

CORNISH ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA, INC.

FOUNDED 1890 PATRON: Rev. Matt Curnow



President / Secretary:

Mr Noel Carthew DUa
PO Box 194
Rundle Mall
South Australia 5000
Mobile 0423 633 719
Email: ncarthew@hotmail.com

Newsletter Editor:

Mr Noel Carthew

Website:

<http://www.cornishsa.org.au>

ABN: 45.663.710.177

ISSN 2208-1887

Newsletter – May 2026

Future meetings

Tuesday 16th June, 6.30 pm Unley Community Centre, Soup & pasties. Cost \$12, to cover the catering expenses. Please contact Margaret Dell (0438 418 738 or casamember1890@gmail.com) to give an indication of numbers attending.

Tuesday 18th August, 7.30 pm Unley Community Centre – Annual General Meeting. Please keep this date free; **the AGM means time for some serious consideration of the future of our Association.**

Tuesday 20th October, 7.30 pm Unley Community Centre. Speaker to be confirmed

Advance notice – Kernewek Lowender 10th – 16th May, 2027. Information re our Seminar, to be held on Thursday 13th May 2027, appears at the end of this newsletter.

Past meetings

Sunday 8th March – 12.00 for 12.30 pm. lunch for St Piran's Day. This proved a pleasant time together, and we were pleased that the Branch acting President, Bronwyn Matthews, the Branch Secretary, Judith Quirk, and their husbands were able to be with us.

Tuesday 21st April, 7.30 pm Unley Community Centre. A speaker for this meeting was not able to be confirmed for the last newsletter, and last minute complications meant he was unable to come on the evening anyway. Phil Lokan fortunately had his computer, and we sang (accompanied by a Cornish choir!) and watched some more 'Cornish drolls'.

It was disappointing that only 8 people turned up, but we enjoyed time together over supper!

It is hoped that more people will attend future meetings.

Vale Margaret Johnson

We were much saddened by news of the death of Margaret Johnson (after battling cancer for nearly 3 years), just as this newsletter was being finalised.

Margaret and her late husband Terry joined our Association in about 1999, and Margaret joined the

committee in 2005 – but her input since then has been both enormous and invaluable. She always showed a willingness (and ability) to assist wherever she could, ranging from being Facilitator at our biennial Seminars during Kernewek Lowender, to being MC for several of the bardic ceremonies, and as a driving force with our Association Choir (not just as a singer, but handling choir bookings, working out concert programmes, and keeping choir members updated on what was happening) – all done with good grace and humour.



The Johnson home was opened for Cornish activities on many occasions, as well as for hosting Cornish visitors from Cornwall or other parts of Australia. Margaret had said for several years that she felt that Bardship was “not for her”; she was given a certificate of Honorary Life Membership of CASA in 2016, and eventually accepted bardship in 2018, taking the Bardic name “Kanores Keur” (Choir singer)

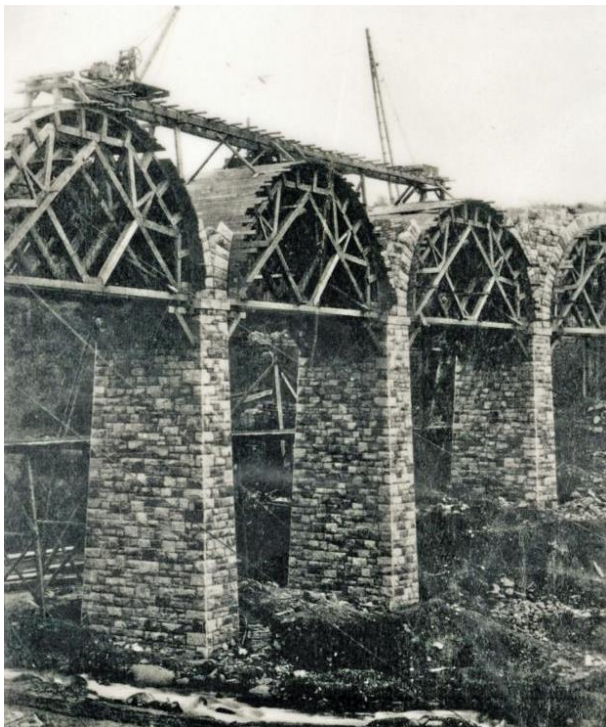
She will be greatly missed by all who knew her.

