

CORNISH NATION



Nr 40 SUMMER 1980 HAF 25p **KENETHEL GERNEWEK**

'DRES
AN
TAMAR'
the smiling
face of
celtic
CORNWALL
NEWS &
REVIEWS



Maureen Fuller

photo- Gwaynten
Liskeard

CORNISH NATION

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:-

Pages

! TROTSKYITES !

In what may have seemed to the public at large a shock move, Leonard Truran, long-time National Secretary and former Chairman of Mebyon Kernow resigned his position in the party.

The decision was announced at the Annual General Meeting of the party in Truro on 24th May. Since then he has ensured maximum publicity for his departure in both national and English-based papers.

To those on the inside, however, the resignation has come as no great surprise: in spite of his successful fight to retain office a year ago, Mr. Truran has shown no great enthusiasm for his role in recent months.

As to the truth or otherwise of the Trotsky allegations, it may first of all be pointed out that none of the top three posts in the party is held by a left winger.

Nevertheless, there has been and still continues a reappraisal of MK's general political stance. As a result of election experience, the party is currently trying to decide a common view on economic issues, sufficiently radical to offer a genuine cure to our terrible economic problems, but which at the same time, will not prejudice the broad-based support on which the party relies.

| | |
|---|-----|
| *Cornwall-Kernow : reports around Kernow-- | 3-5 |
| +Forthcoming events: the insider's C'll--- | 4 |
| *Anti-Nuclear Alliance ----- | 6 |
| +Jack Kernow's column : comment ----- | 7 |
| *Letters ----- | 7-8 |
| +Brittany : U.D.B. Conference report ----- | 8 |
| *Helston Furry Dance, by Jill Newton ----- | 9 |
| +Celtic League : Dr. Davies (plaid cymru)- | 10 |
| *Killarney Pan Celtic, by Jan Fennell ----- | 11 |
| +Cornish Dances, by Mervyn & Alison Davey- | 12 |
| *Ty an Omdowloryon ; lytherow ----- | 13 |
| +Reviews :the good and bad in new books -- | 14 |



It is a fact that some policies were adopted at a recent meeting, which may not have truly reflected the views of the main membership, but a revision in the standing orders was agreed to at the recent A.G.M. which would prevent any minority group, either from left or right, packing a meeting.

At any rate MK may console itself with the thought that all publicity is good publicity. Here is a quotation from

'The Guardian' 3rd of June:

"The alleged infiltration is in a way a tribute to the relative vitality of Mebyon Kernow."

If members of any party feel their views are not being expressed by the leadership, the answer of course lies in their hands: turn up to the meetings and speak out!

CORNISH NATION is published by Gwerthow Mebyon Kernow and edited by Julyan Holmes.

PLEASE send your contributions, photos etc., to
11 West St., LISKEARD.

Subscriptions, just £1.50 for four issues (post free). Write to:

Mrs. Angela Davies,
Chy Mengleth,
Quarry Road,
Pensilva,
Liskeard,
KERNOW.

The Editor would like to make known his appreciation to former collaborator Pedyr Pryor.

EDITOR'S NOTE:

The views expressed in this magazine are not necessarily those of Mebyon Kernow.

We aim to reflect the national scene in Cornwall from the point of view of those who permanently live and work here.



OUR
BORDERS
MARKED

We hear that, at long last, the border with England will be marked at two more places: the major crossing points at Torpoint ferry and the Tamar road bridge at Saltash - the latter in time for the Gorseth in September.

Unbelievable, the fuss created by the Dept. of the Environment, who refused to allow the signs on the bridge itself or its immediate approaches. The Saltash sign has got to be put on private land adjoining.

It is well worth while remembering our borders, and these signs will remind people that Cornwall's boundary with England was set as long ago as 936 by King Athelstan of Wessex. Actually he set the left (ie East) bank of the Tamar as the border of England, so the sign should really be set near the toll booths. Still let's not make too much of that - we don't want to pay all the upkeep on the bridge !

WRECKING & PIRACY

Cornwall council, doubtless inspired by the Drake 500 celebrations, is clearly out to surpass even that old pirate for sheer unabashed cheek!

Not only have they abandoned the evening class students at two large Cornish towns, Saltash and Torpoint, telling them to go to Plymouth if they want education, but they have chosen this very year to stop paying the £11,000 that they thought fair to give Devon in previous years, for their help in educating Cornish students.

Torpoint centre catered for over 400 students, many elderly, who can not afford the costs of travel to alternative centres.

BUSES AXED +++++

Amidst a blaze of publicity and the delivery of 80,000 free booklets, Western National have announced their new *Cornish Fairways* for mid and west Cornwall.

Less publicised was the fact that fares are going up by 15% (a *fair way* ?), and that 120 people have been made redundant. Depots at Falmouth, Helston and Callington have been closed.

Liaison with the remaining work-force does not seem all it might have been since lightning strikes hit the Penzance and Camborne depots, with busmen complaining about the new time-table which meant working between 48 and 60 hours, when other workers had just been laid off.

Meanwhile talks between Western National and the union took place in *Exeter*!

All in all it appears that the new look Cornish Fairways is just a smokescreen for a worse service resulting from the governments' cuts.

BD

GOLD RUSH !!!

South West Consolidated Minerals have launched shares to finance detailed exploration for tin, mostly in South East Cornwall.

Perhaps some well-timed murmurs about gold encouraged a rush for these shares which have all been taken up, mainly by small investors.

DRES AN TAMAR

'Across the Tamar'; damn silly name for a programme aimed at Cornish viewers ! It is they who are across the Tamar - not us.

Still nice to see some interest in Kernow and even a bit of our language. Fighting for their concession --- Westward ?

Honi soit qui mal y pense !

FORTHCOMING
EVENTS

+

Lowender PERAN
Friday 3rd to
Sunday 5th October
Choirs - Singing -
- Ceile Dancing -
Details from:
Mrs. P. Crewes,
8 Tywarnhayl Road,
Perranporth,
Cornwall.

An Gof MEMORIAL
Concert
Fri. 27th June
St. Keverne.

C.A.N.A.
ANTI-NUCLEAR MARCH
TRURO Sat.
26th July.

Fal Boat Trip
19th July
8.30 - 10.30pm
from Prince of
Wales Pier,
Falmouth.
£2.50 for tickets
including pasties
& entertainment -
singers, BUCCA &
Brian Webb.
Enquire soon from:
Helston 62447 or
Liskeard 42314.

GORSETH KERNOW
Essa - Saltash
Sat. 6th Sept.

CORNISH
LANGUAGE
OPEN DAY*****
De Sadorn 5es
Mys Gortheren
Saturday 5th
July
Hel Epworth
Stret an Coyn
Helles.
Epworth Hall
Coinagehall St.
Helston.

