

Pacific Northwest CORNISH Society

Volume 4 Number 1

Winter 2002

Chough Makes Symbolic Return

The chough—which appears on the Cornish coat of arms—is set to return as a breeding bird in the county after an absence of nearly 50 years. The news that five choughs have reappeared on the cliffs of Cornwall has delighted the Cornish. Until the unexpected arrival of these birds there has been work focused on ensuring there is enough habitat along the southwest coast of these cliff-nesting birds. With much work already in place these birds now have an even greater chance of survival. It is thought these birds may have traveled from the remnant population of the Brittany coastline of France.



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According to mythology, when the chough returns to Cornwall, the spirit of King Arthur – whose birthplace is said to be Tintagel Castle – returns as well.

See LEGENDARY LINK TO KING ARTHUR on page 3



NEXT PNCS MEETING - MARCH 2, 2002

On March 2, 2002, we will meet at 11:00 at the Olympia LDS Church at 1116 Yew Ave. NE. We will be given a tour of the Family History Center and a presentation by Connie Bailey on "How to Do Effective Family Research." ... Directions to the church:

From the North: Take exit 105-B off I-5. Plum Ave. will take you into Olympia. 4th St. will be a light. Turn Right on the one-way street. Go thru the first light, stay in the left lane, and turn left on the next street (Puget). Cross the one-way street coming into Olympia. Go 4 blocks to Yew St. The church is on your left.

From the South: Take exit 105. Turn left and follow the above directions on Plum Ave.

Message from Mary.....

Funny how a flippant remark can turn into an idea and then a plan. That's what happened at the Oct. 27 PNCS meeting in Bremerton as we discussed the lengths we ha all traveled to get together.

No matter where we meet, those on the northern reaches of the Olympic Peninsula have a drive. So why not meet at Gay Knutson's farm in Joyce, and while we're at it, make a weekend of it? It started as a joke, but now it's a date to put on your calendar. August 2-4, 2002, will be the first-ever Pacific Northwest Cornish Society campout. The annual meeting will happen Saturday afternoon, so those who just want to come for that can do so. But for those who wish we had more than just a couple of hours to get to know each other, here's our chance.

Folks wishing to spend the night on the North Olympic Peninsula will have a number of options, including a full service trailer/campground less than a mile from Gay's place, and the Salt Creek County Park located on a picturesque cliff overlooking the Strait of Juan de Fuca (not unlike the Lizard!). Those who prefer camping in a motel will find options in Port Angeles. The Knutson farmlette itself has a limited number of places.

Having this much time together opens up possibilities for workshops or activities beyond what we can normally do at a meeting. Any ideas? Let me know at sissonrm@qwest.net.

Another thing we can't normally do is a house naming ceremony, since we meet in public places. After the annual meeting, Bard Yowann Byghan will perform such a ceremony, making the farm's name — Treveth an Dowrlam, meaning homestead on the waterfall — official.

Gay and her husband, Craig, have graciously opened their farm. If our many hands pitch in, it will be light work for them. Anyone willing to help organize food, workshops, fun, or logistics? Let me know what part you want to play, and we can make this a great time for everyone.

A few other things . . .

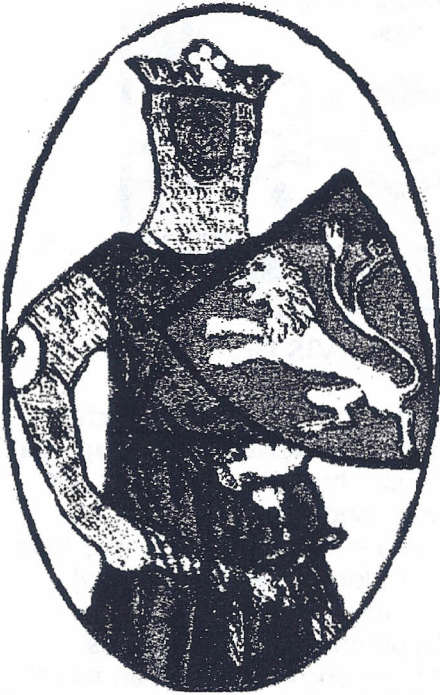
Welcome to Dick and Louise Colenso of Canby, Oregon, and their daughter, Jacquie Smith of Puyallup, Washington. They came to the October meeting and were a welcome addition to our group.

