

KENETHEL GERNEWEEK Nr. 42 GWAYNTEN 1981

CORNISH NATION



35p

RUGBY -
A SHAKE-UP ?

The RESTRELYK
EXPERIMENTAL
CO-OPERATIVE

THE CORNISH LANGUAGE AND THE CELTS



ST DENNIS
Cornish Heartland

NEWS — VIEWS — REVIEWS

CORNISH NATION

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:-

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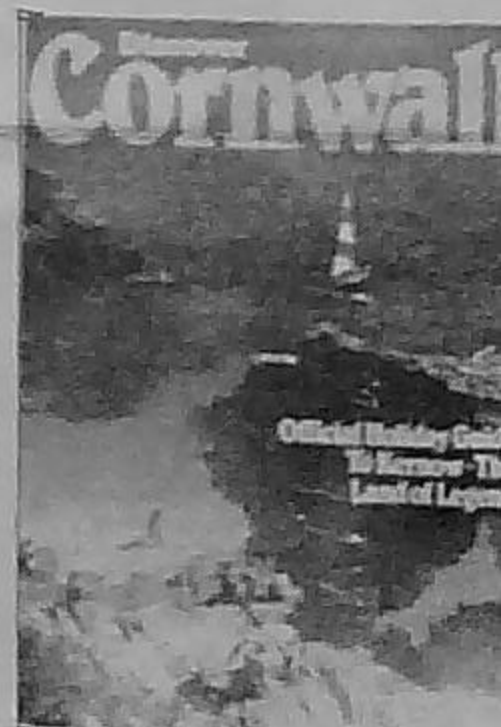
3cm x $\frac{1}{2}$ page width.....£1-50
Larger spaces on application to:
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not necessarily those of Mebyon
Kernow. It is the Editor's wish to
give an insider's view of Cornwall).

Photos: Front cover: Parkandillack
clay pit and beam engine in situ;
Below: Illustration from *Cornwall*
Aviation Company by W.E.Chapman.

SEE
PAGES
4 & 5



KERNOW -
LAND OF
LEGEND !



CORNWALL KERNOW

A FIGHT ON THEIR HANDS

The phoney war has commenced. The CEGB has been sent packing from both farms it has so far attempted to survey preparatory to building their power station.

'We will come back with Court Orders' they said, smiling indulgently.

Who will be their to stop them? The recent petition, which did not get everywhere by a very long chalk, was signed by over thirty thousand names. The stannators too have staked, or rather 'bounded' their claim to a place in the vanguard of the struggle.

JOINT ACTION

On page eight is a photograph that illustrates Cornishmen backing the Welsh: we are pleased to say that, in return, Welshmen and other Celts supported the Westminster part of Mebyon Kernow's picket of the Tories in protest at the atrocious level of unemployment here. Thirty people fight for every vacancy in Cornwall! This fact is covered over by our MPs who are almost entirely Tories, not necessarily Thatcherite though, and by the artificial South West Region we are included in for statistic purposes. Thus we in the South West have 9% out of work. Cornwall alone however has in excess of 15%.

Until toadying sycophants such as John Nott (Minister, God help us! of Trade) are thrown out on their ear by a thinking electorate, Cornwall will continue to be totally ignored, as in the recent 'South and South West Debate.'

NEW YEAR'S HONOURS LIST *****

It is with great honour that the Editor of CORNISH NATION is able to announce the following New Year Honours bestowed by a secret committee sitting in St Just in Penwith.

We do of course commiserate with all those, like Ross Salmon with his inventive adaptations of Cornish place-names, eg 'Breej'? near 'Jermo', who - so Deep Throat tells us - so nearly missed inclusion this time. The awards, genuine Hong Kong piskies as sold at Land's End, standing nearly three inches high in solid plastic, will be awarded by the Editor at a future date.

The Ted Tuckerman Prize for Fishing - shared jointly by Special Branch and the Devon (sic) and Cornwall Constabulary.

The Hugh Sculley Shield, awarded for creative journalism, goes to the Cornwall (sic) Courier for its investigative reports on the national movements. (We hear, Deep Throat again, that the same paper is in the running for the Schnit Prize for crime fiction.)

The Simpson Bros Prize, for the Worst-Dressed Politician is also shared, between Dr James Whetter (CNP) and Pedyr Prior (MK).

The Nero Challenge Cup, for fiddling while Rome burns is awarded to Gerry "Hang'em high" Neale MP for his valiant defence of Jam-making for which he will be given a raspberry, in addition to his other awards.

The Joe McCarthy Medal to Len Truran for stamping out the Reds.

An Ethnic Studies Certificate of Merit to Westward TV for Dress an Tamar.

The Pontius Pilate Golden Handbowl to Liskeard Old Cornwall Society for their brave refusal to condemn outright the Welsh Language.

BOUNDARY CHANGES

All constituencies are artificial, after all is said and done the only constituency we feel to be truly representative of our views would be made up of one individual - "one man one vote".

The proposed changes in Cornwall, which will stick (no amount of lobbying disentangled us from Plymouth for Europe), are daft enough on the face of it. If there was any yardstick for determining the new constituencies, it can only have been a tacit agreement to queer Penhaligon's pitch.

There is just one point in favour of the new seats; there was no suggestion to amalgamate Devon & Cornwall constituencies. This was a real danger: *there are, I believe, 57 cross-border constituencies in Britain.*

CENSUS

Before long we will all be sorted out into little boxes by kind volunteers working for the National (sic) Census.

At least one Cornishman, Paul Holmes, of Camborne, has publicly asserted his intention to fill his form in Cornish. We wonder if any of the twenty thousand will be bold enough to follow his example.

THE BOMB pt 1

There is no doubt that one pound of explosive is worth a devil of a weight of public opinion. Who can possibly doubt that after the response of Nationwide to that curious affair at St Austell?

Would Kernow have starred in the final, political part of the B.B.C.'s mini-voyage to outermost Celtia, had it not been for the timely bursting of that news-item? We must doubt it.

JOHN PENBERTHY HARRIS

We are sad to relate the untimely death of John Harris who will be much missed by his friends, especially in rugby circles and in the Cornwall Naturalist Trust, and in MK.

GWAYNTEN

Photo & Art

11 West Street

Liskeard

Phone: Liskeard 42314

dafar creft ha skesenwyth

THE BOMB (pt 2)

Before people should conclude that we approved the incident - or worse - we must point out that the many who seemed to have a grudging admiration for the Guy should take another look at the TV histories of Ireland, or the daily news columns, and see where such violence, even seemingly safely-executed violence can lead to. Perhaps "sleepy Cornwall" is preferable to the Bogside / Shankhill Road situation as a future lifestyle?

With President Reagan apparently all prepared to hand out rockets like sweets to any colonel who says he hates the Reds, and Thatcher bent on bankrupting Britain in order to have her own deterrent, the thoughts of many have turned, far from lightly, to the big bang theory of the end of the Universe, rather more immediate than Prof. Hoyle's similar theory for its beginning.

