A Cornish Almanack

366 Windows into Cornwall

by

N. P. Cooper
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Acknowledgements

Front Cover: Map of Cornwall by Thomas Moule (1784 – 1851) from his series ‘County and City Maps of England’.

Frontispiece – Vintage GWR Railway poster
Dedication

To all the men and women who, through their achievements and impact on Cornwall, and completely unwittingly, made this book possible.
Acknowledgements

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<td>The first aeroplane flight over Cornwall</td>
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<td>In Search Of St. Anthony in Roseland</td>
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<td>Naum Gabo (Birth)</td>
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<td>Nazi Bombs Bring Death to Cornwall</td>
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<td>3rd</td>
<td>Robert Borlase Smart (Death)</td>
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<td>4th</td>
<td>Admiral Lord Nelson (Death)</td>
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<td>17th</td>
<td>Charles Rashleigh (Birth)</td>
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<td>The ‘Electric Fairyland’ in Penzance</td>
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<td>Report on the loss of the S.S. Trevessa</td>
<td>1923</td>
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<td>The result of The Great Storm</td>
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<td>Slaves arrive in Hayle on The Perle</td>
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<td>Marconi’s trans-Atlantic transmission</td>
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<td>William Chapman</td>
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<td>Jack Hillman (Death)</td>
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<td>Henry Pierce Bone RA (Death)</td>
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<td>Elizabeth Forbes (Birth)</td>
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<td>30&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>Sir David Willcocks (Birth)</td>
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Introduction
Introduction

Over the last few generations, millions of visitors to Cornwall have come to love the beaches, fishing ports and the pretty fishing coves.

They relish the atmospheric cliffs, rivers, moorlands and downs and notice the engine houses from a long vanished industry. Tales of smuggling and shipwrecks add to the romance of the county when sitting in historic public houses and coaching inns. Visits are further enhanced through visits to pretty villages of quaint thatched cottages, historic mansions and beautiful, sub-tropical gardens, the art galleries and picturesque towns and the beautiful city of Truro.

The county’s reputation is also, of course, increased due to writings of the world famous Daphne du Maurier and Winston Graham and the works of the Newlyn School of Art and the St. Ives Group of painters and sculptors and the reputation of Sir Humphry Davy.

There has, though, always been much more to Cornwall than this and opening windows on the county to celebrate all of this but also to reveal its hidden and forgotten history is the purpose of this book.

The county has seen violent uprisings due to religious rebellions and significant battles in the English Civil War, political intrigues, corrupt Parliamentary elections as well as financial scandals. All have had significant and lasting consequences for Britain and much of the world.
Although religious belief is now in decline as in the rest of the country, within two centuries the population of the County of Cornwall moved from being devout Catholic believers to becoming the largest collection of Methodist congregations in the entire country and heavily influenced nonconformism across the entire country. At its peak there were at least seven hundred nonconformist chapels in the county, far outnumbering the number of Anglican Churches.

Perhaps du Maurier and Graham are the two writers currently most immediately associated with Cornwall but the county was the birthplace and final residence of the Nobel Laureate for Literature, William Golding; the home of the world famous poet, Charles Causley; the birthplace of the first writer to sell over one million copies in his lifetime, Silas Hocking; and the chosen place of residence of two of the most prolific writers in the English language, Denys Val Baker and Sir Arthur Quiller-Couch ('Q'), the founder of the University of Cambridge School of English Literature.

Cornwall was also the home of the popular novelist of the 1930s and 1940s, Howard Spring, and the once famous writer, Frank Baker as well as being the county of birth of the mother of the Brontë sisters, Maria Branwell, who was born and spent her early years in Penzance.

Cornwall was also, for some years, the home of Filson Young who wrote the first book about the sinking of The Titanic, just thirty eight days after the disaster. The man at the wheel of the ship at time was also Cornish.
The county was the site of the first live radio production of a play when, in 1928, the BBC broadcast the Christmas production, ‘Bethlehem’ by Bernard Walke from St. Hilary Church and was the chosen home of Grant Richards, the first to publish William Joyce and Vera Brittain.

Cornwall was the first to hear news of the death of Nelson, to receive the first trans-Atlantic radio message at Poldhu Cove and the live transmission of the pictures of the first man on the moon through Goonhilly Downs Earth Satellite Station.

Musically, Cornwall can be proud of its adopted and pressed slave, Joseph Antonio Emidy, who established the Truro Philharmonic Orchestra; the acclaimed opera singer, Charles Incledon; the folk singer, Brenda Wootton and the conductor, Sir David Willcocks; whilst Davies Gilbert and Thomas Merritt compiled anthologies of Cornish Christmas carols many of which are now standard across the world.

If asked to name a Cornish scientist, most people could name Sir Humphry Davy, discoverer of at least seven chemical elements and the inventor of the Miners’ Safety Lamp but the county was also the birthplace of the discoverer of the planet, Neptune, John Couch Adams, and his brother, William Grylls Adams, who discovered solar power and invented the very first solar cell. The element, tungsten, was first discovered in Manaccan (on the Helford River) whilst the rich mineralogy of the county, which is more closely related to that of Brittany than Devon, was studied and samples collected by numerous Cornish geologists and mineralogists whose collections are now displayed across the world.
Because of its mineralogy, Cornish mining became the saviour of the county when the pilchard industry disappeared with the fish vanishing. Mining led to enormous engineering developments which benefited the entire country: William Murdoch became the first to develop domestic gas lighting; the man engine to lift miners up the shaft after a dirty, hot, ten hour shift mainly spent in darkness, illuminated only by candles, was first constructed here; and the county was the birthplace of the world famous engineer, Sir Richard Trevithick Tangye. The subsequent decline in mining led to the formation of Cornish diasporas in America, Australia and South Africa and one, Francis Oats, became the chairman of the De Beers diamond mining company.

Although seemingly a quiet place, Cornwall has always produced radicals exemplified by the Prayer Book Rebellion, the Cornish Rebellion and individuals such as Emily Hobhouse who exposed the appalling treatment of wives and children of Boer fighters in the British concentration camps of the early 19th century and the suffragist, Selina Cooper who became the first elected representative of the Independent Labour Party.

Militarily, Cornwall was the scene of the last siege of a domestic premises in England, Fowey supplied more vessels than London to blockade Calais and supplied countless men in wars with the French. It was the home of one of the earliest airship bases of the First World War (RNAS Mullion), RAF Predannack which engaged in anti-submarine warfare in the Second World War and RAF Portreath which became one of the first nuclear monitoring stations in the country in the Cold War and a chemical weapons base.
The county is world famous for its art which is best described historically by the, late 19th / early 20th century Newlyn School of Art and the modernist, post World War II, St. Ives Group of Painters which nurtured the ‘Seven and Five Group’: seven painters and five sculptors.

The Newlyn School comprised artists such as Stanhope and Elizabeth Forbes, Lamorna Birch, Midge Bruford, Norman Garstín, Caroline and Tomas Gotch, Dame Kaura and Harold Knight, Walter Langley, Harold Harvey, Dod and Ernest Procter and Annie Walke.

The St. Ives Group had a diverse membership including Dame Barbara Hepworth, Ben Nicholson, Naum Gabo, Bernard Leach, Wilhelmina Barns-Graham, Peter Lanyon, Sven Berlin, John Wells and Bryan Wynter. All of these artists are discussed more fully in this almanack.

Although Cornwall has the lowest number of young people attending university, education and learning has always be a concern for many. The first compulsory schooling in the entire country was introduced on Scilly by the ‘Lord Proprietor’, Augustus Smith in the nineteenth century. The Royal Geological Society of Penzance was the second such society in the entire world and the Royal Cornwall Polytechnic Society was established by two sisters of the famous Fox family of Falmouth and the first to use the word ‘polytechnic’. Other learned societies include the Royal Institution of Cornwall which created the Royal Cornwall Museum.

Perhaps, however, most extraordinary are the tales of slaves and slave owners.
It seems incredible now that not only wealthy landowners but also a number of Cornish clergymen were ‘owners’ of slaves in the West Indies. The most notorious slaver was Sir Rose Price whose parents aroused curiosity for a retinue of black servants at their Penzance estate and who were clearly slaves. Due to regular attacks on the Cornish coast by North African and Spanish pirates, a large number of Cornish men, women and children were captured and sold on the North Coast of Africa.

Cornwall may have always had a small population, maybe thirty thousand in the fourteenth century, and only half a million today but the range of achievements, characters and influence on the country and, indeed, on France, America, Australia and South Africa is extraordinary.

Researching and compiling this almanack has been an absolute delight and criss-crossing the centuries and delving into many, now forgotten, events and people but of huge significance in their time has been utterly absorbing. The Almanack can be read in many ways, reading about personally significant dates, or the current date or merely delving. Most of the days are restricted to a single page and, with a brief biography and an emphasis on the Cornish connection, it has been impossible to open little more than a window on a person or event. I hope readers enjoy reading it almost as much I enjoyed creating it and my only regret is that I finally completed it.

N. P. Cooper,
March, 2020
January
Obed Nicholls (1885–1962), pictured below, was a Newlyn artist who worked in copper. Wheelchair bound from birth, he was encouraged to attend evening classes and it was at the *Newlyn Industrial Class* that his talents were discovered and nurtured until he was sufficiently confident to work independently. Funded by the MP, T.P. Bolitho, the *Newlyn Industrial Class*, teaching metalwork, embroidery and enamelling, was established in 1890 by John Drew MacKenzie (July 22nd) not just to develop an artistic centre but to develop the skills of fisherfolk so they could earn in the off season. It ceased during the First World War but restarted in 1920 until stopping once more in 1939.
One of the most famous Newlyn School painters, Stanhope Forbes (November 18th), described the class affectionately ‘In the narrowest part of the little lane we stumbled along on our way through the village, where there hangs a curiously fashioned sign, indicating that here an industrial class is held. A terrible din assails your ears, and, curious to find what occasions it, you enter a courtyard, and climbing a steep ladder into an old net loft, find a room full of lads all busy hammering away at curiously shaped pieces of brass or copper. Originally started by that good friend of Newlyn, Mr Bolitho with the co-operation of the artists, and chief amongst them Messrs Gotch and Percy Craft, the idea was to find employment for the spare moments of fisher lads, and certainly a more admirable safety valve for their superfluous energy could not have been devised. To have introduced the best qualities of design into some of the commonest objects of our daily use, surely this is an achievement to be proud of, and probably no work the colony has done will tend more to the true mission of the artist, which is to foster and encourage the love of beauty and grace’.

A copper vase in Art Nouveau style

A copper rimmed plate known as a charger.
January

1796 Destruction of Wherry Town Mine 2nd

The Wherry Town Mine  
*(From The Transactions of The Royal Geological Society of Cornwall, 1818)*

Until the construction of the Penzance Promenade, the town ended on a beach where the fishing boats landed their catch. With a number of streams emptying into the Channel it was well known, from the eroded debris, that in the rocks exist some veins that appeared rich in tin and copper. Although nowadays West Cornwall is renowned for its tin mining industry it is actually rich in lodes of copper and cobalt often found mixed with tin.

One of these lodes, only visible at very low tide, rises close to the surface around 500 feet out to sea. In the 18\textsuperscript{th} century, the price of copper and cobalt was extremely high, the industry was booming and there were many speculative ventures. Perhaps the most challenging was the
January

construction of the **Wherry Town Mine**, which existed for much of its time underwater.

In the 1780s, Thomas Curtis of Breage spent three years sinking a shaft in the most visible rock, constructed a stone breakwater and a wooden turret. Not only was the work laborious but it was also extremely time-consuming since it could only be conducted during daytime low tides.

The work was further complicated by the fact that the shaft filled with water at high tides and so had to be emptied before it could be extended. The rock was pulverised using dynamite, which in itself was not only extremely dangerous due to the workers' proximity to the explosions in the shaft, but was also time-consuming since dynamite is only of any use when completely dry.

After Curtis' death, in 1791, the work was continued by another keen group of adventurers who extended a pier from shore to the shaft and installed a steam engine on the shore to pump out the shaft (as pictured above).

Over its working lifetime the concept was proven to be justified since it is recorded that it produced at least £70,000 of tin. The value of the copper and cobalt recoveries is not known.

Disaster struck in 1798 when, during a violent storm, an American vessel broke free of its anchor and drifted onto the rock demolishing the turret and much of the pier. The damage was repaired and the mine was worked until 1816, when the price of the ores collapsed.
Cambridge – born Mark Guy Pearse (1842 – 1930) was a Methodist preacher, writer, lecturer and author who became a household name across Britain.

Initially studying medicine, he quickly changed to theology, becoming a Wesleyan minister in 1863. During the next twenty years, he served in Leeds, London, Ipswich, Bedford, Launceston, and Bristol.

Over sixty years, starting in 1870, Pearse published over forty books and over forty articles, tracts and booklets, which led to worldwide fame. Most famously he published *A Service For the Sick In Home and Hospital*, *Daniel Quorm and His Religious Notions*, *God’s Cure For Worry*, *Sermons For Children*, *The Gentleness Of Jesus* and *The God Of Our Pleasures* as well as books about Cornwall, notably *Bridgetstow*, *Cornish Stories* and *West Country Songs*.

In 1886, he joined the ‘*West London Mission*’ which led to extensive tours in Africa, America and Australia and which brought him into the widespread Cornish diaspora and further added to his fame and reputation.
Augustus Edwin John OM RA (1878 – 1961) was a Welsh painter, draughtsman, and etcher. He became an integral part of the *Newlyn School* of painters before the First World War and was highly influential, promoting the works of artists such as Alfred Wallis (August 29th) and Mary Jewels. Living for a period in Lamorna Cove, John was surrounded by other painters who were, or were about to become, extremely famous; including Dame Laura Knight (July 7th) and her husband Harold Knight (October 3rd), A.J. Munnings, Lamorna Birch (June 7th), Frank Dobson and Stanhope Forbes (November 18th). In 1914, John, by then in Alderney, wrote to the American art collector John Quinn stating ‘I found Cornwall a most sympathetic country with some very nice people amongst the artists’.

The *Newlyn School of Artists* broke up with the advent of the First World War due to war duties and a shortage of paint. Nevertheless even after returning to London, John continued to travel down periodically to stay, in Mousehole, with his daughter-in-law who was estranged from his son, Edwin. Edwin John became a close friend of Mary Wesley (June 24th). John’s influence continued well after he left Cornwall since he had nurtured Adrian Ryan RA (October 3rd) who, in his turn, encouraged and promoted Cornish artists before, during and after World War II including George Lambourn (July 18th) and the naif painter Joan Gillchrest (November 2nd).
John Arthur Phillips FRS, FCS, FGS (1822 – 1887) was a St. Austell – born geologist, metallurgist, and mining engineer.

After initial training as a surveyor he changed to the study of metallurgy and electricity, concentrating in his early years with Robert Were Fox the Younger (July 25th) on the electrochemical deposition of copper from copper ores. Phillips studied at the École des Mines de Paris for two years, graduating in 1846. Following two years as a metallurgist in a French colliery, he returned sufficiently renowned to be appointed to be a chemical advisor government commission advising on the question of coal for the Royal Navy and manager of several chemical works. Subsequently, he became a freelance mining engineer and consulting metallurgist, progressing to appointments as Professor of Metallurgy at the College for Civil Engineers, Putney and as a lecturer at the Royal Naval College, Greenwich.

Phillips became internationally famous and was invited to California, continental Europe and North Africa. He made his fortune from his involvement in the Widnes Metal Company and retired from business in 1877 in order to concentrate on his research. He became renowned for his use of the polarising microscope in mineralogy and pioneered the study of the microscopic structure of minerals and rocks and the preparation of slide sections. He published a number of authoritative works including *The Mining and Metallurgy of Gold and Silver*, ‘A Manual of Metallurgy’ and ‘A Guide to Ore Deposits’.
Richard Polwhele (1760 – 1838) was a famous, Truro – born clergyman, historian and poet. Ordained, in 1782, he took up a position in Devon but in 1794, following the death of his first wife, Loveday, and his remarriage (to Mary Tyrrell) he became Vicar of Manaccan in Cornwall. Polwhele angered his parishioners with his work restoring the church and vicarage, becoming non-resident in 1806.

In literary terms he is remembered for his, 2-volume, History of Devonshire and his, magisterial, 7-volume History of Cornwall as well as numerous volumes of poetry, his pamphlets and articles attacking Methodism.

He is, however, most famously remembered for his detention of Captain Bligh (December 7th) who was perceived to be acting suspiciously on the Helford River, arrested as a suspected French spy and detained in Polwhele’s shed until his identity was confirmed.

Polwhele later wrote that they had an enjoyable evening and they became firm friends.
John Harris FRHS (1820 – 1884) was born and raised in a tiny cottage on the outskirts of Camborne, in the hamlet of Bolenowe. Harris started work as a surface worker at Dolcoath Mine at the age of ten and between the age of twelve and thirty-seven worked underground. Completely self-taught, through reading the works of Shakespeare, Milton and Byron, much of his early poetry was inspired by his experiences in the mine and the granitic landscape. Encouraged by the Vicar of Treslothan (south of Camborne), the Reverend George Bull he published fifteen volumes of poetry and left Cornwall once only when, in 1864, he travelled to Stratford-upon-Avon to receive the Shakespeare Tercentenary Prize.

John Harris’ success permitted him to stop working as a miner in 1858 when he moved to Falmouth working as a ‘Town Missionary’ for the Scripture Readers’ Society which worked to spread the Gospel amongst the poorest in society. His life in Falmouth inspired much of his later works and enabled him to compare and contrast the poverty-stricken lives of those in the Camborne-Redruth area and the much wealthier port of Falmouth.
January

8th

Wilkie Collins (Birth) 1884

One of the closest friends of Charles Dickens and a famous writer in his own right (*The Woman in White* and *The Moonstone*), **Wilkie Collins** wrote a magisterial book about Cornwall, *Rambles Beyond Railways* (1850) relating his discoveries on an extensive walking tour.

It is fascinating because it was written before the railway extended to Penzance and covers subjects as diverse as the character of the Cornish people, Cornish Holy Wells, The Lizard and The Lands End as well as describing the traditional, but now extinct, mining and pilchard industries and the often neglected matter of ancient and modern drama in Cornwall.

Since he was an already famous novelist his memoir of his travels made Cornwall increasingly popular once the Royal Albert Bridge (May 2nd) had been constructed facilitating direct trains from Paddington to Penzance and his travel memoir was hugely significant in introducing tourism to the county.
Sir Humphry Davy (May 29th) conducted the first successful test of his miners’ safety lamp which he reported to the Royal Society just over two weeks later on January 25th 1816.

Until the introduction of the **Miners’ Safety Lamp**, miners wore a candle on a felt hat meaning that they effectively worked in the dark and were at risk from explosive gases. The safety lamp comprised a wick lamp enclosed within a mesh in a metal frame, which greatly reduced the risk of explosions. Although Davy’s invention saved many thousands of lives, one, unintended, consequence of his idea was that miners were able to work deeper and further in the mine, which in itself was inherently even more unsafe.

The Ludgvan born Davy was already a renowned scientist and public speaker having discovered sodium, potassium, strontium, boron, calcium, barium, magnesium and boron and had determined the elemental nature of both chlorine and iodine. Davy was almost reckless in his experimental methods and, having heard of the discovery of nitrogen trichloride by Pierre Louis Dulong who lost an eye and two fingers in his work, promptly wrote to Dulong to ask for details of the experimental method. He was then temporarily blinded in repeating the preparation of the explosive compound and was forced to hire an assistant, Michael Faraday.
January

Davy’s initial design for a safety lamp
Cornish tinning has occurred for thousands of years but it has only been since the 15th century that shafts have been driven. *Wheal Owles* was an amalgamation of numerous abandoned mines, tunnels, and by 1893 there were at least 100 miners working completely underground.

On this day in 1893, when approximately forty men and boys were underground, an explosive charge broke the seabed killing all nineteen men and one boy working on that level.

*Wheal Owles* was majority owned by the Boyns family who had supplied pursers, managers, supplies and financial services and who had, a generation earlier, been involved in a financial scandal in St. Just and Penzance where their bank, in partnership with the Bolithos, was headquartered.
Walter Bryan Pearce (1929 – 2007) was a naïf painter and today is recognised as one of Britain’s leading painters. Born in St. Ives, where he lived in the town for his entire life, Pearce inherited phenylketonuria, a congenital condition caused by insufficient metabolism of phenylalanine. Encouraged by St. Ives artists, he began drawing and painting in watercolours in 1953 before moving on to oil paint on board and, later, conté crayon. He attended the St. Ives School of Painting from 1953 to 1957, which was run by Leonard Fuller (October 11th). Pearce specialised in paintings of his home town, and the surrounding Penwith area, drawn in typically flat style, with areas of bright colour surrounded by heavy outlines, like stained glass. His reputation grew steadily and his work sells for many thousands of pounds including his *St. Ives (all round) 1977*, which sold at Christie’s for over £50,000 in 2011.
Susan Elizabeth Gay (1845 – 1918) became a renowned chronicler of Falmouth and was particularly noted for her volume *Old Falmouth* (1903) which told of the town from its earliest days when dominated by the Killigrew family of gentry and pirates.

The daughter of the last Falmouth Agent of the General Post Office Packet Service, Gay was a friend of the wealthy Fox family of Falmouth who provided much historical material and illustrations. Significant members of the Fox family include Caroline Fox (May 24th), Robert Were Fox the Elder (July 5th), Robert Barclay Fox (July 24th), Robert Were Fox the Younger (July 25th), Alfred Fox (September 9th), Charles Masson Fox (November 9th), Charles Fox (December 22nd) and Caroline’s sister, Anna Maria Fox.

Susan Gay was also a writer on theosophy, the collection of philosophies established in 1875 which maintains that a knowledge of God may be achieved through spiritualism and direct intuition.

Also interested in Cornish folklore she included a collection of traditional tales she had heard from Cornish people in ‘The Fairy-Faith in Celtic Countries’.
January

13th Thomas Grenfell Vyvyan (Birth) 1837

The Reverend Thomas Grenfell Vyvyan was a noted mathematician of the Victorian era.

The nephew of the 8th baronet, Sir Richard Rawlinson Vyvyan (1800 – 1879), he was the cousin of the 10th baronet, Sir Courtenay Bourchier Vyvyan, who was married to the famous country, horticulture and travel writer C.C. Rogers (March 1st).

*Trelowarren in 1831* (Thomas Allom, 1804 – 1872)

His most notable books include ‘Elementary Analytical Geometry’ (1867), ‘Analytical Geometry’ (1875), ‘Analytical Geometry for Beginners’ (1894) and ‘Introduction to Plane Trignometry’ (1892).
Peggy Rose (1916 – 2013) was described by her tutor to be the best pupil to have come out of the Slade School of Art since Augustus John (January 4th).

Born in Golders Green, the daughter of Harry Rose, a jeweller turned filmmaker, and Kate Mansell, a Berkeley Square couturier, she grew up in a house overlooking Selfridges and within a family with regular contacts with the aristocracy, artists, actors and actresses.

Educated at The Slade School of Art, she was first to be awarded the Ida Nettleship Scholarship, for ‘Domestic Employment’, a painting of her fellow student Dodie Masterman sewing.

Peggy moved to Tite Street in Chelsea where she lived above Adrian Ryan (October 3rd). They married in 1941 and moved to Mousehole but, after their divorce, she returned to London and concentrated on picture restoration for which skill she became renowned.
Married on her 17th birthday to Gilbert de Clare, 4th Earl of Hertford and 5th Earl of Gloucester, who was 20 years her senior, Isabel Marshall (1200 – 1240) was widowed when Gilbert died on his return from Brittany (25th October 1230).

Isabel married, secondly, Richard, 1st Earl of Cornwall and the second son of King John. They had four children, three of whom died in infancy whilst the son who survived to adulthood, Henry of Almain (1235 – 1271), was murdered by his cousins, Guy and Simon de Montfort.

Isabel developed liver failure during childbirth and died on this day in AD 1240.

Richard was given ownership of most of Cornwall by his brother, King Henry III, as a birthday present and was appointed High Sheriff of Cornwall, the revenues from which made him one of the richest men in the country. It has been suggested that Richard built Tintagel Castle in an earlier style to link himself and his reputation with King Arthur. It is certainly true that Richard swapped the Manor of Winnianton (on the Lizard Peninsula) for Tintagel. The lands of Winnianton Manor extended across the Lizard from Gunwalloe to Helford and included Merthen Manor which has been owned by the Vyvyan family (13th January) since 1629. The manor is now only remembered by the name of Winnianton Farm situated just north of Gunwalloe Cove.
There have been six ships named \textit{HMS Colchester}. The third, launched in 1664 was a 48-gun ship which was denoted a 4\textsuperscript{th} rate frigate under the navy’s ships classification system. This meant that it was not a frontline battleship (so not a so-called ‘ship of the line’) but was used for support and for transport. She foundered at Whitesand Bay (Sennen Cove) on 16\textsuperscript{th} January 1704 with the loss of approximately one hundred lives.

The picture above shows an unattributed painting of \textit{HMS Colchester}.
Richard Lower (1631 – 1691) was a St. Tudy-born physician who studied at Westminster School and Christ Church, Oxford where he met Thomas Willis (1621 – 1675) who became renowned for his work in anatomy, psychiatry and neurology. Lower followed Willis to London where he worked with Robert Hooke and wrote a magisterial text on the workings of the heart, *Tractatus de Corde* (1669).

Lower traced the circulation of blood as it passes through the lungs and observed changes exposed to air and he was the first to distinguish between arterial and venous blood. His major achievement was to demonstrate the potential of blood transfusions both from animal to animal but even from animal to human.

Lower became a successful private physician and sufficiently renowned to be the doctor entrusted with the treatment of King Charles II in the King's final illness.

As a Protestant, he was dismissed from the Court by James II but, following the Glorious Revolution, he was recalled to court and, subsequently, treated Queen Anne.
Born in St. Ives, **Rev. Thomas Tregosse** (c.1600 - 1670) was a Puritan and Vicar of Mylor and Mabe who was ejected from his living on August 24\(^{th}\), 1662 under the Act of Uniformity for being a nonconformist. Susan Elizabeth Gay (January 12\(^{th}\)) relates that he subsequently formed an Independent Congregation in Falmouth in 1662 and was jailed for three months for preaching at the Congregational Sunday School in Falmouth.

In 1663, he preached at the Church of Saint Laud, Mabe and was again sentenced to three months in Launceston Gaol. Subsequently, he was gaolied twice more for breaching the Conventicle Act of 1664 which only permitted non-Anglican services to be held in private homes with only members of the householders present and even then, to no more than five people.

He was released from his fourth term of imprisonment by Royal Decree but was arrested again for preaching in a private home in Great Torrington. In his later years, he increased the frequency of his preaching to Sundays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays but restricted his activities to the Penryn area where he died on this day in 1670.
The **Battle of Braddock Down** (1643) was a victory of the Royalists under Sir Ralph Hopton (1598 – 1652) which was of great importance, since it secured Cornwall for King Charles, and for the mercy shown to the Parliamentarians of whom 1500 were captured. The battle arose due to an attempt by Hopton's forces to enter Cornwall which was deterred by the Parliamentarians under the Earl of Stamford and William Ruthven. Short of ammunition and supplies, the Royalists retreated across Bodmin Moor but were fortunate in being able to replenish themselves from three Parliamentarian ships that were captured in Falmouth after a storm. The Royalists reassembled at Boconnoc, an important estate which was later owned by Thomas ‘Diamond' Pitt (April 29th). Meanwhile the depleted Parliamentarians forces, still believing they were in sight of a quick victory, did not wait for reinforcements and attacked what they believed were some Royalist stragglers but which was, in fact, Hopton's entire army. Outnumbered in terms of cavalry the Parliamentarians were superior in numbers of infantry and light cannon. Hopton ordered his foot solders, commanded by Sir Bevil Grenville (March 23rd), to attack the Royalists. The inexperienced and newly raised Parliamentarians panicked, firing just one volley before fleeing. They were pursued towards Launceston where another 1,200 soldiers were captured before retreating to Saltash from where they were also driven out.
Launched in 1794, **HMS Fearless** was a 12-gun brig (a two masted ship). Fast and manoeuvrable, brigs were popular with pirates and privateers and used by the navy as a relatively lightly armed cargo and army transport.

**HMS Fearless**, which had been paid off but recommissioned twice, was used, with two naval transport ships, to salvage the stores of HMS Colossus, a 74-gun ship of the line, which had run aground on the Island of Samson in Scilly.

**HMS Fearless** was being guided into Plymouth Sound in heavy storms by the crew of a dockyard lighter (a flat bottomed, unpowered barge often used as a guide) tug when it was forced out of Cawsand Bay and wrecked on Redding Point.

The wreck became famous since, due to the efforts of the Cawsand fishermen who attempted a rescue with ropes and lanterns, only one crewman was lost. The crew were ordered to remain aboard until the fishermen had descended the cliffs. Thirty-two men were rescued from **Fearless** as well as all the crew of the lighter but, interestingly, also saved from **Fearless** was the wife of the commander, Lt. Williams, and the two children of the first mate. This indicates that sailors, just as soldiers, were often accompanied by their wives and families when on service.
Launceston-born **John Couch Adams** (1728 – 1795) is renowned for his discovery of the planet Neptune by calculations and predictions alone which he based on realised discrepancies between the observed orbit of Uranus and calculations based on the laws of Kepler and Newton.

