

Onen hag oll

# The Cornish Association of Victoria Inc. Ballarat Branch

A.C.N. A0008 264A

## June 2026 Newsletter

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**Saturday 6th June** at 2.00 pm - this will be the Annual General Meeting.

If you would like to serve as an office bearer or member of the committee, please tell Wendy Benoit as soon as possible.

Following the AGM there will be a 'surprise' activity.

**Saturday 11st August** at 2.00 pm - Jenny Burrell will be our speaker.

**Last Meeting** - Saturday 28th March -

After a brief business meeting, there were three presentations on Australian War Heroes with a Cornish connection.

**Albert Jacka VC** - courtesy of Wendy Benoit

Albert was born at Layard near Winchelsea in 1893.

His father Nathaniel was born in Geelong but Albert's paternal grandparents were both born in Cornwall. His mother, Elizabeth Kettle was born in Oakham, Rutland England.

His father supplemented his income from farming acting as a policeman.

The family shifted to Wedderburn and at the age of thirteen, Albert went to work with his father in the Department of State Forests.

In 1914, he enlisted with the 14th Australian



Infantry Battalion and after a period of training at Broadmeadows, the Battalion embarked overseas arriving in Egypt in January 1915, for more training and proceeded to Gallipoli, landing on 26th April 1915.

Fierce fighting and a great loss of life followed and the Anzacs pushed back the Turkish soldiers in all but one section.

The Turkish soldiers pushed back a lot of the battalion, but Bert Jacka was able to hold off the Turkish soldiers so the Anzacs were able to hold more ground,

Following this Bert was told he would be recommended for his bravery and was awarded the Victoria Cross.

*Victoria Cross Citation.*

*For most conspicuous bravery on the night of the 19<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> May at 'Courtney's Post' Gallipoli Peninsula. Lance Corporal Jacka, while holding a portion of our trench with four other men, was heavily attacked. When all except himself were killed or wounded, the trench was rushed and occupied by seven Turks. Lance Corporal Jacka at once most gallantly attacked them single handed, and killed the whole party, five by rifle fire and two with a bayonet.*

In June 1916 the 14<sup>th</sup> Battalion was shipped from Egypt to France to fight on the Western Front. On the 6<sup>th</sup> August the unit moved to Pozieres where the unit was over run by the Germans in the area where they were. "Bert rallied his men and they recaptured a section of the trench, freed a group of captured Australians and forced the surrender of some fifty Germans".

Bert was seriously injured and was sent to London

Normally meetings are held on the even months at Skipton Street Uniting Church Hall, cnr Darling and Skipton Streets, Ballarat.

Meetings begin at 2.00 pm and are followed by a shared high tea.



for treatment.

Bert's actions were described, by Charles Bean, (Australia's Official War Correspondent and historian) for which he obtained his Military Cross as **"the most dramatic and effective act of individual audacity in the history of the AIF."**

At the disastrous first battle of Bullecourt, 11<sup>th</sup> April 1917, Bert acted as an intelligence officer and earned a bar to his Military Cross.

Charles Bean thought that Bert deserved 3 Victoria crosses.

When Bert came back to Australia, he began an Electrical Goods business with two other ex-service men but unfortunately it did not survive the depression.

He was interested in politics and was mayor of St Kilda for some time.

In 1921, he married Frances Veronica Carey at St Mary's, St Kilda.

She had worked as a receptionist at the business. Unfortunately they had no children but adopted a girl Elizabeth Mary.

Albert died in 1932 from kidney disease.

He was buried with full Military Honours at St Kilda Cemetery.

**Richard Williams** - Keith Lanyon

Richard Williams was born on 3 August 1890 at Moonta Mines, South Australia. He was the eldest son of Richard Williams, a copper miner who had emigrated from Cornwall, England, and his wife Emily.

Leaving Moonta Public School, Williams worked as a telegraph messenger and later as a bank clerk.

He enlisted in a militia unit, the South Australian Infantry Regiment, in 1909 at the age of nineteen and was Commissioned a second lieutenant in 1911, he joined the Permanent Military Forces in 1912.