The film 'War Game', criminally banned by the B.B.C. top brass in the early sixties when it was first made, is now travelling round this part of the island, propelled by the Ecology and Labour Parties.

The film is just as horrific as we should expect, but probably nowhere near as horrific as it should be. It certainly should make more people aware of the terrible disaster that may be round the next corner. If it had been shown at Perranporth, would the vote have gone against the siting of such weapons in Cornwall, instead of just the other way? (MK Policy Conference, Nov. 1980)

There are problems though: most of us do not like the prospect of Russian overlordship. If we eject the nuclear arsenal, it is just possible that Britain could, through massive spending on 'conventional' arms, and the re-institution of National Service, provide itself with a creditable defence against attack.

I do not know if there is such a thing as an Ecological Defence Policy: ? throwing nuts at them perhaps, or windmill-powered tanks? I do know, however, that the present rulers of the Labour Party (but not its rank and file who are bound to be reactionary Tories on such issues) would have us surrender at the moment the tanks

'THE LAST MAN'
Shoe Repair Service
7 Trelawney Road,
Falmouth

Proprietor: C. D. DUCKHAM



CULTURE VULTURE

That great friend of the Cornish people, Gerry Neale, is really full of surprises. He has acquired very quickly the reputation of not giving a damn for local opinion, in fact a dyed in the wool monetarist, but, it seems, we are wrong: spurred by a letter to all MPs from Cowethas an Yeth Kernewek, he alone of all of them has asked the Education Minister, that eminent Victorian Dr Rhodes Boyson if there are any special funds to support teaching of the Cornish language. We await an answer.

TELEVISION SOUTH WEST

Goodbye Westward, hello TV South West 1. Not just a change of name but a real change of programme - or so we would hope from their manifesto.

In an interview with ARTS South West, TVSW Managing Director and Programme Controller Kevin Goldstein Jackson outlines a very high-brow future: 'nothing for ITV 1, but maybe ITV 2 will take some of our drama.'

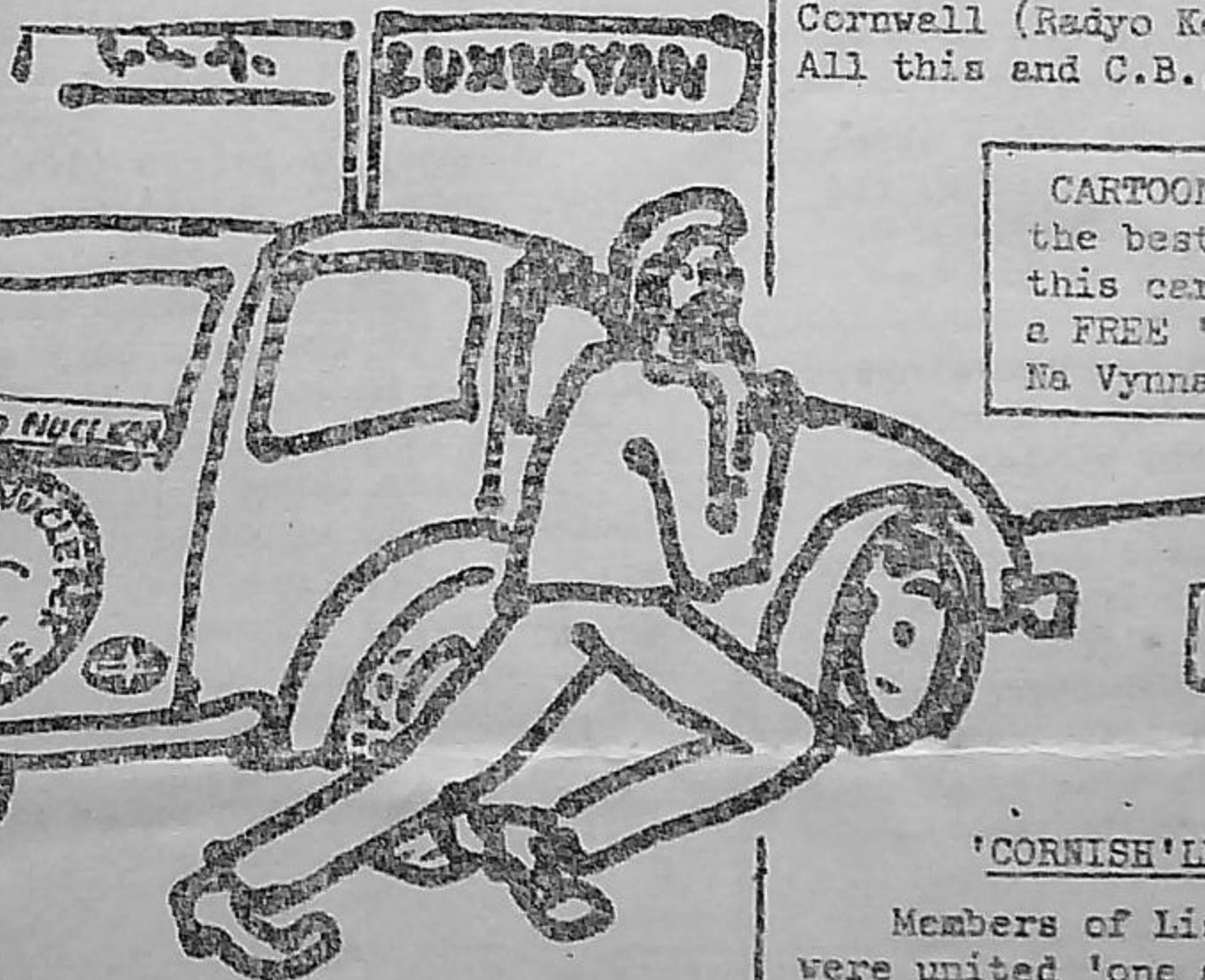
"I think there's a great difference between certain parts of the region and others.... People in Cornwall have tended to feel that they were rather neglected."

To prove their good intentions, they have plans for an ESP (Electronic Sealed Production) unit in Truro as a sort of mobile studio.

"Then there's the specials like *The Ordinalia in Cornish* !!!

And let's not forget that our dear friends on 'Morning Sou'west' will have been replaced by Radio Cornwall (Radio Kernow) in Truro. All this and C.B., Brown Bear !

CARTOON - The sender of the best caption for this cartoon will receive a FREE 'Nerth Nuclerek - Na Vynnaf' car badge.



'CORNISH' LEGION

Members of Liskeard British Legion were united 'one and all' in the first few days of January. They had just suffered enough of bagpipes and haggis.

"Look," they said, "We're nearly all Cornish here - we should have a *Cornish Night*." So straightway they organised one in such style, with a giant pasty, Cornish songs and a huge Piran's Cross, that they are going to make it an annual event from now on - and next time they will keep St Piran's Day clear for it !

YFLOWER ANTIQUES (Cynthia Hoskin)

China, Silver, Glass, Jewellery,
Prints, Maps, Objects D'Art.
Antiques purchased.

2 Mill Rd., Padstow.



Restrelyk

Well, there they were, hanging around in Europe, struggling along, when someone comes up with this new high-technological idea called IRON.