Adams was the son of tenant farming parents who were strongly in favour of education, and one of his brothers, William Grylls Adams FRS (February 18th), became Professor of Natural Philosophy and Astronomy at King’s College London. At the age of twelve, he started studying at his uncle’s private school in Devonport where he became fascinated by mathematics and astronomy, observing Halley’s Comet in 1835, which inspired him to start making his own astronomical calculations and predictions. Due to an inheritance received by his mother, Adams was sent to Cambridge (St. John’s College) to study mathematics, graduating in 1836 as top of his year, ‘First Wrangler’. Adams became aware of observations of the orbit of Uranus, which contained proven unexpected discrepancies from predictions.

On vacation in Cornwall, Adams used the discrepancies to predict the mass and velocity of an unknown planet which could be the only explanation for the discrepancies. Beyond this, Adams also worked on magnetism and, in 1860, he was appointed Director of the Cambridge Observatory.
January

1790 Robert Jeffery of Polperro (Birth) 22nd

The Fowey – born Robert Jeffery, educated in Looe but living in Polperro, joined as crewman of a privateer, The Lord Nelson but was press-ganged on to the HMS Recruit in 1807 commanded by Captain Warwick Lake. On a voyage to the West Indies, Jeffery was caught stealing midshipmen’s beer and was set ashore on the uninhabited island of Sombrero without any food or water. News of Lake’s actions soon reached the Admiralty who ordered Lake to return to collect the sailor. The event became a matter of public concern, leading to questions being raised in Parliament and letters written to The Times newspaper. On return to Sombrero, two months after Jeffery had been marooned, there was no sign or trace of Jeffery. In fact, after nine days without food or water, Jeffery had been rescued by an American schooner who took him to Massachusetts where he lived for the next three years. In 1810, he was brought back to England, landing at Portsmouth where he was met by Samuel Whitbread, MP for Bedford, and briefly became a celebrity known as ‘The Governor Sombrero’. Lake was court-martialled and dismissed the Navy with Disgrace.

A year later, Jeffery published his experiences in a pamphlet titled ‘A Narrative of his Life, Suffering and Endurance of Robert Jeffery’ but then returned to Polperro and a quiet life as a fisherman until his death in 1820
The Redruth-born **John Thomas Blight** FSA (1835 – 1911) was brought up in Penzance where his father, a teacher, had moved the family.

He became a renowned antiquarian and artist having, by the age of 20, already published a survey of the antiquities of Penwith, ‘Ancient Crosses and Other Antiquities of West Cornwall’ (1856) and a collection of drawings. Blight expanded his initial book into two volumes and illustrated J.O. Halliwell’s 1851 edition of *Shakespeare’s Works* and also wrote a much-loved travel guide *A Week at the Land’s End, (1861)*.

Tragically, Blight suffered a breakdown in 1871 and spent the remainder of his life, forty years, in Bodmin Lunatic Asylum where he died on this day in 1911.

Blight’s sketch of St. Michael’s Mount from the cover of his ‘Ancient Crosses and Other Antiquities of West Cornwall’
**John Colenso** (1814 — 1883) was born in At. Austell and ended his days in Durban as Archbishop of Natal. His liberal views, which he expressed in South Africa, led to the first Lambeth Conference in 1867.

An exceptional mathematician, Colenso was elected, in 1837, a fellow of St. John’s College, Cambridge and became an Anglican deacon in 1839. He was heavily influenced in his religious views by his wife, Sarah Bunyon, who believed that God was present in all people at all times whether or they had ever heard of Jesus Christ. This cleverly resolved the question of whether or not those who had never heard of Jesus whether because of where they lived or if they had lived before the time of Christ could enter Heaven. Upon marriage Colenso was appointed Rector of Forncett St. Mary’s Church, Norfolk in 1846 during which time he edited a missionary newspaper and so impressed Robert Gray, Bishop of Cape Town when he visited England that Colenso was offered position of the Bishop of the new diocese of Natal. Consecrated in 1853 he subsequently made his first visit to his new diocese. On arrival, he divided his time between serving the English settlers and working with missionaries to the Zulus. The Zulu peoples had an enormous effect upon him and led him to challenge the Church’s teachings on treatment of the people of South Africa particularly on how converted polygamous men should behave.
January

On his return home, Colenso published ‘Ten Weeks in Natal’ and ‘The Proper Treatment of Polygamy’ causing huge controversy and accusations that he advocated polygamy. Returning to Natal in 1855, Colenso settled near Pietermaritzburg and he began to learn Zulu, wrote many articles, textbooks and translated the Bible into the main Zulu language, isiZulu. He collaborated with many Zulu converts in order to adopt the correct meanings and idioms in the translation but this also led to many questions from the converts notably the truth or, perhaps lack of truth, in The Pentateuch (the first five books of the Old Testament). He was also personally challenged in reconciling Biblical truths with scientific discoveries and stated his doubt in the belief he been taught in childhood that ‘the Bible is none other than the word of God . . . absolute, faultless, unerring, supreme.’ doubts began to creep in. He also discussed St Paul’s Epistle to the Romans and he compared the treatment of Jewish converts to Christianity with Zulu converts, insisting that the Zulus and the English settlers were of equal status and of equal value. In isiZulu, Colenso became known as ‘Sobantu’: ‘Father of the people’. In the 1879 Zulu Wars, Colenso supported the Zulus. As a result, and with his wife’s continuing influence, he concluded that ‘the body and blood of Christ were given to all the human race, not only in the sacrament, but at all times’. He also came to doubt the accepted belief in eternal punishment. Attempts to force his resignation, stop his preaching and prevent publication of his works led to the first Lambeth Conference after Colenso was excommunicated. He appealed to the Privy Council arguing that he could only be removed by the Head of the Church of England i.e. Queen Victoria. The Privy Council, acting on the monarch’s behalf, found in his favour.
Edward Hearle Rodd (1810 – 1880) born the son of the Vicar of St Just in Roseland became a renowned ornithologist.

Trained as a lawyer, he settled in Penzance in partnership with George Dennis John. The firm became Rodd & Cornish and Rodd held many official posts in the town: town clerk from 1847, clerk to the Board of Guardians, superintendent registrar. He was also appointed to be the head distributor of stamps in Cornwall, a role he performed from 1844 to 1867.

Rodd wrote over twenty papers on the ornithology of Cornwall and his books include ‘A List of British Birds as a Guide to the Ornithology of Cornwall, particularly in the Land's End District’ and ‘The Birds of Cornwall and the Scilly Islands’.

Rodd retired in 1878 leaving his partnership to Thomas Cornish.

He died, unmarried, and was buried in St. Clare Cemetery.

The esteem in which he was held in was demonstrated by the public subscription for a carillon (a keyboard instrument with twenty-three bells which plays tunes mechanically) to be installed in St. Mary’s Church, at a cost of £300, in his memory.
The St. Uny-born William Bryant (1757 – 1791) was a fisherman and convict who, alongside his future wife, Mary Broad (May 1st), was one of the first convicts to transported to Australia. He is renowned for this escape from the penal colony with his wife, two small children and seven convicts in the governor's cutter, managing to sail to Timor in an open boat. Bryant was a convicted smuggler whilst Broad was a convicted highwaywoman; both were initially sentenced to death but their sentences were both commuted to transportation for seven years.

Until the American War of Independence, British convicts had been transported to America and subsequently new penal colonies were sought with the first fleet of convicts arriving in Port Jackson on this day in 1788. Bryant and Broad were also one of the first, of five couples, of convicts to be married in Australia.

A knowledgeable farmer and skilled fisherman, Bryant was allowed to build himself a private hut from which he was evicted, also receiving 100 lashes, for stealing fish. The colony was short of supplies and skills and so, a year later, Bryant was restored to his position in charge of fishing and allowed to return to his hut. Bryant had served some years on board a prison hulk before transportation and his sentence was due to expire two years before his wife's. He was, therefore, not permitted to leave since he was not allowed, nor wanted, to leave his wife and children behind, leading the Bryants to decide to escape.
Bryant acquired a compass, chart, muskets, ammunition and supplies for the voyage and, in March 1791, he and his fellow travellers stole the governor's cutter and escaped onto open seas.

Navigating up the East coast of Australia they finally made their way to Timor making frequent landings to collect provisions and water much to the anger of the indigenous aborigines who, on occasion, chased them in canoes. The journey took them 69 days. Calling himself William Broad, Bryant claimed that they were shipwreck survivors and he was employed by the Dutch governor as a labourer and fisherman. This succeeded until the real survivors of a shipwreck arrived and it was determined that Broad and his company were escaped convicts whereupon they handed over to the British who planned to take them to the Cape of Good Hope via Batavia (now Jakarta) and then to England for execution.

Given only sufficient food to prevent starvation, all the family became ill and Bryant died in the Dutch East India Company Hospital in Batavia on 22 December 1791, three weeks after the death of his son and quickly followed by three other escaped convicts. At the Cape of Good Hope Mary Broad, her daughter, Charlotte, and the remaining four convicts were handed over to *HMS Gorgon* to return to England. Charlotte died on 6 May 1792 and was buried at sea.

When Broad and the remaining four convicts finally arrived in London in July 1792, just over 5 years since transportation, they found to their amazement that, instead of heading for execution, they were actually minor celebrities and they were pardoned. Granted a small annuity by James Boswell, Broad returned to Fowey and lived quietly.
Humphrey Arundell (1513 – 1550) of Helland in Cornwall, was the leader of Cornish forces in the 1549 Prayer Book Rebellion (June 6th) and was executed at Tyburn after the rebellion had been put down.

Born in Helland, near Bodmin, Arundell, whose maternal grandfather had been an early supporter of Perkin Warbeck, inherited large estates in both Cornwall and Devon.

In 1549, Arundell, who had been captain of St. Michael’s Mount, became leader of the Cornish army, which had assembled at Bodmin. Following some initial successes, Arundell was finally defeated at Launceston.

He was transferred to Rougemont Castle en route to the Tower of London. Condemned to death for High Treason, Arundell was hanged, drawn and quartered on this day in 1550.
James Halse (1769 – 1838) was a solicitor in St. Ives who also became town clerk and an alderman. He made a fortune from his interests in a number of local tin mines, notably Wheal Reeth and St. Ives Consols.

Prior to 1872, elections were held in public and often followed dinners paid for by the candidates. Candidates ‘lent’ electors one guinea which was only repayable if the elector voted for another candidate. Halse went one step further, using his fortune to build the village of Halsetown (within the St. Ives constituency) to accommodate his mineworker employees. He ensured that each house lay on one quarter of an acre of land, which was one of the criteria for the right to vote. In order to ensure that his employees and now tenants voted the ‘right way’ they were informed that if they did not vote for him then they would lose their jobs and be evicted. At the time the constituency returned two Members of Parliament and in the 1820 election both seats were taken by Halse’s candidates. He was pursued by his main constituency rival, Sir Christopher Hawkins (April 6th), on allegations of electoral fraud. Halse was acquitted of bribery charges in 1821 and, in the 1826 election, he stood on his own account. Both Halse and Hawkins were elected but Halse was defeated in 1830 by a nephew of the Duke of Wellington, William Pole-Tylney-Long-Wellesley although he regained the seat in 1831 and held it until his death. Rarely speaking in Parliament and initially believed to be a Whig, he voted against Jewish emancipation, against the immediate abolition of slavery and against relief for the Irish poor and, by the time of his death, he described himself as a Tory.
January

29th Joseph Austen Treffry (Death) 1850

Joseph Austen Treffry (1782 – 1850) was an engineer, industrialist and mining adventurer who became one of the most important landowners when he inherited Place House in Fowey from his maternal uncle whilst an Oxford undergraduate. He did not complete his education at Exeter College, leaving without a degree, in order to administer the estate.

Treffry built a new quay at Fowey in order to accommodate large vessels for tin and copper, took full control of two mines which, consolidated as Fowey Consols, became the most productive Cornish mine with 1,680 employees.

Treffry continued his ventures with the building of Par Harbour which was also used for china clay exports and coal imports. It was a major civil engineering project and was capable of accommodating fifty, 200-ton, ships. Yet more projects were Newquay harbour as construction of the Treffry Viaduct (pictured below) which is 650 feet in length and 100 feet tall at its highest.

Place House, Fowey

Treffry Viaduct
January

1914 John Hobson Matthews (Death) 30th

John Hobson Matthews (1858-1914) was a historian, archivist and lawyer whose father hailed from St. Ives. He worked firstly in Malta and then in Cardiff becoming fluent in both Welsh and Maltese.

He was a prolific writer and editor on many subjects, translating Welsh works as well as editing the Cardiff historical records and the Transactions of the Cardiff Naturalists Society. In recognition of his work he was made a Bard of the Welsh Gorsedd.

A devout Roman Catholic he wrote a very successful volume ‘The Mass and Its Folklore’ (1903).


A map of the area described in ‘A History of the parishes of St. Ives, Lelant, Towednack, and Zennor’
January

31st John Spargo (Birth) 1876

Born in Stithians, John Spargo (1876 – 1966) became one of the earliest biographers of Karl Marx and later, through unexpected circumstance, a serious politician in America. Trained as a stonecutter he became a lay Methodist minister but soon became attracted to Marxism. In 1900, Spargo moved to Barry where he became heavily involved in socialist politics to the extent that, by the age of 25, he was recognised as one of the most promising Marxists in Britain. His politics were an amalgamation of Christian Socialism and Marxism, which were informed by scientific thought, and he was often invited to speak at public gatherings. So successful was he that he was invited to give a lecture series across America. The lecture series turned out to amount to little more than a promise and Spargo was reduced to using soup kitchens. Over time, he met many of the leading radicals in New York and he spent eight years editing a socialist magazine and giving lecture tours across the country. He wrote about child slavery, state funded feeding of underprivileged children on the grounds but his real fame arose with his 1908 biography of Marx. Between 1909 and 1914 his views moved to the right and he also moved to Vermont to recover from heart and lung problems. He left the Socialist Party over his support for American entry in WWI and by 1924 was a member of the Republican Party even being suggested as Herbert Hoover's Secretary of Labor. In later life, he became curator of the Bennington Historical Museum in Vermont and wrote several books on ceramics.
February
Richard Oxnam (1768 – 1844) of Penzance was appointed High Sheriff of the County of Cornwall on this day in 1810.

Within ten years, he was bankrupt and living in disgrace.

One of the original partners in Penzance’s first bank (Batten, Carne and Boase), merchant and investor, Oxnam was the son of a Penzance trader who was heavily involved with the smuggling activities of the Dunkin brothers.

As a banker, Oxnam was hugely influential in many businesses and was a shareholder in numerous mines including Wheal Neptune, (Perranuthnoe), Wheal Reeth (St. Ives), Ding Dong (Madron) and Levant (Pendeen).

He also owned a trading ketch, the Susan, and leased land and mining stamp mills (known as stamps they were used to crush the ore).

Oxnam was also the Lieutenant Colonel of the Mount’s Bay Militia, which had been set up to defend the coast in the event of a French invasion.

Appointed High Sheriff in 1810, with his status in society appeared established and secure, disaster soon struck in terms of the death of his wife in 1812 whilst his new home Rosehill Manor, pictured below, was being designed.
February

Rosehill Manor (1907) and held in the Alfred Newton Photographic Collection

It appears that he over extended himself with this trophy house and he was sued for bankruptcy by a Penzance solicitor, Robert Hichens, and fourteen other creditors for the amount of £10,660 - 4s - 8d.

By 1817 his continuing financial problems, aggravated by a further bankruptcy petition by another Penzance solicitor and former Mayor of Penzance, George John, ended with his confinement in the King’s Bench Debtors Prison in London. Due to the bankruptcy all of Oxnam’s property was sold at auction and a considerable amount was bought by James Halse (January 28th).

Finally released from the debtors’ prison, Oxnam returned to Penzance, living quietly on the extreme margins of Penzance’s polite society until he died at Wellington Terrace in 1844.
On this day in 1926, the first custom-built passenger Penzance - Scilly ferry, *The Scillonian*, completed its first commercial crossing. Its owners, The Isles of Scilly Steamship Company, had been founded on the basis of £20,000 of funding, much of which was raised from Scillonians. Initial services were provided by a converted fisheries protection vessel which soon, due to the popularity of the service, proved inadequate for its role.

The new ferry was designed to carry 400 passengers as well as cargo and having completed her maiden voyage to St. Mary’s on 25th January 1925, she made a triumphant first arrival at Penzance eight days later with a journey time of three and a quarter hours. Despite the air service to Scilly, *The Scillonian* (since replaced by a newer ship) is a delightful way to travel although a few passengers do get seasick due to the conflict between the tides of the English Channel and the Atlantic ocean.
John Henry Michell (1863 – 1940) born of a Cornish family from Kenwyn, near Truro was a famous Australian mathematician. His parents emigrated to Australia as part of the Australian Gold Rush and Michell was born in the state of Victoria. Part of his upbringing was, however, back in Cornwall when the family returned to care for his elderly grandparents. Showing prodigious mathematical talent, Michell attended Wesley College in Melbourne and then the University of Melbourne, subsequently being encouraged to continue his mathematical studies at Cambridge. Since he would have been required to fund himself the entire family returned to England to reside in Cambridge. He graduated with high honours as one of the highest achieving in his class and was awarded a fellowship at Trinity College. He returned to Melbourne in 1890 where he became renowned for his dedication to his students and he published papers on the deformation of a spring, the stability of a wire, vibrations of a string and on streamlined processes where he solved a problem which had defeated many of the most famous scientists of the time including Helmholtz and Kirchhoff. Later critical work addressed the wave resistance of a ship and hydraulics. In 1923, Michell became Professor of Pure and Mixed (Applied) Mathematics at Melbourne. Nine years after his retirement, Michell published his 2-volume ‘The Elements of Mathematical Analysis’ (1937). He is commemorated by the annual J. H. Michell Medal awarded by the Australian Mathematical Society.
Henry Trevanion Bettesworth (1804 – 1855) was the second son of the politician, John Trevanion Purnell Bettesworth-Trevanion (March 8th), who had rebuilt Caerhays Castle as a Gothic-style castle. Financially ruined by the costs he ran away to the continent.

He married Georgiana Augusta Leigh (1808 – 1866), a niece of Lord Byron, on this day in but in 1829 also ran off to the continent, not for financial reasons but with his sister-in-law Elizabeth Medora Leigh (1814 – 1849). They went to Normandy, where they passed themselves off as brother and sister before moving to Brittany where Medora became a Catholic and declared her intention of entering a convent.

In 1830, he married secondly Susannah Burdett (1800 – 1886), daughter of the English reformist politician, Sir Francis Burdett, by whom he had a daughter.

Caerhays Castle (Alice M.A. Baumgartner)
On this day in 1818, the *Royal Institution of Cornwall* was founded in Truro as the *Cornwall Literary and Philosophical Institution*, gaining Royal patronage in 1821. One of four such institutions around the county it was intended to be a ‘network of improvement for business and technical men’, the others being the *Cornwall Agricultural Society* (1792, Bodmin), *Royal Geological Society of Cornwall* (February 11th) and the *Royal Cornwall Polytechnic Society* (April 22nd). The same period saw the founding of the *Royal Cornwall Gazette* (July 2nd) and the *West Briton* (1810).

The development of learned societies and the new newspapers transformed the intellectual life of early 18th century Cornwall.

The *Royal Institution of Cornwall* promoted all branches of natural science, literature and provided a library accessible by all members.

Over the years, it has acquired a substantial art collection and an internationally significant minerals collection, all now on display at the *Royal Cornwall Museum*. 
Benjamin Lauder Nicholson (1894 – 1982) studied at the Slade School of Art (1910 – 11) and spent the following three years in France and Italy before travelling to America (1917 – 1918). In 1920, he married his fellow artist, Winifred Roberts and, for the next three years, they split their time between London, Cumberland and Lugarno. In 1938, the marriage broke down, caused by Nicholson's relationship with Barbara Hepworth (May 20th) to whom he was married for thirteen years (1938 – 1951). Nicholson had first travelled to St. Ives in 1928 where he met Alfred Wallis (August 29th). In 1939 Nicholson and Hepworth moved to St. Ives where they established the St. Ives School of Art and their studios, also becoming members of the Seven and Five Society of St. Ives artists and sculptors. Inspired by the work of his father, Sir William Nicholson, and by Picasso, Nicholson painted geometric shapes. His work was considered by many to be outrageous and, until the late 1940s, he struggled to make a living. In the 1950s, however, he began to win international prizes including the Carnegie Prize (1952) and was exhibiting worldwide. By the time of his death he was regarded by many as Britain's greatest living artist, as indicated by the award of the Order of Merit (OM), in 1968.

Following his divorce from Hepworth, he lived in Switzerland with the photographer Felicitas Vogler to whom he was married for twenty years.
February

7th St. Just Butter Protest 1920

Although Cornwall is a beautiful county and has many very expensive homes there are, today, areas of deep poverty. This has always been the case. After the armistice in 1918, with the return of surviving members of the forces to no work, poverty and no prospects, anger began to rise rapidly about the cost, and shortage, of milk, butter, corn, coal and bread. It was said by Lloyd George that ‘We will make this country a fit place for heroes to live in’ but that this had not materialised more than a year after the Armistice was a cause of massive resentment. This culminated in the so called ‘Butter Protest’ of which the most famous occurred on this day in 1920 in St. Just specifically to protest about the price of butter but, in reality, also expressing great anger about the conditions in the area. One factory that had been established was Bauer’s Sanatogen factory in Newlyn whose product was marketed as a ‘brain tonic’ and was renamed ‘Genatosan’. The factory was a huge consumer of milk contributing to the shortage of milk and butter. Following a demonstration outside the factory, the marchers, mainly men, proceeded to Penzance where they obstructed the passage of a delivery of milk to the Sanatogen factory and a delegation of the protesters then met a group of farmers and local dignitaries. Those protesters who were employed rejected the offer of a wage increase since they believed, probably correctly, that this would only lead to an increase in the prices of shortage materials.

Within a week, an enquiry had been announced and the price of milk and butter was guaranteed. This price was heavily subsidised in order to prevent any further disturbances.
Egloshayle - born **Nevell Norway** (1801 - 1840), great grandfather of the writer Neville Shute (Norway), was a merchant who was murdered on this day in 1840 on his return from Bodmin Fair to his home in Wadebridge. He was ambushed by two men who had observed him conducting profitable business and knew he would return home in possession of a considerable amount of gold and silver.

Like many merchants relaxing in inns after a successful day, Norway had delayed his return from Bodmin and did not leave until 10pm. Other traders left later and two, John Hicks and Christopher Bowen, travelling together came across a riderless horse that they believed belonged to Norway. On enquiring at his home, they discovered that he had not returned and set out to search for him, assuming he had fallen. The search rapidly led to the discovery of Norway's body in a stream near Pendavey Bridge. The killers were two brothers, William and James Lightfoot, who attempted to blame each other for the murders but to no avail. They were found guilty and executed on the 13th April 1840. Norway left his widow and six children and a public fund was raised for their support. Such was Norway's esteem in the area and the disgust at how he had died the fund accrued £3,500, a huge amount in 1840 but family tragedy continued with the death of Norway’s widow six months after his murder.
February

9th Last Cornish Mining Emigrants 1850

Until 1850, Cornish miners were granted free passage to Australia due to the need for those with skills to make the most of the Australian Gold Rush. Although Britain had many tens of thousands of miners, most worked in coal extraction and so Cornish tin and copper miners were in high demand. Both single men and women as well as families were eligible but, if the man was accompanied by his wife and children, then to be eligible for free travel, the family could contain no more than two children below the age of seven, both parents must be under forty years of age and both must travel. Few of the miners could afford to migrate to Australia at their own expense since the cost was approximately £200 per adult and half that for each child. Applicants required the signature, and statement of good health, from a doctor and a testimonial from a clergyman or magistrate.

By 1850 though it was determined that sufficient miners had been recruited and it was perceived that there was now a need for agricultural labourers who could be recruited from anywhere in Britain or other colonies and cost less to employ.

On this day in 1850, one of the last groups of Cornish mining emigrants arrived in New South Wales travelling from Plymouth on board, appropriately, a ship called ‘Cornwall’. The immigrants on board the Cornwall comprised 33 married couples, 87 single men, 83 single women, 32 boys, and 34 girls from one to fourteen years of age, and 9 infants. Only seven children died on the, 107 day, journey which is a remarkably low rate of death for travel conditions of those times.
Born in London, but brought up in Newlyn, **Brenda Wootton** (née Ellery) (1928 – 1994) was a Cornish poet and folk singer. Equally at home writing and singing in English, Cornish and in Breton, Wootton became seen as an ambassador for Cornish tradition and culture both in Britain as well as in Australia and Canada and, of course, Brittany where she was the star of the very first ‘*Festival Interceltique de Lorient*’ in August 1970 which occurs every year to this day.

Wootton came to attention through her participation in amateur concerts in Cornish village halls and became active in folk music in the early 1960s to the extent that Breton folk singers came to regard her as of their own.

Although she became world famous, Brenda Wootton never abandoned her Cornish childhood roots. She opened her own folk music club, the ‘*Pipers Folks Club*’, in St. Buryan well after she became famous and she became much loved for her request show, ‘*Sunday Best*’ on BBC Radio Cornwall, so popular that a commemorative blue plaque is now on the wall of the radio studio building in Truro.

Many of her songs, composed with Richard Gendall, have become Celtic standards, notably *Lamorna, The White Rose, Camborne Hill* and *The Stratton Carol* as well as ballads such as *Mordonnow, Tamar* and *Lyonesse.*
On this day in 1814 a meeting at the Union Hotel, decided upon the formation of the Geological Society of Penzance. Attended by learned and professional men from across the county, local gentry, clergy and wealthy merchants the Society was the brainchild of Dr John Ayrton Paris, renowned for his ‘Guide to Mounts Bay and the Land’s End’ who proposed that the first President should be Davies Gilbert (6th March). This proposal was seconded by the slave owner, Sir Rose Price (November 21st) and carried unanimously.

The location of the Geological Society of Penzance at the top of Market Jew Street (from Ayr’s ‘Guide to Mounts Bay and the Land’s End’)

Given Cornwall’s rich mineralogical basis there was an intense interest from mine owners and it has the prestige of becoming only the second geological society in the world and it came under the patronage of the Prince Regent in the same year enabling its Royal prefix.
In the first half of the 18th century the popular Chartist movement caused extreme concern amongst the ruling classes due to their demands for secret ballots, suffrage for all men over 21 years of age, no property qualification for, and payments for, members of parliament as well as equal sized constituencies.

On this day in 1840 three Chartist leaders who had been condemned to death following the Newport Uprising, the last large armed rebellion against government in Britain arrived in Hayle harbour. Beginning on Monday November 4th, 1839, five to ten thousand Chartist sympathisers marched on Newport determined to free fellow Chartists who were believed to be detained in the Westgate Hotel.

At least 22 Chartists were killed when the troops fired on them after the reading of the Riot Act.

The three leaders, John Frost, Zephaniah Williams and William Jones were the last men in Britain to be sentenced to be hung, drawn and quartered but had been reprieved and sentenced to transportation for life. They arrived in Hayle on their way from Newport to a prison ship in Portsmouth prior to transportation.

Williams earned a fortune from the coal industry in Tasmania and after all three were pardoned (May 3rd, 1856) he and Frost returned to England. Jones remained in Tasmania working as a watchmaker but was unsuccessful and died in poverty. Zephaniah Jones settled in Launceston where he died in 1874 and he is buried in East Devonport.
Robert Edwin Phillips (1895 – 1968), Cornish by adoption, was awarded the Victoria Cross (25th January 1917) whilst serving with the 13th Battalion of the Warwickshire Regiment in Mesopotamia.

Lieutenant Phillips went to the assistance of his mortally wounded commanding officer (Edward Elers Delaval Henderson) who was lying in the open and brought him back to their lines. For his actions he was also awarded the Légion d'honneur by France and promoted to Captain. Determined to remain in action, the newly promoted Captain Phillips was attached to, the newly-formed, Royal Air Force for pilot training but this service was cut short when, whilst on leave, 1918, the armistice was signed.

On this day in 1919 Captain Phillips was decommissioned and, upon resuming civilian life, worked for the Inland Revenue, variously in Devon and Cornwall, Britain, Malaya and Swaziland.

When the statue of Field Marshal Earl Haig was unveiled in Whitehall in November 1937, Phillips was one of four VCs who formed the Guard of Honour. Captain Phillips died in St. Veep on September 23rd, 1968 and he is buried in Lostwithiel Churchyard.
Sir Goldsworthy Gurney (1793 – 1875) was born on this day in 1793 in St. Merryn. He became renowned as a surgeon, chemist, architect, lecturer and inventor. Gurney’s inventions famously included, theatrical limelight, as well as, industrially, the oxy-hydrogen blowpipe which he later adapted to create a new form of illumination, the Bude light, a cheap way of producing an intensely bright light which was first trialled in the House of Commons and remained in use in the House for 50 years. Limelight was developed through his fairly arbitrary method of dropping different substances on his blowpipe but this did lead to the theatrical term ‘in the limelight’. He also developed a series of steam-powered road vehicles (pictured above) which were an economic failure but he was more successful with his heating appliance, the Gurney Stove. In 1820, apparently frustrated with his rural life in Cornwall he moved his family to London where, having trained in medicine in Wadebridge, he worked as a surgeon. Continuing his fascination with chemistry science he became famous for a series of lectures to the Surrey Institution.