AN GWARY MYR
St. Just
Cornish Music & Sports
22nd to 25th August.



Pedyr Prior
NEW SECRETARY

The new national
secretary of Mebyon
Kernow is Mr. Peter
Prior, of Porthleven,
formerly joint editor
of this magazine.

LEN TRURAN

If it was the leftist
influence which really
led to Len's resignation,
the following excerpts
from an interview pub-
lished in *An Weryn*, a
radical Cornish magaz-
ine, read very strange-
ly indeed.

"MK must strive to
become the radical alt-
ernative to the central-
ist, bureaucratic,
monopoly-capitalist
dominated parties in
our land."

"Politically
Cornwall is faced with
three choices:
a) Regression, ie Tory-
ism....
b) Reformism -...- a
forelock-touching
appeal to the estab-
lishment.
c) A revolutionary
course that seeks to
destroy the centralism
that enslaves the
masses

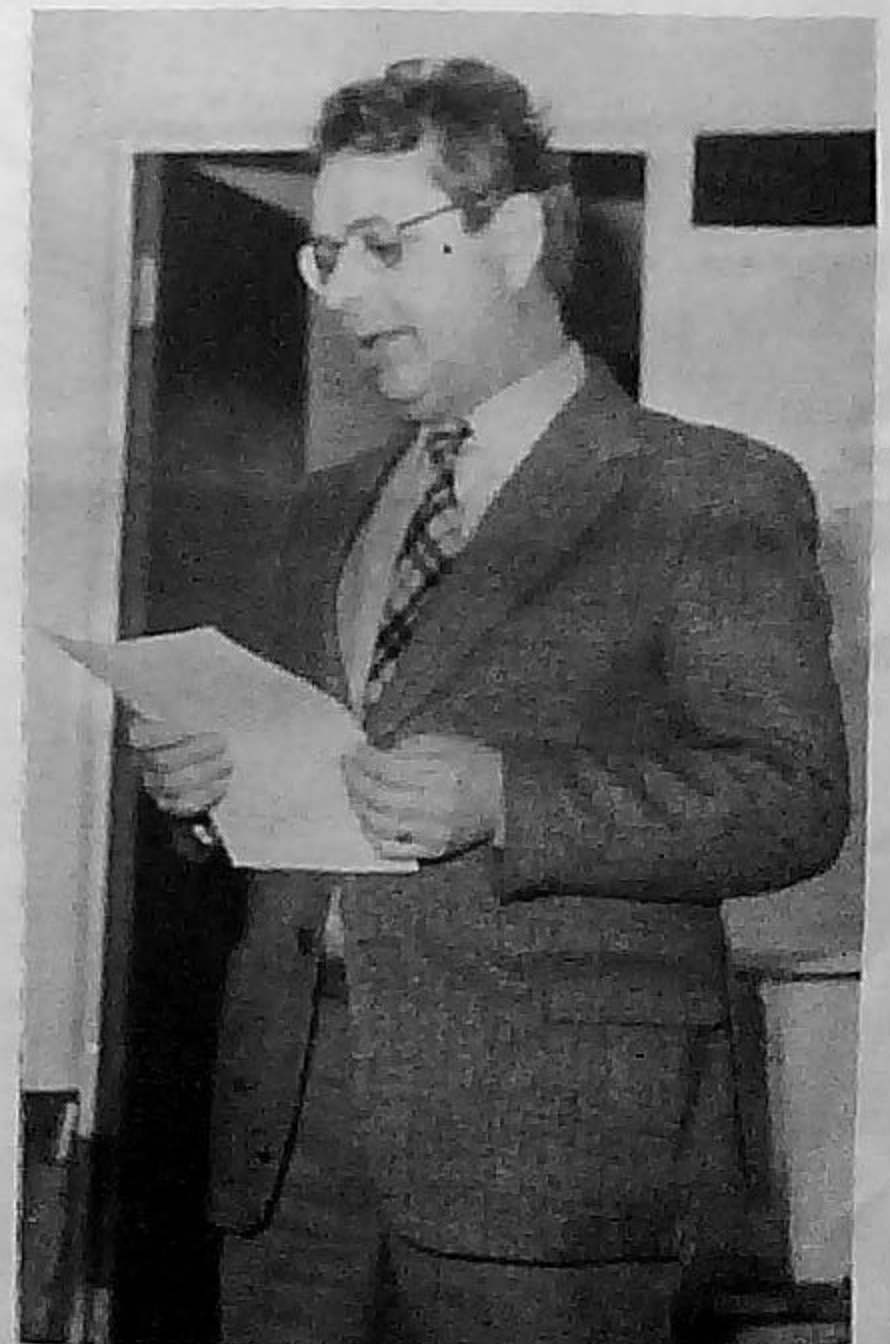
Revolution of the
peaceful kind is MK's
only option."

OPEN DAY

The first Cornish
Open Day at Liskeard
was acclaimed by all
as a great success.
Organised by Cowethas
an Yeth Kernewek, it
was an attempt to
show the variety and
extent of the revival
in the shape of books,
learning material,
songs, recordings
and, above all, its
place in ordinary
life.

Around 200
people visited the
exhibition and it is
hoped this interest
will be reflected in
the numbers coming
to Cornish evening
classes.

The next open
day is planned for
Helston, still, des-
pite Culdrose, a
very Cornish town
and it is hoped to
follow this with
others at Penzance,
St. Ives and Truro
before very long.



SUCCESS FOR CAMBORNE SCHOOL

Last year the British Association for Language Teaching put Cornish on their list of modern languages certificates.

Various regional competitions for plays in modern languages to be performed by pupils between 11 and 16 are held. This year Camborne School beat their rivals Helston into second place.

Some of these pupils were interviewed by Helen Palmer on the Today programme. Unfortunately this will have been missed by many who prefer to hear our more local morning broadcast Morning Sou'West.

CHOIRS COMPETE

A tremendous new addition to the cultural scene was the great choir competition at John Keay House, St. Austell.

As reported on Morning Sou'West, there were two Welsh choirs and one English one taking part, besides the Cornish.

We hear with pleasure that the Loveny Choir from St. Neot and the Tonnau choir from South Wales established very cordial relations between our two nations, finding a common interest in singing and good ale.

Incidentally, the adjudicators remarked that they hope to hear some of the choirs sing in Cornish next time. The Loveny are likely to be amongst the first to take up the challenge.

Congratulations to the winners: Holman-Climax, Treverva and Newquay.

Another choir in Cornwall was the Breton *Kanerien Sant Karantek*. They were well received in Truro Cathedral and at Crantock, the Cornish doublet of their name.