"Hey, this is really great ! With this sort of thing we can chop down trees beat up our enemies and generally spread our culture right accross Europe. Great idea !"

Which is what happened.

But, well, let's face it, since then things have not gone too well. Look at the Romans: they did not do too well in the begining - Po valley and all that - but then they had these new ideas about a structured, hierarchical society, the 'state' and various forms of military hardware, and look what they did to the ancient Celts.

There have been the odd occasions, such as when Cornish mining technology led the world, but, on the whole, the Celts have not been too keen on taking up new ideas - either their own or other people's. Just as well - if they had, we would not be here today! But that was when the language and culture were in decline. That is still the case in most Celtic countries but even they are quick to point out the *growth* that is taking place here, in Cornwall.

The greatest medium that affects people today is television. The recent limited coverage on tv that has been achieved has had a noticeable if small effect on people's awareness of Cornwall as a distinct identity.

This is an example of what is, after all, high technology, actually benefitting us.

Restrelyk will allow an audience to watch an evening's entertainment, held solely in the medium of Kernewek, while those who wish to can listen to a simultaneous translation in English.

JOHN DUDDING

This will, of course, allow for more events to be held in the Cornish Language, and opens up possibilities for full-length plays to be performed in Kernewek without losing the attention of non-Cornish speakers.

Each member of Restrelyk has agreed to share in the venture to the value of £10, with a call on a further £2 if required - that is a maximum of £12.

At today's prices (less than £1000) we could obtain equipment to record events, dances, plays, wrestling etc. and then show them at school, open days or whenever we wish. They could even be supplied to TV companies for them to transmit.

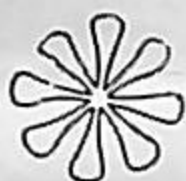
If this seems a bit far-fetched, there are plenty of things we could do with: printing presses, type-writers, any number of schemes - but they all need money, and it is rare for one individual to be able to raise enough for such ventures. But twenty-four people in Restrelyk raise £240 ! Does that printing press seem out of reach - or that type-writer ?

The other Celtic countries tell us about the benefits of co-operatives and the great possibilities they present - just look at Brittany Ferries!

The idea of a group of people putting in small amounts of money to finance a larger venture is not a new one, but, unless we start, even on a small scale, and try to operate these schemes, we are going to limit our growth through lack of capital (if we are not doing so already). Opportunities will be missed and those opportunities are not that far away.

FORTH- COMING EVENTS

CORNWALL MUSIC
FESTIVAL -----
9th to 14th March
St Mary-Clement
Methodist Church
Truro.



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
MEBYON KERNOW
Saturday 4th April 6.30pm
St Piran's Hall
Truro.



AN GOF Memorial
Service and Concert
27th June, St Keverne.
(Evening).

Gwytheugh pypynak
a vynnough
pesquyth may fynough
dallath a yllough - why
gans £1

Bristol & West
BUILDING SOCIETY

Esel on a Gowethyans
Cowethasow drehevyans



DEW ! Is there money in Cornish ?
This advertisement is to be seen in
our Cornish streets anyway.



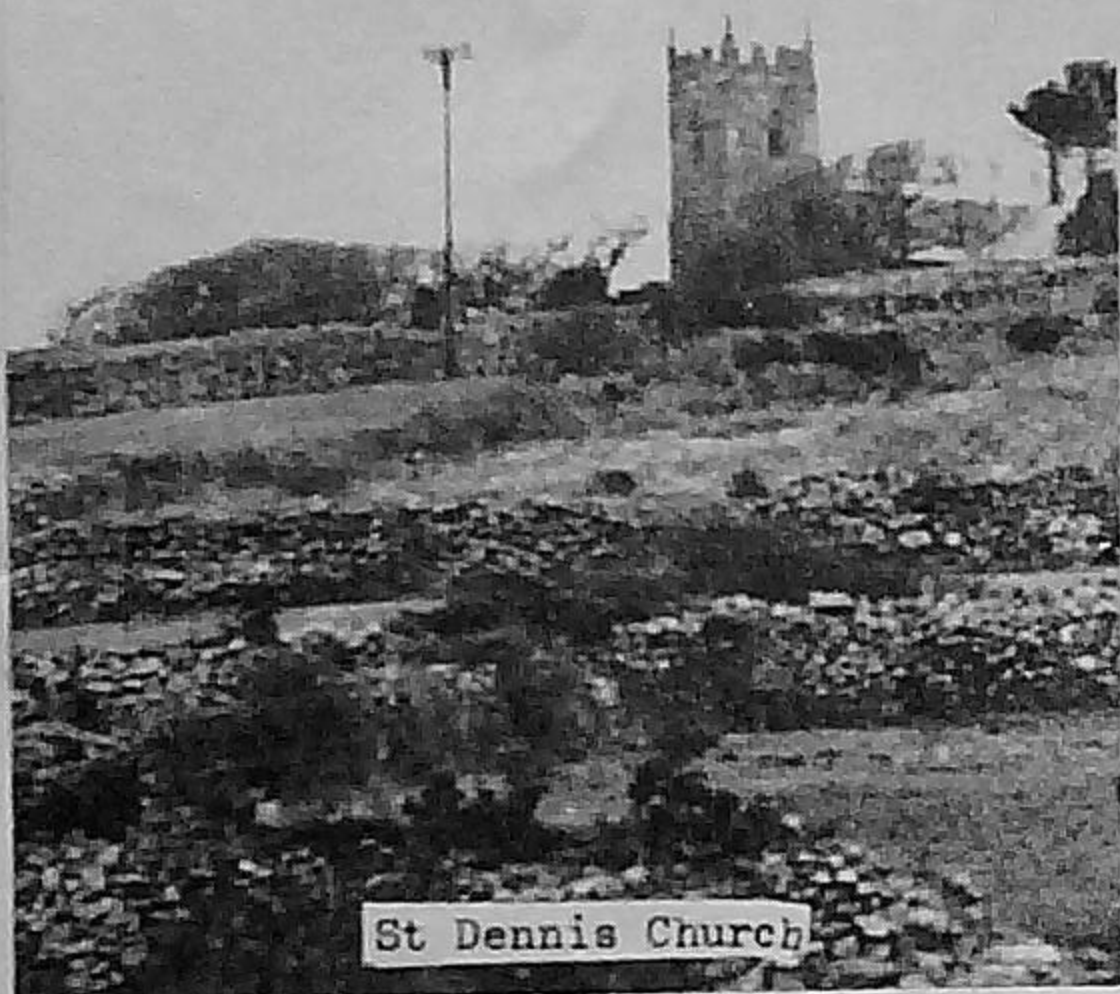
Cornish support for the people of Wales.
The MK delegation to talks with Plaid
Cymru in Caerdydd (Cardiff) last Novem-
ber give support to an anti-cut demo.
The delegation, headed by National Sec-
retary Pedyr Prior, spent two days dis-
cussing mutual problems and the struggle
in Cymru and Kernow. For a fuller re-
port, see Issue Two of 'Gwyn ha Du'.