In 1830, Gurney leased a plot of land overlooking Summerleaze Beach in Bude and constructed a new house, Bude Castle, which although slightly extended remains pretty much the same as when it was built.
On this day in 1681, on the basis of 90 public voters, John Tanner was re-elected having been a Member of Parliament for the previous twenty-one years.

Grampound was one of the so-called rotten boroughs where the Parliamentary membership was in the gift of two families: the Herles of Prideaux (in the Luxulyan valley) and the Tanners of Courte (three miles from Grampound itself) both of which were controlled by Edward Boscawen of Tregothnan (east of Truro). Boscawen had married into the Godolphin family (west of Helston) consolidating both his wealth and his influence in the county.

At this time, Cornwall returned an extraordinary 44 members to the Commons, of whom two were County MPs. The requirements for eligibility to vote were extremely tight and elections were held in public. Those few electors who did not choose the patron’s favoured candidate were made to pay in terms of wealth, opportunity and their position in polite society.
February

1878 Pamela Colman, ‘Pixie’, Smith (Birth) 16th

Writer, artist and occultist, Pamela Colman, ‘Pixie’ Smith was one of the most extraordinary people to ever live in Cornwall.

Born in Pimlico, Pixie was the only child of a New York businessman, Charles Edward Smith, and Corinne Colman, sister of the painter Samuel Colman. The family resided in Manchester until Pixie was seven years old when they moved to Kingston, Jamaica. When Pixie was fifteen, the family moved to Brooklyn where she studied art during which time her mother died. She became a freelance illustrator with her work including illustrating works by W.B. Yeats and Bram Stoker and became an orphan when her father died in 1889, just before she reached her legal majority. Pixie returned to England and worked as a theatrical designer with Sir Henry Irving, Ellen Terry and Bram Stoker. It has been claimed that Ellen Terry nicknamed her ‘Pixie’, a name she loved and retained. In 1907, Pixie had a one woman exhibition in New York but commercial success eluded her. She was already friendly with W. B. Yeats and his painter brother, Jack, who introduced her to, the occultist, Arthur Edward Waite who contracted her to design a modern set of tarot cards. The result was the 78-card Waite-Smith tarot deck which remains the most commonly used set today. In 1911, Pixie converted to Catholicism and, at the end of World War I, she used an inheritance to buy a house at The Lizard. Turning part of it into a retirement home for Catholic priests bankrupted her and she ended her days living in poverty in Bude.
February

John Coulson Tregarthen (Death) 1854

Penzance – born John Coulson Tregarthen (1854 – 1933) was a naturalist and writer whose inspiration came from his Scilly – born mother, Susan Bevan.

A very talented mathematician, Tregarthen graduated from London University and became a teacher at Trinity College School in Stratford-upon-Avon. He bought the school and was its headmaster between 1885 and 1900 when he sold it and retired back to Penzance. Retirement enabled Tregarthen to pursue, and write about, his naturalist interests.

Between 1927 and 1929, Tregarthen was President of the Royal Institution of Cornwall (February 5th) and was made a Bard of the Cornish Gorsedd, taking the bardic name Mylgarer meaning ‘Lover of Wild Animals’.


John Penrose is written within the great tradition of Victorian and Edwardian adventure novels epitomised by John Buchan and Sir Arthur Quiller-Couch (May 12th) and tells of the adventures of a farm boy who gets involved in poaching and smuggling, with very rich descriptions of the countryside and wildlife and farming customs.
Professor William Grylls Adams FRS, the brother of the discoverer of the planet Neptune, John Couch Adams (January 21st) was a pioneer in scientific education but is most famous for his discovery that a ray of light could generate an electric current and is credited with the discovery of solar power and being the inventor of the solar cell.

Educated at Cambridge (St. John’s College) he worked as vice-principal of Peterborough Training College (1859) and mathematics master at Marlborough College (1860 – 1863) before moving to King's College, London as a lecturer in natural philosophy where he worked under James Clerk Maxwell, the world famous mathematician who reconciled magnetic and electric fields to explain the formation of electromagnetic radiation.

Learning of the work of Alexandre Becquerel (1820–1891), father of Henri Becquerel (the discoverer of radioactivity) who had discovered that illuminating one of a pair of plates of different metals in dilute acid changed the electromotive force (EMF), Adams went on to determine that light shone on selenium generated an electric current. This was the first discovery of solar power and led Adams to invent the very first solar cell. That he was a visionary as well as practising scientist is demonstrated by the very first suggestion that solar power could transform life in India with his publication ‘Solar Heat: A Substitute Fuel for Tropical Countries, Bombay’ (1878).
On this day in 1967, the SS Torrey Canyon, a 110,000 tonne oil tanker left Kuwait bound for Milford Haven. One month later, on March 18th, 1967, she was wrecked on the Seven Stones reef between the Cornish mainland and Scilly, becoming the largest shipwreck recorded at the time and which also became the biggest maritime environmental disaster to date.

Two days later, the Torrey Canyon began to break up and started leaking her cargo of crude oil. In an attempt to prevent an environmental disaster, the vessel was bombed as well as bombarded with kerosene to burn away the oil. The attempt to burn the cargo was defeated by the high tides and so the government resorted to dropping napalm in order to reignite the fire. It took 1,500 tonnes of napalm and 10,000 gallons of kerosene to sink the ship and partially destroy the cargo but it did not prevent severe environmental damage with oil reaching Guernsey a week after the ship was wrecked and then the French coast. In total, about 120 miles of the Cornish coastline and 50 miles of the French coast were contaminated and thousands of seabirds were killed. In retrospect, it became apparent that much damage was the result of the heavy use of detergents to disperse the oil and the pouring of these dispersants from clifftops to inaccessible coves. Bulldozers were used to remove contaminants but succeeded merely in digging it into the sand in Cornwall and on Guernsey where it was still visible years later and, even now, some has yet to be removed.
German – born Karl Martin Weschke (1925 – 2005), was a member of the Hitler Youth and joined the Luftwaffe in 1942 and, captured in 1944, spent the rest of the war in a Scottish prisoner of war having been captured after his first parachute jump. On release (1948), he worked as a stonemason in Soho and met Bryan Wynter (September 8th) who encouraged him to move to Cornwall which he did in 1955 setting up home at Cape Cornwall, becoming close friends with Roger Hilton (April 30th), the poet W.S. Graham (November 19th) and Francis Bacon who had stayed in St. Ives for six months. Weschke’s work was strongly linked to his immediate environment and the landscape was often a setting for his work, and often included animals standing in for humans. Much of his work depicted his love of isolation and the effect of such as the human condition, often with humans feeling alienated as exemplified by ‘The Fire-Eater with Spectators’ (pictured left). Other works were related to personal experiences, demonstrated by ‘Body on the Beach’ (1977), pictured right, which was inspired by an accident on a cliff resulting in a serious fall onto the sand.

After forty years living in Cape Cornwall and having presented numerous solo exhibitions, Weschke died on this day in 2005.
On this day in 1897, Annie Eliza Warren of Newlyn married Jack Webb a miner of Camborne. When Annie’s father died, she moved with her family to Gwavas Terrace, three doors away from a house that rented rooms to visiting artists. In 1883, Annie Eliza became a regular model for Walter Langley (March 21st), earning 6d per hour.

She is depicted in one of Langley’s most famous works ‘*But men must work, and women must weep*’ as the young, seated, woman who is waiting with an old woman for her fisherman husband to return home safely. In his diary, Langley recorded paying Annie 2/6d indicating she had sat for five hours.

The title of this wonderful picture is taken from the poem ‘*The Three Fishers*’, by Charles Kingsley (June 12th) and whose first verse reads:

‘Three fishers went sailing away to the west,
Away to the west as the sun went down;
Each thought on the woman who loved him the best,
And the children stood watching them out of the town;
But men must work, and women must weep.’
On February 22nd, Prince Henry, the 52-day old son of Catherine of Aragon and King Henry VIII died suddenly. Henry and Catherine had only been married for eighteen months when their son, Henry ('Hal'), was born in the early hours of January 1st, 1511. Named after his father and grandfather, the baby was immediately styled the Duke of Cornwall. The Duchy of Cornwall is England’s premier dukedom since it was the first to have been created and is always awarded to the heir apparent to the throne.

The country went wild with news of the birth. Across the country, there were bonfires, banquets, cannons were fired, bells were rung and fountains with filled with wine and the largest jousting tournament ever was staged in England. Prince Hal was baptised at the Chapel of the Observant Friars when he was four days old at Richmond with King Louis XII of France named as one of his godfathers although he did not attend the service. As one born to rule, the baby was guarded by forty men at arms and attended by a permanent physician, grooms and four gentlemen ‘rockers’ whose single role was to rock the cradle.

There was no explanation for Prince Hal’s sudden death but it became of huge significance since it led to the divorce of Henry and Catherine following her failure to produce another male heir.
Today marks the death, in 1815, of the renowned, Penryn-born pioneer of steam power, **Jonathan Hornblower** (1753 – 1815).

Hornblower, the son and brother of two other renowned steam power pioneers, invented the *reciprocating compound engine* which had two cylinders, one high and one low pressure. With the principle that steam contracts in the high-pressure cylinder and subsequently expands in the low-pressure cylinder this greatly increased the efficiency of steam engines but his invention was alleged to have infringed a patent held by James Watt.

Subsequently, Hornblower devised a new kind of rotary engine but, again, was accused of infringing James Watt’s intellectual property. Moving into slightly different areas, Hornblower devised a valve which used a minimal amount of force to operate against high pressure. This was so effective that it became a standard component in railway locomotives, paddle steamers.
February

1899  William Bickford Smith (Death)  24th

Truro–born William Bickford–Smith (1827 – 1899) who died on this day in 1899 was an English fuse manufacturer and politician who represented Truro in the House of Commons from 1885 to 1892.

His grandfather, William Bickford, had made his fortune through his invention of a rope-based mining fuse which was safer than previous fuses. The grandson and son of successful entrepreneurs, Bickford-Smith was also the founding chairman of the Helston Railway. Born Smith, he double – barrelled his surname as a condition of receiving his inheritance from his grandfather. Bickford-Smith is remembered for his purchase of the Trevarno Estate, whose gardens he developed, and for funding, in 1882, the famous Bickford-Smith Institute (pictured below) in Porthleven, which, famous for its 70-foot clock tower, was built as a scientific and literary institute and incorporated a lending library.
February

Born on this day in 1849, Charles Campbell Ross (1849 - 1920) was a Penzance banker and politician who vanished from Cornish society to avoid bankruptcy only to resurface as the first curator of the Whitechapel Gallery in London.

The grandson of one of the founders of the first Penzance bank, Joseph Carne (Batten, Carne and Carne), Ross served as mayor of Penzance five times in the late 1870s and early 1880s and was Member of Parliament for St. Ives (1881–1885). A wealthy man who built Morrab House and estate (now Morrab Library and Morrab Gardens), Ross became engulfed in scandal when the bank failed. Accused of fraud he disappeared and turned up in London where he became the first curator of the renowned Whitechapel Art Gallery which expanded into an adjacent building that was constructed through the largesse of John Passmore Edwards (March 24th).

Whitechapel Gallery and the adjacent Passmore Edwards Library

Ross’ lasting gift to Penzance is the Ross Bridge, which permits transit between the harbour and the dry dock.
Landrake – born Sir Robert Geffery, who died on this day in 1691, was a famous businessman who made his fortune by investing in the East India Company. In 1646, he was admitted into the Livery of the Ironmongers’ Company, becoming Master of the Company in 1667.

In 1673, he became Sheriff of London and was also knighted. Serving a second term as Master of the Ironmongers’ Company and, nominated as Master for a second term in 1685, he then became Lord Mayor of London in 1686, making him one of the most influential men in the country.

In his will, Geffery left vast sums to charities including funding a school in Landrake as well as £400 to the Ironmongers’ Company ‘to invest the same and pay the income to the Rector of St. Dionis [London] to read prayers twice every day of the week’. In 1876, the Church of St. Dionis was demolished and the remainder of the legacy was paid to the Royal Hospitals. He also endowed his home village and other villages to support the parish poor, which continued until 1964 when nobody came forward to request alms. Today, the Sir Robert Geffery Trust owns two sets of almshouses in Hampshire accommodating 125 people of limited means.
On Sunday, 27th February 1858, the first Cornish iron steamship, The Cornubia, was launched at Hayle to provide a packet and passenger service between Hayle and Bristol.

Due to other transport developments, it transpired that The Cornubia was the only iron passenger ship constructed in Cornwall. Of five hundred tonnage and two hundred feet in length, the Cornubia could carry 60 saloon passengers and she entered regular service on July 8th, 1858. Her maiden journey was rather eventful as she ran aground near Bristol and then collided with a French ship on her return.

Although an innovative ship, Cornubia’s service was brief due to the opening of the Royal Albert Bridge across the Tamar (May 4th, 1859) permitting travel between Penzance and Paddington without making any changes.

The Cornubia was sold and, after brief service between Southampton and Lisbon, she was sold to America and became a blockade-runner for the Confederate States in the American Civil War.
Cornish-bred **Crawford Atchison Denman Pasco** (1818-1898), who was the son of Rear Admiral John Pasco (November 16th) who had been responsible for signalling Nelson’s message that ‘*England expects every man will do his duty*’ at Trafalgar died on this day in 1898.

At the age of 12, Crawford became a midshipman on *HMS Nimrod* and served off Portugal, Peru and Chile before being transferred to the *Beagle* (1839) where he was part of the voyage which discovered the *Adelaide* and *Victoria* Rivers.

On his return to England in 1843, Pasco was appointed to the *Vestal*, and sailed to the Far East via America.

Upon retirement from the Navy, Pasco settled in Victoria where he was appointed magistrate and organised the Victoria coastal police force.

He was instrumental in having convicts removed from prison hulks and transferred to Melbourne Gaol and then on, their release, to purpose built accommodation to rebuild their lives.
Derek Alan Trevithick Tangye (1912 – 1998) was a British author who lived on the Penwith coast for nearly fifty years.

His series of books, ‘The Minack Chronicles’, about his simple life on a clifftop daffodil farm called Dorminack, but known as Minack, with his wife Jeannie (Jean Everald Nicol).

The son of the engineer, Sir Richard Trevithick Tangye (November 24th), Derek Tangye had two older brothers one of whom, Nigel Tangye, was also a writer.

Following war service with MI5, Tangye became a newspaper columnist while his wife worked in public relations. The first of ‘The Minack Chronicles’ was ‘A Gull on the Roof’ (1961) and a further 18 volumes were published on a roughly bi-annual basis. Although most books detailed his life in Cornwall, one book ‘A Cottage on a Cliff’ also records details of Tangye’s career with MI5.

Jeannie died in 1986. Shortly before her death, the couple bought 18 acres of fields adjacent to their cottage and created ‘The Derek and Jeannie Tangye Minack Chronicles Nature Trust’ which administers the land as a nature reserve.
March
Clara Coltman (C.C.) Rogers was born in 1885 on the family ranch in Queensland. Although situated on the coast, overlooking the Great Barrier reef, the cattle ranch was also unbelievably remote with the nearest town 120 miles away whilst the neighbouring ranch house was an extraordinary 100 miles distant.

Rogers was a member of the Williams family of Caerhays, Scorrier and Burncoose which had made an enormous fortune from mining and agriculture but who were also famous for their gardens and horticultural expertise. She was a descendant of the noted mineralogist, John Williams (August 3rd) and was also related to the man who purchased the near derelict Caerhays Castle some decades after its builder, John Bettesworth-Trevanion (March 8th) had fled to the continent to avoid the social and financial ruin of bankruptcy. In 1887, the family returned to Cornwall, leaving the ranch in the hands of Clara’s brother, Michael. Clara’s father, Edward Powys Rogers was a member of the Coltman Rogers family of Stanage Park in Powys, famous for its crenellated mansion and which remains in the hands of the same family. Clara spent a great deal of her time with her relatives. Educated at home by a governess but with her schooling interrupted by periodic returns to Queensland for up to six months at a time, Clara studied at the Women’s University Settlement (founded by Henrietta Barnett in 1887 with the aim ‘to promote the welfare of the people of the
poorer districts of London and especially of the women and children’) and then became a social worker in the same area.

She returned to Scorrier House in 1914 as one sister, Harriet was to marry and her younger sister Naomi was, being under 20, deemed too young apparently to be the ‘Home Daughter’. Tragically, Naomi died of pneumonia the same year. The grieving family went on a European tour and were on the continent when the First World War was declared. One of the first casualties of the war was Clara’s brother Harry who was killed in action at the Battle of Coronel and died less than six months after his sister. Clara became a war nurse at Touen and it was here that she met her future husband, Sir Courtenay Bourchier Vyvyan 10th Baronet, of Trelowarren who was twenty-seven years her elder. After the war, Clara travelled across Canada and submitted articles for publication whose success encouraged her to start writing in earnest. She married Sir Courtenay Vyvyan in 1929 and inherited Trelowarren from her husband when he died 12 years later (1941) at a time when the, requisitioned, house was used by American soldiers. Two of her closest friends were Daphne du Maurier (May 13th) who used Trelowarren as the setting for ‘Frenchman’s Creek’ and for the Manderley gardens in ‘Rebecca’ and Foy Quiller Couch, daughter of ‘Q’ (May 12th). Most famous for her gently written books on nature and the Cornish countryside, C.C. Rogers published twenty three books of which her most renowned and loved include ‘Echoes in Cornwall’ (1926), ‘The Scilly Isles’ (1953), ‘The Old Place’ (1952) ‘The Helford River’ (1956), and ‘Letters From a Cornish Garden’ (1972) She also published travel books including ‘On Timeless Shores: Journeys Around Ireland’ (1957) and ‘Down the Rhone on Foot’ (1955).
St. Mawes – bred Lieutenant Commander Robert Peverell Hichens, DSO & Bar, DSC & Two Bars (1909 – 1943) was the most highly decorated officer of the Royal Navy Volunteer Reserve having been awarded two Distinguished Service Orders, three Distinguished Service Crosses and three Mentions in Despatches. He was also recommended for a Victoria Cross after being killed in action in April 1943.

Born in Northampton, Hichens’s family moved to St. Mawes when his father, Dr. Peverell Smythe Hichens, was posted to France in 1914. He was educated at Marlborough and Magdalen College, Oxford.

A very talented sportsman he had, by the start of the Second World War, competed once in the Henley Regatta, three times in the Fastnet race and participated in the 24 Hour Le Mans race three times.

During the Second World War, he rose in rank to become a Lieutenant Commander, commanding gunboat flotillas.

After his father’s death in 1930 the Hichens family returned to Cornwall, purchasing Bodrennick House in Flushing and Hichens began training to be a solicitor also joining, in 1936, the Royal Naval Volunteer Supplementary Reserve which was comprised of skilled yachtsmen considered to be suitable for a commission.
In the early years of the Second World War, Hichens served on minesweepers and, posted to *HMS Niger* he participated in the evacuation of the army from the Dunkirk jetty. He remained in Dunkirk when the Niger departed with its full complement of Dunkirk survivors. Although given permission to remain in Dunkirk he was informed that he would have to find his own way back to England. For this work he was awarded his first DSC and, in 1941, he was promoted to Lieutenant Commander and given command of the 6th Motor Gunboat Flotilla. Patrolling off the Hook of Holland, his flotilla damaged five E-boats returning to port and captured one of them, boarding it to retrieve information and equipment before it sank. For this Hichens was awarded a bar to his DSC. On the night of 21st April 1942, his flotilla engaged six E-boats off Ostend, forcing them to disperse and he was subsequently awarded his first Distinguished Service Order. Appointed to command the newly formed 8th Motor Gunboat Flotilla, his boats engaged two trawlers escorting an oil tanker which they destroyed with a depth charge attack earning him a bar to his DSO. In September 1942, Hichens ordered an engagement with four trawlers protecting another convoy for which he received the second bar to his DSC.

Hichens’s brilliant career was cut tragically short on the night of April 12th, 1943 when he was killed on the bridge of his boat whilst his flotilla was engaging a convoy. He was recommended for a posthumous VC but this was refused on his own grounds since, offered one earlier in the war, he had asked for the award to be cancelled as he felt guilty having out his crews at risk. The Admiralty chose to respect his views and did not award the VC.
Truro – born **John Clarke Isaac Uren** (1845 - 1932) was a renowned seascape painter.

![Collecting the Catch (1878)](image)

**Collecting the Catch (1878)**

Trained at Penzance School of Art, he exhibited across Britain as well as in Canada and New Zealand. Originally right handed, Uren switched painting hands following an accident to his right shoulder. Critics noted that he ‘switched hands with no noticeable loss of ability or quality’.

Living in Hampstead when the First World War broke out, Uren was, like all artists, banned from painting outdoors especially on the coast. If they flouted this law then they put themselves at risk of arrest for espionage but he was able to resume after the armistice.

He spent the war and the rest of his life in Penzance where he died on this day in 1932.
Joseph Hocking (1860 – 1937), born in St. Stephen-in-Brannel near St. Austell, was a novelist and minister in the United Methodist Free Church.

The son of a mine owner, Hocking was ordained when he was 24 and worked in many parts of Britain, as well as in the Middle East, acquiring a reputation for his preaching and sermons. At the same time, he started writing fiction which he believed to be a very effective method of conveying his Christian beliefs.

Ill health forced him to resign the ministry in 1909 and he then devoted himself to his writing. He is believed to have written over one hundred books and, although many are now largely forgotten, he was extremely popular in the first decades of the 20th century. He was a member of an extremely accomplished literary family. His brother was Silas Hocking (15th September) who became the first writer to sell over half a million copies of his works in his own lifetime and his sister was the novelist Salome Hocking (10th April). All three of his daughters (Anne Hocking, Elizabeth Nisot and Joan Shill) became successful novelists. Hocking’s most popular works were ‘Harry Penhale: The Trial of his Faith’ (1887), ‘Lest We Forget’ (1901), ‘Follow the gleam: a tale of the time of Oliver Cromwell’ (1903) and ‘The Bells of St Ia’ (1911).

He died in St Ives, having been married to Annie Brown for 50 years.
Today is the feast day of **St. Piran**, the Patron Saint of Cornwall and of tinners. Traditionally said to have been a 5th century abbot, he has been tentatively identified as, the Irish Saint, Ciarán of Saigir.

Legend tells that Piran was tied to a millstone and thrown off a cliff into a stormy sea by Irish heathens who objected to his Christian message. The sea immediately became calm and the millstone turned into a leaf. The saint landed at Penhale Sands near Perranzabuloe where he built an oratory and established himself as a hermit. This led to his veneration and belief in his ability as a miracle worker. Piran ‘rediscovered’ the smelting of tin when his hearthstone, a slab of tin-bearing ore, produced molten tin which rose to the top in the form of a white cross becoming the inspiration for St. Piran’s Flag. Over time, the shifting sands led to abandonment of the oratory and a small church was constructed further up the sand dunes. This, in turn, was dismantled in the 19th century and a third church was built two miles inland using the same stone and some of its carvings and bench ends.
March

6th Davies Gilbert PRS (Birth) 1767

Born on this day in 1767 as Davies Giddy, the St. Erth – born Davies Gilbert PRS (1767 – 1839) was an engineer, author, historian, hymn collator and politician.

The son of Rev. Edward Giddy of St. Erth, he was the second son to be named Davies; his elder brother having been born the year before dying within one day. This may seem very strange to us these days but, then, it was very common and even John Wesley (June 17th) was the second of his parents’ sons to be called John after his elder brother died in infancy.

The Giddy family lived in the prestigious Chapel Street in Penzance until 1780 when his mother, Catherine, inherited her family home of Tredrea Manor Farm in St Erth. On April 18th, 1808, he married Mary Ann Gilbert and, in 1816, he took his wife’s surname to secure his wife’s inheritance of property in Eastbourne.

Davies had interests in many fields and was elected to the Royal Society in 1791, which he served as President (PRS) from 1827 to 1830 and was the founding President of the Royal Geological Society of Penzance (February 11th). Together with the Rev. Malachy Hitchins (18th May) he supported and encouraged, the Ludgvan-born Humphry Davy (May 29th), in his studies also convincing, the famous physician, Thomas Beddoes to employ Davy as his laboratory assistant in Bristol.
March

Renowned for his mathematical skills, he worked closely with pioneers such as Jonathan Hornblower (February 23rd) but also had a deep and abiding interest in Cornish history, antiquities and Cornish Christmas carols. Davies had discovered a Celtic cross near Truro and, in 1817, removed it to Eastbourne to use as a gatepost. It is now in the churchyard of St. Mary’s Church, Eastbourne. Gilbert published ‘A Parochial History of Cornwall’ in four volumes as well as ‘Some Ancient Christmas Carols’ (1822). This collection was the first collection of carols to be published in Victorian times and in the introduction he noted that they were sung in private homes on Christmas Eve and then in Church on Christmas Day.

Davies Gilbert served as Member of Parliament for Helston (1804 – 1806) and then Bodmin (1806 – 1832) and unlike many Cornish gentry, was opposed to mass education during his time in parliament. When the Parochial Schools Bill (1807) was debated in the Commons, Gilbert warned that ‘giving education to the poor labouring classes would be found to be prejudicial to their morals and happiness, would teach them to despise their lot in life, instead of making them good servants in agriculture and other laborious employments to which their rank in society had destined them; teaching them against the virtue of subordination, render them factious and enable them to read seditious pamphlets, vicious books and publications against Christianity.’ The bill failed to pass on the grounds of expense of providing the parochial schools.

Gilbert died in Eastbourne on Christmas Eve 1839, survived by his wife, three daughters, and a son.
Horace Augustus Curtis VC (1891 – 1968) was born on this day in 1891 in St. Anthony-in-Roseland (July 26th). Enlisting as soon as war broke out in August 1914, Curtis joined The Duke of Cornwall’s Light Infantry at Bodmin but was almost immediately transferred to the 7th Battalion of the Royal Dublin Fusiliers due to the lack of Irish volunteers signing up.

Curtis' division embarked for Gallipoli from Devonport on 11th July 1915, landing on Suvla Bay, Gallipoli on 7th August 1915. At Gallipoli, three quarters of his division was was either killed or wounded but Curtis survived unscathed and was posted to Salonica and then to Palestine (1917) before returning to Egypt in order to support French forces. After home leave, his first in four years, Curtis fought on the Western Front at The Battle of Le Cateau in an action that led to the award of his Victoria Cross for, according to his citation:- ‘When in attack his platoon came unexpectedly under intense machine-gun fire. Realising that the attack would fail unless the enemy guns were silenced, Sgt Curtis, without hesitation, rushed forward through our own barrage and the enemy fire and killed and wounded the teams of two of the guns, whereupon the remaining four guns surrendered. Then turning his attention to a train-load of reinforcements, he succeeded in capturing over 100 enemy before his comrades joined him. His valour and disregard of danger inspired all.’
John Trevanion Purnell Bettesworth - Trevanion (1780–1840) inherited Caerhays Castle from his father, rebuilding it in a gothic style.

The expensive works led to his financial ruin and he fled to France and then Belgium to avoid the stigma of bankruptcy.

Born at St Michael Caerhays, he was the eldest son of John Bettesworth and was educated at Winchester College and Eton College. Appointed High Sheriff of Cornwall in 1804 he served as Member of Parliament for Penryn in 1807. His tenure must be one of the shortest ever. Contesting the seat at 1806 general election he was defeated by Sir Christopher Hawkins (April 6th) but the electoral result was overturned in February 1807, due to electoral fraud and he held the seat until the general election in May 1807, in other words for a mere three months. He was also Lieutenant Colonel in the Reserve Cornwall militia, which was formed to defend the Cornish coast in the event of the feared French invasion. On receiving his inheritance, Bettesworth-Trevanion employed John Nash to rebuild Caerhays. Construction began in 1807 and when finished three years later, Bettesworth-Trevanion was financially ruined and fled to Paris. He died in Brussels in 1840.
March

9th George Fagan Bradshaw (DSO action) 1917

One of the greatest Cornish maritime artists of his generation, George Fagan Bradshaw DSO (1887-1960) settled in St Ives after World War I after service as a submariner, which saw him awarded the Distinguished Service Order (DSO) for his action on this day in 1917 but also, later, court martialed.

Joining the Naval training ship in Dartmouth, HMS Britannia, at the age of fourteen he served in Malta between 1912 and 1913 and was given command of his first submarine in February 1914 until August 1916 when he was given command of a larger, fast and better armed boat and posted to patrol the waters of Scotland and Norway. On this day in 1916, he torpedoed SM UC-43, a German minelaying U-boat for which achievement he was awarded his DSO. He also claimed to have sunk a commercial submarine, the Bremen, in September 1921 but was not credited with the kill as it was simply recorded as missing.