In August 1914, Lieutenant Williams took part in Australia's inaugural military flying course at Central Flying School, at Point Cook, Victoria and became the first student to graduate as a pilot in 1914. He was promoted Captain in 1916 and appointed to Australian Flying Corps, joined the Royal Flying Corps (part of British Military) and served in Palestine and was shot down behind enemy lines.

Other well-known aviators who joined the AFC/RFC included Charles Kingsford Smith, Ross Smith.



Hudson Fysh, William Treloar and George Merz,

The RAF was formed in 1918 and saw the merger of Royal Flying Corps and the Royal Naval Air Service.

Richard Williams was the first Australian officer to command a squadron in the RAF.

He was awarded the Distinguished Service Order for rescuing a downed pilot.

In 1920 Williams returned to Australia and re-worked the Australian air wing on similar lines to the RAF - this was opposed by both Army and Navy who wanted to maintain their independence.

In 1921 Australian Air Force formed - later Royal Australian Air Force. He served as Chief of the Airforce several times during 1920-1930

Williams returned to the RAF and was Administrator of Coastal Command in 1939.

In 1940, he returned to London to establish and command RAAF Overseas Headquarters to handle the administration of Australian personnel,

In 1942 - Washington as the RAAF's representative to the Combined Chiefs of Staff in the United States, and he remained there until the end of the war.

He was discharged in 1946

Following his discharge from the Air Force, Williams was appointed Australia's Director-General of Civil Aviation, serving in the position for almost 10 years.

He was appointed Knight Commander of the Order of the British Empire (KBE) in the 1954 New Year Honours,

He then took up a place on the board of Tasman Empire Airways Limited (TEAL), forerunner of Air New Zealand,

Sir Richard Williams died in Melbourne on 7 February 1980.

**William Symons VC** - Robyn Coates

William Symons had three of four grandparents who were born in Cornwall - all of whom came to Australia at some time.

He was born at Eaglehawk in 1889.

Educated at Eaglehawk State School, in 1906, he moved with his family to Brunswick, Melbourne, and

worked as a commercial traveller. This was probably after the death of his father. He served for eight years in the militia (5th and 60th battalions) before enlisting in the Australian Imperial Force on 17th August 1914 at Carlton. Posted to the 7th Battalion under Pompey Elliott.

The Battle of Lone Pine (6–10 August 1915) resulted in over 2,000 Australian casualties (killed or wounded) and an estimated 5,000–7,000 Turkish casualties.

Specifically, more than 800 Australian soldiers were killed during the four-day battle, and Turkish forces suffered approximately 1,500 deaths.

About 5 a.m. on 9 August 1915 the Turks made a series of determined attacks on Jacob's Trench at Lone Pine where six Australian officers were killed or severely wounded.

Learning that the position had been overrun, Lieutenant-Colonel Harold 'Pompey' Elliott ordered Symons to retake the trench.

'I don't expect to see you again', he said, 'but we must not lose that post'.

Symons led the charge that drove off the Turks, but the enemy continued attacking from the front and both flanks.

Symons received Elliott's permission to abandon fifteen yards (14 m) of open trench and to establish a new barricade. Although the Turks set fire to the overhead woodwork, Symons extinguished the flames, kept the barricade in place and finally forced the enemy to discontinue their attacks.



Symons was one of seven Australians to win the Victoria Cross at Lone Pine.

Symons was cited for his conspicuous gallantry and received his V.C. from King George V at Buckingham Palace on 4 December 1915.

*VC Citation reads*

*"For most conspicuous bravery on the night of 8th-9th August 1915, at Lone Pine trenches, in the Gallipoli Peninsula.*

*He was in command of the right section of the newly captured trenches held by his battalion and repelled several counter-attacks with great coolness.*

*At about 5am on 9th August a series of determined attacks were made by the enemy on an isolated sap, and six officers were in succession killed or severely wounded, a portion of the sap being lost.*

*Lieutenant Symons then led a charge and retook the lost sap, shooting two Turks with his revolver*

*The sap was under hostile fire from three sides, and Lieutenant Symons withdrew some fifteen yards to a spot where some overhead cover could be obtained, and in the face of heavy fire built up a sand barricade. The enemy succeeded in settling fire to the fascines and woodwork of the head-cover, but Lieutenant Symons extinguished the fire and rebuilt the barricade. His coolness and determination finally compelled the enemy to discontinue their attacks".*

Admitted to hospital with gastro-enteritis after the Battle of Lone Pine, he was granted time to convalesce and when he was well, he returned to Australia from March to June.