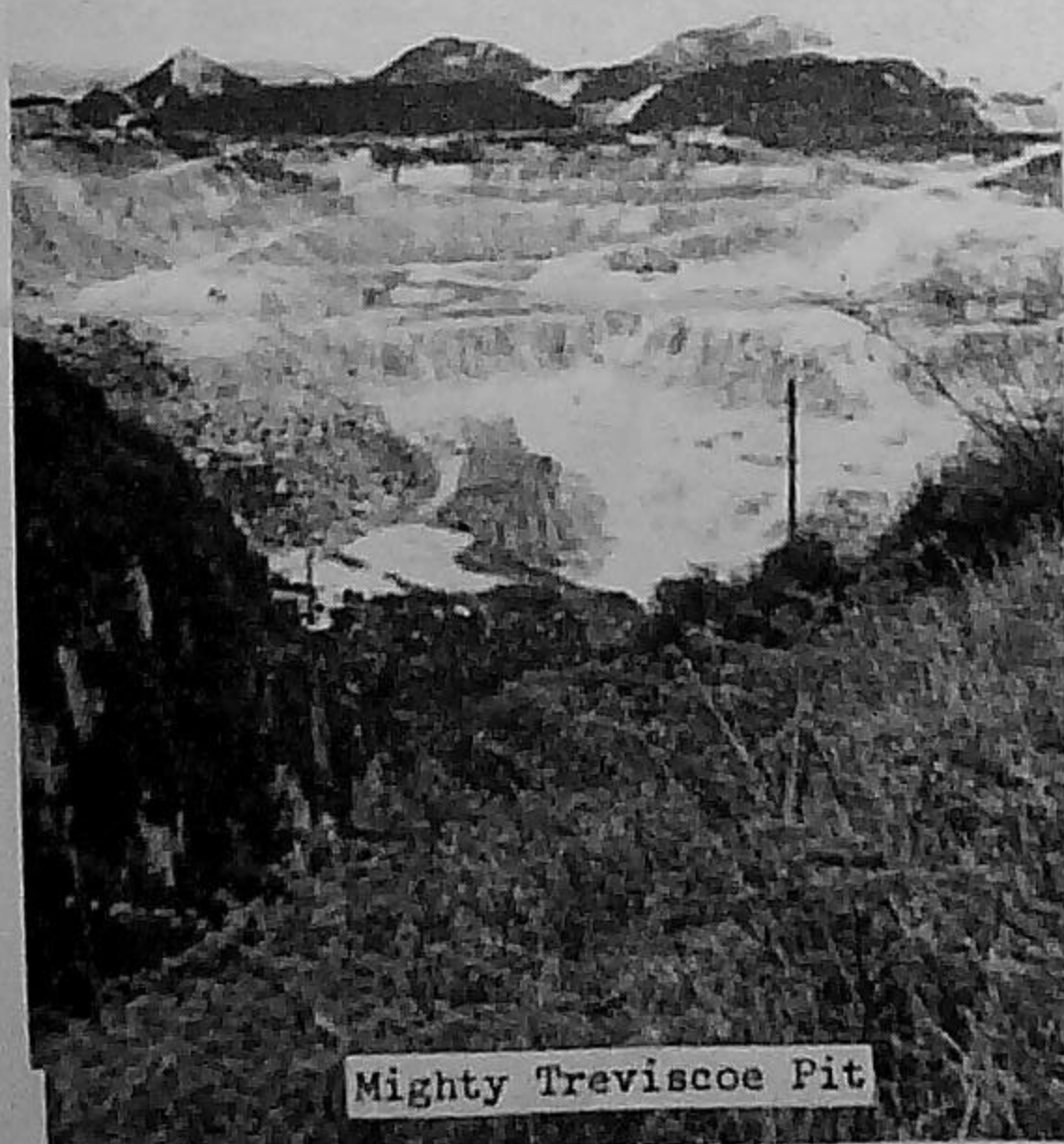
No comment ! Or the Cornish delegates
to last year's Celtic Congress in Dublin.

ST DENNIS

By MALCOLM WILLIAMS



St Dennis Church



Mighty Treviscoe Pit

"The church of St Dennis is placed on the top of a hill, without any appearance of habitations, and very little of cultivation; and the flat country around it is destroyed in the most efficacious manner, having been turned over again and again down to the solid rock, in what is termed streaming for tin."

These words were written by Davies Gilbert in his Parochial History of Cornwall in 1837. St Dennis has changed more in the 144 years since then than in all the time before that since King Gorlois is reputed to have held the 'dinas' on this site. For most people, St Dennis is the capital of the clay country; a string of villages separated by the white hills, the pools, the stretches of mottled downland that go to make up a unique part of Cornwall. St Dennis is much more of a town than the straggling villages of Stenalees, Nanpean or Foxhole. True there is a unity of appearance amongst all the communities of the clay country, yet St Dennis manages to be both typical and different at the same time. The latter story of St Dennis is the history of the china clay industry which has moulded the very Cornish community we see to-day.

Whilst the copper and tin workings of the west were getting under way, at the beginning of the nineteenth century, St Dennis was an unremarkable moorland parish; its only claim to fame the 15th century church of St Dionysius, built in the middle of a hill fort. It was mentioned in the Domesday Book as Landinas or Landineri. It would seem that alluvial tin working was carried out since Roman times, and this would appear to have been the main industry until the commercial development of the china clay industry was started by William Cookworthy. There is a record of a small copper working called Penrose a few hundred yards from the church. (Two other names crop up, Wheal Gasson or Gorgan, but they were probably the same working.) Tin was worked on the edge of the parish near to the St Dennis railway junction, although this was shallow and fairly unimportant. In 1803 the population amounted to only 318 persons.

St Dennis did not really grow into a town until the mid-nineteenth century, when most of the villas and terraced houses we see today were built. In 1867 Polsue lists the villages of Hendra

(the chief settlement), Whitebait
?= Whitepit, Treleaver and Ennis-
Cavan, although even now the three
villages had begun to merge. Things
really took off after the opening
of the Newquay line in 1857, and in
1897 the West Briton could say:

"Our three villages...are now
conjoined into the forming of a
small town."

China clay was becoming big busi-
ness and fortunes were made and lost.
Emigration from here was less than
other parts of Cornwall, and indeed
tin's decline brought many western
families into the area.

The sense of community was then,
and still is, very great with almost
its own sub-culture. Wrestling was
very popular and the clay villages
produced many champions. Treviscoe
is one of our finest choirs and St
Dennis Silver Band, probably the
most celebrated in Cornwall, has
grown up side by side with the pits.
"A man who can blow has a better
chance of a job" - such was the
patronage of clay owners like Mr
Pochin.

PATERNALISM

Indeed the word paternalism
describes the attitude of the bosses
to their workers but it was shaken
to the core by the strike of 1913.
United in their demands, Cornish
workers were for once successful.
Their solidarity is often under-
estimated: so great was the fear of
the authorities that police were
drafted from Glamorgan. So popular
were these that even today there is
mistrust of the Welsh both locally
and in other parts of Cornwall. So
successful is the English policy of
turning Celt on Celt !