In November 1918 his latest command, HMS G-11, ran aground near Howick with the loss of two men. Whilst the official cause was stated as faulty equipment, a second incident, when his new boat, HMS K-15 sank through a design fault, he was subjected to, but acquitted at, a court martial. When informed he would be given no new command he resigned his commission and moved to St. Ives and spent the rest of his life there, painting. His most famous work is ‘On Patrol 1914-1918’ (pictured above).
On this day in 1882, Dr. Frederick William Pearce Jago (1838 – 1892), a Bodmin physician, published ‘The Ancient Language and the Dialect of Cornwall’. In his magisterial volume, Jago described the history and causes of the decline of the Cornish language, included a Cornish – English dictionary and described dialectical variations of the Cornish language, compared medieval Cornish words with the works of Geoffrey Chaucer and identified common English words which were included in the dialects of the Cornish language.

He also wrote extensively about Dolly Pentreath (December 26th), claimed to have been the last native speaker of the Cornish language, and records the events in 1860 when Napoleon Bonaparte’s nephew, Prince Louis Lucien Bonaparte, and the then Vicar of Paul, Rev. John Garret, unveiled a memorial stone in Paul Churchyard. Prince Louis Lucien Bonaparte (1813 – 1891) was born in England but he was educated in Italy. He did not actually visit France until 1848 and, after the Franco-Prussian War, lived in London until his death. He is the first of two members of the Bonaparte family to be closely associated with Cornwall, the second being Elisina Palamidessi de Castelvecchio, a great great niece of Napoleon Bonaparte who was the first wife of Grant Richards (October 21st) and who spent some years living on the Lizard Peninsula.
This day marks the death of the Boconnoc-born Thomas Pitt, 2nd Baron Camelford (1775 – 1804), a naval officer and wastrel, best known for the troubles he caused George Vancouver during and after that explorer’s great voyage and for the manner of his death.

Pitt signed on to serve as an able seaman on HMS Discovery. In Tahiti, Pitt was flogged for trying to trade a broken piece of iron for an island woman and was flogged again for unauthorised trading and for breaking the glass cover of a compass. He was also placed in irons for sleeping whilst on watch. Left in Hawaii by the captain of his next ship, HMS Resistance, he did eventually make his way back to England. Pitt’s relatives and peers treated Vancouver badly and Pitt challenged him to a duel. When Vancouver refused on the grounds that his duties in a public role could not be resolved privately, Pitt stalked and assaulted him in London. Subsequently, Pitt was court martialed for shooting dead a different fellow officer but was acquitted.

Following his resignation from the Navy, Pitt quarrelled with a friend, Captain Best RN resulting in a duel (7th 1804) with pistols.

Pitt missed his target but was mortally wounded by Best and died three days later and, having no heir, the title became extinct.
March

1697  Moses Pitt, Anne Jefferies and the Faeries 12th

St. Teath – born Moses Pitt (1639–1697) who died on this day in 1697 was a bookseller and printer known for the production of his ‘Atlas of the World’, his volume ‘The Cry of the Oppressed’ (1691) describing the conditions in debtors’ prisons and for retelling the account of Anne Jefferies (also St. Teath born) of her supposed abduction by the faeries.

Intended to be a 12-volume work, Pitt’s Atlas eventually amounted to only four of which only one of each was ever produced due to the estimated cost of £1000 per volume. The Atlas project led to Pitt’s bankruptcy and he was confined to a debtors’ prison for seven years, resulting in his exposure of the prison’s conditions.

Anne Jefferies was a servant in Pitt’s household and, in a letter, he recounted her tale of meeting the faeries when in the garden. Anne claimed that she heard some voice and some ‘little gentlemen’ but that she suddenly went blind and found herself flying through the air.

Hearing the chant:-,

‘Faerie fair and faerie bright;  
Come and be my chosen sprite’

she opened her eyes to find that the faeries were the same size as her and were dressed in bejewelled outfits. They started arguing for her attentions but eventually she awoke to find herself still in the garden having apparently suffered a fit.
March

13th

Jack Penhale (Birth) 1903

‘Lucky or unlucky?’

Carnyorth – born Raymond Harry (1903 – 1976) was born on this day but wrote as Jack Penhale (and hereafter referred to as Penhale) and questioned if being born on Friday, the 13th made him lucky or unlucky.

The fourth of the seven children of William Thomas Harry and Mary Bennetts Harry he began work as a tin miner at the Levant Mine which was controlled by Captain Francis Oats (September 1st) and was present on the day of the Levant Mining Disaster (October 20th) and also when four trammers were killed in August 1920. Deciding to make a new life elsewhere, Penhale emigrated to Canada the same year and lived there for eight years returning to Carnyorth in 1928.

He became famous for his eight part serial published in 1961 in ‘The Cornish Magazine’ established by Denys Val Baker (October 24th) and which was subsequently compiled as a ‘The Mine Under the Sea’.

Fascinating for the details of working underground and the disaster, the book starts with reminiscences of his father who had emigrated to the Rand (1910) to work in the gold mines returning six years later ‘with hollow, sunken cheeks, and without lungs to breathe’ and who died the following year aged 43. This represents the fate of innumerable miners who worked in extraordinary heat, near darkness continuously breathing in dust and dirt and then having to spend up to one hour climbing ladders at the end of the shift.
On this day in 1914, **Botallack Mine** closed making 100 men redundant.

An extraordinary General Meeting of Botallack Ltd. held on 27\(^{th}\) August 1914 but it was almost a formality as production had effectively ceased months earlier with groups of miners being made redundant successively leaving, by the end, only 25 miners performing maintenance duties. A significant number of miners left to work in South Wales and, of course, within just a few months, the First World War started and many men signed up. In addition, many miners joined the famous 251\(^{st}\) Tunnelling Company (August 10\(^{th}\)), tasked with mining underneath the German lines, which was formed in Hayle in 1915.

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**Botallack Mine** *(Clarkson Frederick Stanfield (1822)*
March

15th Surrender of Royalist Forces (Tresillian) 1646

Today in 1646, the Royalist Forces in Cornwall, commanded by Sir Ralph Hopton, surrendered to the Parliamentarians under the command of General Thomas Fairfax at Tresillian Bridge.

The gentry of Civil War Cornwall was split between support or opposition to King Charles I with the west of the county significantly more Royalist than the eastern regions. In contrast, the yeomen and lower gentry across Cornwall were firmly Royalist, perhaps anticipating some form of autonomy with a Royalist victory. Many famous Royalist victories occurred in the first few years but by 1645, the county was coming under Parliamentary control with the Royalists being routed and survivors fleeing the county either abroad or to Scilly. The final decisive action was the surrender of the Royalist forces at Tresillian Bridge, an important trading port just outside Truro.
St. Austell resident **Joseph Henry Collins** FGS (1841 – 1916) was a renowned geologist, mineralogist and mining engineer, mineralogist and geologist.

Educated at The Working Mens’ College and Birkbeck College in London, Collins was at various times, President or secretary of all three of the learned societies of Cornwall: *The Royal Geological Society of Cornwall, The Royal Cornwall Polytechnic Society* and *The Royal Institution of Cornwall*. He was also the founding Secretary of the *Mineralogical Society of Great Britain and Ireland* (1876).

Collins pioneered systematic and informed exploration for china clay in the St. Austell area and spent some years as chief metallurgist for Rio Tinto mines. He wrote a number of well-respected textbooks and manuals, which became standard works in the field. The most notable are ‘*A Handbook to the Mineralogy of Cornwall and Devon*’ (1871), ‘*Principals of Metal Mining*’ (1874) and ‘*Mineralogy*’ (1877).

Married to Eliza Denny for 53 years, Collins had five sons and four daughters including William, *Bishop of Gibraltar in Europe* (1904 – 1911). Collins died at his home near St. Austell and is buried in Campdowns Cemetery. In 2008, the Mineralogical Society established ‘*The Collins Medal*’ for lifetime contribution to mineral science.
Owen Fitzpen (1582 - 1636) was born in Dorset but was brought up in Cornwall before becoming a merchant seaman at the age of ten. He became extremely wealthy through trading and married Annie Coinie in 1603 in a lavish wedding ceremony.

He moved his family to Truro and two of his sons became notable in their own right. George Fitzpen became the first Master of the Truro Grammar School (1621–1635) and then a Rector at Truro’s St. Mary’s Church, later demolished to allow construction of the Cathedral, (1635 – 1661) whilst David was an early American settler who had several descendants who became famous in the American Revolution.

In the 16th and 17th century not only did English privateers roam the seas but North African (Barbary) pirates attacked English shipping and raided Cornish coastal villages intent on looting and capturing villagers as slaves. This fate befell Fitzpen on March 24th, 1620 whilst travelling in the Mediterranean Sea and he was held captive for seven years as a slave to the Turks in Algiers. In 1627, when Fitzpen and his fellow English, French and Dutch slaves were being herded on board a slave transport ship, the captives fought a three-hour battle with their captors until the Turks surrendered the ship. Fitzpen and the other escapees sailed the corsair to Cartagena where the ship was sold for £6,000 and he made his way back to Cornwall setting up home with his family at Lamorran. Ironically, the American branch of the family, who changed the spelling of their surname to Thigpen, became wealthy through slave trading.
Bodmin – born General Sir Walter Raleigh Gilbert, one of the thirteen children of Rev. Edmund Gilbert, Vicar of Constantine, became a cadet in the Bengal Infantry, which was funded by the East India Company, in 1800 and was posted to India arriving there in October 1801.

Rising rapidly through the ranks, Gilbert was promoted to Lieutenant in 1803, Captain (1810) and became a Major in November 1820 and then Lieutenant-Colonel of the newly formed 39th Bengal Native Infantry in 1824. Further promotions came with his appointment as Major-General in June 1838 and finally Lieutenant-General in November 1851.

Gilbert made his fortune in India and became famous for his exploits in the First Anglo-Sikh War especially the battles of Ferozeshah, Mudki and Sobraon as well as at the battles of Chilianwala and Gujurat in the Second Anglo-Sikh War. Having received the Sikhs’ surrender, he pursued their Afghan allies up the Khyber Pass.

Gilbert died at the age of 60 and, in his memory; the people of Bodmin funded a 144-foot obelisk (pictured above left).
Liskeard – born **John Hawkey** joined the Royal Navy as a midshipman and, fighting in the Peninsular War, was captured and spent eleven years in captivity at Verdun. Promoted to Lieutenant whilst in captivity but with his prospects of further promotion dashed by more than a decade as a prisoner of war he joined an expedition to explore the Congo under the command of his friend and fellow Verdun captive Captain Tuckey RN. On February 16th, 1816, the expedition, in ships named *The Congo* and *Dorothy* set sail for Zaire with provisions for three months. A number of learned botanists, anatomists, horticulturalists and geologists were on board along with two African interpreters. From departure, the voyage was difficult and the boat was becalmed in the English Channel for a month but eventually reached Cape Padrone, at the mouth of the Congo, on July 6th. The transport was left a little way up and exploration began by longboat. They were met by the local ruler and hundreds of Africans, together with a Catholic priest. Proceeding up the river, they encountered an American slaver flying Swedish colours. Several Portuguese slave ships had departed on hearing of the arrival of the English. The English adventurers met many tribes and rulers and attempted to engage in some trade but the suspicious locals believed the English were only interested in slaving. On returning, the explorers were struck down by sickness and many of the party died. When the survivors reached *The Congo* they found it had been largely broken up to make coffins but *Dorothy* was sound. Sadly, however, Hawkey died on October 6th.
Leeds – born Patrick Heron CBE (1920 – 1999) was a world famous abstract artist, critic and writer painter who grew up in Cornwall from the age of five and settled in Zennor. He is regarded as one of the leading painters of his generation.

The eldest child of Thomas Milner Heron and Eulalie Mabel Davies, the family moved to Zennor when Heron’s father was appointed to expand Alec Walker’s Crysède company from wood-block printed silk to include garments and to expand the retail side of the business. They lived in the Eagle’s Nest which had been the home of Ka Cox (May 21st) and William Arnold – Forster (October 8th) which had, probably completely, untrue connections with Aleister Crowley and the occult. In 1929, the family moved to Welwyn Garden City and established the famous company, Cresta Silks.

After the second World War, in which he registered as a conscientious objector, Heron moved to St. Ives and worked for Bernard Leach (May 6th) and during this time met and collaborated with the artists of the St Ives School, notably Barbara Hepworth (May 20th) and Ben Nicholson (February 6th). In 1956, he settled permanently at his childhood home, the Eagle’s Nest, which he bought from Mark Arnold – Forster the son of Ka Cox and William Arnold – Forster. Mark Arnold – Forster did not live in Cornwall after his childhood but became famous for the 1970s televisions series ‘The World at War’ which was narrated by
March

Laurence Olivier. In 1945, Heron married Delia Reiss, the daughter of Richard Reiss who was instrumental in the founding of Welwyn Garden City.

Heron’s work was heavily influenced by the works of Matisse and Cézanne and he worked in a variety of media ranging from silk to stained glass, designing a window for the Tate St Ives but became most famous for his work in oils and gouache. His first solo exhibition was at the, commercial, Redfern Gallery (1947) when he also began exhibiting as a portraitist. One, a painting of T.S. Eliot, has been displayed in the National Portrait Gallery since 1966. With the departure of Ben Nicholson in 1958, Heron took over his Porthmeor Studio (St Ives) and used the extra space to create larger paintings often many square feet in area.

Heron also became known for his writing as an art critic as he could write from the artist’s perspective as well as the viewer’s and he began series of broadcasts on the BBC World Service and the Third programme. His solo exhibitions included at galleries in New York, Zurich, London, Sydney, Edinburgh, São Paulo, Oxford and Texas.

Heron stopped painting for a while after the sudden death of his wife in 1979 but resumed a year or so later.

His politics never left him. He accepted the offer of a CBE from Harold Wilson but turned down a knighthood from Margaret Thatcher and he died at home in 1999.
The Birmingham-born painter Walter Langley (1852 – 1922) is renowned as being, with Stanhope Forbes (November 18th), the founder of the Newlyn School of artists.

After studying design in South Kensington, Langley took advantage of a commission from a Birmingham photographer to move his family to Newlyn where he began recording the life and work of the fishing community and he became noted for his social realism. His working class background enabled him to identify with the hardships suffered by the community. He is most famous for his watercolours ‘For Men Must Work and Women Must Weep’ (21st February), ‘The Three Fishers’ (1851) and ‘Another is Between The Tides’ (1901).

Middle and upper class painters who worked in oil dominated The Newlyn School was dominated and this led to Langley’s belief, held for many years, why his, indisputable, talent was under-estimated. This changed in 1892 when he switched to oils and the incredible details and textures, due partly to his lithographic skills, became recognised.

His talents were recognised by the Uffizi Gallery (Florence) and he was invited to submit a work to hang alongside works by Raphael, Rembrandt and Rubens in their collection of self-portraits of great artists.
Tynemouth – born Ernest Procter ARA (1885 – 1935), designer, illustrator and painter was the husband of Dod Procter (July 31st) and was heavily involved in the Newlyn School of Art and also worked with Harold Harvey (May 19th) to establish the Harvey-Procter School which offered offering tuition in watercolours and oils to locals and which operated throughout the 1920s.

Between 1907 and 1910, he was a student of Stanhope Forbes (November 18th) at the Forbes’ School of Painting in Newlyn and also worked as an assistant to Stanhope and his wife Elizabeth Forbes (December 29th) where he met Dod. For eight years, from 1910, Ernest and Dod studied in Paris, marrying at the church of Saint-Vincent-de-Paul. Both were influenced by Impressionism and Post-Impressionism and by the artists they became friendly with which included Renoir and Cézanne. During the First World War, Procter, a Quaker and a conscientious objector, served with the Friends’ Ambulance Unit but in 1918 the couple now with their son, Bill, returned to Newlyn. Procter concentrated on outdoor scenes including, notably, ‘The Helston Flora Dance’ (1926) and but also became renowned for his portraits with the most famous being of Sir Thomas Beecham and Frederick Delius (below left) which are in the National Portrait Gallery.
He regularly exhibited at the Royal Academy and painted the allegorical *The Zodiac* (1925, above right) which is now exhibited in The Tate Gallery.

Procter’s works became more religious in subject and he painted an altar screen for St. Mary’s Church in Penzance which, very sadly, was destroyed in the, 1985, fire at the Church.

A friend of Father Bernard Walke, Rector of St. Hilary, (June 15th) and his wife Annie Walke (July 6th), he painted the four panels to front a choir stall at St. Hilary as part of a collective effort by the close friendship group of artists, Harold Harvey (May 19th), Harold Knight (October 3rd), Dame Laura Knight (July 7th), Alethea Garstin (June 1st) and, of course, Dod Procter.

In 1934, Procter was appointed Director of Studies in Design and Craft at the Glasgow School of Art but, tragically, died a year later after suffering a stroke.
Today marks the birth of the Royalist hero of the Civil War, Sir Bevil Grenville, in 1596.

Born at Stowe, Grenville, the elder brother of Sir Richard Grenville (June 26th), served as County Member of Parliament for Cornwall in 1621 but became MP for Launceston in 1625. He was in this position when King Charles I decided to rule without Parliament in 1629. Despite, in Parliament, supporting Sir John Eliot of Port Eliot, a lifelong friend, he supported the Royalist cause in the Civil War. A very popular man he was re-elected for Launceston in 1640 until he was removed in 1642 for supporting the King.

At the outbreak of the Civil War, Grenville declared for the King and quickly displayed his military skills at the Battles of Braddock Down and the Battle of Stratton where the Parliamentarians were routed. His bodyguard was the famous Anthony Payne (July 13th) who was known as the Giant of Cornwall.

Grenville was killed at the Battle of Lansdowne as he led the Cornish infantry in attack. His death was a devastating blow to the Royalist cause as he was the natural leader of their supporters and soldiers in the county.
John Passmore Edwards (1823 – 1911) was born on this day in Blackwater to a father who was a carpenter. His mother’s maiden name was Passmore whence it became his middle name.

In 1844, Passmore Edwards became the Manchester correspondent of the ‘London Sentinel’ and then became a freelance writer, publisher and an activist for social reform.

His initial publishing ventures led to his bankruptcy in 1853 but his finances had recovered sufficiently by 1862 that he was able to purchase ‘The Building News and Engineering Journal’. He became a major shareholder in ‘The Echo’, the leading London newspaper of the day and his fortunes grew enormously.

Liberal Member of Parliament for Salisbury (1880 – 1885), having previously lost in Truro, he became the greatest philanthropist that Cornwall has ever known founding numerous libraries as well as funding the construction of the buildings of the ‘Whitechapel Art Gallery’ and the ‘London School of Economics’. In total, he was responsible for the construction of 24 libraries as well as hospitals, schools, convalescent homes and other art galleries many of which still operate today. True to his roots and chartist beliefs, Passmore Edwards twice refused a knighthood.
William Lemon (1696 – 1760) was a successful mine owner (Gwennap Mine) and smelting house owner, becoming so successful through business and marrying into wealth that he was able to purchase, as his country home, the Carclew House and Estate from the Bonython Family of the Lizard for £3000 (pictured but which burned down in 1934) in Mylor Bridge.

The gardens were divided into parkland and private gardens, which became renowned throughout the county. He also constructed a grand townhouse, Princes House in Princes Street in Truro, which has five storeys and four bays, and is entered via a sweeping staircase of steps. Adjacent to the Mansion House, it is now offices.

Lemon’s son, also William, married into the enormous wealth of his wife Anne Willyams of Carnanton House (Newquay) which is still owned by her family. One of their sons, Sir William Lemon, (December 11th) was Member of Parliament for Penryn (1770–1774) and then County Member of Parliament for Cornwall (1774–1824), serving for an unmatched 54 years and who is commemorated by the naming of Lemon Street in Truro which is regarded as one of the finest Georgian streets outside of Bath.
Jamaica – born **Manasseh Masseh Lopes, 1st Baronet** (1755 – 1831) of a family of wealthy Portuguese merchants. Politically ambitious but Jewish, which prohibited him from standing for Parliament (as was the case for Catholics and non-Conformists), Lopes converted to Christianity in 1802. Having purchased Maristow House in Devon (1798) as his family seat he became Member of Parliament for his home borough, before representing other constituencies. He spent part of his wealth in purchasing influence in many Parliamentary boroughs. The most notorious of these is Grampound one of the most notorious of the rotten boroughs. In 1819, Lopes was discovered to have bribed the voters in two separate constituencies in the 1818 general election. Such corruption was far from uncommon but there was increasing pressure for electoral reform and but reformers were looking for a cause celebre to give prominence to their campaign. It is possible that, as a foreign-born Jew, Lopes became an ideal villain to give support for their cause. It transpired that Lopes had spent £3000 bribing Barnstable voters and his election was declared void but even more notoriously it was found that he had behaved similarly in Grampound, which returned two members in Cornwall and he was fined £1000 and jailed for two years. Grampound was permanently disenfranchised and its Commons representation, an extraordinary two seats, was transferred to Leeds.
Jeanne du Maurier (1911 – 1996) who was the younger sister of Daphne du Maurier (May 13th) studied at the Central School of Art in Southampton Row, where she studied drypoint printmaking and etching, before studying painting at St. John’s Wood School of Art.

Following the death of her famous, actor manager, Sir Gerald du Maurier (1934), she moved permanently to the family’s holiday home, ‘Ferryside’ near Fowey.

Jeanne du Maurier ceased painting during World War II, concentrating instead on running a market garden, and did not return to her art until 1945. She rented a studio in St. Ives (1946) where she met, and became friends with, Dod Procter (July 31st). Jeanne du Maurier and Procter spent much time together, wintering in Tenerife and, also, in southern Africa.

She moved to Manaton in the 1950s by which time she was exhibiting her work at the Royal Academy, concentrating mainly on still lifes, flowers and landscapes.

She died at Manaton in 1996.
March

1941

Virginia Woolf (Death) 28th

On this day in 1941 the world famous novelist, Virginia Woolf, suffering from her lifelong depression filled her pockets with pebbles and drowned herself in the River Ouse.

The daughter of a celebrated Pre-Raphaelite artist’s model, Julia Prinsep Jackson, and the author, critic, biographer and historian Leslie Stephen, Woolf with her family spent many childhood summers in St. Ives where her parents owned Talland House (pictured left). Godrevy Light (below) was the inspiration for her magnificent novel ‘To The Lighthouse’ (1927) about her relationship with her mother.

Affected by depression from a young age, Cornwall was often Woolf’s refuge and she would undertake spontaneous, unplanned trips staying in St. Ives, Zennor and Lelant.
St. Austell-born **Samuel Drew** (1765 – 1833) was a shoemaker turned Methodist theologian who wrote extensively about the human soul, the nature of God and the deity of Christ as well as histories and biographies.

Illiterate until his apprenticeship ended, Drew became a travelling (journeyman) shoemaker and joined the Methodist Church when he was about twenty and then began to educate himself. Drew continued as a shoemaker until, with a secure reputation as a theologian and preacher, he received funding from a prominent Wesleyan, Dr. Thomas Coke to devote himself entirely to his true vocation. In 1799, he published his *Remarks on Paine’s Age of Reason*, which he reprinted three years later. In 1800, Drew published *Observations (In behalf of the methodists’ on a pamphlet lately published by the Rev. R. Poliwhel*’ Vicar of Manaccan, Cornwall, ENTITLED,“..Anecdotes of Methodism’ whilst two years later he published the work which brought him nationwide theological fame: *Essay on the Immateriality and Immortality of the Soul.*’ In addition to his theological writing, Drew also edited Fortescue Hitchins’ *History of Cornwall* and published an anthology of John Wesley’s sermons. In 1820, he submitted a thesis to a competition which, although he did not win, brought him to the attention of Aberdeen University theologians who arranged for him to receive an honorary MA. Drew died in Helston and was buried in Helston Churchyard.
The ‘Three Hundred and Thirty Five Years War’ was a state of war between the Netherlands and the Isles of Scilly which originated in the English Civil War. A large number of retreating Royalists and the remnants of its navy escaped to the Isles of Scilly in 1648.

The Dutch had sided, expediently, with the Parliamentarians as they were viewed likely victors and valued the long history of the Anglo-Dutch alliance in the Eighty Years War.

Dutch shipping, which was supplying the English mainland, came close to Scilly and suffered heavy losses at the hands of the Royalists who were desperate for stores and supplies. Consequently, on this day in 1651 the Dutch commander, Admiral Maarten Harpertszoon Tromp, landed on Scilly to demand reparations for the lost goods and ships. Being rebuffed he promptly declared war on Scilly but only on the islands but not on the rest of the county since the mainland was largely under the control of the Parliamentarians.

A mere few months later the Royalists were forced to surrender to the Parliamentarians and the Dutch left without having fired a single shot and promptly forgot about their war! This meant that there was no formal peace treaty or declaration of peace until the then Dutch Ambassador landed on the islands on 17th April 1986, 355 years after the declaration of war and declared that peace now existed between The Netherlands and Scilly. He joked that it must have been horrifying for the Scillonians ‘to know we could have attacked at any moment!’
Truro – born **James Henry Finn** (1893 - 1917) was brought up in Bodmin in a mining family. Unable to find work in the locality he moved to South Wales to work at the Cwmtillery Coal Mine near Abertillery.

At the outbreak of World War I, Finn enlisted with the 4th Battalion of the South Wales Borderers and posted to Mesopotamia in 1916.

The citation accompanying the award of his Victoria Cross ‘for most conspicuous bravery’ states: ‘After a night attack he was one of a small party which dug-in in front of our advanced line and about 300 yards from the enemy's trenches. Seeing several wounded men lying out in front he went out and bandaged them all under heavy fire, making several journeys in order to do so. He then went back to our advanced trench for a stretcher and, being unable to get one, he himself carried on his back a badly wounded man into safety. He then returned and, aided by another man who was wounded during the act, carried in another badly wounded man. He was under continuous fire while performing this gallant work.’

Private Finn VC was killed on this day in 1917 when at a field hospital which was shelled. Some years later his family donated his VC to the safekeeping of Bodmin Council.
April
Emily Stackhouse (1811 – 1870) was a hugely talented botanical artist and plant collector. Travelling throughout the British Isles, she painted and collected an enormous variety of mosses and flowers. Unacknowledged as a botanist at the time it is clear from the dates of some her works that she was the first finder of many mosses and it is now recognised that she is the predominant British collector and illustrator of mosses.

Born in Modbury, Devon, the daughter of the Rev. William Stackhouse III and Sarah Stackhouse, she was the great niece of the famous botanist John Stackhouse. Moving to Probus when her father inherited Trehane House, Stackhouse developed a love of nature greatly encouraged by her uncle, by marriage, William Rashleigh MP. In the 1840s the writer and botanist, Rev. C. A. Johns (28th June) asked her to illustrate a series of his books notably his famous ‘A Week at the Lizard’ (1848). Her own works were collected and published in three volumes.
Eastbourne – born Marjorie Frances Bruford known as Midge Bruford (1902 – 1958) was an artist who was closely associated with the Newlyn School of artists.

Educated at Badminton School, Bruford became friends with Mornie Birch, one of the daughters of Lamorna Birch (June 8th) and this led her to living in Paul in order to study painting at the Forbes School of Painting run by Stanhope Forbes (November 18th) and Elizabeth Forbes (December 29th) subsequently studying under Ernest Procter (October 21st), Harold Harvey (May 19th) and Lamorna Birch in the 1930s. After some time studying in Paris, Bruford returned to Paul and concentrated on portraits and landscapes as represented by her portrait of James Harvey, a local farmer (below left) and fields in Scilly (below right). She also acted as a sitter for Dod Procter (July 31st) who painted the portrait above.

Bruford exhibited at the Newlyn Art Gallery, the Goupil Gallery in London, the Walker Art Gallery in Liverpool and exhibited thirty two times at the Royal Academy between 1924 and the year before she died.
New Zealand – born **Eleanor Mary Hughes** (née Weymouth, 1882 – 1959) was a landscape artist.

Awarded a scholarship to study art in Britain she chose Cornwall, the county of her parents’ birth. In 1903 she attended the Newlyn School of Painting and Drawing run by Stanhope Forbes (November 18\(^{th}\)) and Elizabeth Forbes (29\(^{th}\) December). Marrying her fellow student, Robert Morson Hughes, another landscape artist, she designed and built their own home, *Chyangweal*, near St Buryan, which became their home for the rest of their lives.

*Chyangweal* became a social centre for local artists and the couple became lifelong friends with Dame Laura Knight (July 7\(^{th}\)) and her husband, Harold Knight (October 3\(^{rd}\)).

Hughes exhibited at the Royal Academy thirty seven times using locations in West Cornwall as demonstrated by her sketching of ‘Penzance From the Harbour’ (left) but sold her Lamorna studio in 1940, effectively retiring.
Andrew Pears (1768 – 1845) was the elder son of William and Elizabeth Pears and grew up in Mevagissey.

Trained as a barber, Pears moved to London to complete his apprenticeship and then opened his own barber’s shop also selling his own skin care products made from natural products as he was concerned about the use of the lead-based products which were used to whiten the skin.