SUBSCRIPTIONS: Subscriptions are due from 1st July. Individual subscriptions are \$20 per annum, and \$200 for Life Membership. Please contact the Treasurer, Margaret Dell, with any queries; email casamember1890@gmail.com or PO Box 194, Rundle Mall, S.A. 5000 Electronic funds transfer (EFT) from your bank to the Cornish Assn of SA (BSB 105-090, Acct # 346018640); please indicate your name as a reference. For those receiving the newsletter by post – please contact the Treasurer if you would prefer to change and receive it by email instead.

Viaduct at Lowertown purchased by Helston Railway Society www.falmouthpacket.co.uk/news/

A historic viaduct in Cornwall that has stood silent for more than half a century is set for a dramatic new chapter, thanks to a major acquisition by a local heritage railway.

Helston Railway Preservation Society has confirmed it has purchased the Cober Valley viaduct - known locally as the Lowertown viaduct - in what volunteers are calling one of the most important milestones in the railway's revival. The deal brings the 373-foot Victorian structure, long seen as central to the railway's ambitions, into the charity's ownership for the first time.



Cober Viaduct under construction near the village of Lowertown, a mile from Helston, circa 1885. (Image: Museum of Cornish Life)

Dormant since the closure of the Helston branch line in 1964, the viaduct has been described by the society as a “sleeping giant”.

With the purchase now complete, volunteers say there is “a genuine prospect of bringing it back to

life” as part of their long-term goal to extend the heritage railway as close to Helston as possible.

Crossing the Tamar

Nearly 6,000 people have had their say on plans to increase fees for the Tamar Bridge and Torpoint Ferry tag scheme by 150 per cent.

A four-week consultation ended on April 6, with all users of the Tamar Crossings, not just Tamar tag holders, invited to take part.

Initial results will be used to “help shape” recommendations to the Tamar Bridge and Torpoint Ferry Joint Committee, which meets next on Friday, June 26.

The committee, which manages and operates the Tamar Bridge and Torpoint Ferry on behalf of Plymouth City Council and Cornwall Council, put plans to increase the monthly admin charge from 80p to £2 on hold in January after it caused outcry.

Tamar Crossings says the cost of running the Tamar Tag scheme is currently more than the income which comes in from the 52,000 account holders' fees. The charges have remained stagnant since the tag was introduced in 2014.

The long-term aim, championed by the joint committee, MPs and campaign groups, is to have the government take over responsibility for the crossings like they did for the Severn Crossings in Wales in 2018 when tolls were abolished.

Tamar Crossings chief officer Philip Robinson said a total of 5,842 survey responses were received, with 3,754 of those providing additional comments.

The new High Sheriff of Cornwall has been officially sworn in, taking up one of the Duchy's most historic civic roles in a ceremony held at St Tudy Parish Church.

The formal declaration saw Harriet Hills installed as High Sheriff, succeeding Geraint Richards MVO OBE FICFor, during a service led by High Sheriff's chaplain Rev Robin Thwaites. The event marked the traditional handover of an office with more than 1,000 years of history.



The role dates back to before the Norman Conquest, when “Shire Reeves” were Royal officials responsible for enforcing the King’s interests, collecting revenues, and maintaining law and order. While the modern position is largely ceremonial, it remains a Royal appointment and continues to support the justice system across England and Wales.

In Cornwall, the High Sheriff is appointed by the Duke of Cornwall and acts independently, supporting the Judiciary, police, emergency services, prison and probation teams, and a wide range of organisations involved in crime prevention and community safety. The role also champions charities and voluntary groups across the county.

Always at the bottom of it... and often at the top (from the Cornish Minnesota Facebook page)

Took a tour of the Copper Queen Mine at Bisbee, Arizona. You know what they say: Wherever there's a hole in the ground you'll find a Cornishman at the bottom of it. In this case, there was also a Cornishman at the top of it. After noticing a large photo stand-up of a typical miner with his candle and his lunch pail (from the Keweenaw to Bisbee, they all look pretty much the same!), we noted a photo of another gentleman, in more business-like apparel.



