose and delivered his Harvest address. Then 60 years of marriage celebration. The Newsletter said, *“An inspiration defying all current social trends.”*

Patron Bill left a valuable legacy, feelings so strong leave words behind. The time of parting becomes a time of reflection, of review, a thinking place for you and me.

We live in the valley of the shadow, you know; yet we are taken by surprise. This is a special breathing space, --- a moment to set one’s burdens down, to confess and correct all negative ways. Not a time to **give up** but to **take up**, to trust again the words of Jesus, *“I have come to give life—life in all its fullness”* He becomes our living hope, our resurrection.

This is a milestone moment, a thanksgiving place, ---- a place to give special thanks for those God has given, to journey with us in association today.

Prayer:

Lord we thank you for our friend Bill Phillips, for every memory of his passion, for the way he touched the lives of many for good, and for his special love for Kernow. Amen