The Columbia River Cornish have had such a good time meeting between PNCS meetings, we thought the rest of you should have as much fun. Bob Bruce agreed to be coordinator for the Seattle-Puyallup-Olympia area (and the Scotsman's not even Cornish!). Jean Richards Timmermeister, unable to be there to speak for herself, was volunteered as coordinator of the Bremerton-Olympic Peninsula area. Do we have a taker in Eastern Washington to round up those folks for a regional event?

Many thanks to Joan Huston for arranging the meeting place in Bremerton, to Bob Bruce for arranging the March 2 location, to Marcie Rothman for editing the newsletter and handling the library, to Joan again for newsletter contributions and distribution, and to Yowann Byghan for sharing his vast knowledge of Cornwall and Cornish.

Mary Sisson, President

Legendary Link to King Arthur



The return of the chough could also signify the return of one of Cornwall's legendary heroes: King Arthur.

The birthplace of the famous king is said to be Tintagel Castle, the imposing island fortress which stands on the North Cornwall coast.

A short distance away is Slaughter Bridge, near Camelford, which is claimed to be the scene of Arthur's last battle. Fighting with Mordred, who was killed, Arthur was also mortally wounded.

But it is recorded in folklore that Arthur did not die, but that he was magically transformed into a chough which would one day return to his kingdom in Cornwall.

Rogar Toy, custodian of King Arthur's Breat Halls in Tintagel, said the return of the chough was symbolic for the whole county. "The return of the chough to Cornwall's cliffs could be seen as the rebirth of the county," he said. "It could mark the resurgence of Cornwall and its people."

Cornish Hero In New York

A Cornishman died after the September 11th terrorist attacks in NY, singing Cornish songs to people fleeing the World Trade Center in New York as he helped them escape.

Rick Rescorla, 62, who was born in Hayle, Cornwall, was the vice-president for security at Morgan Stanley Dean Witter, based on the 100th floor of the south tower.

Survivors of the attack have described how he sang as he organized the evacuation of the company's 3,800 staff, in an attempt to raise spirits and ease panic.

Mr. Rescorla is already considered a war hero in the ZUS after leading his troops into battle during the Vietnam War, singing *Going Up Camborne Hill Coming Down*. He won the Silver Star for bravery.

Mr. Rescorla's wife, Susan, said he rang her as he tried to evacuate his staff and said: "If anything happens to me I want you to know you made my life." She said he regarded himself as a Cornishman first and foremost and "knew every song in the world and loved to sing."

PNCS BROCHURES READY TO DISTRIBUTE

Brochures explaining and promoting the Pacific Northwest Cornish Society are printed and ready for PNCS members to distribute. They can be placed in genealogical societies, tea rooms, pubs, Celtic or British gift shops — anyplace that might draw Cornish people. Or PNCS members are welcome to take a few to hand out to Cornish friends and acquaintances.

The brochure includes an explanation of who we are, why we exist, what we do, and when we meet. A membership application is included.

If you know of places to distribute brochures, please e-mail Mary Sisson at sissonrm@qwest.net. Just say how many you need and where to send them, and they'll be sent.

(One note: The brochure was printed with the wrong zip code on the address for mailing in the application. Before distributing, please be sure all copies say Vancouver, WA 98664.)

CHILDREN'S TALE OF FLORA DAY

A children's book telling the story of the first Flora Day was published last May in time for the celebrations.

Told through the eyes of two main characters—Oggy the hedgehog and Tuwit the tawny owl—the tale begins with the creation of the Loe Bar at Porthleven and goes on to describe the surrounding areas and the adventures of the two animals.

Aimed at children from three to seven years, it has been written by John Tresidder, an architectural building technician from Camborne, with illustrations by Christopher Rolfe and Janet Ritchie and additional material provided by Rosaline Rolfe.