That was the beginning of the Pear’s soap empire established in Well Street, near Oxford Street, which was expanded enormously by Pear’s grandson, Francis.
Following the death of King Henry VIII, Edward VI, the boy King, was dominated by a number of Protestant Privy Councillors who introduced the Chantries Act which appointed a Commissioner for each county to create an inventory of each Church’s possession of bells, vestments, ornaments and Church plate. The Act also required each Church to keep Parish registers which were viewed by local residents as a potential source of further taxation. The Commissioner for Cornwall was William Body who headquartered himself at Glasney College in Penryn, required the attendance of all clergy and demanded that all Papist material be removed from the places of Worship. Infuriated by the clergy’s refusal to comply with his orders, Body arrived in Helston to remove the items himself only to be confronted by a furious demonstration of people from all the local parishes and led by Rev. Martin Geoffrey of St. Keverne. Body fled to the townhouse of the Godolphins (now the Angel Hotel in Coinagehall Street) but was dragged outside and killed. Two days later, a demonstration of 3000 people was deemed to be a violent mob intent on insurrection. The demonstration was quelled and the leaders, again including Geoffrey, were subsequently arrested. Most were hanged at Launceston other than William and John Kilter who were hanged, drawn and quartered. Geoffrey suffered the same fate but at Smithfield in London and his head was displayed on a pike on London Bridge.
Sir Christopher Hawkins Bt. (1758 – 1829) was a landowner, entrepreneur and by far the most politically corrupt Member of Parliament of his generation whose actions led directly to the Reform Act (1832) which removed patronage and reduced the number of Cornish MPs from an extraordinary forty-four to six.

The second son of Thomas Hawkins of Trewithen and the grandson of Christopher Hawkins of Trewinnard, St. Erth, Hawkins’ father died before the death of his own father and, since his elder brother had drowned in the Thames whilst at Eton, he inherited great wealth on the death of his grandfather.

He was appointed High Sheriff of Cornwall at the age of twenty-five and became one of the two Members of Parliament for Mitchell at the age of twenty-six, under the patronage of Lord Falmouth. Given his wealth and influence Hawkins eventually controlled six of the Cornish boroughs and, notoriously, entertained the entire, but very small, electorate of Grampound for the entire day of the 1796 election meaning that none of them could vote for any but his favoured candidates. He continued to serve under Lord Falmouth’s interest at Mitchell but, having purchased the patronage of the other seat, he began his policy of selling the seat to the friends of the Tories.

In 1802, having assessed the patronages of the Cornish boroughs he replaced the Duke of Leeds as the patron in Helston and attempted to
April

intervene in Penryn where he came in to conflict with Sir Francis Basset, later Lord de Dunstanville (August 9th). At the highest point of his influence, through purchasing over a dozen manors, Hawkins controlled the two seats in Helston, the two of Grampound, one in St. Ives, one at Mitchell, and one at Penryn (his own). He offered the government the support of the six members he controlled at a price of £3,000 per seat, an offer which was rejected. Nevertheless he insisted that the six members voted as instructed and when Davies Gilbert (March 6th) refused, Gilbert was forced to resign his seat. At the General Election of 1806 Hawkins returned himself, simultaneously as member of Parliament for the three boroughs of Grampound, Mitchell and Penryn. In 1807, he was prosecuted for electoral fraud and, though, acquitted, his name was ‘erased from the Parliamentary record’.

But only for that seat.

Hawkins had also returned himself as Member of Parliament for both Grampound and for Mitchell and so he remained in the House of Commons, albeit under considerable censure. Farcically, Hawkins was challenged to a duel with pistols by Basset in 1810. At the duel at Westbourn Green, each fired twice but neither was injured as they completely missed and the duel was halted by their seconds. A lifelong bachelor and quite gloomy in demeanour with a reputation as a miser there was a chant about Trewthen:-

‘A large park without deer,  
A large cellar without beer,  
A large house without cheer,  
Sir Christopher Hawkins lives here.’
Christopher Wood (1900 – 1930) became a member of the Newlyn Group of artists.

Brought up in near Liverpool he was educated at Marlborough College and then began to study medicine before changing track to pursue his art career having met Augustus John (January 4th) at Liverpool University, who encouraged him to be a painter. He travelled extensively in France at the invitation of the French art collector Alphonse Kahn, co-founder of the Galeries Lafayette, and trained at the Académie Julian in Paris, where he met Jean Coctaeu, Pablo Picasso, the composer Georges Auric and the ballet impresario Serge Diaghilev.

When working in Cornwall, his mother’s home county, Wood, having become a friend of Ben Nicholson (February 6th) and Winifred Nicholson and through their friendship met Alfred Wallis (August 29th) on a trip to St Ives, and whose primitivism influenced Woods’ own style, encouraging him to paint coastal scenes partly also since, as he claimed, he had got his love of the sea and boats from his Cornish roots.

After an unsuccessful exhibition in London, Wood threw himself under a train. His death though judged to be ‘suicide whilst of unsound mind’ was, in deference to his mother, recorded in the press as accidental.
Liskeard – born Charlotte Mary Matheson (c.1889 – 1937) became a popular novelist noted especially for ‘The Generation Between’ (1915), ‘Children of the Desolate’ (1916) and ‘Morwenna of the Green Gown’ (1923) whilst ‘The Feather’ (1927) was adapted to become one of England’s first silent films. During World War One, she was a member of the Women’s Land Army working on the land of the Duchy of Cornwall in Stoke Climsland. From the early 1920s, she and her husband, Stanley Threlkeld, ran the Porth Veor Manor Hotel in Newquay. She had two children, Stephen and Felicity (pictured above with Matheson). Matheson’s novels followed a theme of oppressed women seeking escape and give fascinating detail of the stifled life of women born into wealth. In The Generation Between (1915) Matheson explores sexual discrimination and feminism in early 20th century England and the conflict between women brought up to follow traditional lives and the younger generation, yet to be born, who will enjoy freedom and equality. In ‘Children of the Desolate’ she describes the inner turmoil of one who acts by impulse and, as an act of her rejection of her controlling family, enters into a loveless marriage. ‘Morwenna of the Green Gown’ is a romance set on Dartmoor and in London and describes the consequences of another loveless marriage, her escape to London and her subsequent return to life expected of her which she had rejected.
Liskeard – born Emily Hobhouse (1860 – 1926) was a welfare activist, feminist and pacifist who came to fame for her work exposing the appalling conditions within British concentration camps during the Second Boer War.

Daughter of Caroline Trelawny and Reginald Hobhouse, the first Archdeacon of Bodmin, she cared for her ill father between 1880 and 1894, after the death of her mother when Emily was twenty. Following her father’s death she became a welfare activist amongst the deprived Cornish miners of Minnesota. With the outbreak of the Second Boer War (October 1899), Leonard Courtney MP (May 11th), invited Hobhouse to become secretary of the women’s branch of the South African Conciliation Committee. It was through this that she became aware of the appalling existence of hundreds of Boer women and children in Port Elizabeth who, she wrote, ‘needed protection and organized assistance’. On her arrival in South Africa, Hobhouse was appalled to discover the existence of forty-five other concentration camps. Her report of ‘A Visit to the Camps of Women and Children in the Cape and Orange River Colonies’ resulted in the formation of a formal commission of investigation headed by Millicent Fawcett which reported that the appallingy unhygienic conditions endured by the 26,000 people in tented confinement, of whom 24,000 were children had resulted in the previous eighteen months of the death of an average of fifty children per day.
Hobhouse wrote that ‘To keep these Camps going is murder to the children’ and reported, in January 1901, that the prisoners in Bloemfontein ‘went to sleep without any provision having been made for them and without anything to eat or to drink. I saw crowds of them along railway lines in bitterly cold weather, in pouring rain–hungry, sick, dying and dead. Soap was not dispensed. The water supply was inadequate. No bedstead or mattress was procurable. Fuel was scarce and had to be collected from the green bushes on the opes of the kopens (small hills) by the people themselves. The rations were extremely meagre and when, as I frequently experienced, the actual quantity dispensed fell short of the amount prescribed, it simply meant famine.’ The ‘hullaballoo’ she created, as termed by Thomas Pakenham, resulted in Kitchener closing the camps to new prisoners which was a cynically tactical decision since it put extra strain and demands on the Boer ‘guerrilla fighters’ but also created a perception in Britain that ‘something was being done’. Upon her return to England, Hobhouse was the subject of hostility from the government and scathing criticism in the press. This increased with her opposition to the First World War especially when she arranged with fellow pacifists the feeding of thousands of women and children for more than a year. South Africa contributed many thousands of pounds towards this effort, made her an honorary citizen, and contributed to her purchase of a home in St. Ives. Hobhouse’s death went unreported in the Cornish press but she had been commemorated with the naming of a town in the Eastern Free State and of the oldest students’ hall on the campus of the University of the Free State. Latterly, Hobhouse has been commemorated by a statue in St. Ives and the film of her life, ‘That Englishwoman’ (1985).
The once famous, but now largely forgotten, novelist Salome Hocking (1859 – 1927) was a member of the most successful, Cornish – born, literary family. Born in St Stephen-in-Brannel, she was the sister of Silas Hocking (September 15th) and Joseph Hocking (March 4th).

Daughter of a miner who turned to farming due to the decline in his industry, Salome was working on the corn fields when an accident caused her shoulder and hip to turn in opposite directions resulting in a serious spinal injury which she did not report and left untreated merely complaining about her ‘bad back’.

Following the early death of her father, Salome turned to teaching at Coombe Village School and writing stories set in Cornish mining, farming and seagoing areas. During the 1880s she produced five novels in quick succession – ‘Granny’s Hero’ (1885); ‘The Fortunes of Riverside or Waiting and Winning’ (1885); ‘Norah Lang’ (1886); ‘Jacky’ (1887) and ‘Chronicles of a Quiet Family’ (1888) followed by a pseudonymous novel ‘A Conquered Self’ under the name S. Moore-Carew.

Salome married the publisher Arthur Charles Fifield on Christmas Eve 1894 and, much later, using her maiden name, she published a memoir of her home village, ‘Some Old Cornish Folk’ (1903).
Sir John Eliot (1592 – 1632) was a statesman, repeatedly imprisoned in the Tower of London, where he eventually died, by King Charles I because of his advocacy of the rights of Parliament.

Born on his family’s Port Eliot estate in St. Germans, Eliot was educated at Blundell’s and Oxford (Exeter College).

Elected Member of Parliament for St Germans in 1614, Eliot was knighted and appointed Vice-Admiral of Devon tasked with the maritime defence of the county and control its commerce. In 1623, he triumphantly captured the notorious pirate John Nutt but within weeks Nutt was pardoned due to family connections and Eliot was detained in the Marshalsea Prison for four months.

Subsequently, he was elected to represent the Borough of Newport and he demanded that the privileges and rights of Parliament be respected by the monarch, urged the enforcement of laws against Catholics and advocated war with Spain.

Over the next few years, Eliot was repeatedly imprisoned for his activities and died of tuberculosis in The Tower of London on 27th November 1632.
April 12th William Cookworthy (Birth) 1705

Born on this day into a Quaker family, which lost its money in 1705, William Cookworthy (1705 – 1780) was apprenticed to Bevan and Bevan, Quaker chemists in London. His family was so poor that he had to walk all the way to the capital. After completing his apprenticeship, the Bevan family supported Cookworthy in establishing his own pharmacy in Plymouth, Bevan and Cookworthy. Within a matter of years, he brought two of his brothers, Philip and Benjamin into the business and bought his Bevan partners out.

Through this occupation, he became aware of the chemistry of the porcelain industry and learning that the china clay was imported from Virginia he decided to search for suitable English mineral resources and succeeded in the Breage and Tregonning Hill parts of Cornwall. Cookworthy subsequently established a china works in Plymouth, which he later relocated to Bristol although still continuing to purchase the raw materials from Cornwall, notably the St. Austell area which is now famous for its clay tips comprising waste materials from the quarrying process. Cookworthy and his wife, Sarah, were friends with John Smeaton who lodged with them whilst constructing the third Eddystone lighthouse and helped developed the lime used in its construction. Among numerous other projects, Smeaton was also responsible for the design of a pier at St. Ives and the new port of Charlestown financed by Charles Rashleigh (November 17th).
The son of a mine captain, Richard Trevithick (1771 – 1833) was born in Tregajorran near Illogan and became famous for his invention of the first high-pressure steam engine and the first working steam railway locomotive which first ran on February 21st 1804 when it hauled a load along the tramway at Penydarren Ironworks in Merthyr Tydfil, Wales.

In 1797, Trevithick became engineer at the Ding Dong Mine, and it was there that he experimented with high-pressure steam. Trevithick married Anne Harvey, daughter of the founders of the esteemed engineering company Harveys of Hayle and established a company building high power beam engines for pumping out mine water. As his experience grew, he realised that improvements in boiler technology now permitted the safe production of high-pressure steam, which could move a piston in a steam engine on its own account rather than using near atmospheric pressure in a condensing engine. With improvements in boiler technology and aware, from collaboration with William Murdoch (November 15th), that steam could move a piston this led him to design the first high-pressure steam engine to be used as a road locomotive. His first public demonstration of his ‘Puffing Devil’ occurred on December 24th 1801 when it carried six passengers up Fore Street in Redruth and continued up Camborne Hill to the village of Beacon, inspiring the popular song of that name. In his forties Trevithick suffered financial problems, contracted typhoid and was declared bankrupt. He died in poverty in 1833.
April

14th Daniel Gumb (Birth) 1703

Here lie I by the churchyard door
Here lie I because I'm poor
The further in, the more you pay
Yet here lie I as warm as they

Born on this day in 1703, Daniel Gumb, the son of stonecutters, was a studious but, apparently, an introverted person who showed great capability in mathematics and astronomy through his self-education from books borrowed from local parishioners. Gumb decided to cut himself a home in the caves on Bodmin Moor and created a three-room home for himself and his family thus self-creating the legend of the educated, cave-dwelling, hermit. The claim that he was an introverted loner may be disputed by the facts of his three marriages and nine children but his mathematical skills are unarguable since as Wilkie Collins (January 8th) wrote ‘Daniel Gumb was a mathematician who loved to study.’

Gumb was absorbed by Euclidean geometry and carved, in granite, a puzzle in the form of the Pythagoras Theorem.

One of his most frequent visitors was William Cookworthy (April 12th) Gumb he may have guided the china clay entrepreneur to his discoveries. Gumb’s home was partially destroyed when the quarry in which he had his cave was enlarged in the 1860s but the remains were moved to a nearby location. There are many people surnamed Gumb in America and Australia who can trace their ancestry to Daniel and to one of his three wives again providing evidence that he was not quite the loner described. The quotation above is his self-carved epitaph.

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Maria Branwell (1783 – 1821) is world famous as the mother of Emily, Anne, Charlotte and Branwell Brontë. What is less well known is that she was born and brought up in Penzance (at No. 25 Chapel Street), the daughter of a successful merchant and alleged smuggler, Thomas Branwell, and Anne Carn. The house is unusual for West Cornwall in that it is brick built and it has been suggested that it was constructed from the cargo of a wrecked Dutch transport.

Branwell’s family were prominent Methodists: her aunt and two of her sisters married Methodist ministers and her family were instrumental in the construction of the first Wesleyan Methodist Chapel in Penzance.

Between 1808 and 1812, both of Maria’s parents and her aunt died and she spent time with a paternal aunt, Jane Fennell, in Yorkshire managing the household of a Methodist training school. It was through her aunt’s husband that she met Patrick Brontë and they were married within a year. On that same day, her younger sister, Charlotte, married her cousin, Joseph Branwell, at Madron Church.

In 1820, the Brontës moved to Haworth but, tragically, Maria died of ovarian cancer when their youngest daughter, Anne, was only twenty months old. Maria’s sister, Elizabeth (pictured right), moved to Haworth to care for the children of Maria and Patrick.
Indian – born **Helena Charles** (16 April 1911 – 14 June 1997), humanitarian, activist and poet was the founder of the Cornish nationalist party, *Mebyon Kernow*, in 1951 and became the first elected representative of the party when she won a council seat in 1953.

In the 1920s she worked in the slums of Bermondsey whilst, during the Second World War, she worked for the London Ambulance Service and organised assistance for displaced members of the population of Heligoland which had been occupied by the Germans and for Jewish refugees from the continent. Graduating from Oxford in 1948, she became the Cornish representative on the Central Committee of European Communities and Regions.

Charles married the sculptor, Guy Sanders, in 1959 and in 1964, appalled by the treatment of cats in Venice founded the Dingo charity to care for feral cats.

To fund the charity her husband even became a licensed gondolier and for her work, Charles was appointed a Knight of St Mark.
April

1947  RNAS Culdrose (HMS Seahawk)  17th

On this day in 1947, HMS Seahawk / RNAS Culdrose was commissioned as a satellite of RNAS Predannack on the Lizard peninsula under the command of Captain Godfrey Charles Dickins, RN.

In the original, 1943, planning the base, initially to be known as HMS Chough / RNAS Helston, was intended to operate for only ten years as a wartime air base. The airfield, built on the requisitioned Culdrose Farm, was designed to guard the Western Approaches of the Atlantic Ocean and the English Channel and to provide search & rescue services. With an initial complement of 1500 personnel (transferred from RNAS Dale in Pembrokeshire) who lived in huts, the original airfield had three runways and twenty-three hangars. It now has a complement of over 4000 and uses RNAS Predannack (May 7th) as a satellite airfield, mainly for training and for emergency landings.
Today in 1555, Polydore Vergil (1470 – 1555) died. The Italian – born but naturalised Englishman, Vergil became famous for his works on the British nations, specifically stating in his ‘Anglica Historia’ that ‘The whole Countrie of Britaine...is divided into iv partes; whereof the one is inhabited of Englishmen, the other of Scottes, the third of Wallshemen, and the fowerth of Cornishe people. Which all differ emonge them selves, either in tongue, either in manners, or ells in lawes and ordinaunces.’ Vergil is, therefore, one of the first recorded writers to describe Cornwall as viewed as a distinct part of the island, separated by history and language.

Born in Urbino, the child of a medical dispenser and the grandson of a physician who had taught in Paris, Vergil came to England (1502) as the representative of Cardinal Adriano Castellesi. He held the office of Collector of Peter’s Pence (a tax payable to Rome by all people) and resided in Wells in a house now known as the ‘Old Archdeaconry’ and which is occupied by the Music School of Wells Cathedral School. In 1504, he was actually enthroned as the Bishop of Bath and Wells as proxy for Adriano whilst in 1508 he also appointed himself as Archdeacon of Wells. An established author, and a representative of a Cardinal, Vergil was received as a minor celebrity, and was welcomed at court by King Henry VII and it was at the King’s request that he began work on his ‘Anglica Historia, a New History of England’.
Today in 1829, the famous smuggler and Methodist preacher, Harry Carter died. The brother of John Carter, the ‘King of Prussia’, Harry Carter was responsible for transporting the smuggled goods from Guernsey and landing them on Porth Leah, on of the three coves now, collectively, known as Prussia Cove.

At that point, the goods became the responsibility of John Carter who transported them from their original landing point to hiding places along the coast and in hidden cupboards in many coastal cottages. Harry Carter was captured by the French and was imprisoned for two years. Released, Harry settled down as a farmer and Methodist preacher for the last thirty years of his life. The Carters’ house was demolished in the early 20th century. In John Carter’s time (he vanished in 1807), the house was protected from the revenue cutters by a battery of cannons on the clifftop. Remote from London but with close relationships with the Channel Islands and Brittany, taxes were greatly resented and smuggling was regarded as almost legitimate. The smugglers would import brandy, wine and lace and many Cornishwomen were unusually well dressed when their poverty-stricken life is considered. Many local clergy and gentry supported the smugglers as it benefited them personally and financially and it was rare for a Cornish jury to convict a man accused of smuggling.
On this day in 1835, the **St. Anthony Lighthouse** was lit for the first time. In the early 17th century the important Killigrew family of Falmouth had flown red flags on the coast (supposedly to protect shipping but possibly as a smugglers' signal) but, with the threat of a French invasion they were removed. The lighthouse was planned in 1830 in order to guide ships away from the notoriously dangerous Manacle Rocks. Designed by James Walker, Trinity House built the light and decided that *in order to render it readily distinguishable from all other Lights in that vicinity, it will present a quick but regular succession of Flashes of Brilliant Light.* With a revolving series of eight oil lamps it was intended to flash once every twenty seconds. Another fixed light pointed at the Manacles was installed as a further precaution. Electric lamps were installed in 1954 together with an electric fog horn and the lighthouse was automated in 1987 and is now controlled from Harwich, flashes every fifteen seconds with a range of twenty two miles whilst the foghorn, when needed, sounds every thirty seconds.
In Napoleonic times, great interest was aroused by the archaeological discoveries in Egypt. Chapel Street was in the 18th and 19th centuries the most prestigious road in Penzance. In 1835, the mineralogist, John Lavin, bought a plot on the street from James Tregurthen of Scilly and had a new house designed by the famous architect, John Foulston who based his plans on the, Devonport, Civil and Military Library now the Oddfellows Hall.

The Egyptian House was the site of Lavin’s shop and gems collection. On Lavin’s death the house and collection was sold to Oxford University.

The house became shops but became neglected after the Second World War. Renovated in the 1960s, it is now owned by the Landmark Trust, and comprises a ground floor shop and upper floor holiday accommodation.
The **Royal Cornwall Polytechnic Society** was founded in 1833 by Anna Maria Fox (pictured right) and Caroline Fox (May 24th), the daughters of Robert Were Fox the Younger (July 25th) of Falmouth.

The Fox family were shipping agents, foundry owners and famous Quakers.

The stated purpose of the society was ‘*To promote the useful and fine arts, to encourage industry, and to elicit the ingenuity of a community distinguished for its mechanical skill*’.

The first President was Sir Charles Lemon, the son of William Lemon (25th March) and the council comprised as Chairman, Charles Fox (December 22nd), together with seven Vice-Presidents, all prominent Cornish businessmen who appreciated the benefits to their business of highly trained staff.

Two years after the Polytechnic’s establishment it was determined that a dedicated hall should be constructed to provide additional teaching space and a large exhibition area for an annual exhibition of mechanical inventions.

This hall in Church Street, now a listed building, is currently a theatre but the Polytechnic remains having formed the basis of the University of Falmouth.
Born in Guinea, **Joseph Antonio Emidy** (1775 – 1835) was sold into slavery and was taken to Brazil and then Portugal where he became violinist in the Lisbon Opera. During the Napoleonic War he was press ganged and spent the following four years as the ship fiddler on Sir Edward Pellew’s ship. It has been suggested that Pellew (1\textsuperscript{st} Viscount Falmouth) had Emidy singled out because of his musical talent. In 1799, he was discharged in Falmouth and began to work as a performer, composer and violin teacher, becoming leader of the Truro Philharmonic Orchestra, founding Truro’s biennial concerts in 1804. One of his students was James Silk Buckingham (August 25\textsuperscript{th}) who described him as ‘an exquisite violinist, a good composer, who led at all the concerts of the county, and who taught equally well the piano, violin, violoncello, clarionet and flute’. He married Truro-born Jenefer Hutchins with whom he had eight children and some of his descendants still live in the south west of England.
Mawnan – born John Jope Rogers (1816 – 1880) represented Helston in the Commons between 1859 and 1865 and was the owner of the Penrose House (pictured right) and estate, just south of Helston, which includes Loe Pool (pictured below left) which is the largest natural, freshwater, lake in Cornwall.

President of the Helston Savings Bank (pictured above right) and President of the Royal Institution of Cornwall (February 5th), Rogers was educated at Trinity College, Oxford and was called to the Bar in 1841.

Rogers is best remembered for his biography of John Opie (16th May) and for publishing a catalogue of his works.
Truro – born **Lilian Charlotte Anne Knowles** (née Tomn; 1870–1926) was educated at Truro High School and Girton College, Cambridge where she was the first student to obtain a double First Class result in her Part I and Part II History and Law Tripos. At the time, women were not allowed to be awarded degrees and she was awarded an *ad eundem* D.Litt by the University of Dublin. *Ad eundem* degrees were honorary degrees conferred for work completed at another university and Knowles was one of the first of the seven hundred ‘Steamboat Ladies’ honoured in this way.

After postgraduate research at the London School of Economics, Knowles became the first full time lecturer in Economic History in Britain. Promoted to Reader in 1907 and to a full Professorship in 1921, Knowles was the second Professor of Economic History in Britain and, in 1924, became Dean of the Faculty of Economics at the LSE, the first female Dean of the University of London. Unusually for the time, Knowles did not give up work upon marriage.

Knowles became renowned for her two-volume work ‘*Economic Development of the British Empire*’ which was completed by her husband after her sudden and premature death from cancer in 1926.
April

26th Tamar Bridge (Opening) 1962

Until the opening of the Royal Albert Bridge in 1859, (May 4th) Cornwall was socially isolated since it was extremely remote and travel to London was extremely difficult. The development of railway transport transformed the Cornish economy allowing daffodils and potatoes to arrive at Paddington the day after being picked and stimulating extensive tourism in the county. Until 1962, however, road transport was limited to those who used the narrow A30 road or crossed the Tamar by ferry.

The Tamar Bridge was opened on this day in 1962 and made commuting to and from Plymouth a straightforward matter and greatly reduced the time of journeys from Cornwall to London.

The opening of this bridge transformed the county’s economy, permitting commuting from Bodmin, Launceston and even Truro and removing a barrier to tourism.

It is, without doubt, the most important transport development in the county since the opening of the Royal Albert Bridge.
With the improvements in travel and tourism, Penzance became a wealthy town and just as with Truro a few decades earlier it was decided that the town deserved new buildings becoming of its wealth and status as a tourist resort.

The major developments included the railway terminus (designed to resemble Paddington Station), the Ross Bridge (February 25\textsuperscript{th}) to allow easy access between the harbour and the station, the Promenade and the Penzance Public Buildings now known as St. John’s Hall.

Designed by John Matthews (November 22\textsuperscript{nd}), the foundation stone for the new building was laid on this day in 1864. The Penzance Public Buildings were constructed in an Italian-style using granite from Lamorna Quarry and comprised three distinct sections. The East Wing accommodated the Law Courts and the Council offices, public rooms in the centre including a lecture theatre and hall which could contain an audience of one thousand people whilst the West Wing was occupied by the Royal Geological Society of Penzance (February 11\textsuperscript{th}) which moved from its home in the small building at the top of Market Jew Street.
Robert Cotton St. John Trefusis, 18th Lord Clinton (1787 – 1832) was a member of the powerful Trefusis family which had been established in Cornwall at least as early as the 13th century.

Educated at Harrow, Clinton enlisted in the army in 1803 and fought in the Peninsular War. At the age of seventeen, on the death of his father, he inherited the title and the family estates of Trefusis near Flushing (pictured below left) and Heanton Satchville in Petrockstowe, North Devon. The larger, family mansion, seat in Devon (pictured below right) had burnt down, two years earlier, 1795. It had been described as the largest and most impressive house in Devon.

On August 4th, 1814, Clinton married Frances Selina Isabella Poyntz, daughter of William Stephen Poyntz, Member of Parliament for Callington (1810 – 1818) and Hon. Elizabeth Mary Browne of Cowdray Park in Sussex. Following the conclusion of the Napoleonic Wars, Clinton spent much time on the continent notably in Italy, becoming a close friend of Lord Byron. He died, aged 45, in Florence leaving no descendants. The title passed to his brother and his widow married Brownlow Cecil, 2nd Marquess of Exeter. Trefusis remains in the family to this day.
Dorset – born Thomas Pitt (1653 – 1726) made his fortune as an independent trader, a so-called ‘interloper’ in India which was illegal since the East India Company had been given a complete monopoly on trade in Madras. On his return to England, as an extremely wealthy man he purchased the manor of Stratford in Wiltshire giving himself patronage of the borough’s Commons seat. In 1698, Pitt returned to Madras as the President of the East India Company and also became governor of Governor of Fort St. George when he began garrisoning all of the East India encampments with regiments of local sepoys as well as securing ownership of five other towns. At the same time, Pitt also selected himself as the Member of Parliament for Old Sarum. Pitt returned to England in 1709 and in 1716 was appointed Governor of Jamaica. However he had become one of the richest men in the country with the sale of a number of gems cut from a, 410 carat, diamond with the largest, the Regent Diamond, sold for then enormous sum of £135,000 to the French Royal Family which became part of the French Crown jewels. Pitt resigned the governorship without ever visiting Jamaica and used his additional wealth to purchase the Boconnoc mansion and estate, which had been the scene of much activity in the Civil War, from the widow of Lord Mohun (November 5th).

Married to Jane Innes on January 1st 1690, Pitt had at least six children including Robert Pitt, the father and grandfather of the Prime Ministers, William Pitt the Elder and Younger, respectively.
Widely regarded as one of the most adventurous and one of the best painters of his generation, **Roger Hilton** (1911 – 1975) was born in Northwood on this day in 1911. Born Roger Hildesheim of German parents who changed their surname in 1916, Hilton studied at the Slade School of Fine Art (1929 – 1931) and then moved briefly to Paris. In 1936, he first exhibited at the Bloomsbury Gallery.

During the Second World War, Hilton served in the army as a commando and, captured at Dieppe, spent three years as a prisoner of war. After the war, he taught at Bryanston School (1947 – 1948), and later taught at Central School of Arts and Crafts (1954 – 56) whilst also working independently. He held his first solo exhibition at the Gimpel Fils art gallery in Davies Street, Mayfair, in 1952.