Mye Muth 15-2/1980

TV TALK

● THA' series
Hywel
shy la
his wa:
back in
fresh s
one we
year's

● A SERIES about Cornish life called *Beyond the Tamar*, being shown in the Westward TV area, includes a weekly lesson in the Cornish language. Westward submitted an advertisement to a local newspaper which included the phrase "Kewseugh Kernewek gans Dres an Tamar". It is Cornish for "Learn Cornish with *Beyond the Tamar*". Back came the reply from the newspaper: "We are unable to publish advertisements not in English." The newspaper is called . . . *The Cornishman*.

from the tv times



WRESTLING \$\$\$\$\$

The revival of Cornish wrestling continues apace.

At a recent bout at Ponsandane, besides former champions, Jack Hicks and Bernard Chapman, there were young entrants from Helston school, where the traditional sport is now being taught.

MILLBROOK — PLOUIDER

Yet another Cornish town has now twinned with one in Brittany.

The small town of Millbrook, near Torpoint, has formed links with Plouider. Both Cornish and Breton flags were in evidence for the occasion.



RESISTANCE FIGHTERS

ON the 18th of July, a party of former Breton resistance fighters will travel to Penzance, to celebrate the 40th anniversary of their first arrival there, in flight from occupied Brittany.

During the war, a Friends of Brittany association was created in honour of the close connections between the two countries. These will be recalled by a Fest-noz (dance-night) on the waterfront. It is also hoped they will be honoured with a Civic reception.

'GWYN HA DU'

a forum for political debate. - reports, comment & in depth approach to Cornwall's problems. Issue One, 25p, out now. £1.25p for 6 issues (post free) Gwerthow MK, 10 Victoria Rd, St Just in Penwith.

CORNWALL ANTI-NUCLEAR ALLIANCE

What can you do about it?

It is up to you! If you think it says 'NO' you might 'YES'... but how often it is said. There are plenty ways you can help...

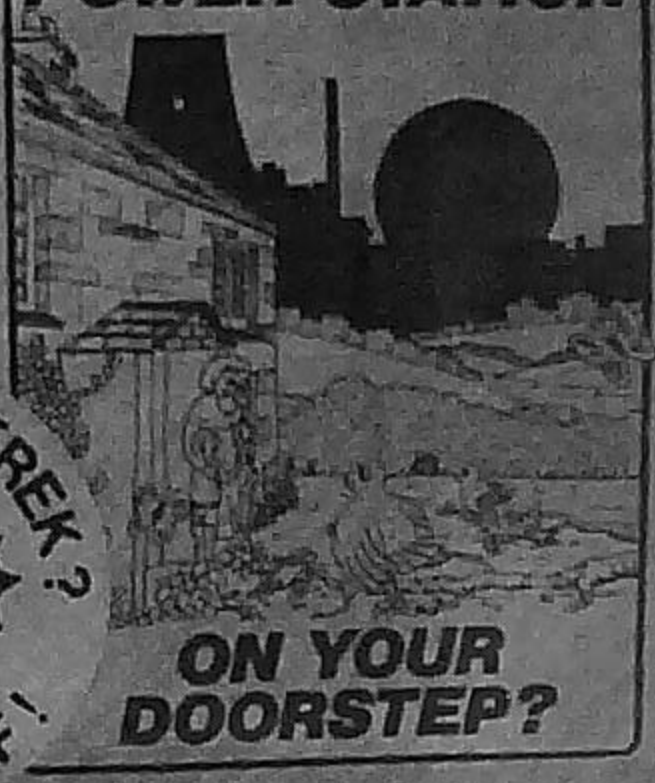
- Write letters of protest to your local M.P., County, District and Parish Councils, or write to you and our friends. Write to newspapers, radio and television etc. ... make a noise, it's your protest!
- Get involved with the local anti-nuclear group or other local groups. Let us know you have joined and we will provide you with information on what we can do for you further information.
- Support local nuclear opposition groups. Hand out leaflets, etc. if you can't be there in person.
- Find out more about the local site of concern and show all the attention about it. After all, this is YOUR COUNTRY, YOUR MONEY, YOUR LIFE!


For further information contact:-

CORNWALL ANTI-NUCLEAR ALLIANCE
 100, The Quay, St. Austine, Cornwall PL26 8AA
 Tel: 0752 31111

OR YOUR LOCAL GROUP

DO YOU WANT A NUCLEAR POWER STATION ON YOUR DOORSTEP?





Leaflet by CANA, sticker from MK Sales, (below the same in Breton.)

EAST C.A.N.A.

The East Cornish anti-nuclear groups are now to be co-ordinated by East C.A.N.A..

At a meeting in Bodmin on 5th June, the forceful Dr. Peter Cox, from Energy 2000, was elected chairman of the group which will help all those East of Truro, especially the severely threatened Bugle and Luxulyan. A similar group will look after the west of the country though of course both will combine for major public opinion exercises.



***** MEANWHILE *****

In PLOGOFF, near the continental equivalent of Land's End, the Beg ar Raz, in Brittany, the battle, in an almost literal sense, has been raging for a long time:

"We are in a democracy, it seems, but only the little group, (or rather crab-crate) knows what is good for us and intends to impose it on everyone.

The inhabitants of Plogoff must bend to the general interest - in other words be prepared to die so that the Parisians may light up their shop-fronts.

To disarm the opposition, Electricite de France appeal to local businesses by promising sub-contracts in the building works (sub-contracts... for the benefits will be shared with the huge industrial complexes who dominate the market). About what happens later, when the centre grows old, in 10 or fifteen years, not a word.

BRETONS

Several councillors from North Brittany went to Paris to demand more compensation for the 'Black Tide' as they call the oil pollution which has affected them so badly in recent years.

The Minister refused to see them; instead they were met by the infamous C.R.S. (the armed riot police).

The Mayor of Tregastel later said, "WE HAD LEFT AS FRENCHMEN, WE CAME HOME BRETONS."



Not a word about the enormous dangers of dead reactors staying radio-active for centuries, or the accumulation of waste which we don't know what to do with.

Like everyone expected, the Commission of Enquiry gave a favourable response.

It took into account only those responses written in the Mayoral annexes (the Mayors concerned refused permission for their own town halls to be used), and opponents could hardly get in unless they declared themselves in favour. Several petitions signed by thousands of people were counted as one response! 60,000 protesters were reckoned at 2 or 3 thousand."

From DOUAR BREIZH no. 163, Breton information pamphlet, March-April 1980.

Jack Kernow

a personal viewpoint

As I write, the exploits of the English football team are in the news. It's not the their mixed fortunes, however, that I am concerned with, but the colours they play in - red, white and blue!?