He was presented with testimonial by the citizens of Brunswick, now on display at the AWM in Canberra.

He was appointed Captain and to 37th Battalion – raised at Seymour - and returned to England, then France and Belgium – gassed at Battle of Messines Ridge/Mesen located south of Ieper/Ypres – June 1917 – took six months to recover.

On 15th August 1918 he married Isabel Annie Hockley at St Mary's Church, Hayling Island, Hampshire, England

In 1918, he adopted the surname of Pen-Symons – in recognition of his Cornish heritage. He and his wife had three daughters.

Symons worked as a travelling salesman in the immediate post-war years but struggled to maintain employment due to recurrent health problems.

In 1923, seeking to increase his employment prospects, Symons commuted his pension and went to the United Kingdom to study paper making. He decided to make the move permanent and, joined by his wife Isabel and their two daughters, settled in Greater London and turned his hand to business ventures.

He later became manager of a greyhound track and even returned to military service during the Second World War.

As a lieutenant colonel, he commanded the 12th Battalion, Leicestershire Home Guard from 1941 to 1944.

Survived by his wife and three daughters, he died of a brain tumour on 24th June 1948 in London.

Following the talks, we all enjoyed a wonderful afternoon tea with plenty of chatter.

## Thomas Richards (1825-1895)

Chrissy Stancliffe in her research, at the Ballarat Mechanics Institute, came across the death notice of a former Cornishman, Thomas Richards, in the *Ballarat Courier* and together we have put together part of his family's history.

Ballarat Courier - 10<sup>th</sup> September 1895 - Page 2 - Column 7 and 8.

RICHARDS – On the 8<sup>th</sup> September, at 99 Ligar street, Thomas Richards; aged seventy years. Mr Thomas Richards, J.P., another old identity, died on Sunday after a prolonged illness, the cause of death being paralysis. The sad event took place at the residence of his brother, Mr Jabez Richards, of Ligar street. The deceased, who was seventy years of age, was a native of Cornwall.

He arrived in the colony when quite a young man, and he was a prominent figure on the goldfields in the early days.

Mr Richards was well known as the legal manager of several mining companies and was an ex-president and councillor of Bungaree shire, and at the time of his death he was shire treasurer.

He was secretary of the Mine owners' Associations, also a useful member of the Ballarat Mining Board, having been connected with that body for nearly twenty years.

Mr Richards was of a very unassuming disposition. He had a large circle of friends and acquaintances, and his death is widely regretted. Deceased was married twice, and he leaves a widow and grown-up son.

(His widow according to probate details was named Lucinda/Lucy/Lucie – not sure who his first wife was)

Ballarat Star (Vic. : 1865 - 1924), Thursday 19 September 1895, page 2

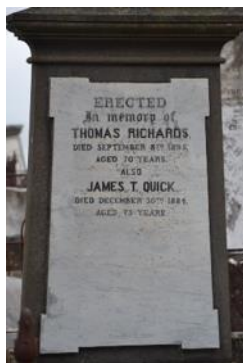
Deaths. Richards.

On the 8th Sept., of paralysis of the brain, Thomas Richards, loving and beloved husband of Lucie Richards, in his 70th year.

Safe home to Jesus.

Bereavement Cards. Richards - Mrs T. Richards returns heartfelt thanks to her numerous friends in this and other colonies who sympathized with her in her recent peculiarly painful bereavement.

**Thomas Richards** is buried in the Ballarat New Cemetery Private D, Section 05, grave 18. In the same grave is James T. Quick who died on 30<sup>th</sup> December 1884 aged 72 years.



James Quick was born in St Ives, Cornwall. His father was Robert Quick and mother was Elizabeth Trenerry.

At this stage I cannot find a familial connection. Thomas left twenty pounds in his will for a grave monument.

Ballarat Courier - 1<sup>st</sup> October 1895 - Page 2 col 1

At the meeting of the Ballarat Mining Board yesterday, the death of Mr Thomas Richards, late member for the Ballarat division, was feelingly alluded to by the chairman. Mr Richards had held office for twenty years, and was respected not only by the miners, but by all classes of the community, for his honest consistency in forwarding the industry and the advancement of the district.