Following study in the Netherlands, he developed a more abstract style, painting in whites, reds, and blacks using the colours as building blocks and won the John Moores Painting Prize in 1963. He moved to Botallack in 1965, became a prominent member of The St. Ives School of Painting and, following his divorce, Hilton married fellow artist Rose Phipps (August 15th).

One of his closest friends was the poet W. S. Graham (November 19th) and they inspired each other in the works despite, apparently, after an evening in the pub, Graham would end the evening shouting ‘You’re the worst painter who ever lived!’ to which Hilton would reply ‘You’re a rotten poet!’
May

1765

Mary Broad (Baptised) 1st

Fowey – born Mary Broad (Mrs. Bryant), one of the first British convicts transported to Australia, was baptised on this day in 1765. She was also one of the first convicts to be married in Australia when she married a fellow prisoner, William Bryant (January 26th) and one of the handful of transportees to escape from the penal colony. It is highly likely that this was also her birthday since, due to high child mortality levels, many babies were baptised on the day of their birth since it was believed that unbaptised babies who died were not Christian and could not go to Heaven. The daughter of a mariner who taught her to navigate with skill, Broad was convicted in 1786 of highway robbery and sentenced to death. With two accomplices, she attacked an Agnes Lakeman, stealing a silk bonnet and other valuables to the value of £12. Interestingly the court records record her as a ‘forest dweller’. Luckily for Broad, she was sentenced at the Easter Assizes when it was tradition for judges to review death sentences and commute some to life imprisonment or transportation. The choices were arbitrary and the sentences of the three highwaywomen were commuted to transportation for life. The tale of the journey is told in the page about her husband. Broad’s case was taken up by James Boswell and, on return to England, Broad was pardoned (May 2nd, 1793) and became a minor celebrity. She was financed and accommodated in London where her sister was a cook and Boswell taught her to read and write, financed her return to Cornwall and continued to support her financially. This support ended with Boswell’s death in October 1794 and Broad spent the rest of her life living quietly in Fowey.
St. Agnes – born William Paul (1803 – 1889) was born on this day in 1803. Becoming a Mormon High Priest after moving to America, Paul became one of the most eminent architects in Salt Lake City in Utah.

His most memorable design is Devereaux House (pictured below) which was built for William Carter Staines, an English – born horticulturalist, businessman and Mormon convert who was responsible for the gardens of the Mormon leader, Brigham Young.

The first grand mansion in Salt Lake City, Devereaux House became the social centre of the city and was, for a time, owned by Young’s son, Joseph Angell Young. Inspired by French architecture of the time it later became the site of a meeting which resolved the Utah War, the armed conflict between the Mormons and the United States’ army.
Cardiff – born Howard Spring (1889 – 1965) became a world famous novelist in the 1920s and is most remembered for ‘My Son, My Son!’ (1937) and ‘Fame Is the Spur’ (1940).

Spring became an office errand boy in Cardiff Docks before working as a messenger at the offices of the South Wales Daily News. Determined to become a reporter, he taught himself shorthand and took evening classes at University College, Cardiff in English, French, Latin, History and Mathematics. He was appointed a reporter before joining the ‘Yorkshire Observer’ and then the ‘Manchester Guardian’, where his career was interrupted by conscription when he served in the Army Service Corps as a shorthand typist.

In 1931, Lord Beaverbrook appointed him book reviewer on the ‘London Evening Standard’. His first book was published in 1932 and by 1939, able to support himself with his writing, Spring moved to Mylor in 1939 and then, in 1947, to Falmouth. He became particularly prolific in the post-war years publishing eight more novels and three volumes of autobiography.

Spring contributed fully to Cornish life, serving eight years as President of the Royal Cornwall Polytechnic Society (April 22nd) and was a governor of the Director of the Falmouth School of Art (now part of the University of Falmouth) and President of the Cornish Drama League.
Over the last 160 years, Cornwall has been transformed from a remote and isolated county reliant on mining and fishing to one dependent on tourism and agriculture. Two developments effected this transition: the **Royal Albert** (rail) **Bridge** and the Tamar (road) Bridge (April 26th).

On this day in 1859, the first train ran across the Royal Albert Bridge, two days after its official opening by Prince Albert, bringing it possible to travel between London and Penzance with ease. It was reputed that the engine driver was so terrified of the journey that he spent several hours drinking in a Plymouth public house immediately before the journey!

Designed by the world famous Isambard Kingdom Brunel, the bridge comprises two 455-foot trusses and stands 100 feet above the River Tamar.
Flushing – born Harrison Hayter (1825 – 1898) was a civil engineer who was instrumental in the construction of many of the major Victorian engineering projects.

Trained on the Stockton and Darlington Railway, Hayter is most renowned for his work with Sir John Hawkshaw including the Charing Cross, Inner Circle and Cannon Street Underground Lines and the Severn Tunnel Railway.

He developed the harbours in Hull, Penarth, Dover and the southern part of the West India Docks. Perhaps, though, his most famous accomplishment was his work on the Clifton Suspension Bridge, pictured below.
Hong Kong – born Bernard Howell Leach (1887 – 1979) has been described as the ‘Father of British studio pottery’.

Working in the Far East until 1920, Leach moved to St. Ives in 1920 at the invitation of Frances Horne who was establishing a Guild of Handicrafts. Leach became the group’s resident potter establishing a studio, the ‘Leach Pottery’ on the outskirts of the town where the first traditional Japanese climbing kiln built outside of the Far East was completed in 1923. Leach’s pottery combined Western and Eastern art and philosophy and he concentrated on using traditional British and German techniques with traditional Korean, Japanese and Chinese decoration. He preferred making simple and functional pots (as shown below) rather than what he termed ‘fine art’ pots. Leach mentored many apprentice potters in St. Ives, including Michael Cardew, Katherine Pleydell-Bouverie and Janet Darnell who went on to worldwide fame and many of those artists have inspired and trained later generations including one of the most celebrated porcelain ceramicists of modern times, Edmund de Waal.

‘4 Fish Vase’
‘Large Bowl’
‘Bottle vase’
May

1941 RAF Predannack 7th

‘Like a breath of wind gone in a fleeting second only the memories now remain’

On this day in 1941, the **RAF Predannack** aerodrome on the Lizard peninsula was commissioned. Now operated by the Royal Navy as a satellite airfield to RNAS Culdrose it was originally designed as a satellite airfield to RAF Portreath.

By 1944 some three thousand personnel staffed the airfield. Some were accommodated on site but many were billeted on local families whilst the senior officers resided at the Mullion Cove and Polurrian Hotels.

The first squadron to arrive was 247 Squadron which employed Hawker Hurricanes and specialised in night defence of the South West’s towns and ports. Radar monitoring of the skies was provided by RAF Treleaver near St. Keverne, which after the war was designated as a nuclear bunker and is now an artisan brewery. In 1943, 304 Squadron transferred to Predannack from RAF Davidstow Moor in December to perform operations against German U-boats.

*A Wellington XIV bomber at Predannack in 1943*
RAF Predannack was attacked by the Luftwaffe three times and with increasing threats the airfield's role changed from defensive to offensive operations over France and the Bay of Biscay. In preparation for Operation Overlord (D-Day), two squadrons (No. 1 and No. 165) of spitfires were given responsibility for deterring Luftwaffe attacks on shipping and providing air cover for the enormous invasion convoy assembling around Falmouth. Meanwhile, Wellington bombers, flown by 179 Squadron and the Czech-crewed 311 Squadron, equipped with Liberators, undertook anti-submarine patrols.

After the war, the squadrons largely departed and it was intended to decommission the airfield. It was saved, however, when Dr. Barnes Wallis, working with Vickers-Armstrong on variable geometry ('swing wing' where the wings can be swept back after take off for reduced air resistance) aircraft, was given permission to build a new runway for experimentation. The first trial occurred in 1952 and continued until the project was discontinued in September 1957.

On December 15th 1958, RAF Predannack was taken over by the Royal Navy and was renamed RNAS Predannack. It now serves four roles: providing emergency landing facilities, flying training, servicing the RN Fire Fighting School and the Royal Navy School of Flight Deck Operations for aircrew rescue operations. On the west of the airfield, are a pair of cottages, the last remaining homes of the Jollytown community, one of which was occupied by the artist, Bryan Ingham (September 22nd) from 1958 until his death from cancer in 1997.

The quotation at the top of this article is engraved on the memorial stone situated at the entrance to the base.
May

**1800**  William Lovett (Birth)  **8th**

Born on this day in Newlyn, William Lovett (1800 – 1877) trained as a fishermens’ rope maker but seeing the potential of metal chains and expecting the loss of work in rope, he trained as a carpenter. In 1821, having finished his seven year apprenticeship, he travelled to London, finding work as a cabinetmaker.

Lovett attended evening classes at the *London Mechanics’ Institute* where he was introduced to the ideas of Robert Owen. In 1831, his name was drawn for service in the *London Militia* (a force charged with keeping public order and joining the army in times of war. A pacifist, Lovett refused and all his possessions were siezed as punishment. His response was to form the *Anti-Militia Association* whose slogan was ‘*No Vote, No Musket*’ and his campaign resulted in the abandonment of the drawing of the names of those expected to serve and brought him to public attention.

Lovett believed that Parliamentary reform was essential in order to improve the lives of working people and he joined the ‘*National Union of the Working Classes*’ which campaigned for annual parliamentary elections, universal male suffrage, secret ballots and the removal of the oppressive property qualifications for candidates. In June 1836, Lovett and a few other radicals formed the *London Working Men’s Association* which drew up a charter of demands.
May

In 1838, Lovett became the leader of this group which became known as ‘The Chartists’.

In 1839, Lovett was arrested for seditious libel after claiming in a speech in Birmingham that the Metropolitan police was a ‘bloodthirsty and unconstitutional force’ and, upon conviction was sentenced to a year in Warwick Gaol. During this time, Lovett and a fellow campaigner, John Collins, wrote their book ‘Chartism, a New Organisation of the People’ which brought them to public attention.

Twelve months in Warwick Gaol severely damaged Lovett's health and he was forced to spend time recuperating in Cornwall before returning to London where he opened a bookshop.

Under constant opposition from some other Chartists, Lovett decided to retire from politics and he devoted the rest of his life to developing working class education, forming ‘The National Association for Promoting the Political and Social Improvement of the People’. Financed by subscriptions, the new association provided lending libraries and employed part time teachers and Lovett wrote school textbooks and taught at evening classes.

His bookshop failed to make any money and he died in poverty on August 8th, 1877.
On this day in 1904, *3440 The City of Truro* became the first train to travel at more than 100 miles per hour.

Built in 1903 for the Great Western Railways, the locomotive worked the Penzance to Paddington route. On this day in 1904, whilst travelling between Plymouth and Paddington as a mail train, it was timed taking 8.8 seconds to pass between two quarter-mile posts whilst hauling a train of five wagons.

*3440 The City of Truro* continued in service until March 1931 and, restored, it is now based on the Gloucestershire Warwickshire Steam Railway where it is used for day trips between the Broadway railway station and Cheltenham Racecourse.
Richard Edgcumbe, 2nd Baron Edgcumbe PC (1716 – 1761) who died on this day in 1716 was an aristocrat and politician.

Raised on his family’s estate of Mount Edgcumbe on the Rame Peninsula and educated at Eton, he became Member of Parliament for Plympton Erle which was under the patronage of his father, Richard Edgcumbe, 1st Baron Edgcumbe.

Edgcumbe was a notoriously heavy gambler, often losing 20 guineas (an enormous amount then) a day at White’s Club in London. He was bailed out by the Prime Minister, Henry Pelham, who awarded him a secret annuity of £500. In order to conceal the annuity he was appointed Comptroller of the Royal Household.

Edgcumbe switched his constituency to Launceston in 1747 and then to Penryn in 1754.

Mount Edgcumbe (1869)
Penzance – born Leonard Henry Courtney, 1st Baron Courtney of Penwith, PC (1832 – 1918) was an academic and politician who was one of the earliest advocates of proportional representation and an opponent of imperialism and military action.

Educated at St John’s College, Cambridge, where he graduated second in his class in mathematics, he was called to the Bar (Lincoln’s Inn) in 1858 and was Professor of Political Economy at University College, London (1872 – 1875), President of the Royal Geological Society of Cornwall (February 11th) between 1881 and 1882) and President of the Royal Statistical Society (1897-1899).

Elected Member of Parliament for Liskeard in 1876, he represented the constituency until his enforced retirement in 1900, which was caused by his opposition to the Boer War. In his Parliamentary career, Courtney became famous for his support for electoral reform and women’s rights and suffrage.

In 1906 he contested Edinburgh West, unsuccessfully, and he was then elevated to the House of Lords as Baron Courtney of Penwith, in the County of Cornwall. A huge supporter of Penzance he was a great friend of the Newlyn School artists Norman and Alethea Garstin (22nd June and June 1st respectively).
Bodmin – born Sir Arthur Thomas Quiller – Couch was the pre-eminent Cornish writer of late Victorian and Edwardian times. Writing as ‘Q’, his literary output was quite extraordinary comprising numerous short stories, over twenty novels, over thirty non-fiction volumes and hundreds of magazine and newspaper articles. His reputation was such that he completed the final novel of Robert Louis Stevenson, ‘Ida’, at the request of Stevenson’s family. In a nice symmetry, Q’s last novel, ‘Castle Dor’ was completed at his widow’s request by Daphne du Maurier (May 13th), a close friend of his daughter, Foy.

Appointed Professor of English Literature at Cambridge, he created the university’s School of English Literature. His fame was such that his public lectures were attended by over one thousand men and women.

His non-fiction includes ‘Adventures in Criticism’ (1896), ‘The Oxford Book of English Verse (1250 – 1900), published in 1900 and which sold more than half a million copies, ‘On The Art of Writing’ (1916), ‘On The Art of Reading’ (1920) and ‘The Oxford Book of Victorian Verse’ (1920).

Q was dedicated to education and as, Deputy Chairman of the Education Committee of Cornwall Council, he was heavily involved in the creation of over fifty elementary schools in Cornwall.
London – born Daphne du Maurier (1907 – 1989), who spent most of her adult life in Cornwall, was the world famous author of atmospheric novels including, of course, ‘Rebecca’ (1938), ‘My Cousin Rachel’ (1951), ‘Jamaica Inn’ (1936), ‘The House on the Strand’ (1969) and ‘The King’s General’ (1946) and ‘Frenchman’s Creek’ (1946) as well as the short stories ‘The Birds’ (1952) and ‘Don’t Look Now’ (1971). She was also the elder sister of the painter Jeanne du Maurier (March 27th).

The daughter of the actor manager, Sir Gerald du Maurier, and the grand daughter of the writer and cartoonist, George du Maurier she became devoted to Cornwall when staying at the family’s holiday home, Ferryside, on the River Fowey. It was through this that she met Sir Arthur Quiller-Couch (May 12th) whose daughter, Foy, became one of her best friends. Another close friend was the writer C.C. Rogers (March 1st). It has been suggested that, although Manderley, in ‘Rebecca’ was based on Menabilly, her home for twenty years, the woodlands and the interior of the fictional house were based not on Menabilly but on Rogers’ home, Trelowarren which was also the inspiration for the house and its riverside location in ‘Frenchman’s Creek’.

Kate Kellaway summed her up perfectly when writing ‘Du Maurier was mistress of calculated irresolution. She did not want to put her readers’ minds at rest. She wanted her riddles to persist. She wanted the novels to continue to haunt us beyond their endings.’
Wiltshire – born Mary Delany (née Granville) became famous as an artist, letter-writer and for ‘paper-mosaicks’, botanical drawing and needlework. She was also a member of ‘The Bluestocking Society’, an informal group of wealthy women who met to discuss literature and at which learned men were periodically invited to speak.

Sent to live with her aunt, Lady Stanley in London, Mary studied literature, history, music and French as well as being taught needlework and dancing and became a close friend of Handel.

In 1718, her family who were financially dependent on her uncle, Lord Lansdowne, arranged her marriage, at the age of seventeen, to Alexander Pendarves, MP for Launceston, despite the forty-three year age gap. Although the marriage was unhappy, she loved the marital home, Roscrow Castle near Falmouth. The marriage was cut short by her husband’s death in 1725 from alcohol-related causes and since he had not changed his will upon their marriage she inherited nothing but was, in a way, liberated since widows were able to move more freely in society than young, unmarried women.

Spending her time living with various family members and friends, Delany drew illustrations of samples collected by Captain Cook.

In 1743, to the anger of her family, she married an Irish clergyman, Patrick Delany and they remained happily married for 25 years.
May

Widowed again in 1768, she devoted herself to her botanical drawings and her ‘paper mosaicks’, essentially collages, and she wrote that ‘For these ‘mosaicks’ are coloured paper representing not only conspicuous details but also contrasting colours or shades of the same colour so that every effect of light is caught’. Between the age of 71 and 88, she created 985 mosaicks using tissue paper and hand colouring to create accurate depictions of many plants. Some are on display in the ‘Enlightenment Gallery’ of the British Museum, which was also bequeathed her drawings.

Her work with paper was described as follows:

‘With the plant specimen set before her she cut minute particles of coloured paper to represent the petals, stamens, calyx, leaves, veins, stalk and other parts of the plant, and, using lighter and darker paper to form the shading, she stuck them on a black background. By placing one piece of paper upon another she sometimes built up several layers and in a complete picture there might be hundreds of pieces to form one plant. It is thought she first dissected each plant so that she might examine it carefully for accurate portrayal.’
The **Battle of Stratton** was a famous Royalist victory in the English Civil War which was of major significance in the progress of the war since the victory for Sir Ralph Hopton’s forces confirmed Royalist control of Cornwall and also destroyed the Parliamentary forces in Devon.

When it was discovered that Sir Ralph Hopton (pictured below) was advancing his Cornish Royalists into Somerset to join Prince Maurice, the Earl of Stamford (pictured above left) determined to prevent this. Deploying his forces on a hill overlooking Stratton he waited for Hopton’s advance. Hopton, despite his forces outnumbered two to one, decided to take advantage of the lack of Parliamentarian cavalry and attack Stamford’s soldiers.

An early advance by the Royalists was discovered by the Parliamentarians who counter-attacked. Hopton sent forward his cavalry and destroyed the Parliamentarian forces which fled.

Seventeen hundred Parliamentarians were captured but, unusually for the times, were treated quite humanely and subsequently released.
St. Agnes – born John Opie RA (1761 – 1807) was a historical and portrait painter who painted many of the aristocracy, artists and literary people as well as many members of the Royal Family of his day. The son of a carpenter, Opie showed prodigious mathematical and artistic talent and, by the age of twelve having mastered Euclidean geometry, opened an evening class for poor children where he taught reading, writing and arithmetic.

Apprenticed to a carpenter, he came to the notice of the local physician, Dr John Wolcot who also wrote as the, pseudonymous, Peter Pindar. Wolcot became Opie’s mentor, bought him out of his apprenticeship and supported him in Truro. Moving to London in 1781, Wolcot introduced his ‘Cornish wonder’ to leading artists such as Sir Joshua Reynolds, who compared him favourably to Caravaggio and Velazquez. One year later, Opie went alone and, having completed a commission for King George III he painted, at the King’s suggestion, Mary Delany (May 14th) and this resulted in dozens of commissions of the fashionable and rich gentry and aristocrats of London. Sadly, however, his fame and popularity proved to be transitory and he reverted to his first passion of historical paintings. Elected to the Royal Academy, and also appointed Professor of Painting in 1805, he went on to complete at least five hundred portraits and hundreds of landscapes. Opie died in 1807 and was buried at St Paul's Cathedral, in the crypt next to Joshua Reynolds.
On this day in 1888, the two masted brigantine, **Jeune Hortense**, registered in Nantes returned the body of a Fowey-born telegraphist to Penzance.

A sudden squall made her attempt to take harbour at St. Michael’s Mount but she was driven onto the sands at Long rock by a fierce North Easterly wind.

Her crew of skipper, three men and a boy were rescued but all attempts to refloat her failed and she was broken up for firewood.
Malachy Hitchins (1741–1809) was a clergyman and renowned astronomer. A talented mathematician, Hitchins studied at Exeter College, Oxford and subsequently at St John’s College, Cambridge.

In 1767, Hitchins was introduced to the Astronomer Royal, Nevil Maskelyne, who employed him as a computer at the Greenwich Royal Observatory verifying the calculations for the *Nautical Almanack* and observing and calculating the orbit of Venus around the sun. He continued the *Nautical Almanack* work for the rest of his life employing a number of St. Hilary villagers as assistants through which he taught them mathematics and science. Maskelyne also employed another Cornishman, John Arnold (August 11th), to reproduce John Harrison’s maritime timekeeper.

Having been ordained in 1769, Hitchins became Vicar of St. Hilary moving, ten years later to Gwinear whilst retaining the St. Hilary living. In 1801, he worked on the first census in Cornwall since he was noted for his attention to detail.

He was a close friend of Richard Polwhele (January 6th) and assisted him in his research for Polwhele’s ‘*History of Cornwall*’ and compiled material for his own history of the county which was edited by Samuel Drew after his death and was published in 1824.
Penzance – born Harold Harvey (1874 – 1941) trained at the Penzance School of Arts under Norman Garstin (June 22^{nd}) and the Académie Julian in Paris (1894–1896) followed by further study at the Académie Delecluse and the Academie Colarossi.

Returning to Cornwall to work again with Norman Garstin, he married fellow artist, Gertrude Bodinnar. The newly married couple moved to Newlyn becoming stalwarts of the Newlyn School of Artists and close friends of Dame Laura Knight (July 7^{th}), Annie Walke (July 6^{th}) and her husband Father Bernard Walke (June 15^{th}), Ernest Procter (October 21^{st}), Dod Procter (July 31^{st}) and Midge Bruford (April 2^{nd}). Harvey painted Bruford and her then fiancé, Richard Weatherby in a coastal setting (above right). In 1920, Harvey and his best friend Ernest Procter established the Harvey-Procter School in Newlyn offering tuition in watercolours and oils and which operated throughout the 1920s.
The Yorkshire-born sculptor Dame Barbara Hepworth (1903 - 1975) was the leading light of the St. Ives School of Artists working alongside Ben Nicholson (February 6th) and Naum Gabo (August 5th).

Hepworth studied at the Leeds School of Art where she met Henry Moore who became a lifelong friend and who inspired her in modernist surgery. Following Leeds, she studied in Florence where she became influenced by continental abstractism. Hepworth married Ben Nicholson on November 17th, 1938 and the couple moved, with their triplets, to St. Ives when World War II broke out. It was in St. Ives that Hepworth established the ‘Trewyn Studios’ in St Ives from 1949 and they also established the Penwith Society of Arts whose founding co-members included Peter Lanyon (August 31st) and Bernard Leach (May 6th).

In the 1950s, Hepworth moved from working in stone and wood to sculpting with bronze and clay and established another, and much larger, studio in a disused cinema, the ‘Palais de Danse’ where she was able to create much larger works and where she began to experiment with lithography.

Tragically, Hepworth died in an accidental fire at her Trewyn studios in 1975.
‘Ka’ Cox (1887–1938) was the daughter of a socialist stockbroker and met Rupert Brooke when studying at Cambridge University, becoming his lover and a member of his social group which was dubbed the ‘Neo-Pagans’. She became part of the Bloomsbury Group and a close friend of Virginia Woolf (March 29th). It has been suggested that Ka’s rejection of Brooke’s marriage proposal contributed to his breakdown and that ‘Ka’ Cox was Woolf’s inspiration for Mary Datchett in her, 1919, novel *Night and Day*. At one point it was planned that Woolf and Cox would share a house but the plans fell through. Very close friends, Cox saved Woolf when she took an overdose of sleeping tablets in 1913.

During the First World War she aided refugees in Corsica and, marrying the Labour politician Will Arnold-Forster (October 8th), moved to Cornwall. After the armistice, Cox and her husband moved to Zennor to a house, ‘The Eagle’s Nest’ that had allegedly been used by the notorious occultist Aleister Crowley for black masses.
In 1920 she gave birth to their only child, the writer and journalist, Mark Arnold-Forster (1920–1981). When he was seven, Mark was sent to boarding school in Switzerland and, two years later, to Kurt Hahn’s *Schule Schloss Salem*. In 1933, with Hitler’s rise to power, Hahn was forced into exile and was financially supported by Ka Cox and her husband with Mark becoming one of the first pupils at Hahn’s new school, Gordonstoun.

Despite living mainly in Cornwall both Cox and her husband remained politically and academically active, with Cox lecturing at the adult education institute, Morley College, and both working for women’s suffrage and pacifist causes. Whilst her husband was on a peace mission to the United States, Cox was suddenly taken ill on this day in 1938. The suddenness of her death two days later combined with her residence in a house associated with the occult gave rise to persistent rumours that she died in occult rituals. Such claims are without foundation as she was taken ill whilst visiting a friend who had flu.

Her relationships with Woolf and Brooke have been said to have linked together Woolf’s ‘*Bloomsbury Group*’ and Brooke’s ‘*Neo Pagans*’ and Woolf was keen on Brooke’s group particularly for the latter’s love of the outdoors.

Despite Cox’s rejection of Brooke’s proposal, they remained close friends and corresponded continuously during the War. In his last letter to Ka dated March 10th 1915, Brooke wrote that ‘*I suppose you’re about the best I can do in the way of a widow*’.

Less than a month later Brooke was dead.
London-born **Frank Baker** (1908 – 1982) was a writer, actor and musician who developed a deep love of Cornwall and kept returning even when called away for work. He did though seem to have difficulty deciding where in Cornwall to live.

Educated at Winchester Cathedral School he became a proficient organist but, on leaving school, became apprenticed in his father’s maritime insurance business before, five years later, working for the School of Church Music. After a year there and equipped with a £20 note and a piano he moved to St. Just where he gained employment as an organist at £1 a week and began to write and write and write. He let holiday rooms in the cottage he shared with Marcus Tippett and, encouraged by one guest, the writer and editor Edward Garnett, Baker wrote his first novel, ‘*The Twisted Tree*’, which was published, to nationwide acclaim, when he was just twenty-seven.

After Tippett’s death, Baker moved to St. Hilary where he became the Church organist and a close friend of Father Bernard Walke (June 15th). The two collaborated, with Filson Young (June 5th) on the radio broadcast of Walke’s Christmas play, *Bethlehem*, which was the first live broadcast of a play.

A man of many talents, Baker also worked as a professional actor and toured in the forties with Dame Sybil Thorndike, Hattie Jacques and Paul Scofield. It was through this work that he met his future wife, Kathleen Lloyd.
May

The family moved to Mevagissey after the war but five years later moved to Surrey then back to Goldsithney and then to Cardiff where he worked as a scriptwriter and editor for the BBC before eventually returning to Cornwall to settle in their final home in Porthleven.

Throughout all these personal moves, Baker continued writing novels, short stories and newspaper articles. One of his books, ‘The Birds’ had an initial premise similar to that of the short story of the same name by Daphne du Maurier and when her story was filmed Baker was tempted to sue for plagiarism but was dissuaded since the rest of the plot was very different to du Maurier’s and it was obvious that his case would be dismissed as without foundation.

Baker wrote fourteen novels, the most famous of which, was the comic novel ‘Miss Hargreaves’. In this novel, two friends invent a fictional character, embellish her life story and are shocked when she comes to life and sends them a telegram indicating the day that she will come to stay. The novel was adapted for the stage with the lead played by Dame Margaret Rutherford and it was also produced for radio. Another of his novels, ‘Lease of Life’ (1954) was made into a film starring Robert Donat who was the best friend of J.C. Trewin (December 4th). With a script written by the thriller writer, Eric Ambler, it was also one of the first of Denholm Elliott’s films.

Baker wrote two memoirs. The first, ‘I follow but Myself’ (1968), concentrated on the friends who had had the most effect on him whilst his final work, ‘Call of Cornwall’ (1976) explored Cornwall’s spiritual and literary history and landscape and through which he expressed his deep and profound love for the county.
Birkenhead – born William Lewarne Harris (1929 – 2013) was educated at The King’s School, Canterbury until the school was evacuated to St. Austell, in the county of his mother’s birth.

After national service with the Duchy of Cornwall Light Infantry, he studied composition at the Royal College of Music under Patrick Hadley and Herbert Howells and won the Lionel Tertis Prize for his ‘Suite for Viola and Piano’ which was premiered in 1953.

He continued to compose a range of works while teaching music and the piano in several schools in Kent and frequently returning to Cornwall, becoming a Bard of the Gorsedh Kernow in 2002 in recognition of his basing his music on Cornish and Breton themes. He took the Bardic name Pendrethan meaning ‘Head of the Sands’.

In 1973, he premiered his song-cycle ‘A Cycle of Love and Death’ at the Wigmore Hall.

In Hayle in 2006, he premiered ‘Rescorla’s Variations’, a tribute to Rick Rescorla, the Hayle-born hero of the Twin Towers attack.
Caroline Fox (1819 – 1871) was a Cornish diarist and educationalist.

The daughter of Robert Were Fox the Younger (July 25th) of the influential, Quaker, Fox family of Falmouth and his wife, Maria Barclay, she is well known for her diaries in which she recorded her memories of meeting many of the intellectual celebrities of the day including J. S. Mill and Thomas Carlyle.