Furthermore, during the England - Wales match, I believe that some members of the crowd actually waved union jacks. Were they hedging their bets and backing both sides? Or were they, as I suppose, being typically English and thinking of England, Britain and the United Kingdom as one and the same thing? When will the English swallow their conceit and learn to like and respect their Celtic neighbours?

Arising from this, and on the general topic of Celtic and specially Cornish recognition, I sincerely hope that, by the time this comes to you, our beloved but oh! much despaired of, MK will have finally solved its internal problems and put itself into the vanguard, leading Cornwall through this challenging decade, set about as we are by political, social and economic perils. MK united can set a wonderful example to the rest of Cornwall, but, disunited, she may confirm the worst fears of those who think Kernow a lost cause!

I have been led to believe that my last article, which was also my first for this paper, has come in for some adverse comment, by putting forward an unfashionable point of view.

Perhaps my critics will now have heard of the savage cuts that the Education Committee has proposed for Adult Education, which is what I predicted they might. Not only has the number of centres been cut to half a dozen or so, but two of our largest and fastest growing towns, Torpoint and Saltash, have been left without any provision at all!

Telling the would-be students to go to Plymouth is not only impractical but also of very doubtful morality! These are Cornish rate-payers being told to sponge off Devon's rates. I would not be surprised if, by the time you read this, Devon has not had some strong words to say about this!

On another tack, this action typifies the callous attitude of the men in Truro towards South East Cornwall generally, and might have been calculated to alienate the Southeasters and drive them into the arms of Plymouth.

Dear Sir,

Are there any prizes for guessing the identity of Jack Kernow? It is either (I quote) "that ageing right-wing lunatic, Lord Hailsham", or it is a tap-room lawyer specifically hired for the occasion.

What he has going for him in calling a spade a spade, he lacks in objectivity. Firstly, to divide up education cuts into 'acceptable' and 'not acceptable', detracts from the real point, that education cuts should not take place at all. Increasing school meals and transport costs weakens the position of the village primary school, and effectively causes centralisation. Education is an investment for the future and any society found lacking in this direction will reap a terrible harvest.

Jack Kernow would be better employed examining in detail exactly where money is wasted in local authorities, for example Mayor's expenses, staff allowances, and charades such as the Penwith Council 'Coat of Arms Committee'.

Ill-informed broadsides, however entertaining, present the very real danger of distorting or dividing the cause we seek to promote.

Anyway, if we recall why the Tories imposed cuts on local authorities, the word inflation creeps in. It is a very controversial point whether public spending cuts do in fact reduce inflation.

Perhaps a eulogy on that subject might be interesting!

Finally, JK and I do agree about fishing. So perhaps it is not Lord Hailsham, who, presumably, has Tory sympathies, but for reasons entirely unconnected with net regulations!

Yn Iel,
Alfred Tonkin
(Angarrack, Hayle)

Dear Sirs,

as you possibly might have heard already, we are going to have an inter-celtic festival in West Berlin, basically concentrating on music and dance, and some theatre (by the way, only from Cornwall) and besides that a symposium and three exhibitions.

I am addressing you because of that symposium, where one of the subjects is problems of regionalism.

We should like to have a paper concerning problems of regionalism in Cornwall to be Xero-copied and read at the symposium. In *Cornish Nation* Nr. 36, Spring 1979, I found an article of Judyth Drew, which was written by her when she was only sixteen years old. I think this school essay is very enlightening and should like to publish it.

The symposium will be held between the 15 and 20 July.

With all sympathy to your fight,

Sincerely yours,
Dr. Almut Mey (Mrs)
Sessener Strasse 17
1000 Berlin 31.



CORNISH DELEGATION AT UDB CONFERENCE

St. Nazaire was, on the 5th, 6th and 7th of April, the site of the 15th Biennial Congress of the Breton Democratic Union, UDB.

Brittany's largest 'nationalist' party was launched in 1964, largely by students and ex-combatants of the Algerian war, who likened the colonial position of Brittany to that of Algeria. Essentially a socialist party, UDB strives for a self-governing socialist Brittany.

For a party only claiming about three thousand members, they certainly do things in style! The congress was held in the brand new Trades Union Hall, offering a large auditorium and facilities for committee meetings. Some 150 delegates attended from the thirteen federations of the UDB. Others attended from Cornwall, Euskadi (the Basques) and Occitania (south of France), and facilities for visiting

st nazaire

Malcolm Williams delegates were nothing short of excellent, with hotel accomodation, food and sight-seeing trips laid on.

But what of UDB's position today? To the outsider, UDB's progress has seemed relatively steady. The party's strength and weakness probably lie in its aims, that of an autonomous socialist Brittany. A polarisation to the left has taken place during the last two years. Whether this will ultimately be good for the party remains to be seen: while it narrows the area of sympathy and recruitment, the greater philosophic strength tends to lessen political disagreements. Not that disagreements do not occur in UDB!

In fairness it should be said that 'French' politics is poles apart from 'British' politics.

The French system of proportional representation and 'lists' forces small parties such as the UDB into temporary local alliances with one of the bigger ones.

Where UDB really shines, however, is in organisation. The party has no fewer than four well-produced periodicals, including 'Le Peuple Breton' (in French) widely available in news-stands, and 'Pobl Vreizh', its Breton language version.

For UDB the Biennial Congress is more than a debating shop: one is very conscious of its 'shop-window' aspect. One amusing incident occurred on the first morning when delegates were urged to move into the centre seats to 'look more for the tv cameras'!

At a lavish reception on Sunday morning, the Mayor of St. Nazaire gave a long-winded, pro-Breton speech to a backdrop of alternating French tricolours and Breton flags.

The overall impression must be that UDB have established credibility among the Breton people..Its strongest appeal is in the Breton-speaking areas and among the working class. The task of UDB is to combine the twin messages of socialism and autonomy; Maybe without the former they would be more successful ? I doubt it.



HELSTON FURRY DANCE

HISTORICAL NOTES

by JILL NEWTON

When I was doing research for my book on the Furry Dance, the earliest references I found dated from the late 18th century. One tells us, "About the middle of the day they collect together to dance hand in hand round the streets, to the sound of a fiddle playing a particular tune, which they continue to do until dark. This is called a 'faddy'."

It is no coincidence perhaps that the name is thought to come from 'Rinne Fada', the Irish for 'long dance'. Later it became known as the Furry and the Day was named the Flora when people who should have known better claimed it to have connections with the Roman Floralia - "a vulgar error", wrote historian, the Rev. Polwhele. Daniel Defoe earlier wrote that the dance is called the 'faddy' and the day is called the Furry.