It was resolved – "That this board places on record its deep and heartfelt regret for the death of Mr Thomas Richards, who has served the mining interest as a member of this board faithfully and intelligently for twenty years.

The board by his death has lost a sincere friend and adviser, and the mining industry a devoted servant."

Table Talk, 1<sup>st</sup> October 1895, page 16.

THOMAS Richards, of Ballarat, mining manager, by his will dated April 26, 1895, and presented for probate by Messrs. Cuthbert and Company, of Ballarat, solicitors, appointed his brother Jabez Richards and his son William Richards, executors. Testator bequeathed his watch and chain to his son William Richards, of Collingwood, chemist, and directed the residue of his estate to be sold. The proceeds are bequeathed to his wife for life (after payment of funeral expenses and a sum of £20 for a tombstone), with reversion, after her death, to his son William Richards.

Testator died September 8, 1895, and the estate is sworn at £450 real and £804 personal; total, £1254.

## Some Richards family history

**Thomas Richards** and his brother **Jabez** arrived in Melbourne aboard the *Ameer* on 2<sup>nd</sup> February 1854 from London via the Cape of Good Hope. They were unassisted passengers.

Another brother **Benjamin** and a sister **Julia** also came to Australia.

Theirs was quite a large family.

Their parents, William Richards and Joan Matthews had married on 2<sup>nd</sup> January 1808 at Madron – at this time William is listed as a Mariner.

Whilst in baptism details of his children, he is a

Master Mariner (i.e. able to captain a ship) and in some records is referred to as Captain Ruchards. It is suggested, on Ancestry, that he died at sea, with his son John, in 1837, but I can't find evidence of this. However, I cannot find him in any census – the 1841 census doesn't indicate whether Joan is a widow but in 1851 she is a widow.

William Richards was baptized in 1781 at St Ives – his parents William Richards and Mary Uren had married on 13<sup>th</sup> May 1773 at St Ives – William senior is also listed as a mariner

William's wife Joan Matthews was born in Wales c1791 – her father was John and her mother Emmett (m/s Davies) – Joan died in 1859 – she was listed in various census as a pawn broker.

## CHILDREN

**1. Julia Richards** was born c1811 probably at Madron as she was baptized at Madron in April 1812 – Julia died in Ballarat in Ballarat 1879. Julia married Thomas Garland Mathews on 21<sup>st</sup> August 1833 in Madron, Cornwall. His occupation isn't listed Thomas was baptized at St Hilary in 1804 and was the son of Henry Mathews and Ann Garland.

They emigrated to South Australia and arrived on 15<sup>th</sup> October 1848, in Adelaide - Thomas and his family (wife Julia and four children – [William (b 1834), John (b 1835 d 1914 Ballarat), Ann (b c1837) and Julia (bapt 1837)] sailed aboard the 'Santipore' from London via Plymouth which departed 17<sup>th</sup> May 1848.

Two further children were born in SA – George 1849-1849 and George James 1851.

They lived in SA before moving to Victoria.

It is suggested on many family trees that Thomas died on 1<sup>st</sup> September 1875 in Ballarat or Victoria, but I cannot his death in Vic BDMs.

Ballarat Cemetery records indicate Julia was buried on 5<sup>th</sup> September 1879 – her address is listed as Humffray Street and she is a widow – in the same grave is her son William Henry Richards, who was buried before her on 1<sup>st</sup> January 1871.

**2. Mary Uren Richards** - didn't marry – she is listed as a Pawn Broker 1816-1883 – died in Penzance and was buried in Madron on 15<sup>th</sup> December 1883.

**3. Emmet Mills** 1817-1890 – she didn't marry - Pawn Broker – died at Penzance – was buried at Madron on 24<sup>th</sup> February 1890.

**4. John Mathews** baptised at Madron in 1825 - may have drowned at sea. in 1837 along with his father – some Ancestry trees indicate Mediterranean others Caribbean and even Penzance. I can find no evidence of his drowning nor his death. He doesn't appear in 1841 census.