The caption: “John James ‘Jimmie’ Pearce. 1844-1910. Cornwall-born prospector Jimmie Pearce stumbled across a quartz outcropping on the east flank of the Dragoons bearing signs of gold and silver in 1894. His Commonwealth claim sparked a stampede from Tombstone and the resulting mining camp bears the Pearce name. The rich mine continued in production until 1917.”

While the Cornishman Pearce’s mine was worked out by 1917, numerous other mines operated -- underground and open-pit -- until the 1970s.

Cornish Dialect - Use it or Lose it

(This article by Joy Stevenson appeared on Facebook recently. Joy died in 2016, but her words are worth reprinting. Joy was a dialect speaker and recorder of dialect for the Federation of Old Cornwall Societies.)

One sign of change in Cornwall has been the decline of our lovely old dialect. However, when two or more Cornish people meet to chat it is still very much in evidence, with its own vocabulary, individual sounds of vowel and consonant and the very special way these are woven into phrases and sentences.

Despite analytic and phonological investigations our dialect defies linguistic and grammatical rules and simply remains a unique, indigenous form of spoken word handed down from generation to generation.

Over the many years I have recorded our dialect I sometimes feel that dialect recorders, speakers and writers are looked on as licensed fools.

Certainly there have been times when I am led to believe that work on dialect is not important, especially in the eyes of linguistic snobs.

This has never bothered me because I know that our dialect is a part of our heritage which enshrines the very spirit of Cornwall and is as important as our old crosses, standing stones and cromlechs. The day we no longer hear the rich sounds of it will be a death knell of a Cornishness which can never be resurrected or put in a museum.

The sad thing is that our dialect was banished from the classrooms by educationists and children were made to feel inferior when they spoke in broad dialect. I well remember a girl in my class at school saying: "I would like to learn French Miss." She was told in a sarcastic manner: "My dear child you can't speak English yet." I have never forgotten the tears welling up in the girl's eyes.

Many got rid of their dialect and some almost became ashamed of the way their parents spoke. Children were told that certain words were only fit for people who aspired no higher than menial jobs all their lives.

The deliberate act of omitting to tell us that we once had our own language from which many of our dialect words came from has a lot to answer for.

Cornish self-esteem was eroded and too many Cornish tried to ape the English accent.

For some reason they got the feeling that sounding "English" made them superior in some way. This is an attitude I have never understood and luckily have never suffered from. I was brought up to be proud not only to be Cornish but to sound Cornish.

Many countries are so proud of their dialects. The old Venetian speech can be heard in the medieval town of Marostica near Venice, for instance.

In the town square is a huge chess board where the moves are called out in their old dialect as the human chess pieces move. It is wonderful. Yet in this country we seem obsessed with the idea of getting rid of your regional accent and replacing it with flavourless English.

Dominated as we are by experts and literal facts, we are also fast losing the habit of instant metaphor which comes so naturally to dialect speakers.

For whatever the faults and limitations of dialect it is a language which though down to earth, gives scope to the imagination found in no other form of speaking or writing.

We all know people who speak in a pompous manner for two hours yet say nothing. but this is impossible when speaking Cornish dialect as it has the delicious inborn quality to deflate pretentious pomposity and is one reason why I love it so much.

Some criticise the grammar in Cornish dialect and I maintain that the sacred grammatic maxims have no place in our dialect. It is a speech form and speech was with us long before grammar. I think Sir Arthur Quiller Couch got it right when he said: "Cornishmen are bilingual. they can speak dialect or English." We are lucky we can speak both, yet too many neglect their dialect and it will be lost if we don't use it.

A "cultured" Cornishman or woman is a supreme example of an oxymoron - "falsely true" sums up for me any Cornish who exclude their dialect.

Too many people write books on Cornwall, shouting from the rooftops that they are Cornish and carry around their family tree, yet have worked deliberately to eliminate the one thing which is essentially Cornish - their dialect.