By 1820, we read that the élite of Helston were dancing down Coinagehall Street to their evening Ball at the Angel Hotel, in their elaborate gowns, for the benefit of the working classes. I think it is right to assume that they would not have danced in the rustic, boisterous style of the country folk, and adapted steps of a popular dance. By the 1830's we are told that "after the gentry had danced their dance, the tradespeople did precisely the same, with the same band, the same tune, the same dance, through the same streets and the same houses, and after that the working classes." It would seem that from this point, about 150 years ago, the day's celebrations have continued in about the same manner.

Nowadays the Furry danced anywhere else lacks the magic of Flora Day, but the Furry was known as Cornwall's National Dance of rejoicing. Time and again the Furry was danced, from St. Austell to Penzance: when Napoleon was defeated, on 'feast days', when Victoria was crowned and even, in 1842, when St. Mawes won a lawsuit over fishing rights. Perhaps in future we might see a 'Faddy' danced on special occasions in villages throughout Cornwall, not in imitation of Helston, but in the traditional chain-dance style of the original Faddy, or Biewer's 'Scharen'. (see next issue of CN).

PLAID CYMRU MAN TALKS TO CORNISH celtic League-hayle

The Cornish Branch of the Celtic League initiated a more active role in Cornish affairs recently when they asked Dr. John Davies of Plaid Cymru to come to Hayle and give an address. In a speech outlining some of the challenges facing those who seek to maintain the Welshness of Wales, he drew several parallels with our own situation.

"It is always fitting", he said, "to remember that we are joint heirs to a great tradition." Dr. Davies was pleased to find that a sense of nationality still survived in Cornwall despite the growing proportion of immigrants and the other factors which contribute to destroying it. Concerning tourism he quoted the Welsh poet R.S. Thomas: "Anything to sell? asked the tourist, of the native rummaging amongst the crumbs of his self-respect."

Another interesting point was the effect of second home owners who solidly voted against devolution in the 1979 referendum. (We might well consider what effect they have in Cornwall. The non-resident part of the North Cornwall constituency undoubtedly contributed to the debacle of Pardoe.) He pointed out that in Scotland this kind of absentee voting is *already illegal!*



DR. JOHN DAVIES (RIGHT) WITH RICHARD JENKIN

FUTURE FOR WALES

Dr. Davies believes there are five possible paths for the national movement of Wales to decide on.

1 A turn towards the 'New Left', concentrating on international capitalism as the main enemy. While attractive to the younger element, this was probably doomed to remain a minority view even in industrial Wales.

2 What he called 'controlled violence'. He was firmly opposed to this, including the burning of holiday homes, as, once it was sanctioned, where could one draw the line?

3 The joining together of individual "Welsh" communities to create a separate community within Wales. While

While this had the pleasant effect of letting the minority be just for once the majority, it was of course badly divisive.

4 The Eco philosophy did not appeal to him because of the difficulty of persuading most people to accept a fall in their standard of living. Equally people were suspicious of the "hippy" element.

5 The movement could continue as before, slowly building up a loyal mass following which they had already achieved in Gwynedd.

6 Gwynfor Evans had declared his intention of fasting to death in support of a Welsh 4th tv channel. Which other party could boast such a heroic leadership?

panceltic festival CILL AIRNE EIRE

Singers and musicians represented our country in Killarney, as did the newly-formed dance group Cam Kernewek, who attracted the attention of the television men. Their dancing will be seen on the Welsh programme, "Heddiw" (Cor. 'hedhyu') and on BBCI later this year.

On two mornings, Cornish publications, badges and flags were on sale in a main street shop where a corn-dolly workshop demonstrated one old Cornish craft.

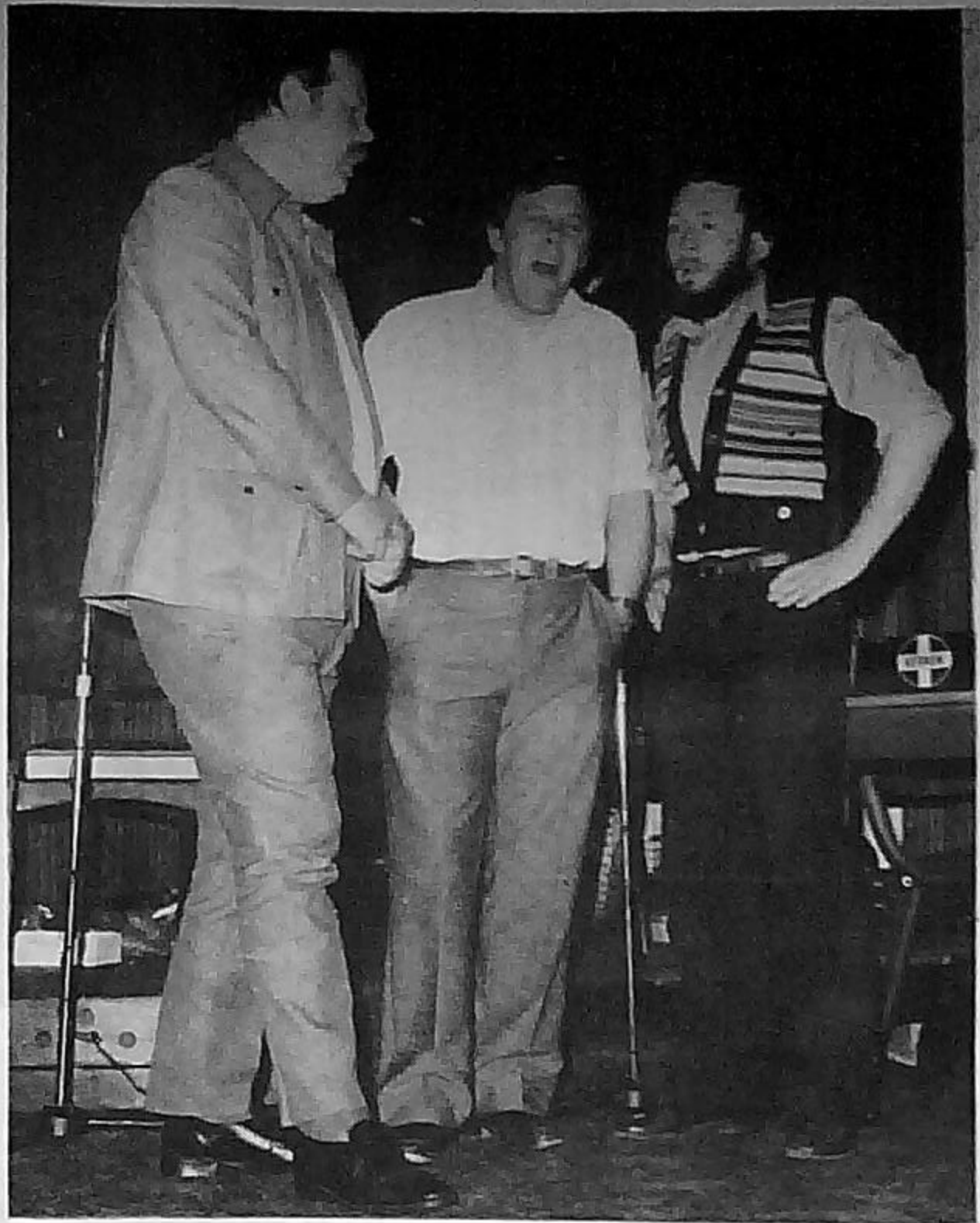
The traditional costumes, with the Bal Maidens' "gooks", caused comment on the Cornish National night, as did the fact that two of the singers in Cornish were under the age of 14.