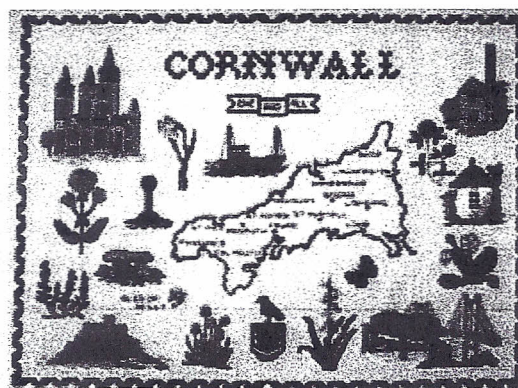
The Owl and the Hedgehog was launched at the Trevarno Estate at Sithney and is on sale priced £2.50 pounds in bookshops throughout Cornwall.

It is also available by sending £3.00 to Owl and Hedgehog Publications, Camborne (tel: 01209-711325).

Cornish Monopoly

A new board game based on the popular Monopoly game, has Cornish names and places instead of the traditional Park Place, Marvin Gardens, etc. You can purchase this online at Willow Books <http://www.willowbooks.co.uk/>

The price is £24.99. They accept credit cards online. Get it in time for Christmas!



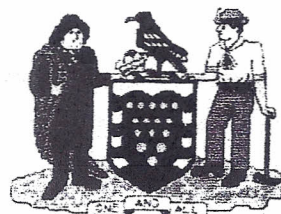
SYBILLA DAVIS DESIGNS

Sybilla Davis in 1980 designed a cross stitch picture of Trerice Manor near Newquay on graph paper and once it was stitched she conceived the idea of marketing this and other designs on a commercial basis. In 1994 her business was born, she produced her first kits based on National Trust properties in Cornwall and the National Trust was her first customer. These designs formed the basis of the Cornish Collection which keeps on expanding as new designs are added, not just of places, but also subjects related to Cornwall such as the Cornwall Map Sampler, Coat of Arms and Eclipse designs.

Since starting her business, she has been delighted by the friendly and enthusiastic response to her designs from stitchers in Cornwall and the world over, especially those with historic family links to Cornwall due to its mining heritage. Then the development of the Internet offered the opportunity for her designs to be more accessible worldwide, and so her web site was launched in December 1998. This has enabled easy communication with stitchers via e-mail and she has been delighted to receive feedback and comments about designs. Following the positive reaction to her site she took the next logical step in December 1999 to develop it for online shopping, and she hopes that this facility will be a useful addition.

The kits are available from retail outlets in Cornwall and Devon or direct from Sybilla Davis Designs at 7 Ashdown Close, Sticker, St Austell, Cornwall, PL26 7EU, UK. Tel: 01726 63394.

(Taken from SYBILLA DAVIS DESIGNS web page: <http://www.sd-designs.com/acatalog/index.html>)



THE QUEST by Marcie Allen Rothman

My mother, Irene May Allen, was the daughter of a Cornish miner, Hart Hancock Allen and Lilly Myrtle Allen nee Hancock. She was born in the town of Walkerville, which is just outside of Butte MT. Growing up we didn't know much about her father. Her father and mother divorced when she was a teenager and the family suffered from hard times. A few years later her father disappeared from the streets of Seattle and was feared to be dead. It wasn't until my mom was older that she wished she knew more about her father and his family still in Cornwall.

All that she knew of his family was what her mother and grandmother told her. (Which by the way ended up not being true.) Her grandmother, Bessie, gave her a picture and told her to hang on to it, for it was a picture of her father's sisters still in the old country. My mom hung on to that picture all her life believing they were her aunts. Sadly, later we found out that wasn't a picture of her aunts but of her cousins. She was told her grandmother was a schoolteacher; I found out she wasn't. But there was one clue that wasn't incorrect. My mom had a cousin by the name of Molly Allen, who lived in St Austell before the war. They were pen pals and they wrote to each before WWII. But after the war began she never heard from her again.