An interesting study published by Mintel recently about the regeneration of regional accents describes a marked cultural phenomenon. Some areas becoming so run down and depressed have developed a 'dog in the manger' provincialism which makes them reject anything to do with the prosperous South East, including its accent. Isn't it odd that despite Cornwall being more depressed than most in this century, it seems to have taken the opposite view and rejected its own lovely dialect.

How can a race of people as ancient and proud as the Cornish allow their unique dialect to die? It is so full of remnants of our old language. It has so much

humour. Even when speaking English many Cornish mean something quite different from the actual words they utter, giving rise to blank looks whilst the Cornish grizzle in their pasties.

Recording Cornish dialect soon dispels any idea that one is an expert. The essence of an expert is a man yearning to be God. You soon realise this is not so when speaking perhaps to an old lady in a small village who puts you firmly in your place with the remark: "Aw, we dawnt say un like that up ere my 'andsum."

My message to all the Cornish is: don't deny your identity, use your rich dialect as often as you can and pass it on to your children. Use it or lose it. but never be ashamed of it. I shall always use it and promote it. It is one of the wonderful diversities of accents found in this island of ours. Speak it with pride.

The Western Morning News published a tribute to Joy Stephenson when she died:

Cornish author and bard, Joy Stevenson, who promoted dialect throughout her life, with talks, writing, broadcasting and performances, has died at her home in Truro.

Born at St Ives in 1924, she was known to many as Maid Lowena – the persona she adopted for radio broadcasts and stories – and was made a bard of Gorsedh Kernow at Perran Round in 1985. She took the bardic name Myrghwyn Maghteth Bal, which translates as "grand-daughter of a bal maiden".

*A supporter of numerous Cornish organisations, including the Federation of Old Cornwall Societies, Joy was passionate about the need to defend all aspects of Cornish heritage – and particularly dialect. Such was her standing in the world of British linguistics that writer and broadcaster Melvyn Bragg once described her, in his BBC Radio 4 programme *The Routes Of English*, as a "linguistic magpie".*

English Devolution and Community Empowerment Bill

(This article by Councillor Dick Cole was published in the Cornish Guardian and West Briton newspapers in April 2026.)

MPs started their deliberation on the English Devolution and Community Empowerment Bill in July 2025 and, over the last nine months, Cornwall's representatives in the House of Commons have consistently argued for a meaningful devolution settlement for Cornwall. They have had repeated meetings with Ministers and, I understand, they have received positive feedback from them.

At a meeting of the Public Bill Committee in October, Perran Moon MP reported that: "I have had several conversations with Ministers and am satisfied with the Government's assurances at this stage that Cornwall will receive a devolution arrangement that allows us to access the highest level

of devolution without the requirement to join a mayoral combined authority ...”

The Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government (Steve Reed MP) soon after sent a letter to Cornwall Council stating that the “Government is minded on an exceptional basis” to “explore designating the council as a Single Foundation Strategic Authority.” MPs interpreted this to be the beginnings of a decent bespoke deal for Cornwall.

And when Robin Teverson moved an amendment to the legislation in the House of Lords to ensure that the national minority status of the Cornish would safeguard Cornwall as the territory for devolution, Lord Wilson of Sedgefield responded by saying that “discussions are positive and ongoing” and “that is why accepting the noble Lord’s amendments at this stage, before those discussions are concluded, would be premature.”

Various amendments from the House of Lords were presented to MPs last week (21st April) and I remain extremely non-plussed at how the UK Government has yet to make a statement about a democratic settlement for Cornwall.

It was good that Ben Maguire MP attended this most recent debate and made similar points. He told MPs that it was five months since Steve Reed MP had promised to explore a bespoke deal for Cornwall, adding that “the Bill has progressed through both Houses and still we have nothing in writing about that bespoke Cornwall-only deal, or even provisions to allow for one.” He was also correct to point out that “our national minority status in Cornwall has been completely ignored” and could open up the legislation to “potential legal challenges.”

At the end of the debate, the Minister for Devolution, Faith and Communities (Miatta Fahnbulleh) responded to the various points raised by parliamentarians. It is inexcusable that she did not address the comments made by Ben Maguire. She said absolutely nothing about Cornwall and the supposedly “positive and ongoing” discussions.