**5. William** baptised in 1825 at Madron – may have died in 1896 in England.

**6. Thomas** baptised in 1825 Madron– d 1895 Ballarat – newspaper reports following his death provide more information - above

He married Lucy Running in 1876 – though according to a newspaper report at the time of his death, he had been married twice, so not sure who his first wife was.

Ballarat Star (Vic. : 1865 - 1924), Monday 25 December 1876, page 2

Richards—Running. - On the 9<sup>th</sup> December, at Brighton, by the Rev. John Catterall, Wesleyan minister, Thomas Richards, of Ballarat, to Lucy, daughter of the late William; Running, Esq., of Woodview, Armagh, Ireland.

There was one son mentioned in his will – William – who was left a watch and chain who was a chemist in Collingwood.

Not sure whether he was a son from his first or second marriage.

**7. David Mathews** - 1830 – was naturalised as a USA citizen in 1856 and lived in San Francisco – checking Ellis Island records as to when he may have arrived is too difficult!

**8. Benjamin** – b 1831

Benjamin was awarded a certificate of competency as a second mate (Mariner) in 1850 - he came to Australia before the 1851 UK census.

He married, in 1853, Mary Ann Holman - she was 17 years – b 1836 - married in Bendigo - she had arrived in SA aboard the *Recovery* in 1839 with her parents John Holman and Mary (Rowe) and three siblings.

According to family trees on Ancestry, Benjamin supposedly had a falling out with Thomas. Benjamin died in 1916.

The Argus, 24<sup>th</sup> June 1916 page 13.

RICHARDS.—On the 21<sup>st</sup> June, at St. George's private hospital, Kew, Benjamin Richards, of Toora,

South Gippsland, aged 85 years.  
(Privately interred at Box Hill on the 23rd June - CE 1020 unmarked grave.)

South Gippsland Shire Echo (Vic. : 1914 - 1918),  
Friday 30 June 1916, page 3

Death of an Old Pioneer.

Mr. Benjamin Richards, aged 85, of Toora, died on June 21st, of bronchitis.

He came to Victoria 65 years ago, (c1851) just after the discovery of gold, and proceeded to Forest Creek, near Castlemaine.

After many years of mining at Bendigo, New Zealand and Ballarat, he, with his two sons, took up blocks of land, in 1887, in what was then a dense forest at Toora, South Gippsland.

At one time he possessed the largest dairy in Victoria.

We tender our deepest sympathy to the relatives of deceased, who are widely respected throughout the district.

Gippslander and Mirboo Times (Vic. : 1914 - 1918),  
Thursday 20 April 1916, page 2

As a result of a conversation re the largest number of cows milked in one dairy in South Gippsland, we have been shown a letter in which it is stated that before and after the big bush fire in 1898, Mr Benjamine Richards, for several seasons, was milking over 500 cows on his "Kewita" dairy, Toora, and at the time of his sale, about 12 years ago Mr Richards said he was milking about 600.

Mr Jabez Richards (his son) says the most cows milked in one shed owned by his father was 609.

**9. Jabez Richards – 1832–1906 – came to Victoria with his brother Thomas**

Ballarat Star - 27<sup>th</sup> October 1906, page 4

Mr Jabez Richards, a highly esteemed citizen, died yesterday morning at the residence of his son, Dr Richards, Lydiard Street, after an illness extending over two or three weeks.

The deceased, who would have been 74 years of age in December next, was born at Penzance, Cornwall, and in 1853 he came out to Australia, arriving in Ballarat soon afterwards.

He engaged in mining for some time and was connected with the Mount Rowen field, where his late brother, Mr Thomas Richards, was the mining manager.

He followed mining for a few years, and 48 years ago he entered the service of the City Council.

Latterly, Mr Richards held the position of market inspector and inspector of weights and measures.

He was one of the first officers appointed in the council, and the only one now left of all the original councillors and officers is Mr James Oddie.

In his younger days the late Mr Richards was a very keen politician.

In the early days, in every contested election, he took a very prominent part in the organising of the campaign for the candidates whose cause he espoused, and he was always regarded as a tower of strength by any candidate for whom he was working. He was a very prominent member of the old Ballarat Liberal Association, which fought so many successful battles, and with the late Mr Peter Normand was always to be found in the forefront of any Liberal movement in this district.