To a man brought up amongst the
tin-mines of Penwith, the sheer
scale of clay operations is amazing.
The villages, and St Dennis in par-
ticular, are visually between the
tin villages and, to me, poignantly
reminiscent of the 'valleys' of
South Wales. Yet they are Cornish
right down to the excellent pasties
of Hendra Bakeries (not the almost
universal commercial 'sawdust and
slime !)

St Dennis stands a better chance than
some of staying Cornish. To the tourist
the area is grey and ugly, a place of
chapels and waste-tips. There are few
caravan parks here !

There is also comparative prosper-
ity, with local unemployment rates a
lot less than say Redruth or St Ives
and somewhat nearer the British aver-
age. There is little speculative
building and house prices are on the
whole a little more realistic. It is
a very special breed of man who choos-
es to live here.

FAINT-HEARTED ENGLISHMEN

The towering claypits and moor-
land mizzle are not for the faint-
hearted English city-dweller. This
land, a microcosm of Cornwall itself,
has moulded a tough, independent people.
On the whole, the working class here
shrewd with an awareness of 'we and
they'. It is these people who elect
the only non-Tory MP in the person of
10% nationalist David Penhaligon. The
radical tradition here is still alive
and kicking; if we are to see the
peaceful revolution and awakening of
Cornish nationalism, then it must
come from here.

If the future of St Dennis seems
assured, still there are nagging doubts.
It is from this wealth that a new base
for the Cornish economy must be con-
structed. Restowrack, Hendra and part
of Treviscoe pits are working, Wheal
Frederick, Gothers, Trelavour and
Parkandillick are all but in the past.
(Parkandillick survives as a works
name, and it also boasts a well-
preserved 50" beam engine (see photo
page two) formerly of Wheal Kitty in
St Agnes.

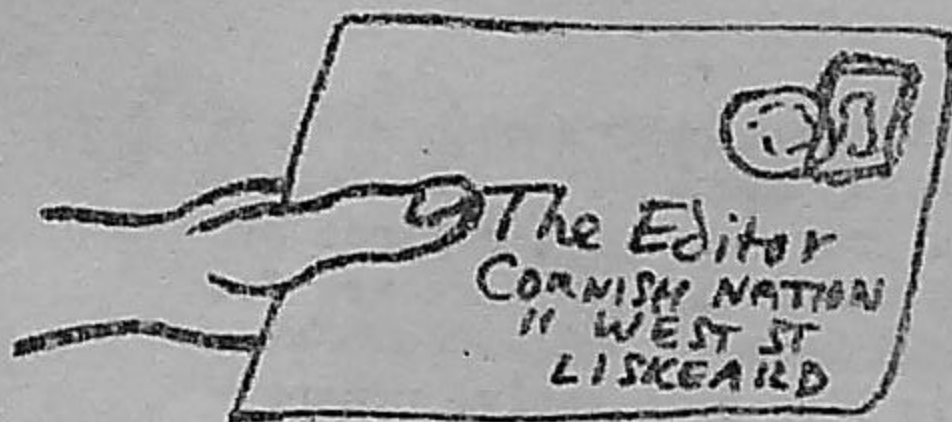
So pits close and, finally, one
day, there will be no more clay at St
Dennis - or else the demand will dry up,
like it did for china stone after the
last war. Yet there will always be
clay in Cornwall for (continued p 14)

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

"DEN HEP TAVAS RE GOLLAS Y DYR"

"A man who has lost his language
has lost his land"

(Old Cornish saying)



Dear Sir,

As an ex-patriate, I was saddened by the virulence of N.E. Nethersole's attack on the Cornwall Family History Society, prompted, it seems, by their failure to call themselves the "Cornish FHS". The reason for the title is simply that FHSs all over the country are named after their counties, and that membership is always international: the author surely does not need to be reminded that resounding Cornish names are to be found all over the world? We are all deeply proud of our origins in Cornwall.

I am sure that readers of 'Cornish Nation' share this pride, as well as having a profound interest in the past and the future of 'our country'. If we are forced to quibble about the use of an adjective, how are we to work together to restore our heritage and to pass that heritage on to further generations?

Yours faithfully

Peter Hendra

285 Campkin Rd, Cambridge, Cambs.

Dear Sir,

In your last issue No 41, the point was well made that Cornwall has its own adjective, ie *Cornish*, and Mr. Nethersole, understandably alert for slights to Cornish individuality, pressed for its wider use.

The choice of title of the Cornwall Family History Society was the subject of discussion and vote when the members adopted the constitution some four years ago. The argument, accepted by the majority, was that many of the families being researched were not Cornish families in any normally accepted sense, and that the title should include "Cornwall" to avoid any ambiguity, and as describing the location and main centre of interest of the Society.

The force of any argument between "Cornish" and "Cornwall" is in any case weakened if we use the Cornish language. I have been given to understand that "Kernow" is almost always preferable to "kernevek" as in Mebyon Kernow, tus Kernow, etc., while "kernevek" is better reserved for the Cornish language itself.

To my mind the importance of this discussion is exaggerated. The really important thing is that the Cornwall Family History Society, though including many members whose Cornish family connections are marginal or non-existent, is pursuing valuable research which deserves nothing but praise from anyone concerned with the history of Cornwall and its people.

Yn lel,

D.E.Ivall

Piran Cot, Perranwell, Truro.

Sir,

May I take a small space in your columns to reply to Roy Green's withering criticisms of my article concerning the Russian invasion of Afghanistan (sorry...fraternal intervention).

I do not pretend to even understand all of Roy Green's more colourful language. However I think in a nutshell, he is saying that to criticise last year's 'fraternal intervention' is some how to criticise socialism, and not playing the game. I suppose this must be fair comment - if one accepts without reservation the view that Russian Stalinism is an infallible social and economic system. Roy,....I don't know how to put this to you, I really don't. But I would argue that the repressive, imperialistic state capitalism of the USSR is not only an affront to human dignity but gives socialism a bad name!

Of course, capitalism is an evil - we don't have to go far away to discover that. It is an imperfect, illogical and cruel system based on individual greed and corruption. In short it is an anti-philosophy. Yet in our ardour of reforming zeal, let us not fall into the trap of merely seeing things in black and white. Let us not confuse Socialism with imperialism. Imperialism in my book is when a state occupies the land of another people against their will. I care not whether that state

is, or is not, a client of the USA or the USSR. If we condemn Ireland, Chile, South Africa et al, then we must condemn the Russians in Afghanistan.

Fraternally

X

(The ridiculously pseudo-named Davyth Map Wella, 'An Fougou, The Bog Inn, St Just.

Sir,

I was amazed to read the jumbled nonsense that purported to be a letter from a Communist. Not only was it practically hysterical, but so garbled in content that found the utmost difficulty in understanding exactly what the writer was trying to establish.