In the summer of 1995 my mother was diagnosed with terminal cancer. It was then the quest would begin. I wanted her to know more about her family and she did too. If we could find Molly Allen we would find the others. I started writing letters, letters to my grandmother's side asking if they knew anything about my grandfather Hart's family, letters to unknown Allens in a Cornwall phone directory, and a letter to the editor of the *Cornish Guardian*. I had no success, my grandmother's side knew nothing and no hits from any of the other letters. How on earth would I find Molly and would she even still be alive?

Finally, after months of no success, I got my big break when a dear internet friend in South Hampton, England, wrote to the *Cornish Guardian* for me about my quest and they published it, and hundreds and hundreds of people in St Austell read about my quest to find Molly Allen. A man named Esmond Hore wrote that he knew the family I was looking for. He did not know what happen to Molly, but he wrote me what he remembered and gave me a name of a descendent, Andy Rawling, and the area he lived in. I found Andy in the directory and immediately e-mailed a friend who was in Cornwall. John, my friend, wrote me back a couple of days later with the words "Molly is alive."

After that, everything fell in place: a letter came from Molly and pictures from Andy of people my mom had never seen before. There were pictures of her great grandmother, pictures of her grandparents, her aunts, her uncle and cousins, family she never knew she had. She found out her father named her after her two aunts, Bessie Irene and Emily May. She spent her last days gazing into the pictures of her newly founded family, looking at the resemblance and seeing from whom she got her nose or her chin.

In the end I realized that more was given to my mom than family members, more than names, pictures, and letters. Her life was given the final utmost completion, it had come full circle. On March 6th her beginning and end fused together and was for ever sealed.

MEETING MOLLY

Meeting Molly was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity that was given to me after my mom passed away and I went to Cornwall. Molly was everything I had hoped for. She was warm, kind and gentle. She was full of life and bubbly and when she smiled her whole face smiled including her eyes. There was something familiar about Molly; it was my mom. I could see my mom in Molly, in her face and in her mannerisms. Molly was not only a bridge to the past because she was the only one left who could tell me about my great grandfather and grandmother Allen, she was also the bridge to any future family ties.

This is a partial account of my great grandparents, Joseph and Jane Allen, according to Molly Allen.

Joseph, or Capt. Jose as they called him, was medium in height and build. He had clear light blue eyes that twinkled and a ruddy complexion, a fresh face with rosy cheeks. Capt. Jose was a quiet, reserved man, and when he spoke you knew that you should listen. He was well respected and liked by his fellow workers. Jane had long dark hair that she wore in a bun, dark eyes and high-set cheek bones. Jane was soft spoken, kind and loved her children very deeply. Sometime after her son, my grandfather, came to America, he disappeared. Jane worried terribly about him and it broke her heart that he did not write. She tried every way she could to find him at no avail. When Jane died it was said to be of a broken heart.

The Allens enjoyed Cornwall's brass bands and male choirs. They had an old time gram-a-phone and liked to listen to "Maid in the Mountains." Molly does not remember them being particularly musical, but they did enjoy listening to music.

Capt. Jose enjoyed gardening in his spare time and kept a garden in his backyard. The beauty of his garden attracted the trades people of the town who would come to peer over the wall surrounding the garden to admire its beauty. He grew cauliflower, potatoes, cabbage, carrots, rhubarb, gooseberry, blackcurrent, loganberry and raspberries in the summer. In the winter they had a garden of greens and they raised fowl. Molly earned a half crown for picking up spuds, which they stored in a root cellar along with the other root vegetables they grew. Jane made jams and tarts from the berries and stewed the rhubarb for breakfast. They also had a coxs and orange pippin grafted apple tree. Around Christmastime Capt. Jose would climb the apple tree and pick the apples. He carefully handed them down to Molly who wrapped them in newspaper and stored them in a basket until Christmas.