Born at Penjerrick House (pictured below in 1890), Fox was instrumental, with her sister Anna Maria in the establishment of the Royal Cornish Polytechnic Society of Falmouth (April 22nd) which is regarded as the first institution to use the term Polytechnic.
William Trewartha Bray (1794 – 1868), known as Billy Bray, was a Methodist preacher.

Born just outside St. Day, Bray and his siblings were brought up by their grandfather who was a committed Methodist.

For his first seven years of work, Bray was employed in both Devon and Cornwall as a miner and, by his own account, was a riotous drunkard but was converted, in 1823, after reading John Bunyan’s ‘Visions of Heaven and Hell’ and became a Bible Christian, an offshoot of the Methodist denomination. His exuberant preaching, involving jumping, shouting and singing often inspired his congregation to also spontaneously sing, dance and exclaim ‘Praise the Lord’ also often bursting into tears.

Bray’s congregations were so great and and his supporters so generous that he was able to fund the building of three new Methodist chapels; in his home village of Twelveheads along with ones at Carharrack and at Kerley Downs. Never a wealthy man, Bray and his wife often fretted that they and their four children would end up in the workhouse not least because Bray was generous and practical in living life through his beliefs. Being made aware of two small children whose mother had died and whose father had abandoned them, he and his wife, Joanna, brought them up as their own.
Penzance–born **George Pawley White** (1907 – 2006) was a bank manager who was instrumental in the establishment of the *Gorsedh Kernow* and was its fourth Grand Bard taking the Bardic name ‘*Gunwyn*’ (‘*White Moor*’).

Pawley White was also a central figure in Cornish Methodism and began preaching at the age of eighteen. Educated at Humphry Davy Grammar School, he became the organist of Richmond Methodist Chapel at the age of twelve. Leaving school, he began work at the Penzance branch of the Bolitho Bank, which is now part of Barclays Bank, and in the Second World War he served in India with the RAF, acting as an unofficial nonconformist padre and welfare officer. After the war he also became active in the Liberal Party before becoming one of the founding members of Mebyon Kernow.

At the age of eighty, after the death of his wife, he began worldwide preaching whilst also promoting awareness of the Cornish language and culture and he continued visiting Delhi, Soweto and Australia until he was 89.

Pawley White edited a book of hymns and psalms in the Cornish language ‘*Cornish Hymns and Psalms*’ and wrote ‘*A Handbook of Cornish Surnames*’ as well as a memoir ‘*A Half Century of Cornish Methodism, 1925-1975*’.
Cardiff – born, to Cornish parents, Robert Morton Nance (1873 – 1959) was an artist, writer, nautical archaeologist and joint founder of the Old Cornwall Society (1928).

Morton Nance studied art in Bushey and was exhibiting at the Royal Academy at the early age of twenty-five.

After the premature death of his first wife, Beatrice, in 1901 he moved to Cornwall with his second wife, Maud, settling near St. Ives in 1906.

He became the pre–eminent authority of his time, expert on all things Cornish and was one of the founders of the Gorsedh Kernow, taking the Bardic name ‘Mordon’ and served as President of the Royal Institution of Cornwall (1951 – 1955).


In 1956, he published ‘The Cledry Plays’, an attempt to continue the West Penwith tradition of turning local folk tales into Christmas plays.
Lostwithiel – born **John Burton** (1839-1907) was the son of, the Lancashire – born, Joseph Burton who had married a Miss Clemo at Launceston. When John was six months old, the family moved to Bodmin where Joseph established a china and glass shop. Until he was 22, John worked in his father’s business but then left home to establish, in Falmouth and funded with thirty shillings, his ‘**Old Curiosity Shop**’ which became world famous. After scraping a living hawking crockery and china, he began buying unusual items from sailors arriving at Falmouth.

With a growing reputation for curios, Burton moved to larger premises next to the ‘**Royal Hotel**’. He travelled across Cornwall to buy and sell in the ports and became fairly wealthy and sufficiently famous that when the future King Edward VII visited Falmouth (1887) as the, then, Duke of Cornwall, he demanded a visit to the shop. After that proved inconvenient Edward purchased a number of items by mail order.

Burton became renowned as well for exchanging goods for his own tokens (pictured below) which could only be redeemed for other goods.
Ludgvan – born Humphry Davy (1778 – 1829) is renowned for his isolation, using electricity, of the elements potassium and sodium (1807) and then, later, calcium, strontium, barium, magnesium and boron (1808). He also demonstrated the elemental nature of chlorine and iodine and experimented with, and demonstrated, the effects of ‘laughing gas’ (nitrous oxide).

The inventor of the Miners’ Safety Lamp, he is also renowned for developing the skills of his assistant, Michael Faraday.

Davy became a world famous lecturer and established the weekly, Friday, lectures at the Royal Institution, which became even more famous with Michael Faraday’s Friday and Christmas Lectures that continue until this day.

Davy was notorious for his, often, reckless experiments. He tasted all the chemical substances he isolated and, upon hearing of the discovery of nitrogen trichloride (NCl₃) in 1812 he immediately wrote to its discoverer, Pierre Louis Dulong (1785 – 1838), asking for the procedure even knowing that Dulong had lost two fingers and an eye in the first isolation of the viscous, yellow, liquid which is shock-sensitively explosive. Davy’s early and sudden death may have been accelerated by his habit of tasting the chemicals.
On this day in 1141, Reginald de Dunstanville (1110 – 1175), an illegitimate son of King Henry I, was made the first Earl of Cornwall and the High Sheriff of Devon. Known in Normandy as Reginald de Dénestanville he was the son of Henry by his mistress Sybilla Sybil Corbet (pictured right) who was the wife of ‘Herbert the King’s Chamberlain’ and known as the King’s Fifth Concubine.

Following Henry’s death (December 1st 1135), his nephew, Stephen de Blois was crowned King on arrival in London three weeks after Henry’s death. This contravened a solemn oath that Stephen had made to Henry’s daughter, Matilda, the king’s sole remaining legitimate child in 1127. Despite Stephen’s ascendancy to the throne being confirmed by Pope Innocent II, Matilda invaded England in 1139 to claim the throne, plunging England into a civil war between nobles who used the war as cover to settle feuds. The war ended in a stalemate with Matilda in control of the south of England and Stephen controlling the north. Despite never being crowned Queen to due to a rebellion by many nobles and common people, Matilda named Reginald as Earl of Cornwall with a requirement that he put down any rebellion in the country. In 1173 he granted a charter to Truro and significantly referred to ‘All men both Cornish and English’ implying a separation between England and Cornwall. Reginald married Mabel FitzRichard, the daughter of a powerful Cornish landowner and had seven legitimate and two illegitimate children.
Penzance’s lido, the **Jubilee Pool**, opened on this day in 1935.

Named to celebrate the Silver Jubilee of King George V, it is the UK’s largest open air, and one of the few saltwater, swimming baths in the country and demonstrates the history of Penzance as a tourist destination. The art deco lido features a large triangular pool, with its longest side 300 feet long and is 160 feet at its widest. With a capacity of five million litres, the level is controlled by gates on the western side and the depth varies between four and seven feet depending on the tide. It has changing rooms on several levels which also provide sunbathing and viewing areas. The lido transformed the opportunities for women to swim since, until the pool opened, the headland location was used exclusively by men and although women could use other parts of the beach they were expected to use the bathing machines of which there were a very limited number. Over the decades the lido fell into disrepair and was closed for a short period in the 1990s and again for two years following substantial damage caused by the storms of 2014. A Grade II listed building, it was renovated and reopened in 2016 as a not-for-profit social enterprise.
June
Penzance – born Alethea Garstin (1894 – 1978) was a painter of the Newlyn School of Art and the daughter of the artist Norman Garstin (June 22nd) and his wife, Louisa. Her father taught her the fundamentals of painting and she became a close friend of Alfred Wallis (August 29th) and Dod Procter (July 31st). Garstin was renowned for use of tones and colours to represent different temperatures. Described by Patrick Heron (February 20th) as ‘the most important English impressionist painter’ Garstin concentrated on the scenery and the characters she encountered not just in Cornwall but also whilst travelling through Belgium, France and Italy as exemplified by ‘Small Trader’, pictured above. Her first visits to France arose when she accompanied her father on cycling and painting tours. She came to public notice at an early age and her first exhibition at the Royal Academy of ‘The Chairmakers’ occurred in 1912, making her one of the youngest painters ever to exhibit at that institution. The following year she was, again, requested to exhibit and this time she offered a much larger painting, ‘The Market Place at Gemene, Brittany’. Garstin was also commissioned to produce illustrations for ‘Punch’ and ‘The Tatler’ magazines. Garstin’s premier exhibition was her solo display of over sixty paintings at the Adams Gallery in Pall Mall where the highlights were her depictions of ‘Penzance Promenade’ and ‘Penzance Harbour’.
In the First World War, German U-boats were continually attacking merchant shipping in the English Channel and it was determined that there was an immediate need for anti-submarine aircraft based in Cornwall. This resulted, in 1916, in the construction of RNAS Mullion on 320 acres of sequestrated land on the Bonython Estate on the Lizard Peninsula. Originally named ‘The Lizard Airship Station’, its strategic position caused it to become central to anti-submarine warfare and with its two vast hangars was the base for a number of airships.

Each of the ‘Coastal’ (‘C-Class’) airships had a tri-lobe balloon of a capacity of 170,000ft$^3$ of hydrogen and an open gondola suspended beneath with capacity for five aircrew armed with four machine guns and a number of bombs which were simply thrown out of the unheated gondola. The cold led to the crew frequently walking around the outside edge of the gondola holding on to the grab-rails and frequently, in the winter after a typical 15-hour shift, the ground staff had to lift them out, whilst as shown below, when landing, a ground crew of at least fifty personnel was needed to anchor it.
June

One of the airships, C-9, dubbed the ‘The Darling of the Airship Service’ is believed to have destroyed three U-boats whilst another, C-22, scored a direct hit on a submarine’s conning tower with a hand thrown bomb.

The airbase, by now renamed RNAS Mullion, closed in the summer of 1919, the airships were decommissioned and the sequestrated land returned to its owners. The buildings were dismantled and used to construct new homes on the peninsula. Today, the only visible remains are the concrete foundations of the enormous hangars.
Saltash – born Admiral Richard Darton Thomas (1777 – 1857) joined the Royal Navy at the age of twelve, initially serving on *HMS Cumberland*, and went on to serve in both the French Revolutionary and the Napoleonic Wars. In the 1840s, he became Commander-in-Chief, Pacific.

On enlisting, Thomas sailed to the West Indies where he transferred to *HMS Blanche* under the command of Captain Robert Murray, and was rated as an Able Seaman before joining HMS Nautilus as a midshipman on which he served for two years. In the Napoleonic War he served in the Mediterranean and was sent ashore to man a battery in Corsica. At the end of the war, he served in Nova Scotia and was given command of *HMS Chichester* in 1803. He began his return to England on the packet ship Lady Hobart which was intercepted and attacked by the French Schooner, *L’ Aimable Julie*, which was captured. Proceeding to England, the two ships hit an iceberg and the crews of both ships crammed into two small boats and returned to North America covering an extraordinary 350 miles in a matter of weeks despite heavy rain, gales and thick fog. Thomas served in the Peninsular War, in the blockades of Marseilles and Toulon, and at the Battle of Trafalgar before being invalidated out. Promoted to Rear-Admiral in 1837, he served as Commander-in-Chief (Pacific), Vice Admiral (1848) and Admiral (1854) and died at Stonehouse in 1857.
Welsh – born Sir Arthur Pendarves Vivian (1834 – 1926) was an industrialist, mine owner and politician. After education at Eton and Trinity College, Cambridge, Vivian became manager of his family’s Hafod copper works and colliery in the Swansea valley before moving to St. Columb Minor to manage the family’s Cornish businesses.

Vivian sat as Liberal Member of Parliament in 1868 for Cornwall West from 1868 until 1885 and served as High Sheriff of Cornwall in 1889.

A frequent traveller, Vivian published ‘Wanderings in the Western Land’ in 1879 recounting his journeys in North America.

Retiring in 1882, Vivian bought the Bosahan estate (pictured, which was demolished in the 1950s) on the Helford River and died there in 1926 at the age of 92.
Irish – born Alexander Bell Filson Young (1876 – 1938), always known as Filson Young, was an essayist, novelist and non-fiction writer, organist and a pioneer of travel by motorcar and plane. He became notorious for a scandalously lewd novel, ‘The Sands of Pleasure’ (1905) and his fame increased with his reporting of the Boer War for the Manchester Guardian as well as for publishing the first book about The Titanic, just 38 days after the tragic sinking. A close friend of Grant Richards (October 21st), Young spent many years living on the Lizard Peninsula he became very friendly with Father Bernard Walke (June 15th) and Annie Walke (July 6th) and produced the radio broadcast of Walke’s Christmas play, ‘Bethlehem’ (December 1926) and the plays which became an annual Christmas tradition at St. Hilary and on the BBC.

An early motoring enthusiast, he published ‘The Complete Motorist’ (1904), ‘Cornwall and a Light Car’ (1926), and ‘The Joy of the Road’ (1907). He wrote extensively on music, produced literary columns for ‘The Saturday Review’ and ‘The Daily Mail’ and is renowned for the first publication of James Joyce’s work having recommended the writer to Grant Richards (October 21st).

He served in the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve in World War I and wrote about the navy’s service in the North Sea whilst, having learnt to fly in 1936, he broadcast a series of radio talks, ‘Growing Wings’.
The *Cornish Prayer Book Rebellion* began on this day in 1549. The strongly Catholic county, used to services in Latin and Cornish, was infuriated by the introduction of the Reformation – inspired revised *Book of Common Prayer*. The new prayer book contained an English-language only liturgy and there were instructions to remove anything considered Papist. These changes fomented the anger still felt by many about the dissolution and destruction of Glasney Abbey (Penzryn), the price of wheat, which had quadrupled in two years, and the enclosure of common land by local gentry. The revised book had been introduced by the Protestant Privy Councillors who governed England on behalf of the ‘Boy King’ Edward VI. Having been informed of the Rebellion which also made the Cornish gentry feel threatened with a supposed call to ‘*Kill all the gentlemen*’ and the march of the rebels on Exeter, the Lord Protector sent Lord John Russell to put down the revolt when word reached him that many of the West Cornwall landowners had sought refuge in the castle of St. Michael’s Mount where they were besieged. When the rebellion had been defeated, Russell’s revenge was swift and brutal. He appointed a commissioner to remove all Catholic relics from the Churches and ordered the execution of twenty eight Cornishmen at Launceston whilst the main leader of the revolt in the far west of the county, Martin Geoffrey, Vicar of St Keverne, was hanged, drawn and quartered in London with his head impaled on a stake on the London Bridge. It has been estimated that one in three Cornishmen died in the rebellion and its aftermath which may well be an over-estimate but demonstrates the significance of the rebellion.
Cheshire – born **Samuel John ‘Lamorna’ Birch**, (1869 – 1955) was a member of the Newlyn School of painters specialising in watercolours and oils. Since there was another artist of the same surname, Lionel Birch (October 31st), his close friend, Stanhope Forbes (November 18th) nicknamed him ‘Lamorna’ after his village of residence and which was a frequent subject of his works. Self taught but with a brief period studying at the Académie Colarossi in Paris in 1895, Birch settled in Lamorna (1892) and when married he and his wife, Houghton ‘Mouse’ Emily Vivian, moved to Flagstaff Cottage in Lamorna Cove. Lamorna first exhibited at the Royal Academy at the age of 24 and over his lifetime he exhibited two hundred paintings there. He had an enormous appetite for his work and it has been estimated that he produced at least an extraordinary 20,000 paintings.

*In Our Old World Valley* (1921)
St. Andrews – born Wilhelmina Barns-Graham (1912 – 2004), always known as Willie, was a painter and a printmaker.

Trained at the Edinburgh College of Art, she exhibited at the Summer Exhibitions of the Royal Society of Arts and became friends with Margaret Mellis, the future wife of Adrian Stokes (December 23rd), who introduced her to modern art. Due to repeated bouts of ill health, she took some years to graduate and her college principal suggested that she should go to St. Ives for her health where she arrived in March 1940.

Through Mellis and Stokes, she met, and became friends with Ben Nicholson (February 6th), Barbara Hepworth (May 20th), Naum Gabo (August 5th) and Sven Berlin (September 11th) and she also met Alfred Wallis (August 29th). Barns-Graham also became part of the, post-war, St. Ives School of Artists becoming close to Peter Lanyon (August 31st), Terry Frost (September 1st), Bryan Wynter (September 8th), Roger Hilton (April 30th) and Rose Hilton (August 15th).

In 1947, she married the aspiring poet, David Lewis, with whom she travelled to Paris and Italy before moving to Leeds where Lewis enrolled in the School Architecture (1956). The couple divorced in 1963 and having received an inheritance, she split her time between Scotland and Cornwall.
On this day in 1826, Charles Buller (1806 – 1848) became Member of Parliament for the ‘rotten borough’ of West Looe.

Born in Kolkata (Calcutta), the son of Charles Buller the Elder (1774 – 1848) and Barbara Isabella Kirkpatrick, the daughter of the East India Company soldier, Major-General William Kirkpatrick, Buller was educated at Harrow and Cambridge and followed his father into politics, his father having represented West Looe between 1812 and 1816.

A barrister and Parliamentary reformer who was known for his wit and supposed practical jokes, he was also a journalist and diplomat. He undertook a diplomatic mission to Canada with his brother, Sir Arthur William Buller (September 5th) and he also drafted the constitution of New South Wales. Mount Buller in the state was named in his memory.

The West Looe constituency was abolished as a consequence of the 1832 Reform Act, for which he voted, and Buller represented the new constituency of Liskeard until his death from typhus. A life size marble bust in Westminster Abbey commemorates his life and achievements; a remarkable achievement for one who died so young.
Between 1826 and 1828 the Borough of St Ives endured three elections. The 1826 election became notorious after the victor, Sir Christopher Hawkins of Trewthen (April 6th), complained that the cost of treating the voters amounted to almost £2000, a vast sum in those times. In those times voting occurred in public and Hawkins had held a dinner at which he ‘lent’ each voter a £1 note to pay for their meal with them being allowed to keep the change provided they voted for him. Otherwise, the ‘loan’ had to be repaid.

The February, 1828, election, ‘The Corrupt Election’ returned two members as usual and, this time, they were James Halse (January 28th) and Hawkins. Hawkins was subsequently appointed Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster and promptly resigned his seat because, since 1707, it had been the rule that newly appointed government ministers were not allowed to also be Members of the Commons unless re-elected to the Chamber after their government appointment. Hawkins appointed Sir Charles Arbuthnot in his place.

The second General Election of 1828 was called when Parliament was dissolved on June 2nd, to be recalled on July 25th. It was up to each returning officer to set the exact date of the election in his borough and, in St. Ives, the election occurred on this day. Five candidates had initially stood: James Halse; Arbuthnot; a nephew of the Duke of Wellington, The Hon. William Pole-Tylney-Long-Wellesley; a London resident named Mr. Blakemore and another rich London merchant, James Morrison, who only visited St. Ives once but provided 1,500
sovereigns to meet ‘expenses’. The day before the election, having been informed that he had no chance of election, Morrison withdrew his candidacy, as did Blakemore who, apparently ‘unavoidably detained in London’ arranged for his friends in St. Ives to resign his candidacy on his behalf. On the very day of the election, Pole-Tylney-Long-Wellesley resigned his candidacy. Having also stood in two other constituencies, he selected one which he preferred to St. Ives. This left only two candidates for the two seats and so no vote was necessary.

The next election (1830) became even more complicated since Hawkins had died and his estate had been purchased by Pole-Tylney-Long-Wellesley, funded by James Morrison on the understanding that these two would become the next two Members for St. Ives.

Pole-Tylney-Long-Wellesley is a fascinating character. He had previously represented St. Ives (1812 – 1818) and did so again in 1830 – 1831. He was not exactly popular and, following his death (July 1st, 1857) he was described in the, London-based newspaper, ‘Morning Chronicle’ as ‘A spendthrift, a profligate, and a gambler in his youth, he became debauched in his manhood... redeemed by no single virtue, adorned by no single grace, his life gone out even without a flicker of repentance.’

Subsequently, he spent some time on the continent to avoid his creditors, but by the time of his death he was living in poverty in lodgings in Manchester.
Devon – born Edmund Sedding (1836 – 1868) was a musician and Church architect and was the younger brother of another Church architect, John Dando Sedding. Trained in gothic architecture under the architect George Edmund Street (famous for designing the buildings of The Royal Courts of Justice), he worked as an architect in Bristol and moved to Penzance in 1862.

In Cornwall, he was responsible for the restoration of the churches of Gwithian, Wendron, Altarnun, North Hill, Ruan Major (which he modified during restoration), Newlyn, and St. Stephens by Launceston. With a nationwide reputation, he designed a new church and rectory at Marple, restored Bigbury Church in Cheshire and designed Downes House in Hayle for the Rawlings family.

A talented Church organist, Sedding played at the Church of St. Mary the Virgin, Soho and was precentor (a lay canon in charge of music) of St. Raphael the Archangel, Bristol. A prolific hymn writer he published ‘A Collection of Nine Antient Christmas Carols for Four Voices’ (1860), ‘Seven Ancient Carols for four voices’ (1864), ‘Five Hymns of ye Holy Eastern Church’ (1864). He illustrated F.G.Lee's ‘Directorium Anglicanum’ (1865) and published many single hymns.

Sedding died on this day in 1868 leaving his wife, Jessie Proctor and four young children one of whom was the architect E. H. Sedding.
Devon – born Charles Kingsley (1819 – 1875), novelist, social reformer, academic and historian was educated, with his younger brother, Herbert, at Helston Grammar School where he was struck down by cholera and came to know C.A. Johns (June 28th), the then Second Master of Helston Grammar School. A strong advocate of social reform, workers’ education and an early form of Christian Socialism he became a close friend of Charles Darwin and supported the theory of evolution even when the Anglican Church was vehemently opposed. When studying in Helston Grammar School, the Headmaster was Derwent Coleridge, the son of the famous poet Samuel Taylor Coleridge and their friendship gave him further literary connections. Kingsley’s brother, Herbert, was regarded as a tearaway. He stole and sold a silver spoon before running away and spending a night in the open. It was claimed that this brought on rheumatism which, combined with heart disease, killed him at the age of thirteen. There have, however, been suggestions that Herbert drowned at Loe Pool, rumours which are apparently reinforced by the absence of his name on his gravestone in Helston which is simply adorned with his initials and dates.

Whilst Kingsley is most remembered for ‘Westward Ho!’ and ‘The Waterbabies’, he wrote a number of classic historical novels including ‘Hypatia’ (1853) and ‘Hereward the Wake’ (1865).
June

1940

Jewish Evacuee Children Arrive 13th

On this day in 1940, one hundred Jewish evacuee children arrived by railway at Penzance with five teachers. They were amongst many thousands of East End children who were evacuated to the county. The children, who had all attended the Jewish Free School in East London, were billeted with the villagers of Mousehole. Synagogue services were held in Paul Village Hall but, interestingly, they also attended Chapel services since many of their host families were committed Methodists.

The children integrated well and were welcomed by the villagers of Mousehole who taught them to swim, sail and fish. A report in The Cornishman recorded that ‘Long, long before the train from London bearing the evacuee children was due to arrive every available vantage point overlooking the station was crowded with spectators. One section, composed in the main of children, lined the Cliff, overlooking the arrival platform, waiting to give their visitors a welcome. Outside, in the station approaches, great crowds had to be controlled by the police and traffic wardens. There was an air of expectancy about, a feeling of curiosity mingled with sympathy for these children sent so far from their own firesides.’

For unknown reasons, there was only ever a very small Jewish population in Cornwall but the first purpose-built synagogue in Penzance was built in 1807 largely financed by Joseph Branwell. Branwell was the brother in law of Maria Branwell (April 15th) who married his cousin and Maria’s sister, Elizabeth, in Madron on the same day that Maria married Patrick Brontë in Yorkshire.
Flintshire – born naturalist, antiquarian and writer, **Thomas Pennant** (1726 – 1798), most famous for his accounts of his touring around Britain, was born on this day in 1726.

On a two-year visit to Cornwall, he met fellow antiquarian and naturalist William Borlase through a mutual friendship with Sir John St. Aubyn 4th Baronet of Clowance (son of the 3rd Baronet of the same name, September 27th). Borlase, the Rector of Ludgvan, enthused Pennant with a fascination in mineralogy and fossils and which formed the foundation of most his research and writings in the 1750s. An extremely wealthy man, Pennant learnt enough about geology to establish a lead mine in Derbyshire.

Pennant and Borlase corresponded for over two decades on matters as widely ranging as mineralogy, standing stones and other antiquities, sea life and seabirds. Pennant became known for his ‘British Zoology’ which is the first book to use the term *Cornish Gannet* but he used it to describe a *Great Skua* (below left) rather than a true gannet (below right).
Breage – born **Sidney Godolphin** (1645 – 1712), a member of the famous Godolphin family of Godolphin Manor (pictured below) represented Helston in the Commons. He became a courtier and advanced rapidly, becoming a Groom of the Bedchamber (1672) and Master of the Robes (1678). Neither position was of political significance but they were of immense Royal importance giving Godolphin direct access to King Charles II. After a nine-year betrothment, Godolphin married Margaret Blagge. They had one child, Francis (September 3rd, 1678) but Margaret died six days later. Grief-stricken, Godolphin took no part in her funeral and returned to his Godolphin estate, remaining there for a year. In 1684, King Charles I appointed him Secretary of State and he was raised to the peerage as Baron Godolphin of Rialton. On James II's accession to the throne, Godolphin was appointed Chamberlain to the Queen and became one of James' most trusted ministers and even corresponded with James after he was deposed. However, ever pragmatic, he quickly switched sides and on May 6th, 1702, Queen Anne appointed Godolphin to the position of Lord High Treasurer, effectively the head of the home government, making him one of the most significant and powerful men in the country.
Gibraltar – born Henry Sewell Stokes came to England in 1815 and was a pupil at the Rev. William Giles’ Baptist School where a classmate was Charles Dickens. In 1823, he returned to Gibraltar, where his father was a lawyer and government official and studied English and Foreign mercantile law for three years, becoming fluent in French, Spanish and Italian.

Stokes served his articles in Tavistock and then became a practising lawyer in Truro where, over 25 years, he served as Mayor, Town Clerk and then as ‘Clerk for the Peace of the County of Cornwall’ in which role he was responsible for the administration of all Cornish courts. He was also editor of the ‘Cornish Guardian and Western Chronicle’ which later merged with ‘The West Briton’.

Stokes was a prolific poet and writer and first came to notice, in 1836, with ‘The Vale of Lanherne and Other Poems’ which was illustrated by his wife, Louisa Rachel Evans, daughter of the Vicar of Tavistock.

Numerous poems demonstrated his love of Cornwall and he became a friend of Alfred, Lord Tennyson, one of whose most famous poems was ‘The Gallants of Fowey’.
John Wesley (1703 – 1791) had an enormous effect on the religious life and behaviour on the ordinary people of Cornwall, after an initial suggestion by his brother, Charles Wesley (July 30th), that Cornwall might be fertile territory for their beliefs. John made thirty-two visits to Cornwall, travelling on horseback when such a journey between London and Cornwall took at least six days each way. Although both Wesley brothers were ordained clergy of the Church of England, they were denied entry to most Churches in Cornwall and resorted to preaching outdoors. Furthermore, due to the antipathy of Cornish Anglican clergy to revivalism, many of their parishioners were encouraged to protest against them. On initial visits to both St. Ives and Falmouth, John Wesley was met with abuse, threats, thrown stones and violence to the extent that he was lucky to escape with his life in Falmouth.

Nevertheless, the power of his preaching, his eloquence and his ability to connect with the ordinary people of Cornwall, assuring them that each and every person was accepted as a Child of God, made the county the foremost Methodist area. At one point it was estimated that half of the population described themselves as Methodists.

In later years, when Methodism separated from the Anglican Church the country was divided into six Methodist circuits of which the St. Ives circuit was by far the largest in terms of congregation numbers.
June

In the 18th century, the poverty of much of the Cornish population led many to heavy drinking even as children. Miners endured long journeys on foot to the mine, eight hours underground in appallingly hot and dirty environments and had to ascend hundreds of feet by ladder at the end of their shifts. At the same time, farmers worked in appalling weather, often even barefoot and with flimsy clothing. Many assuaged their hard lives with excessive alcohol consumption, further reducing the lifespans of many.

Wesley was deeply concerned with the economic and physical wellbeing of the population and not just their intellectual and religious beliefs. A strong proponent of teetotalism, he also founded medical dispensaries supplying medicines free of charge or for a nominal sum. This, alone, led to an improvement in life expectancy and general health.

Determined that his writings could reach the masses, Wesley also ensured that his publications were sold as cheaply as possible. The power of Wesley’s rhetoric and persuasion is vividly demonstrated by his arrival, in appalling weather, at a cottage in Trewint near Altarnun inhabited by Digory Isbell and his wife, Elizabeth Burnard. The couple were so taken by Wesley’s deportment and beliefs that the Isbells constructed a room adjacent to their cottage for Wesley’s use (pictured right) whenever he was travelling in Cornwall. Trewint Cottage is now a museum dedicated to the history of Cornish Methodism.
Henry Rogers was a pewterer in Helston who expected to inherit his elderly father’s farm in Crowan but, very late in life, Rogers’ father married, the nineteen year old, Anne Millett from Porthleven and bequeathed everything to her.