He was a staunch supporter of the late Colonel Smith and his colleagues, Messrs Henry Bell and George Fincham, but after the death of the Colonel he took considerably less interest in politics, a fact due, no doubt, partly to advancing years, but principally to the fact that those with whom he had been associated in so many fights had passed out of politics.

Mr Richards was a prominent member for a number of years of the Orphan Asylum committee and took a very keen interest in it.

His advice on all matters pertaining to the institution was always accepted as being governed by sound judgment and a desire to benefit the Asylum.

The deceased leaves a married daughter, Mrs Dark, wife of the manager of the Colonial Bank, Camperdown, a single daughter, and a son (Dr Richards).

The funeral will take place this afternoon, and, singularly enough, the deceased will be buried within one grave of the late Colonel Smith, with whom he was associated in politics for so many years.

Our Miners' Rest correspondent writes:

“Much regret was felt when the news of the death of Mr Richards was made known. The deceased gentleman was well and favourably known by the oldest residents.”

Jabez Richards is buried in the Ballarat New Cemetery. C of E, E, Section 02, grave 05.

Jabez Richards had married Sarah Kildahl in 1862.

Star (Ballarat, Vic. : 1855 - 1864), Friday 31 October 1862, page 2 - MARRIAGE.

On the 30th October, at Christ Church, Ballarat, by Rev. G. J. Russell, Incumbent of Buninyong, Jabez Richards, Esq., son of the late Captain Richards, Penzance, Cornwall, to Sarah, second daughter of the late John Kildahl, Esq., Solicitor, Dublin.

Children of Jabez Richards and Sarah Kildahl:

\*Mary Catherine b 1863 d 1953 m in 1896 David Macarthur Darke (1852-1935)

Argus (Melbourne, Vic. : 1848 - 1957), Wednesday 23 June 1886, page 1

DARKE—RICHARDS.—On the 16th inst., at St. Paul's Church, Ballarat, by the Rev. R. T. Cummins, David Henry Darke, youngest son of William Wedge Darke, to May (Mary), eldest daughter of Jabez Richards, Ballarat.

David's father was Assistant Surveyor and Commissioner of Crown Lands in NSW. David was a bank manager.

\*John Kildahl Richards b 1867 d 12<sup>th</sup> May 1941 married Alice Rickard in 1907 died in 1935; m Lizzie Palmer 1936  
His obituary below

\*Sarah Georgina b 1869 d 1955 – did not marry

Jabez's wife, Sarah died in 1894 – aged 54 years – she was the daughter of John Kildahl and Catherine Anne Parke.

It would appear, from his will, that he had a substantial share in his brother Benjamin's farm, at Toora, in Gippsland and also property in Ballarat. His estate was left to his three children.

The Argus 13<sup>th</sup> May 1941 page 5 – Obituary of son DR. J. K. RICHARDS (John Kildahl)

The death occurred at his home in Lydiard st, Ballarat, yesterday, of Dr. J. K. Richards, aged 74. Dr. Richards was educated at Melbourne and Edinburgh universities.

On his return from Edinburgh, he began practice at Ballarat and continued his work until shortly before his death.

When a young man, he was keenly interested in military affairs, and from 1909 was medical officer for Ballarat military units.

He was associated with the Ballarat Benevolent Asylum and was appointed president of the Ballarat district branch of the British Medical Association in 1914.

During World War I, he served as a medical officer, on troop ships, between Australia and Egypt, holding the honorary rank of Captain, later Major.

He was the honorary medical officer for the Ballarat Old Colonists' Club for 39 years.

His medical rooms were located at his home, 'The Beacon', 334 Lydiard Street North, Ballarat.

Dr. Richards died on 12 May 1941 and is buried at Ballarat (New) Cemetery.

His estate was substantial and was left to his sister Sarah and his two nieces and a nephew, after some donations to various Ballarat people or institutions.



### **Restored china clay pit 'handed back to nature'**

A six-year project to fill a china clay pit in mid Cornwall is aiming to increase biodiversity.

The former quarry called Dubbers, which is Cornish for a miner's pick axe, stopped working in the 1960s and as the industry progressed the hole was used for the waste process from the kaolin - or china clay - works.

The 150 hectare (371 acre) site is owned by mineral company Imerys, which manages extensive kaolin operations in the area.