Molly remembers all the happy memories of Christmas in the Allen home. Christmas meant songs to sing, trees to decorate and games to be played. On the table there was homemade apple cider and a rooster for Christmas dinner. Christmas morning always began with the parish church bells ringing across the land, over and over they rang, *Wake up, it's Christmas, it's Christmas!* After the bells the town's brass band started marching up and down, in and out the streets playing Christmas Carols. In the homes the children would be peeking in their stockings to see what St Nicholas left them while their mums were cooking the Christmas breakfast. After breakfast they would run out into the town to post their Christmas cards to their friends and family. Families would go door to door singing Christmas songs. One of the all-time favorites of her time was Stiner's "Holly and Ivy." Christmas night the children played snapcards, dominos, and Lud-O, a ring toss game. The older generation was getting ready for their "darky parties," in which they would dress up and paint their faces dark to disguise their identity as they went door to door singing Christmas carols. They then returned to one of the houses to chat over Saffron cake and drinks.

Molly shared with me Great Grandmother Jane's recipes. In Grandmother Jane's day they used the recipes passed down from their mother, all recorded in memory, not written.

Cornish Christmas Puddon

(my Great, Great Grandma's recipe)

3 cups plain flour
1 cup bread crumbs
salt
3 teaspoons baking powder
1 teaspoon bicarbonate soda
1 1/2 teaspoons spice
1/4 lb ground almonds
1/2 lb butcher's suet
1 1/2 cups sugar
1 cup currants
1 cup sultannas
1 cup rasins
1 cup dates
lemon peel
juice of lemon
2 eggs
milk
wine glass of port wine

Put in egg and milk.

Have the water boiling, then put the puddon in and boil for 4 1/2 or 7 1/2 hours (hard to read!).

Keep the kettle boiling and when it boils down put some water in out of the boiling kettle.

Put it in by the side, not on the side of the puddon.

(Try at your own risk!!)

Grandma Allen's Scones

8 oz of S.R. flour
3 oz of butter
3 oz of sugar

Rub dry ingredients together, then mix with little milk and egg, roll out, cut in 2" depth, bake in medium oven for 15 minutes

Grandma Allen's Queen Cakes

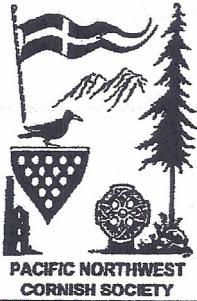
7 oz S.R. flour
3 oz butter
1 egg
3 oz sugar
2 oz currants

Beat together butter and sugar until light and fluffy, then add egg and beat with the flour until light texture. Add a little milk if needed and flavoring, like vanilla, almond or orange. Bake in medium hot oven for 15 to 20 minutes.

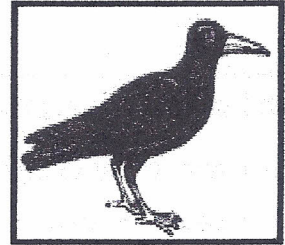
Cornish Yeast Buns

1 level teaspoon of salt
2 oz of sugar
1 lb. plain flour

Mix all together by rubbing in. Add 4 oz of currants and 1 oz yeast to it and knead all together with 1/4 pint of warm milk add more milk if needed; let it rise to twice its size; then make little sound buns and let it rise again; bake for 20 - 25 minutes in a medium oven.



Only a Few Left!!! We need a new source! HELP!
SWEATSHIRTS AVAILABLE! T-Shirts all gone!
 PNCS Sweatshirts are available for sale at every meeting
 (black PNCS logo on white) in various sizes. Can be mailed (\$3.95 for shipping, via Priority Mail).
 Contact Treasurer Yowann Byghan. Price is \$20.



BUMPER STICKERS FOR YOUR CAR OR....?
AVAILABLE NOW! \$1.00 EACH OR 6 FOR \$5.00

Contact Joan Huston at joan@tregarthen.com or call 360-613-1718, or mail money to 10116 Stoli Lane NW, Silverdale, WA 98383.

THE PNCS LIBRARY



ATTENTION!!

Our library is growing so please everyone keep in mind we need a place to store all our wonderful books and tapes, SO if ANYONE knows of a public building where we might be able house our growing collection, please let me know, this should be in the right location so everyone could have easy access!