One matter of particular interest to Cornish speakers came to light when a spritely American gentleman sang the Hal-an-Tow to some quite unrecognizable words, long known in California, which he claimed to be *Cornish!*

One can only assume that our language was carried to America by emigrant miners, and became corrupted through the years into the version they sing today.

Before travelling to Killarney, the team visited the Rakes of Mallow Festival near Cork. Here they were presented with a hand-worked copper bowl and a marble award for their performances. They have been invited to return.

PanCeltic Kernow are now preparing for the next festival, to be held in Lorient, Brittany. After that comes Cornwall and the Lowender Peran.



Three singers from Cornwall: Leslie Calder, Peter Asplet and Neil Plummer, all of St. Stythyan's Choir.

CAM KERNEWEK : a new folk dancing group.



CORNISH DANCING



MERVYN & ALISON DAVEY

It may or may not come as a surprise to readers of Cornish Nation that the Cornish were at one time as enthusiastic about their dancing as their fellow celts in other countries today. Furthermore, we are not talking about the dim and distant Arthurian past but about Cornishmen and women who used to hold what they called troyls (a Cornish ceilidh - variously 'trall' and 'troil' in dialect) up until, and even a little after the first World War.

In fact interest in Cornish traditional dance has revived in the last year or so to the extent that we were able for the first time to send a dance team, CAM KERNEWEK, to the Pan Celtic Festival in Cill Airne.

But what is 'Cornish dancing'? Where does it come from? Research is very much in its infancy, and it would be very rash to draw firm conclusions at this stage. It is however possible to identify what has been uncovered so far in the hope that it will encourage people to provide us with further information and suggestions.

Although this is an oversimplification, Cornish traditional dance is best described as if it fell into five categories:

GOLESEN

A court dance in five parts, the MS of the music was found at Trelowarren House and at Truro Museum, the steps in the Vaughan Williams Library, Cecil Sharp House. It shares a common ancestry with the quadrilles and cotillion dances found throughout Europe.

PEDRAK

Folk dances in square sets, e.g. 'Fer Lyskerys' (Liskeard Fair) which we have reconstructed from fragments remembered by old people, combined with a reference in Baring Gould's manuscripts. It is possible that there was a 'fishwives' dance' belonging to this category, but we have been unable to piece together enough information on this. It would have been an unusual dance, performed entirely by women.

COROLLY

Circular street dances which some elderly people can remember doing during the 'Sunday School Treats'. The *Serpentine Walk* or *Snail's Creep* is an example of this. After forming the circle, it is broken up again, to form a snake-like chain reminiscent of some Breton dancing. The *Tremadheves* is another example of this type. With the help of notes made by Cecil Sharp whilst visiting Gram-pound Road in the early part of this century,

FURRY

Processional or fair dances, which continue to be a living tradition as far north as Bude, were at one time known in every Cornish town. It is likely that such tunes as *Bodmin Riding* and *Truro Agricultural Show* were, originally, Furry dance tunes for their respective towns. New dances in this tradition have evolved comparatively recently in St. Day and Newquay.

SOLO STEP DANCES

These dances are the least researched so far. They seem to have been performed by men standing on a barrel or table; they would crouch down on their haunches, kicking their legs out in time with the music. It was a 'show-off' dance and men would vie against each other by trying to drink a pint of beer, or eat a pasty whilst dancing. The *St. Just Cock Dance* is known to have been done in this manner, on the hearthstones of pubs in the town, but we are unable to find out much more about it. There was a similar dance at Newquay, called *Porth Lystry* or *Lutterpouch*.

IF YOU HAVE any information which would help us revive these dances, please do not hesitate to contact us; even the merest snippet could make all the difference when it comes to reconstructing a dance.

M. DAVEY,
MENECHYJY,
WITHIEL,
BODMIN.

NB Two dance groups currently specialise in Cornish and Celtic dancing: one at Connor Downs W.I. Hall (Sundays, 3 pm.) the other at 'Stable Loft', Molesworth Arms, Wadebridge.

OBER HA GOBER

An stryf a dal an ober. Nans yu saw nebes bledhynyow, yth esa an Vretonyon ow plentya na glewer scantlowr travyth yn aga yeth war'n radyo nag an belwolok.

Travyth nyns yu ken; whath ymons-yow plentya, hag a skylada, mes yma lemmyn 5 ur a Vretonek war'n radyo ha hanter owr war'n bellwolok. Nyns yu marnas gul ges an bobel, awos oll an 'Gwarak Gonesegeth',* mes myllwell yu ages kens! 'Diwan', an cowethas neb a wruk lyes scol-methryn dhe dhalleth dres Breten Vyghan Ysel, yu parys dhe sewya gans deu po moy scolyow kensa.

Omnia yn Kernow yma dhyn-ny dyscasow an yeth yn nebes scol-yow. Ynweth y whelyr neppyth, byghan kynth yu, war'n bellwolok: crysny-ny nag yu mas 'dalleth'.

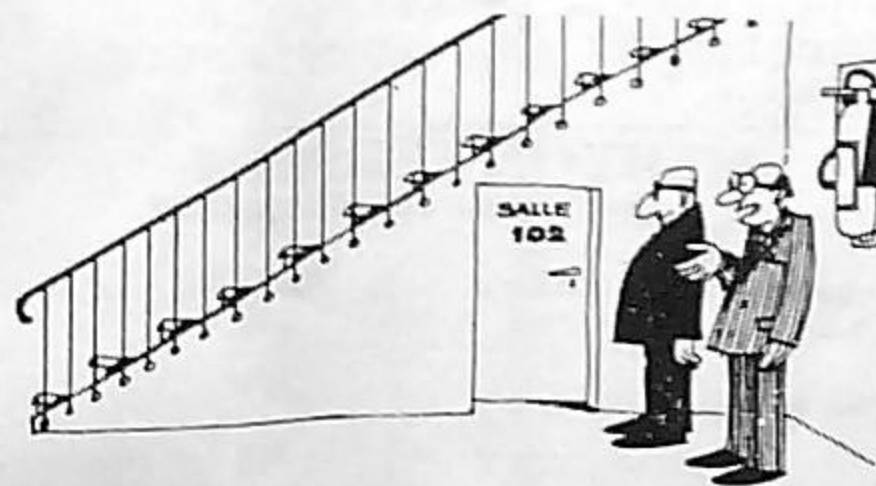


ARWETH-FORTH YN NANS-AN-GOLLAN



Cathy Fennel a Lyngonna (Gunnislake) ow tysky yn lowen dre jyn-amontya. An Jeth Ygor Kernewek yn Lyskerys, mys Ebrel.