Mark Hewson, Imerys' lead in the UK, said the company had planted 100,000 trees at Dubbers in "one of the largest forestation projects in the South West" so the site could be handed "back to nature" The site is at one of the highest points in Cornwall and the company said the public could enjoy up to four miles (6.4km) of public footpaths with outstanding views.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cq59516z01yo>

### **Morrab Gardens Penzance visited by Duke of Gloucester**

His Royal Highness The Duke of Gloucester visited two community institutions in Penzance on Wednesday, May 13th.

Accompanied by the Lord Lieutenant of Cornwall, Colonel Sir Edward Bolitho, The Duke began his visit at The Gardeners' House in Morrab Gardens, where he met staff, volunteers and partners, and learned about the site's growing programme of community, heritage and wellbeing activities.

The Duke observed fermentation workshops hosted by New York Times bestselling author and fermentation expert Sandor Katz, part of Fermentation, Foraging and the Field, a month-long celebration of land, food and local producers being hosted by the community charity.

From there, the Duke and Colonel Bolitho continued to Morrab Library, where they toured the historic building and met with staff and volunteers. The visit included a display of rare books and archival materials from the library's 200-year-old collection.

<https://www.falmouthpacket.co.uk/news/26105831.morrab-gardens-penzance-visited-duke-gloucester/>

### **Iconic Cornwall space base set to be sold to the Americans**

Cornwall's iconic space base Goonhilly Earth Station (GES) is set to be sold off to the Americans pending UK Government approval.

GES, which is located on the Lizard Peninsula not far from Helston, has announced it is to be acquired by Intuitive Machines (Nasdaq: LUNR), a space technology, infrastructure, and services leader based in Houston, Texas.

Under the agreement, Goonhilly will operate as a wholly owned subsidiary of Nasdaq-listed Intuitive Machines, retaining its status as a UK entity while benefitting from expanded resources, technology, and global reach. Intuitive Machines is also acquiring Goonhilly's wholly owned subsidiary, Goonhilly USA Inc.

Goonhilly is the world's first and most experienced commercial provider of lunar and deep space communications services.

Since becoming the first commercial provider of these services in 2021, Goonhilly has supported more than 20 missions for space agencies like NASA and ESA and private exploration companies including such as Intuitive machines and ispace.



In 2024 and 2025, the company played a critical role in Intuitive Machines' IM-1 and IM-2 lunar missions.

<https://www.cornwalllive.com/news/cornwall-news/iconic-cornwall-space-base-set-10966428>

### **Chough castle sightings invoke King Arthur legend**

Choughs have been spotted for the first time in decades at a heritage site where they have a special significance due to their connection to the legend of King Arthur.

English Heritage said the distinctive red-billed birds have been spotted at Tintagel Castle, the site of King Arthur's conception, according to Cornish legend. King Arthur's soul was said to live on in the form of a chough and when they disappeared from the county in the mid-20th Century it was seen as a bad omen - the bird is a key symbol of Cornwall. Sightings and numbers of choughs have been steadily increasing and spreading to new parts of Cornwall since a breeding pair arrived near the Lizard in 2021. In Arthurian legend it was said King Arthur did not die but instead departed to the mystical island of Avalon or that he lies in an enchanted sleep, waiting for the moment Britain most needs him, the charity said.

In Cornish tradition, he was also imagined as resting within the landscape itself, ready to re-emerge when needed.

Since the successful re-emergence of choughs in Cornwall and following significant conservation efforts, more than 100 choughlets were born in 2023, 2024 and 2025, according to the RSPB.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cevp2xxz9ydo>

### **Largest cream tea world record attempt for charity**

A charity is hoping to host the world's largest cream tea party while raising funds for people with terminal illness.

Cornwall Hospice is inviting people to help break the Guinness World Record at the Royal Cornwall Showground, Wadebridge on Saturday 19th September.

The current record for the largest cream tea party held in one place stands at 1,088 people, achieved by Beijing Mercedes-Benz Sales Service in Xiamen, China in November 2019.

To be counted towards the Guinness World Records attempt, participants must consume their entire portion of scone, jam and cream, and drink all of the tea in their cup.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/c78qdd7p9jwo>