It is time that Westminster actually acted on our calls for more powers for Cornwall.

Analysis shows that Redmoor Mine contains higher levels of Tin than expected....

(Posted on the ‘Cornish history’ Facebook page, by Craig Truscott)

A Cornish mine said to be Europe’s highest grade, undeveloped tungsten resource also contains larger amounts of valuable tin that previously thought, according to the firm planning to re-open it.

The original Redmoor mine was among a number opened in South East Cornwall in the 18th century and continued operating until 1892, when they were forced to close due to low tin prices.

International mineral exploration and production company Strategic Minerals is already seeking to extract tungsten from the mine.

Two months ago it said tests showed it contained far larger reserves of tungsten than thought, as well as some silver deposits.

Now the firm has revealed that new analysis shows it also has more tin than expected.

Dennis Rowland, managing director of Strategic Minerals subsidiary Cornwall Resources Limited (CRL), said: “Reanalysis results continue to highlight the value add from our relogging and sampling programme.

“It is encouraging to see that the results from the reanalysis using the ME-MS85h method have confirmed the previous underreporting of tin values from historical drill core analysis through the use of a different analytical method.

“These new tin values do not materially affect the new Redmoor deposit model or 2026 MRE but will contribute towards the next model update.

“Results will primarily aid in the identification of narrow cassiterite-only tin veins outside of the currently defined SVS and MRE.”

Mark Burnett, Strategic Minerals executive director, added: “The Redmoor team continue to add value to the project across multiple workstreams.

“The historical relogging and sampling programme together with the additional follow-up sampling of 2025 drill core is expected to continue to provide positive outputs alongside the new drilling programme.

“We will see a significant increase in activity at Redmoor in the near term, with a scheduled ramp-up of the ongoing resource infill drilling programme, and initiation of further pre-feasibility study programme activities. Further information on the programmes will be delivered in due course.”

Warbstow Bury (*from Cornwall Heritage Trust Facebook page*)

<https://www.cornwallheritagetrust.org/>

We are thrilled to announce that our small, independent charity has taken on the ownership of Warbstow Bury – Cornwall’s second-largest and best-preserved Iron Age fort. The site has been transferred to our charity from Cornwall Council.

Located on a prominent upland ridge at the heads of two tributaries of the River Ottery in northeast Cornwall, Warbstow Bury is thought to have been constructed around 2500 years ago and is a Scheduled Monument.

The purpose of hillforts is much debated by archaeologists. It is thought that many were likely defensive; however, some may have had more ceremonial or ritualistic uses.

There is an archaeological feature at the centre of the hillfort known as the “Giant’s Grave” or, sometimes,

“King Arthur’s Grave”. It is a large pillow mound – an artificial earthen mound used for keeping rabbits – which was likely constructed in the medieval period for the owners of the nearby Fentriggan Manor. During the Second World War, two sentry boxes were built in the inner rampart of the fort, allowing Warbstow Home Guard to monitor the surrounding landscape for enemy aircraft.

We’re so proud to now be the custodians of this important historic asset, which joins our growing portfolio of heritage sites.



When we set our targets in 2021 for the number of sites we could sustainably acquire, we aimed to take on one per year. In reality, the collection of sites we own has almost doubled in the last four years and is set to grow significantly larger in 2026.

Charlestown Harbour (*Charlestown Harbour Facebook page*)

The harbour lives again.

Recently the Nao Santa María became the first visiting vessel to pass through Charlestown Harbour’s new lock gate - marking a huge milestone in the harbour’s reopening and the return of visiting ships to the inner harbour once more.

And she didn’t arrive alone.



Also returning through the gate were two much-loved vessels with deep Charlestown connections - Anny of Charlestown, home again for some well-

earned TLC with our shipwright team, and Sealion, returning to the harbour to once again welcome guests aboard as a unique stay on the water.

After everything the harbour has been through over recent years, watching boats pass through the gate again was a pretty special moment.

Welcome home.

As **sewage pollution** continues to affect the lives and livelihoods of coastal and river-based communities throughout the UK, residents and businesses in the South West are taking action.