It is a well-known fact both to serious political students and to the security forces that extreme left-wing groups make use of genuine nationalist minority parties to promote their own ends. The Basque separatists and the I.R.A. immediately spring to mind. Moreover, I cannot see that the Communist party or any other extreme left-wing group can have any genuine love of the 'working-class' when from the beginning they have always received their initial support from very wealthy men (Kohn, Loeb & Co, New York bankers in the early days, right through to the present day Vanessa Redgraves of the world).

Having got that off my chest, I must ask 'What about the Chinese chip shops that have mushroomed since my early days in Liskeard?' By no stretch of the imagination can anyone of coloured or Oriental descent be called Celtic. What does MK feel about that?

Yours faithfully,

W.R. Williams

Birkenhead, MERSEYSIDE.

Dear Editor,

I must take issue with Malcolm Williams' recent statements about Withiebrook.

I fully support Cornwall Council's action in refusing to allow test-drilling during the breeding season for birds.

To attack such a moderate measure only shows to what a low standard the MK leadership has dropped - and will lose MK a great deal of support.

Very few wild places are left in Kernow - let us fight to save them, not destroy them, and give protection to other creatures. Man is not God.



DENNIS ENDEAN IVALL

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



Devoran 863017

MK would be more effective if they did something positive - not continually moaning about what is wrong here - everyone knows what is wrong. MK's place is to do something positive - visits to foreign embassies, cheap air flights to the States to try and encourage foreign manufacturers to set up factories here.

If MK were successful, they would have little difficulty in getting the general support they so badly need.

Yours etc.

P. Manley

Carnehill, Lanteglos-by-Fowey.

HAYLE AND FAREWELL

Following up a rumour about some rebirth of interest at Hayle, our ace reporter "Snail" Creep phoned up this once flourishing coal-fired station.

Interestingly the office was manned by only one man, the sole survivor of the workforce that numbered more than fifty in its prime. He denied any real hopes of recovery: the plans to install gas-turbines (aero-engines) was probably quite dead, and the machinery half-dismantled.

This old machinery, more than 50 years old, was a source of amazement to the demolition men, being of Rolls-Royce standard and meticulously maintained by the now-exiled Cornish crew. The bearings were still perfectly oil-tight after several years of abandonment.

The sole survivor, who alone was able to stay on and supervise its demise turned out to be the first-ever MK councillor on Penwith Council, Bill Peller.

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

Nevertheless, while Cornish, Welsh and Breton are obviously very similar, Irish is very different in appearance today.

The Roman occupation of Britain (50 to 400 AD) did not kill off the Celtic language as it did in Gaul. Many words were borrowed from Latin, when Rome brought a new technology or, say, Christian ideas. These words include *pons* = a bridge, replacing Old Celtic *briva*, *fenester* = window and for kitchen, *keqyn*.

At the collapse of the Roman Empire, Europe was traversed by many migrating tribes who had outgrown the resources of their homeland and were themselves being pressed by Asian peoples. The *Franks* moved into France, the *Lombards* into Italy, the *Vandals* into Spain and the *Anglo-Saxons* into England.

The British Celts were pushed westwards and at last became divided into three kingdoms, the Welsh, Strathclyde in Southern Scotland and Dumnonia in the South West. At the same time, the Celts had their own 'folk-wanderings' as Irish immigrants founded Gaelic Scotland and Britons from Dumnonia (Devon) colonised underpopulated Armorica and created Brittany.

These disturbances, on top of the destruction of Celtic High Culture by the Romans, led to a great simplification of the language. Similar changes to those which turned Low Latin into French and Spanish created Old Welsh out of British. Ancient British had endings for masculine, feminine, singular and plural, and the oblique cases, just as Latin has. These were now dropped, but they have left an echo in the unique system of 'mutations of the Celtic languages.

By various phonological processes
Old Celtic *esio pennos* became *y ben*
= his head, while *esies pennos* (her
head) became *hy fen*.

The geographical separation between the British-speaking areas led them to diverge one from another. The local dialectic differences became exaggerated so that, by 700 AD, Welsh and Cornish were distinct languages, though Breton and Cornish remained identical for several centuries more.

Neither Cornish nor Breton has a great literature dating from this time, if epic poems such as abound in Welsh and Irish, they did not survive the troubled times as Cornwall fought for her life throughout the eighth and ninth centuries. The Saxon conquerors would not have been unduly interested in Old Cornish !

The oldest considerable amount of Old Cornish is a word-list containing a few hundred Cornish words and their meaning in Latin. This illustrates the state of the language at about 1200 AD, just at the time when Cornish was breaking with the other tongues.

Cuit, a wood, was still very close to Welsh *coed* and Breton *koad* but was soon to change to *cos*. Already in the word *nans*, a valley, the typical Middle Cornish change of *t* to *s* had taken place; Welsh has retained *nant*.

This alteration of language is also symbolic of a change in the social order: the remnants of Cornish aristocracy were now merged with Norman families, and the old legends were being re-worked by Norman poets, or left as folklore. It is poignant to find in this vocabulary the definition of *barth*, that venerable figure of old Celtic society, translated as *mimus* or *scurrus*, a clown or a rogue !

But the new Middle Cornish, the basis of that in use today, was to be the medium of a sizable literature, of which, fortunately, a fair amount has managed to survive.

(to be continued)

XX

"Archaeologists just get in the way of development" - the enlightened approach exemplified by erstwhile Ceradon District Council Chairman, farmer Wallace Stephens.

Jack Kernow

ST DENNIS continued
from page ten -----

My attention has been drawn recently to an article appearing in the current 'District Council Review'. It is about industrial development in Kerrier District and the author complains that one of the biggest difficulties is the attitude of many people that Cornwall is a holiday playground and a nice place to retire to.

He continues that this attitude is even represented in our own electorate, because so many outsiders have retired here already, and is in consequence influential on Kerrier Council itself!

One can only agree. But, one may ask, who is ultimately responsible for this image of Cornwall? We have not always been regarded in this way. A hundred years ago, and for a hundred more before that, we were one of the furnaces of the white-hot technology which fuelled the industrial revolution.

Unfortunately, our technology opened up the cheap-to-work foreign fields and our own had to close.

Tourism was found to be a relatively easy alternative, so we went flat-out to promote it on a mass scale, appealing to beaches, ices, clotted cream and piskies market. We have always, it seems, catered for the bottom of the market, so who is to blame for the image we now present to the world?

The author of this article, incidentally is Peter Young, Chairman of Kerrier's Industrial Employment Committee and also proprietor of Wendron Forge, one of the few tourist attractions that actually appeal to the more intelligent visitor.

Mr Young makes one more point worthy of comment; he says "Our morale is further undermined by the realisation that we are, to a large extent, on our own. We lack 'political clout'. We do not seem to be able to organise effective lobbies like the Scots, the Welsh and the Geordies."

many years yet. Pits will become exhausted but new deposits will be worked. While this is going on, we must take advantage of the enormous potential that we are offered, by developing secondary industry. Anyone who watched the television programme, "A Spoonful of Cornwall" will realise the tremendous variety of applications china clay has. Much of that industry could easily be located in Cornwall. Even if only part of the huge dividend obtained from china clay was re-invested in secondary, clay-based industries, the benefits would be apparent in all Cornwall. China clay is one of Britain's prime exports. Britain is benefitting tremendously from us. Yet, to a great extent, it is parasitic - in short colonialism - for nothing is re-invested. We have seen it happen before, with tin and copper, lead, slate and fish. They get us to extract it, pay us a pittance of the profits, and, when it is gone, say "Hard luck, chaps" and give us a few thousand quid for tourism.