Treatment of minority languages in the French State.



"We have reserved this room for the class in Occitan." Taken from an OMNIVOX book for learning Occitan. The Cartoon would apply equally to Breton, Basque, Catalan, German in Alsace-Lorraine.

Julyan ker,
Ow sewya dha scryf y'n dyllans Gwaynten a'n 'Genethel Gernewek' yn kever arwedhow-forth yu scryfys yn kernewek, y prederys-vy y coth dhym danvon dhys seusen un arweth-forth usy y'm treveglos, Nansgollan. Hemma re bu hanow an forth nans yu lyes cansvledhen del grysaf. Scryfys yu war'n Mappa Dega y'n vledhen 1841. Bytegens, nyns esa arweth arweth-vyth owth omsevel ryp an forth bys yn 1979 - hy hanow nyns o usyes marnas dre anow.

Pan welys-vy an hanow war'n mappa dega, y scryfys dhe'n Gonsel ow covyn orta-y mar caller gorra y'n le arweth an hanow ewn. Aju dhe beswar seythen, an arweth a vu drehevys! (Hep mar yth aswonaf-vy an den po. yn war'n Gonsel - yth esof owth obery ena!)

Yn lel dhys,
Rod Lyon

(Nans an Gollen, Helles)
Nancegollan, Helston.

A Julyan ker,
Pys da en-vy pan welys folen scryfys yn kernewek y'n Genethel an mys-ma. Mes ple'ma tytel yn kernewek an lyver-termyn, war'n folen arak?

Dhyso,
Brian Webb (Truru).

Myreugh orth agan cuthlen -- Penscryfer.

TY AN OMDOWLORYON

"Re'm enor hag enor ow gwlas, my a de omdewlel hep falsury na garowder, hag yn tokyn ow gwyrioneth y profyaf ow luf; yn geryow ow hendasow: GWARY WHEK YU GWARY TEK.

An ty-ma a vu das-trelyes gans Kevreennans Omdowl Kernewek a-dhyworth testen goth Breton-ek.



REVIEWS

THREE NEW BOOKS from the prolific *Lodenek Press* of Padstow: 'Canow an Weryn Hedhyu', (Cornish Folk Songs of Today), 'To Scilly', and 'Cornish Nature Notes'.

Despite its name, the majority of this book is filled with songs in English, including many by Mollie Bartlett and Esme Frances. In no book of Cornish songs could Dick Gendall's name be entirely absent though the majority of his songs, due to the close and fruitful tie-up with Brenda Wootton, are under copyright of the record companies. Instead, the Cornish language song section is made up almost exclusively of the

translations and adaptations of Tony Snell. Cornish writing is moving very fast but it is useful for collections to be published from time to time for the man in the street to see what is there.

With almost 70 songs altogether, each one printed with chord accompaniment, this must be a mine for up and coming folk-singers, and £3.75 seems a very fair price.

'Nature Notes by S.S.' delighted readers of the *Cornish Guardian* over many years. This book is a memorial selection to the man who wrote them, Sydney Sheer of Carpalla. Mr. Sheer died in 1978 after a long career in the china clay industry.

Whether he writes of the tiny shrew, a bird of prey or the humblest plant that grows in the waste sand, S.S. is always interesting and enthusiastic.

This little book, selling at £1.20, is suitably illustrated with fine, lively drawings by Dick Twinney of St. Columb.



Beyond the River Hayle by Gerald & Mrs. Priestland (Wildwood House), is overpriced, derivative and clearly written by foreigners for foreigners. Forget it!

'To Scilly' is a collection of really rather good, traditional poems. Each one is heavy with the scenery of those islands that the author, Alec Gray, fifty years a flower-grower, knows so well.

Must mention a new book for children and others beginning to come to terms with our language. Even though it is duplicated, not printed, it is well produced and illustrated.

I can not recommend it too highly: the first printing was only 500; rush 50 pence post free to

Mrs. B.A. Hooper,
93 Mt Pleasant Ho.,
Camborne,
asking for a copy of
"MY FIRST CORNISH BOOK",



Latest and dare I say 'best' of the several Cornish quiz-books that have appeared over the years is Cornish Quiz by R.S. Best.

Like all good quizzes it is an encyclopaedia in disguise.

Do not despair on question 7 of 'Quiquits' The p should be an o. Dyllansow Truran - Truran Publications, price c. £1.00.

| MEBYON KERNOW | | Membership Terms: |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP | | £1.00 per year. |
| Name (in full) Mr./Mrs./Miss | | Students & OAPs 50p |
| Address..... | | Life Membership £10.00 |
| | | Members living in |
| Tel. No | | Cornwall must not belong |
| Country of Birth (If born in U.K. please state Cornwall, Wales etc.) | | to any other political |
| Occupation | Age..... | party. |
| I have read and agree with the aims of Mebyon Kernow. | | Apply : |
| I enclose | membership subscription. | 28 Penlee Villas |
| I enclose | donation to M.K. Funds. | Playing Place |
| Date | Signed | Truro |

GWERTHOW MEBYON KERNOW

[Mebyon Kernow Sales]

- ANCRAK BADGES**
1. I'm Proud to be Cornish 30p
 2. Kernow (with flag) 30p
- CAR BADGES**
3. Kernow (with flag) £2.50
 4. Mebyon Kernow (with flag) £2.50
- LAPEL BADGES**
5. Kernow Kensa (Cornwall First) 15p
 6. MK Members' Badge 75p
 7. St. Piran's Flag 75p
- BOOKS**
8. The Celtic Background of Kernow by: Dr J.C.A. Whetter 30p
 9. Helford River by: Jill Newton 90p
 10. For Cornwall a Future - some policy suggestions by: L. Truran 20p
 11. The Cornish Aviation Company by: Ted Chapman £5.25
 12. Cornish Nationality Certificate: send name, date of birth, for a bi-lingual certificate 50p

A FURTHER 73 BOOKS & TAPES

on all aspects of Cornish Language and culture are available - lists on request. ++++

- ENVELOPES**
20. Celtic Cornwall, pack of 10 30p
 21. Kernow Kensa, pack of 10 30p