They are bringing a group legal claim against South West Water Limited (South West Water) and Pennon Group Plc in relation to allegations that these companies are responsible for sewage pollution affecting their coastal communities.

The claim was initially brought on behalf of residents and businesses in Exmouth, Budleigh Salterton and Lympstone. It has since expanded to include other towns and beaches across South West Water’s area of appointment that are among the worst affected in the region. The full list of towns impacted include:

Exmouth (Devon)

Budleigh Salterton (Devon)

Lympstone (Devon)

Dawlish Warren and Dawlish (Devon)

Sidmouth and Salcombe Regis (Devon)

Teignmouth and Holcombe (Devon)

Fistral Beach (Newquay, Cornwall)

Longrock Beach (near Penzance, Cornwall)

(From the “Stop the destruction of Cornwall Now” Facebook page)

A Cornish butcher’s greeting: “Good day. I’m pleased to meet you, and I’ve meat to please you!”

Our meetings in the Unley Community centre are sponsored by the City of Unley

PROUDLY SPONSORED BY



Once again, thanks to all those who have contributed articles and information for this newsletter; further contributions and suggestions are always welcome. In this electronic age, it is not always easy to find original sources of articles posted on several sites. Attempts have been made to acknowledge sources, but my apologies for any errors or omissions.



The Cornish
Association of South
Australia (CASA) Inc.
Est. 1890

2027 Biennial Seminar

held in association with Kernewek Lowender
at the Kadina Football Club, Kadina, South Australia
on **Thursday 13 May 2027**

CALL FOR PAPERS

A history seminar held as part of each Kernewek Lowender is now a well-established and successful tradition. Recent topics have been “Cornish Australians in industry and commerce” and “The Cornish in public life”, with all tickets sold for both. The CASA committee is pleased to announce the **CALL FOR PAPERS** for the next in this premier series of Cornish/Australian history seminars, to be held in South Australia in 2027.

The committee’s preference is to *focus on Australian context and events in the papers selected for presentation*, but background context from Cornwall or other parts of the Cornish diaspora is acceptable, particularly if it serves to highlight aspects of Cornish lifestyles and/or achievements in Australia.

However, the 2027 Seminar will not be restricted to a particular theme, and we hope to show the diversity of the Cornish influence in Australia and/or other parts of the world.

Papers should be in the style of an academic presentation, not workshop orientated. An **Abstract** should

- be no longer than 250 words
- present an overview of the paper’s main theme/s
- contain the name/s of the author/s, plus the address and contact details for the main author
- indicate preference for the length of time for the presentation
- indicate possible audio-visual requirements
- **be submitted no later than Monday 3 November 2026**

Please send your abstracts and completed registration forms to Noel Carthew, CASA Secretary at ncarthew@hotmail.com Notification of acceptance by the Association’s Seminar sub-committee will be posted or emailed by 30 November 2026.

It is expected that a written paper, complete with details of references consulted, will be prepared for inclusion in the seminar proceedings. Bound copies of the proceedings will be provided for all seminar registrants. Guidelines for preparing papers will be sent to all authors of accepted papers.

Completed papers should be sent to Noel Carthew, PO Box 194, Rundle Mall SA 5000, or email ncarthew@hotmail.com

Final date for acceptance of completed papers is 30 March 2027.



The Cornish
Association of South
Australia (CASA) Inc.
Est. 1890

2027 Biennial Seminar

Registration of interest to present a paper

Contact details:

Author.....
Dr/Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms Given name Family name

Postal address:
.....

.....
Suburb/town State Post code

Telephone ()..... ().....
Home Work Mobile

Email address.....

Please provide details of an additional person to contact in case you cannot be reached, if we need to follow something up with you:

.....
.....

Preferred time to allow for the presentation

Possible audio-visual requirements.....

Title or working-title of paper.....
.....

Please complete this form and submit it, with the Abstract of your proposed paper (see specifications on Call for Papers) to

Noel Carthew
PO Box 194
Rundle Mall S.A. 5000 [mobile 0423 633 719]

or by email to ncarthew@hotmail.com **no later than Monday 3 November 2026**

Guidelines for preparation and presentation of papers will be sent to speakers whose proposals are chosen for the programme.