IT'S CORNWALL'S CLAY!

If it is Scotland's oil, then it is Cornwall's clay, let them not forget it. Let us not forget that, the day the tips are levelled, the day St Dennis is a ghost town full of holiday homes, the day St Dennis Band pack up their instruments for the last time, is the day we must pronounce Cornwall clinically dead.

May I suggest that the principle reason for this is that we do not take ourselves seriously, as they do.

We are always trying to ride tin horses - we want to be recognized as being something different, and worthy of serious consideration, and yet we readily agree to being an integral part of England! Even Mr Young has made that mistake before now!

We can not have it both ways - either we are fighting for Cornwall and her survival, or we accept that we are just part of England, with all that means in terms of submergence in an amorphous English cultural and social homogeneity. We must try to persuade *everyone* to fight for Cornwall.

RUGBY



Great days ! The 1908 Cornwall team
all chosen to play for England.

In CN No 41, John Harris put forward a radical new system to improve the Rugby set-up in Cornwall. His basic argument is, that to improve our chances of winning the 'County' championship, we should amalgamate our present senior clubs into several unholy alliances: eg Penzance-Newlyn (already a union of two clubs which has admittedly worked), Hayle and St Ives. This new team would presumably play in red and white (Newlyn), black and white (Penzance), green and white (Hayle) and blue and white (St Ives), and be called Penwith (Senior) RFC in order to differentiate the junior clubs that would presumably still exist.

I would agree that a certain amount of re-organisation is necessary, if only for the strength of our club rugby, but, in my opinion, John Harris' proposals involve change for the sake of change. Perhaps a plan to be considered for a re-vitalisation of the game might be either the introduction of a league system. In the national league, there would be a Premier division, made up of the eleven clubs (The Pirates, Hayle, St Ives, Camborne, Redruth, Falmouth, Penryn, Truro, Newquay, St Austell and Launceston) and two regional divisions of the present junior clubs, west and east, each producing its champion. The two regional champions would then play off (perhaps a series of three matches) for promotion to the Premier Division. If this system was introduced, then many of the clubs today ranked 'junior' could encounter senior rugby.

Perhaps then, more senior games may be seen east of Truro, an area which can only boast a couple of senior sides, while west Cornwall has more than half-a-dozen. Perhaps then, too, East Cornwall would not lose a great many of its rugby-playing population to Plymouth Albion, as it does now.

ENCOURAGING

Encouraging as it is to see the national team succeed, and disappointing as it is to be eliminated because penalties are worth more than conversions -- remember we beat Somerset and Devon, and only lost 7-6 at Bristol-- I think that John Harris over-emphasises the importance of the 'County' Championship. In

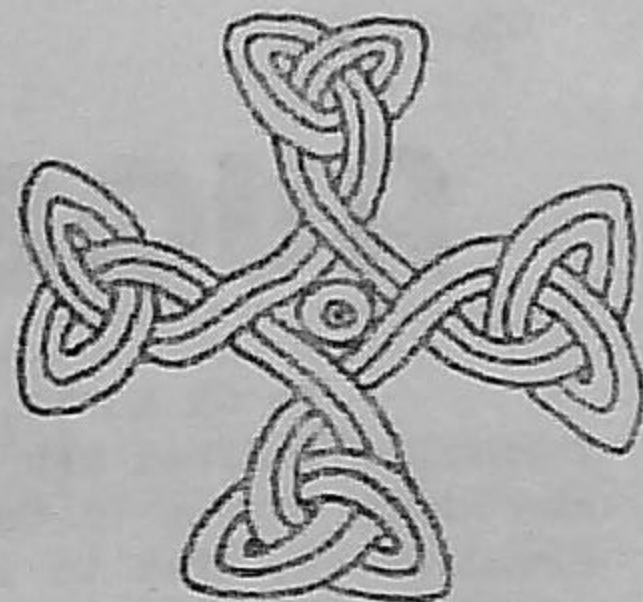
Cornwall rugby is much more of a tribal inter-community game than it is in England, and to devalue this facet by amalgamating clubs would only reduce support for the game.

So I would conclude by saying that the game in Cornwall is in need not of revolution but review. Give the Liskeard-Looe-s and the Helstons and Bodmins and Illogan Parks of Cornish rugby the chance of better competition. Maybe they are are happy as they are, playing friendlies, with the occasional Junior Cup amatch thrown in; in that case leave well alone, for if you upset the players, the game dies. If the mood in the game is for some sort of change, let us amend the present structure not tear it apart. I can just about bring myself to cheer for Penzance as well as Newlyn but Hayle and St Ives (where?) as well -- no way !

Finally, the answer to the problem of how to win the 'County' championship may lie with our selectors. Forgive me for being biased, but it seems to me that to play for St Ives or Camborne is a great help so far as the C.R.F.U. selectors are concerned. St Ives fullback Paul Winnan even played most of this season out of position at left wing; there must be at least half-a-dozen better wingers available who have not worn a Cornwall jersey. So, Cornwall selectors, watch the occasional game away from your favourite grounds please, and perhaps some of the present array of young players will not have to do what Stack Stevens had to do to get in the England side, in their struggle for Cornish honours.

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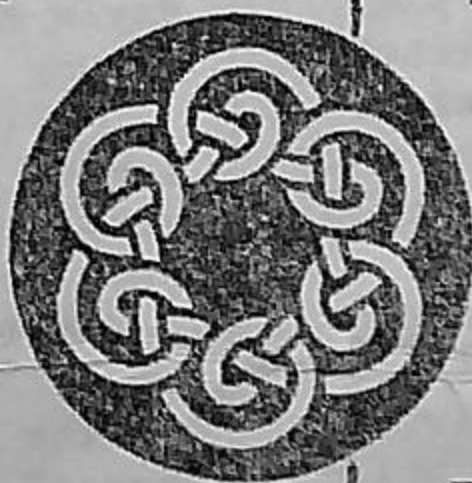
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With messages of support and greetings to the Assembly which would be published in the final Agenda.

Cuntelles Keltek
Celtic Congress
Kernow



£2000 + NEEDED !!

In Easter 1982, Cornwall will again be host nation for the International Celtic Congress. Founded in 1901 to encourage and revitalise the Celtic spirit in the face of public ignorance and too often official opposition, it has achieved considerable success in all six Celtic nations.

Cornwall was admitted as a member nation in 1904, but, because of the two world wars and other problems, was not able to hold the Congress here, in

the normal six year rotation, until 1932, in Truro. This makes the 1982 Cornish Congress a Jubilee, and Cornish members are particularly keen to make a great success of it.