PNCS ANNUAL MEETINGS

Members unanimously voted to conduct three meetings each year. The normal schedule will be for a meeting in March (St Piran's Day recognition); July (Annual meeting for election of officers); and October. For planning purposes, the July meeting will normally be at Ft Borst Park and the March and October meetings will be divided between a location in the Olympic Peninsula area for members located in the northwestern parts of the state and the Puyallup-Olympia area for those in the southern locations.

OUR NEWSLETTER DEADLINES:

Second week in January

Second week in May

Second week in August

Second week in November

Send articles, pictures, ads, notices, whatever, to:

Marci@whidbey.com or joan@tregarthen.com

Or mail to: PNCS

**10116 Stoli Lane NW
 Silverdale, WA 98383**

PNCS Web Site

**www2.whidbey.net/kernow/pnCS/pnCS.html
 e-mail PNCS123@aol.com**

QUERIES and MEMBER'S INTERESTS

Please send me your queries to put in the newsletter
 Marcia Rothman PO 43, Langley, WA, 98260 USA or E-MAIL roots@whidbey.com

Please HELP! We need someone who can help find a place that will print our T-Shirts and Sweatshirts! Maybe even in a color other than white? We have a logo that doesn't work well with colors other than black and white (due to the flag)...any suggestions? Come on, this is **YOUR club** and we need **YOUR help!** Please contact any officer if you have any ideas!

PNCS SWEATSHIRTS AVAILABLE

You can wear your Cornish heritage with a Pacific Northwest Cornish Society sweatshirt. Only six are left — four large and two extra large — selling for \$20 each. Sorry, the t-shirts are gone.

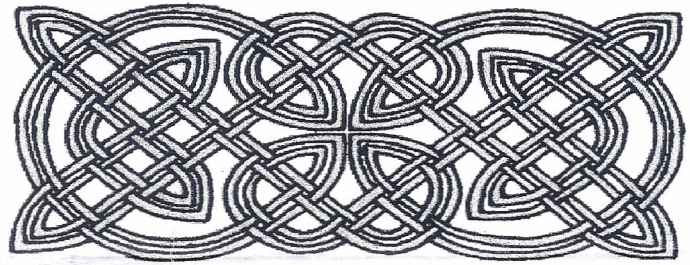
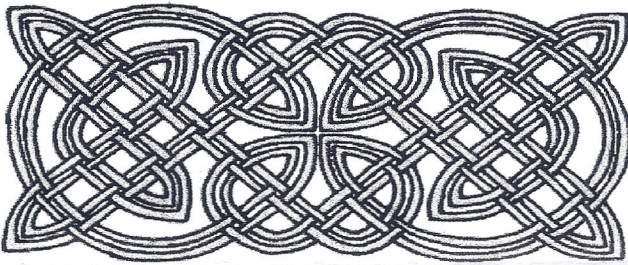
If you want a shirt, or want to give one as a Christmas gift, contact

Yowann Byghan

yowannbyghan@home.com

9009 NE 22nd Circle

Vancouver, WA 98664.



Pacific Northwest Cornish Society Application for Membership

Name:

Address:

City:

State/Province:

Zip:

Phone:

Email address:

Webpage:

PNCS Officers

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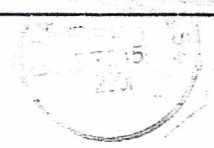
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Treasurer & Membership *Yowann Byghan*
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The purpose of this society, organized as a non-profit Corporation, shall be educational. It shall be devoted to furthering Cornish heritage genealogical research in the states of Washington, Oregon, and Idaho.

MEMBERSHIP: Individual Membership: \$10.00
Dual Membership: \$15.00
Lifetime Membership: a one-time payment of dues equal to fifteen (15) times the current annual dues.
Annual dues are payable as of 1 July.
Send dues payable to: Pacific Northwest Cornish Society
Address: Pacific Northwest Cornish Society
9009 NE 22nd Circle
Vancouver, WA 98664

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