- CORNISH FLAGS**
22. 4½ft x 2½ft, ready to fly £7.60
 23. 3ft x 1½ft, ready to fly £4.80
 24. 18" x 9", flag on a stick 20p
 25. 12" x 8", flag on a stick 15p
 26. 9" x 6", flag on a stick 10p
 27. Triangular Car Pennant 30p

28. Key Ring, will hold 10p piece, doubles as an ice-scraper 30p

- NOTE PAPER**
29. Sancreed Cross, pack of 10 28p
 30. Kernow Kensa, pack of 10 28p

- PENS**
31. Mebyon Kernow, with motto 18p
 32. 'Rake' novelty pen)
 33. 'Shovel' novelty pen)
 34. 'Pick' novelty pen) 25p
 35. 'Nail' novelty pen)
 36. 'Arrow' novelty pen)
 37. 'Hammer' novelty pen)

38. Energy Report, facts & figures 50p

39. Cornish Language Serviettes, 25-pack 25p

STAMPS

40. An Gof, black, with 'Kernow' in red)
41. Davy, red on white)
42. Original design, engine house etc.) 2p 20p
43. Triangular, overprinted 'Kernow')
44. Triangular, o/p 'Postys yn Kernow')

STICKERS

45. Nerth Nuclerek - Na Vynnaf, each 3p
46. As 45, sheet of 24 60p
47. Celtic Cornwall, window sticker 45p
48. Keep Cornwall Cornish 3p
49. KER car nationality sticker 30p
50. Kernow Ryth 3p
51. Kernow, window sticker, with flag 30p
52. Kernow, car sticker, with flag 30p
53. Pow Kernow Marplek, for envelopes 3p
54. Stick-on Cornish flag 3p
55. Kempenneugh Kernow/Keep Cornwall Tidy 13p

TEA-TOWELS

56. Cornish Language, with map £1.20
57. Cornish Tartan £1.20

TEE-SHIRTS

58. Kernow Kensa, with triskel, childrens £2.50
- Adults, small, medium, large £2.75

FREE with every order over £1.00:

One poster, 'Cornwall's Right - Self Govt.'
AND 'Assemblies for Scotland & Wales - Why not Cornwall?'

To order, write number required next to number of item (below).

| | | | | | | | | | |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|---|----|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | | |
| 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | | |
| 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | 32 | 33 | 34 | | |
| 35 | 36 | 37 | 38 | 39 | 40 | 41 | 42 | | |
| 43 | 44 | 45 | 46 | 47 | 48 | 49 | 50 | | |
| 51 | 52 | 53 | 54 | 55 | 56 | 57 | 58 | | |

Add 15% for postage & packing (min. 20p)

Name CHRISTOPHER MEASEY
Address 44 HURDON WAY
LANUNCESTON, KERNOW

Total amount remitted £.....

Send to: Alan Forster
Gwerthow Mebyon Kernow
East Tolgus House, Old Portreath Road,
Redruth, Kernow.

cut along line

DYLLANSOW TRURAN

Lyver Dedhyow - Corn. & Eng. callendar,
1981 out now - 95p p.pd.
Kernewek Mar Plek! - as used in Cornish
Language Board Classes - £2.05p p.pd.
Cassette Tape to go with above - £1.95 "

Cornish Names for Cornish Homes by
Crysten Fudge - £1.05 p.pd.
New Titles:

Cornish Faist by Beryl James -
Gorseth-winning dialect entries - £1.15 "
A Cornish Quiz by R.S. Best -
over 500 questions & answers - 95p p.pd.
A Cornish Bedside Book by John Keast -
Stately Homes in and around Truro,
by Rex Barratt -
Also available Christmas Cards (Cornish
& English), badges and souvenirs.
Send s.a.e. for lists to Phone
Trewolsta, Trewirgie, Redruth. (216796).

MAYFLOWER ANTIQUES (Cynthia Hoskin)

18 Broad Street, Padstow.

China, Silver, Glass, Jewellery,

Prints, Maps, Objects D'Art.

Antiques purchased.

'THE LAST MAN'

Shoe Repair Service

7 Trelawney Road,

Falmouth

Proprietor: C. D. DUCKHAM

cornish national tartan

(Reg. Design No. 497429)

Ties - £1.20 Scarves from £1.20

Skirt Lengths - £5.50

(plus 10% p & p) (5% discount to M.K.)

Kilts & Skirts made-to-measure ... Write for price list to:

CORNISH TARTAN PRODUCTIONS Trevone, Padstow.
St. Merryn 520377

GWAYNTEN

Photo & Art

11 West Street

Liskeard

Phone: Liskeard 42314

Safar creft ha skesenwyth.

P.F.S. ENGINEERING

Industrial and Marine Engineers
Perkin appointed dealer: service and spares
Borg-Warner service and spares

**engine and automatic
transmission overhauls**

Long Lane,
High Street-
St. Austell.

Nanpean 822676
or 822737

To Advertise in CORNISH NATION, write
to: Ken Lowe, Boundy's House, Lelant, St. Ives.
Kernow; Tel. Hayle 753488.

Rates: £1.50 per column inch and pro rata.

E.H. DUNGEY

Decorator-Undertaker

10 Victoria Row

St Just

Tel: St. Just 788682 (STD 0736)

QUAY BOOKSHOP

(Bruce Burley)

QUAY STREET,

TRURO (next to Palace Theatre)

Tel: Truro 6817.

Interesting stock of ANTIQUARIAN and SECOND-
HAND BOOKS on display. Cornish books a spec-
iality. The proprietor is anxious to purchase all
fine books, libraries to single volumes.

PLUME OF FEATHERS, Portscatho

Fully licensed - St. Austell Ales

Snacks and sandwiches at the bar

Joan Thomas - Portscatho 321

FALMOUTH ARMS, Ladock.

St. Austell Ales

Pasties & Sandwiches

Bed and Breakfast

J. W. OSBORNE - Grampound Road 319

THE SHIP INN

Pentewan, St. Austell

PHYL AND JOHN HOSKING

Mevagissey 3457

DENNIS ENDEAN IVALL

Heraldic, Traditional & Decorative Art
PIRAN COT, PERRANWELL, TRURO.

Devoran 863017

Cornwall Aviation Company

By Ted Chapman

Story of the Company founded at St. Austell
in 1924, with 150 illustrations. The first in a
series of books about Cornwall's part in the
History of Aviation.

GLASNEY PRESS, High Street, Falmouth
Price £5.25

CARN

Celtic League Quarterly, 24pp, in English and
Celtic Languages.

30p per copy or join the League and get Carn
free, Sub £3.00

Write to: Ian Williams, Crowshensy,
Parchbottom, Illogan, Redruth.

Insertion of advertising does not imply agree-
ment with any views expressed in CORNISH
NATION.