Through the valiant efforts of some members, a substantial part of the necessary funds have been collected but much more is still required.

Although the business of the Congress is strictly non-political, delegates have to be paid for, to take part in various seminars and discussions. But, very important are the concerts which stage singers and dancers from all over Celtia.

With all the tremendous progress that has occurred in the past few years, it would be a shame for us to appear the 'poor relations'. The Cornish language is spreading, even into the schools, singers are arriving on the scene and a Cornish tradition of dancing has been re-launched with great success.

Anyone wishing to assist in this good work is invited to contact:

Mrs Ann Jenkin,
An Gernyk,
Leedstown,
Hayl, KERNOW.

Kesva Havysy Kernow ?

THE CORNWALL TOURIST BOARD

In the new edition of the Cornwall Tourist Board's brochure, (Official Holiday Guide to Kernow - the land of legend sic) we find the following in Cornish:

Cornwall welcomes visitors who love our Celtic land and its traditions, enjoy our scenery and leave Cornwall as unspoiled as they find it.



kenethel gernewek

NICHOLAS BOSON HA NY -
PYTH US YNTREDHON ?

Dhe'n kensa vu, ny yl bos mur a gevren ynter den kepar ha Boson, esa ow pewa yn termyn mayth esa kernewek ow pedry ha dos nes dh'y vernans, ha ny nep a wra dhe'n hen yeth dasveva.

Bytegens, mar mynnyr redya y scryf, 'Nebes Geryow adro dhe Gernewek', y fyth gwelys hag aswonys kesclewes ganso hag ef ow whylas, del leverys Mordon, gul moy y'n tavas del vya gesys dhodho gallos. Ny ynweth a vyth prest owth ystynna agan gerva yn un dhyghtya destennow arnoweth.

Nicholas y honen a aswonfe an caletter ha my a syns y fya dydhan dhe redyoryon an folen-ma gothvos an pyth a brederys yn y gevev.

Omma ytho ran vyghan a'y scryf may campol-ef an esow esa dhe'n yeth kepar del y'n kewsy, rag res yu merkya bos ystor kernewek bys y'n gansvledhen-ma ystor yeth ow quethhe kefrys yn nyver hy hewsoryon hag yn nyver hy geryow. My re dhaslytherennys an scryf hag ynweth ewna an gramer herwyth an gys gylwys 'anyes'.

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Lemmyn yth esof ow tewlel dhe weles mar bell (y'n tavas kernewek) avel lyes a'n gentrevogyon, hag yma dhym mar vur kerensa orto; mes ny allaf-vy ry dhodho moy del gothfya dhym; rag yth yua scant dyen, dhe vos gwelys yn lyes ger a dal bos furvyes a-dhyworth an Latyn po an Sawnek; ha ny wor denvyth py dyworth y whruk an coll-ma dos yn kensa : dyworth an Romany kemyskys gans an Brytys, po, wosa henna, dyworth an Sawson Martesen a-dhyworth an dheu.

Mes yth esof-vy ow whylas y'n scryf-ma dhe worra an ger-na a denewen a wra dyscudha agan tavas-ny dhe vos synsye dhe re'el.....

Ny won pandr'a yl an Gembryon gul rag gwytha aga thavas mes my a wor herma orth y whor an kernewek, nag yu hy dalvos mes nebes, dhe vos gorrys warbarth gans an sawnek, an pyth yu parys dhe ry polta gwell dhodho del alsa kemeres dhywortho; ha whath an sawson martesen a alsa cafos maga nebes skyanse avel an Brytys yn aga clappya-y erna wrussans-y dos omma yn kensa, le may whruk agan gwell nef-ny ha gwayn agan enys aga dry dhe'n ughelder-na.

Mes mar qura nebonen leverel y halsa tavas an Brytys dos dhe'n ughelder-ma ynweth, mar pens-y moy fortynyes, yth esof-vy mar bell dhyworth dyspresya tavas ow dama ha'w fow mayth of-vy parys dhe leverel yndella ynweth.

-- NEWS FROM DALLETH --

Two Cornish language playgroups are now meeting in Cornwall. One in Redruth caters for under-fives, the other, in Liskeard, for older children. 'Dedhyow an Yeth' are planned for the future, with outings for children (adults welcome to come along too).

Contact: Ann Sandercock
Phone Liskeard 45152 (0579)

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REVIEWS

CORNISH SURNAMES - compiled by
G.Pawley White. Truran Publications £1-50

The reappearance of a booklet of Cornish surnames must be welcomed, and fills an important gap. Mr White is to be congratulated for this revised edition, covering such a wide scope as it does. It will be particularly useful to those wishing to rediscover the correct spelling of their family names.

There are however a few criticisms mostly trivial but one or two more serious. The compiler I believe to have been rather optimistic in giving Cornish derivations to many names (in point of fact probably imported) such as Ansell, Murray, Thorne etc.. If we are to accept a possible derivation for these names in Cornish, then what about Darracott (Darras Cot), Antron, Mutton (Myghtern), Oates, Sandercock, Jane, Webb etc.? Secondly what about the development of Cornish in the west, and its earlier disappearance in the east? This must have affected the spelling of personal names but does not seem to have been taken into account.

Of course no work of this size and scope can hope to be definitive and, if we remember that this does not claim to be so, this book must be recommended.

Tom Davy.

Editor's Note:

We hope that one of the revisions made as Ugalde, previously given as 'ugheldyr'. This family is actually proud of Basque descent; the name being fairly common in Euskadi. But, be it noted, the present bearer of the name is equally proud to bear the first name Trelawney!

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- Tape to accompany above (cassette)* £1 95
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**"MY CROWDY CRAWN -
A CORNISH MISCELLANY"** by
Kathleen Hawke (Keren)

A real slice of Cornwall this, with an apt title, the booklet being a fine hotch-potch of Cornish facts and folklore. It has a stamp of genuineness about it, with none of the false image of Cornwall portrayed in so many modern books. We ought to value our own native writers and collectors.

Clearly, however, Mrs. Hawke is no writer as such, but more a recorder of remembrances and haphazardly collected facts. It is this very haphazardness - sixteen different sections in only 55 pages - which is both the strength and the weakness of this booklet. Something is bound to be new and interesting (such as the section on children's games - are they still played?) but, with one page only on Cornish witchcraft and eleven on Dialect Sayings, was it really worth including *anything* on witchcraft?

To some of Mrs. Hawke's interesting facts and opinions of Cornwall, I would say "So damn what!" but at least anyone reading the book will be fascinated to realise that Pisa does not have a monopoly on leaning towers, and that Bodrugan near Gorran was the last place in Cornwall where oxen were used for ploughing (so damn what!).*

Although a lightweight, buy the book, if only because the profits will go to the After-Care Home for Cancer patients at Penrice, St. Austell. How refreshing to find such unselfishness in a period when every penny counts.

"My Crowdy Crawn" published by the Lodenek Press, Duke St., Padstow. Nigel Blee
* The point of interest here is surely the late date, 1914, at which a photo of this was taken. Was this the last place in the British Isles? Ed.

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