Determined to secure what he believed to be his rightful property, Rogers entered and barricaded himself inside the farmhouse when he was aware that Millet was absent. He had considerable support from the local population, including Sir John St. Aubyn of Clowance (September 27th), who believed his cause was rightful. St. Aubyn advised that the cause was right but that he should obey the law but approximately 200 men and women set up impromptu barricades across the local lanes and defences on the walls surrounding the house. On this day in 1734, the Under-Sheriff of Cornwall, James Tillie, was eventually sent to serve an eviction warrant but was fired on from within the house and retreated. The farm was left alone for some months until a cannon was dragged from Pendennis by a force of soldiers from the garrison. The house was besieged for some days until, determined to end the siege, the cannon was fired on the house. Bitter fighting ensued and several soldiers were killed. Rogers escaped but was captured in Salisbury and sent to Launceston gaol (pictured above in gaol). Sentenced to death, Rogers was hanged there in 1735.
The famous writer of ‘Lord of the Flies’ and eleven other novels, the Nobel Laureate (1983), **William Golding** (1911 – 1993) was born in his maternal grandmother’s home, ‘Karenza’, in Newquay. Golding went to Oxford (Brasenose College) in 1930 to study Natural Sciences but, after two years, transferred to studying English Literature. Golding’s first collection of poems was published in 1934 whilst he was teaching at Maidstone Grammar School.

In 1985, Golding and his wife, Ann Brookfield, moved to Tullimaar House, Perranarworthal, a beautiful Regency mansion built for the mining adventurer, Benjamin Sampson, where Golding nurtured five acres of apple tree orchards and where Golding and Ann are pictured right.

Tullimaar House was requisitioned in World War II and was Eisenhower’s headquarters in the two weeks before D-Day.

In the central east ground floor room there is a brass plaque worded ‘A shot was fired through this window by a sentry Running Amok 1944’.
Radnorshire – born, **Colwyn Edward Vulliamy** (1886 – 1971) was a novelist, biographer and artist who studied under Stanhope Forbes (November 18th).

His studies were curtailed by the outbreak of World War I, when he served in France, Macedonia and in Turkey. After the war he concentrated more on his writing than his art, producing sixteen humorous novels and twenty nine works of non-fiction including a 1931 biography of John Wesley (June 17th) and of William Penn (1933) and philosophical works including ‘*Man and the Atom: a Brief Account of the Human Dilemma*’ (1947). His most famous Cornwall – related works include a travel book ‘*Unknown Cornwall*’ (1925), ‘*Prehistoric Remains in West Penwith*’ (1921) and ‘*Charles Kingsley and Christian Socialism*’ (1914). Charles Kingsley features in this almanack (June 12th). In 1916, Vulliamy married, the Poona – born, Eileen Hynes (1886 – 1943), a committed Irish Republican. Eileen had two sisters, Gladys Hynes and Sheelah Hynes. Gladys, also an Irish Republican and a friend of Ezra Pound lived in Cornwall (1906 – 1919, studied under Stanhope Forbes (November 18th) and, a close friend of Bernard Walke, she contributed a stall painting for St. Hilary Church. Harold Knight RA (October 3rd) portrayed Gladys in ‘*Miss Gladys On the Balcony*’ (1933) which sold at Christies in 2017 for £25,000.
Paul – born Richard Keigwin (1647 – 1689) was a Captain in the Royal Navy who captured St. Helena on behalf of the East India Company on May 4th, 1673 and became its governor. His landing spot is still known as ‘Keigwin’s Rock’.

In 1677, Keigwin was transferred to Madras and became famous for his actions against the Maratha navy and he took control of Madras. Keigwin refused subsequent instructions from the London Headquarters of the East India Company to disband his forces and was recalled to Bombay (now Mumbai) but despite his refusal to obey instructions he was appointed a member of the Company’s governing council in Bombay.

He could not resolve issues with the company however and, in 1684, seized Bombay in the name of the King, ruling it until the following November when the King ordered its return to the Company.

He was transferred to the West Indies and given the command of HMS Assistance.

Instructed to seize Saint Kitts, he was killed in the assault on Basseterre, which is now the capital of the island.
Irish-born Norman Garstin (1847–1926) artist, teacher, journalist and critic was an integral and founding member of the Newlyn School of painters.

After attending Victoria College on Jersey, he worked briefly as an architect and engineer before travelling to South Africa where he worked as a journalist. Becoming friends with Cecil Rhodes, he also worked as a government adviser. Returning in 1880, Garstin moved to study at the Royal Academy of Antwerp and, between 1882 and 1884, he studied in Paris.

Following his marriage to Louisa ‘Dochie’ Jones, he and his bride followed many of his fellow Antwerp students to Newlyn in 1886 but they moved to Penzance in 1895 by which time they had had three children. Their two sons, Crosbie and Denis, became journalists whilst their only daughter, Alethea (June 1st), became a renowned painter in her own right. Garstin specialised in small oils in the ‘plein air’ style and his most famous work is ‘The Rain, it raineth every day’ of Penzance promenade (pictured above left).
June

23rd Tate St. Ives (Opening) 1993

On this day in 1993, the **Tate St. Ives** opened its doors to the public for the first time. The gallery, the second Tate gallery outside London, is situated on the site of the old gasworks and specialises in work by modern artists with St. Ives links.

The inspiration for this gallery arose from the assumption by The Tate of the management of the **Barbara Hepworth** (May 20th) **Museum and Sculpture Garden**, in 1980, and from the recognition that the Tate held many Cornish modern works in storage.

Funded by the European Regional Development Fund, the Henry Moore Foundation and public donations, the gallery is centred on a large windowed rotunda overlooking Porthmeor Beach.

The gallery has since been extended and since 1993 has held exhibitions promoting the work of Rebecca Warren, Virginia Woolf (March 28th), Patrick Heron (March 20th), Rosalind Nashashibi and Lucy Skaer and Otobong Nkanga as well as having a continual exhibition of its St. Ives related works.
Surrey – born Mary Aline Mynors Farmar (1912 – 2002) was descended, on her mother’s side, from the brother of the first Duke of Wellington which is why, having originally chosen Mary Wellesley she changed her mind and published under the pseudonym Mary Wesley, Wesley being an alternative spelling of the Wellington family’s name that some branches of the family had adopted. In 1970, Wesley was left in relative poverty by the death of her second husband, Eric Siepmann, from Parkinson’s disease and she took to writing childrens’ books to support herself. She subsequently became one of Britain’s most successful novelists, a particularly impressive achievement given that she only started publishing adult novels in the last twenty years of her life. The themes of her, later, adult novels included dysfunctional families, uncertain paternity and illegitimacy and often revolve around a particular house or country location.

Her most famous, semi-autobiographical, novel ‘The Camomile Lawn’, led to family breakdown with her sister claiming particular characters were based on their parents and grandparents. Set on the Roseland Peninsula, the novel related the intertwining lives of five cousins, the members of three families, during the Second World War and was inspired by her time at Boskenna, the estate of the Paynter family, following her separation from her first husband, Lord Swinfen.
June

Wesley had an extraordinary childhood and was also, apparently, a distant mother. With a father she hardly saw and an unloving mother she was, essentially, brought up by a succession of nannies from Britain but also from the continent leading her to become fluent in English, French, Italian and German. At one point as, a small child, Wesley’s mother left her to live for three months in a hotel in Brittany with her, then, current nanny. By the age of fourteen, Wesley had had sixteen different nannies. When she asked her mother why she had had so many, her mother’s blunt response was ‘Because none of them liked you, darling’. When Wesley was fourteen she was sent to boarding school, followed by finishing school in Paris after which she was presented at court. When she asked why, after having so many nannies, her parents had sent her to boarding school, her mother replied ‘It’s because we ran out of nannies and we don’t like you either, darling’. A committed socialist, perhaps because of the rejection of her extremely conservative parents, Wesley studied International Politics at the LSE, worked in a soup kitchen and attended Communist Party meetings. As Lady Swinfen, Wesley attended the Coronation of George VI but desperate to escape her marriage, in 1940, she took their son to Boskenna from where she telephoned her husband to announce their separation. During the World War II she divided her time between Cornwall and London where she worked decoding German ciphers. Her son spent his early years at Boskenna under the care of Colonel Paynter J.P. who was rumoured to organise the black market in Cornwall. Consequently, he grew up feeling both fatherless and motherless, a situation which was aggravated when he was sent to boarding school at the age of seven. In later life, Wesley lived in Devon and died of cancer in 2002.
Father **Nicolo Bernard Walke** (1874 – 1941) was the Vicar of St. Hilary (1912 – 1936). Through his marriage to the artist Annie Walke (July 6th) Walke became close friends with the artists Dame Laura Knight (July 7th), Harold Harvey (May 19th), Alethea Garstin (June 1st), Ernest Procter (October 21st) and Dod Procter (July 31st) as well as social reformers such as Gerard Collier (October 17th) and writers such as Filson Young (June 5th). Walke was of a High Church persuasion and his introduction of Anglo-Catholic traditions were initially hated by, and confused, his low church parishioners. He replaced Morning Prayer with Holy Communion and initially acquired many new parishioners who, it transpired, attended out of curiosity. His group of artist friends made works of art for the Church including a painting of Joan of Arc (Annie Walke), the reredos for the ‘Altar of the Dead’ (Ernest Procter), and paintings for the stalls (Annie, Dod and Ernest Procter, Gladys Hynes (the sister – in law of Colwyn Edward Vulliamy, June 20th), Alethea and Norman Garstin and Harold Knight) whilst Roger Fry made a reredos for the main altar.

These decorations, which made the Church something of a shrine, were hated by a number of parishioners who applied to a consistory (Church) court for their removal.
June

However Walke refused to accept the right of a secular court on spiritual matters and ignored the ruling. On the night of August 8th, 1932, a group of Protestant agitators from Plymouth broke into the Church and removed or destroyed the additions to the Church.

After the First World War, Bernard, always known as ‘Bern’ and Annie Walke organised for a number of Austrian refugee children to be accommodated in St. Hilary, including three at the Vicarage. They converted an old public house ‘The Old Tinners’ into a childrens’ home for ten children (five boys and five girls) from London who were cared for by a matron. ‘The Cornish Home For London Children’ remained open until 1939 when it was transferred to Walsingham due to anti-Catholic sentiments in the parish. He also worked with Gerard Collier and a number of other social reformers to re-open a tin mine but the plans were abandoned when the government announced plans for the unemployed to be employed building roads.

It had been a tradition in St. Hilary that there would a Christmas play performed by the parishioners and, in 1927 Walke, wanting more an act of worship than a simple play but unable to find one he found suitable, wrote his own, ‘Bethlehem’ which was broadcast live by the BBC. He was assisted by his friends, Filson Young who produced the broadcast and Frank Baker (May 22nd) who organised the music, played the organ in the play and who had contacted the BBC about a live broadcast. This was the first live radio broadcast of a play and it was so well received that it led to the production of a series of plays, all broadcast live from St. Hilary, most notably one named ‘The Western Land’.

~ 200 ~
The younger brother of Sir Bevil Grenville (March 23rd), Sir Richard Grenville (1600 – 1658) fought in the Netherlands at the age of eighteen and performed well in the Cadiz and Île de Ré expeditions serving under the Duke of Buckingham. The fourth husband of the tragic Lady Mary Howard (Volume I in the Second Series of ‘Q’s Historical Legacy – Lady Mary’ by the compiler of this almanac), Grenville was notorious for his arrogance, violent temper and his abusive behaviour towards his wife. In February 1631, he was convicted in the Star Chamber after accusations by the father of Lady Mary’s third husband, fined £8,000 and six days later, Lady Mary divorced him and was awarded £350 per annum alimony. These two penalties ruined him financially and he was confined in the notorious Fleet Debtor’s Prison. Escaping in 1633, he fled to the continent but returned, in 1639, to join in at the start of the ‘Bishops’ War with Scotland’, King Charles I’s attempt to force alignment between the Kirk and the Church of England. However the Irish Rebellion occurred and Grenville served there instead. Upon his return to England in 1643 he was arrested by the Parliamentarians but was released and made his way to Oxford to join the Royalist forces, playing important roles in the battles of Plymouth and Lostwithiel but was wounded at Taunton. In another example of his viciousness, he ordered the execution of the lawyer who had represented Lady Mary at the Star Chamber.

Grenville was captured by the Parliamentarians but released by order of the Earl of Essex and he escaped to the continent where he lived out his final years dying, an embittered man, in Holland.
June

27th

Cornish Rebellion Executions 1497

The Cornish Rebellion by the impoverished people of Cornwall was caused by the raising of war taxes by King Henry VII which was needed for a campaign against Scotland. These taxes superseded the rights of the Stannary Parliament to raise their own taxes and the Parliament itself was suspended, violating the Stannary Charter of 1305.

The first protests occurred in St. Keverne whose population already resented the taxes imposed by Glasney College. The leaders of the rebellion were a blacksmith from St. Keverne, Michael Joseph (‘An Gof), and the members of Parliament for Bodmin and Helston, Thomas Flamank and William Antron respectively. Their speeches and agitations raised an army of 15,000 men who marched on Devon, collecting more recruits, before continuing on to Taunton and then Wells. At Wells, they were joined by James Touchet, the seventh Baron Audley and proceeded to Winchester via Bristol and Salisbury but, at Winchester, arguments divided the rebels into those wanting peaceful
June

protest and those who believed only an armed rebellion could succeed and that they should continue to Kent. The decision to proceed to Kent was a huge mistake as they were rejected by the Kentish men and they retreated westwards with some men quietly leaving and returning to Cornwall. The rebels caused mass panic in London to the extent that the Royal Family and the Archbishop of Canterbury were moved to the Tower of London for their own safety. On June 13th they encountered an army of 8,000 men near Guildford which had been raised from the London population for the Scottish war. Taking the offensive on Gill Down on 14th June, the Royal forces routed the Cornish who decamped to Blackheath where they pitched their final camp which looked down towards the Thames and London. Despite the efforts of An Gof, many Cornishmen deserted and the force only numbered 8,000 whilst the Royal forces now amounted to 25,000 cavalry and foot soldiers. Henry VII let it be known that his forces would attack on the following Monday, the 17th. This deceit fooled the Cornish and Henry attacked on the Saturday. Divided into three separate divisions, the Royalist forces, commanded by the Lords Oxford, Essex, Suffolk and Daubeney attacked on all fronts and quickly surrounded the Cornish of whom maybe 2,000 were slaughtered during and after the battle. An Gof fled but was captured at Guildford and along with Flamank was sentenced to be hanged, drawn and quartered. However Henry offered the ‘King’s mercy’ and unusually for such convicted, they were allowed to hang until dead before being drawn and quartered and which occurred at Tyburn on this day in 1497. As a peer of the realm, Audley was permitted execution by beheading. Subsequently, the heads of all were displayed on pikestaffs at London Bridge.
Now mainly remembered for his study of the history, geology and natural history of the Lizard ‘A Week At The Lizard’, Charles Alexander Johns (1811–1874) was an educator and author of a series of popular natural history books.

Devonport – born Johns was one of twelve children of the banker and artist Henry Incledon Johns and grew up in Helston after his father’s banks, the Devonport Bank and the Plymouth Dock Bank both failed.

Johns became a master at Helston Grammar School under the headmastership of Derwent Coleridge, son of Samuel Taylor Coleridge and taught Charles Kingsley (June 12th). In 1836, he became an undergraduate at Trinity College, Dublin and, after matriculation, he travelled to the Holy Land which led to his first published book of poetry ‘Flora Sacra’ (1840) which combined poetry and botanical illustrations of religious – significant plants and subsequently became ordained.

His numerous books include ‘Forest Trees of Britain’ (1847), his ‘A Ramble In . . .’ series, and ‘Flowers of the Field’ (1851) which included, as did ‘A Week at the Lizard’, uncredited illustrations, signed E.S., by Emily Stackhouse (April 1st).
Sir Henry Bodrugan (1426 – 1503) was the scion of an ancient Cornish family with family estates in Bodrugan near Gorran Haven and which included ancestors and relatives which had included Members of Parliament, Sheriffs of Cornwall and a Provost of Glasney Abbey. As well, Bodrugan’s grandfather was Sir John Arundell, then the richest man in Cornwall.

Bodrugan himself was a thug, a pirate and a thief.

Given his position in the county, Bodrugan was instructed to identify and apprehend pirates and thieves. This was at the same time that he, himself, owned two pirate ships, ‘Mary Bodrugan’ and ‘Barberye’ and was also running gangs of housebreakers stealing personal belongings, seizing animals and threatening the owners’ servants. In the Wars of the Roses, Bodrugan supported the House of York and, in 1483, was ordered to capture Richard Edgcumbe of Cothele who was a Lancastrian supporter. Edgcumbe was chased through his woods by Bodrugan’s men and threw his hat into the Tamar. This led to the assumption that he had drowned and the chase was called off, enabling Edgcumbe to escape to Brittany and join the forces of Henry Tudor. Following the Yorkists’ defeat, Edgcumbe and, his brother-in-law, William Trevanion of Caerhays were ordered to capture Bodrugan who, in the chase, jumped off a cliff near his home and escaped by a waiting ship. Even today, the cliff is known as ‘Bodrugan’s Leap’.

Bodrugan was the last of his line and his estates and houses were given to the Edgcumbe and Trevanion families.
Born Winston Mawdsley Grime, **Winston Graham** (1908 – 2003), was a prolific writer, best known for his ‘Poldark’ series of twelve historical fiction novels (written between 1945 and 2002).

He actually wrote thirty other novels, including ‘The Grove of Eagles’ (1963) set in Elizabethan Falmouth; the thrillers ‘Marnie’ (1961) and ‘The Walking Stick’ (1967) and a spy novel, ‘Night Journey’ (1941); four stage plays and a factual account of the ‘Spanish Armadas’ (1972).

‘Marnie’ was filmed by Alfred Hitchcock in 1961 and was one of six of Graham’s novels to be filmed, the others being ‘Take My Life’ (1947), ‘Night Without Stars’ (1951), ‘Fortune Is a Woman’ (1957), ‘The Sleeping Partner’ filmed as ‘Carnival of Crime’ (1964) and ‘The Walking Stick’ (1970).

When he was 17 years old, Graham’s family moved to Perranporth for reasons of his health. He remained for thirty-four years including the first twenty years of his marriage to Jean Williamson (1913 – 1992), pictured above with Graham. It has been suggested that the Poldark character, ‘Demelza’, was based in part on Jean who also helped him with ideas for, and details in, his novels.

In 1960, the Grahams moved, briefly to the South of France, before finally settling in East Sussex where Graham died in 2003.
July
Altarnun – born **Robert Reginald Whale** (1805 – 1887) emigrated to Canada with his wife, Jane Heard, and children in 1852, settling in Ontario. A prolific painter, he became one of Canada’s most famous artists of his generation exhibiting numerous times with the ‘Ontario Society of Artists’ and with the ‘Royal Canadian Academy of Arts’. A self-taught artist from a family of stonemasons and clearly inspired by Joshua Reynolds, Whale’s portraits often showed the sitter looking directly out of the canvas with the figure highlighted against a dark or shadowed background. His landscapes are often framed by nearby trees or contain small, middle distance, figures creating an immediate perspective. His paintings are an invaluable pictorial history of 19th century Canada and his works are amongst the most frequently reproduced, notably those of the ‘Niagara Falls’ (below left), ‘View of Hamilton’ (below right) and ‘Bathers’ (bottom).
The year 1801, saw the first publication of ‘The Cornwall Gazette and Falmouth Packet‘ founded by, Helford – born, Thomas Flindell (1767 – 1824) (July 11th). It got off to a bad start with his fellow founders becoming bankrupt and with Flindell consigned to the Bodmin debtors’ gaol. The final edition appeared on October 16th, 1802 but a group of subscribers funded its re-establishment again with Flindell as publisher and printer with ‘The Royal Cornwall Gazette‘ first appearing on this day in 1803. Over time, it emphasised its claim to have been established in 1801. The paper was distributed to private subscribers such as landowners, bankers, doctors and lawyers and was also, in order to increase advertising, distributed to public houses and inns and guesthouses.

‘The Royal Cornwall Gazette’ posed immediate competition to the Dorset – based ‘Sherborne Mercury‘ which was distributed to private subscribers across the south west and Flindell also sold the newspaper at markets. Due to its anti-Tory stance, it was eventually bought by Tory-leaning merchants and landowners in order to neutralise its political stance. This action was the inspiration for the Whig-supporting ‘West Briton‘ which has been published since 1810.
Perranporth – born Donald Mitchell Healey (1898 – 1988) was a famous rally driver and speed record holder but is most famous as one Britain’s most pre-eminent car designers.

The child of shopkeepers in Perranporth, Healey showed an early interest in mechanics, studied engineering at Newquay College and then became an apprentice with the Sopwith Aviation Company (1914). In 1916, he joined the Royal Flying Corps (RFC), conducting night bombing raids and anti-Zeppelin patrols and also acted as a flying instructor. Invalided out of the RFC after being shot down by British anti-aircraft fire and suffering a number of other crashes, Healey spent the rest of World War I working on aircraft components for the Air Ministry. After the Armistice, Healy returned to Perranporth, studied automotive engineering by a correspondence course and opened the first garage in his home village in which he also used to prepare cars for competitions. In 1931 he won the Monte Carlo Rally driving a 4½-litre Invicta (pictured below).
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In 1931, Healey sold his garage and moved to work for the Triumph Motor Company where he became Technical Director, responsible for the design of all Triumph models. After Triumph’s bankruptcy, Healey moved to work on the design of Humber armoured cars but was more interested in designing sports cars and founded the ‘Donald Healey Motor Company’ in Warwick in 1945.

His first design, the Healey Elliot saloon (below left) appeared in 1946 and started winning rallies in 1947.

His greatest successes were the Austin-Healey 100 (above right) and the Jensen Healey (pictured right).

In 1961, Healey bought the Trebah Estate, which includes Polgwidden Cove, a departure point for American troops in the D-Day landings. Trebah Gardens had been developed by Charles Fox (December 22nd) in earlier times and Healey removed the concrete that had been laid to facilitate the troops boarding the ships and restored the cove to its previous glory.

Donald Healey died in 1988 and is commemorated by a window in St. Michael’s Church in Perranporth which was provided by the Austin-Healey Club of America.
St. Erth – born John Hawkins (1761 – 1841) was a geologist, traveller and writer. The youngest son of Thomas Hawkins, Member of Parliament for Grampound, by Anne, John Hawkins’ elder brother was Sir Christopher Hawkins (April 6\textsuperscript{th}), the St. Ives Member for St. Ives who became involved in the fraudulent elections.

Educated at Helston Grammar School, Winchester College and Trinity College, Cambridge. Expected to become a lawyer, Hawkins instead travelled to Germany to study mineralogy and mining.

Having inherited considerable wealth and the Trewethen Estate near Probus (pictured), Hawkins was able to dedicate himself to the study of art, literature and science.

Hawkins was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society in 1791 on the basis of a number of papers he had penned on Cornish geology and was a founder member of the Royal Horticultural Society and of the Royal Geological Society of Cornwall (February 11\textsuperscript{th}). He also wrote extensively on the, undersea, Wherrytown Mine (January 2\textsuperscript{nd}), near Penzance.

Trewethen remains in the family of John Hawkins and is renowned for its gardens notably the oaks and the walled gardens.
Fowey – born Robert Were Fox the Elder (1754 – 1818) was a Quaker businessman and shipping broker who played a major role in the development of Falmouth as Cornwall’s premier port.

Fox and his wife, Elizabeth Tregelles (1768–1849), married in 1788 and had six sons and one daughter including Robert Were Fox the Younger (July 25th), Charles Fox (December 22nd) who laid out the gardens at Trebah and Alfred Fox (September 9th) who developed the Glendurgan estate’s garden. Their daughter, Mariana Fox (1807–1863) was the mother of the famous mountaineer Francis Fox Tuckett.

Robert’s father, George Croker Fox, founded the family’s Falmouth ship-brokering business, G.C. Fox, which remained in family ownership until 2003 and remains Falmouth’s oldest ship broking company. Robert ran the ship-brokering business and other family businesses but also expanded into copper mining, tin smelting and foundries.

He greatly expanded the company’s position in the Gwennap copper mines, ‘Poldice’ and ‘Wheal Unity’ whilst, in partnership with another copper magnate, John Williams of Scorrier, he leased the mineral rights of the Duchy of Cornwall for a period of thirty-one years, operating as Fox, Williams and Co.
Annie Walke (1877 – 1965), born Anne Fearon in Surrey studied at the Chelsea School of Art and the London School of Art, in that time exhibiting at the Royal Academy and studying under Augustus John (January 4th), before studying in Dresden with her sister, Hilda Fearon (September 14th). Hilda moved to St. Ives in 1902 where she was joined by Annie. Annie subsequently moved to Polruan where she established a studio and married Father Bernard Walke (June 25th) in 1911. In 1912, the Walkes moved to St. Hilary following Bernard’s appointment as Vicar. Annie became a member of the Newlyn School of art and the couple became close friends with Dame Laura Knight (July 7th), Harold Harvey (May 19th), Alethea Garstin (June 1st), Ernest Procter (October 21st) and Dod Procter (July 31st).

Annie Walke’s reputation led the Bishop of Truro to commission her to create a reredos for the Jesus Chapel at Truro Cathedral. ‘Christ in the Cabbage Field’ which depicts Christ surrounded by scenes of typical everyday Cornish life. Annie Walke’s most notable works include Portrait of a gentleman in a Spanish cloak, which is of her husband.

Towards the end of her life, Annie Walke, as her husband always called her, also wrote two volumes of poetry. Bernard was buried at St. Erth and when Annie died in 1965 she was buried alongside him.
Derbyshire – born Dame Laura Knight (1877 – 1970) worked in oils and watercolours, etchings and engraving.

Born Laura Johnson, into a lace-factory owning family, she grew up in relative poverty after her father became bankrupt and abandoned the family. In 1889, Knight was sent to French relatives, also in the lace-making business, to learn the business and to study art in Paris but she was forced to return when her French relatives also went bankrupt.

Knight’s mother, Charlotte Johnson, taught at the Nottingham School of Art and she replaced her mother as a teacher whilst also winning a scholarship to study at the, then, South Kensington School of Art. Within a couple of years, Knight’s mother, sister and both grandmothers died leaving very little money and making her the archetypal, desperately poor, artist in a garret. It was at Kensington that she met Harold Knight (October 3rd), a fellow student, and they married in 1903, moving to Cornwall in late 1907. The Knights moved first to Newlyn, before moving to Lamorna and became, along with Lamorna Birch (June 7th) and A.J. Munnings, the central figures in the Newlyn School of Art.

Laura Knight spent the summer of 1908 painting on the Newlyn and Penzance beaches and her work ‘The Beach’ (pictured below left) was exhibited at the Royal Academy (1909) to great acclaim.
At this time Knight began her impressionist, ‘plein air’, style of painting which, although objected to by some of her subjects, was entirely supported by Colonel Paynter of Boskenna who also supported Mary Wesley (June 24th) after Wesley’s separation from Lord Swifden. In 1913, Knight started painting ‘Lamorna Birch and his Daughters’ (above right) in 1913 but did not complete it until 1934, the same year in which she was elected to full membership of the Royal Academy. With a wide range of interests, over the next decades, Knight painted boxers, circuses and travellers, often sitting in the back of her Rolls Royce motorcar which was large enough to accommodate her easel. When in London, she would go to the ballet as often as possible and sketch throughout the performances. In 1944 she painted ‘Take Off’, the crew of a Stirling bomber (right).

Dame Laura Knight RA continued working almost until the day of death in 1970.
On this day in 2006 UNESCO assigned World Heritage Status to designated parts of Cornwall and West Devon’s mining areas, those regions mainly dating from between 1700 and 1914.

UNESCO’s justification was as follows:

‘Much of the landscape of Cornwall and West Devon was transformed in the 18th and early 19th centuries as a result of the rapid growth of pioneering copper and tin mining. Its deep underground mines, engine houses, foundries, new towns, smallholdings, ports and harbours, and their ancillary industries together reflect prolific innovation which, in the early 19th century, enabled the region to produce two-thirds of the world’s supply of copper. The substantial remains are a testimony to the contribution Cornwall and West Devon made to the Industrial Revolution in the rest of Britain and to the fundamental influence the
area had on the mining world at large. Cornish technology embodied in engines, engine houses and mining equipment was exported around the world. Cornwall and West Devon were the heartland from which mining technology rapidly spread. The landscapes of Cornwall and west Devon were radically reshaped during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries by deep mining for predominantly copper and tin. The remains of mines, engines houses, smallholdings, ports, harbours, canals, railways, tramroads, and industries allied to mining, along with new towns and villages reflect an extended period of industrial expansion and prolific innovation. Together these are testimony, in an inter-linked and highly legible way, to the sophistication and success of early, large-scale, industrialised non-ferrous hard-rock mining. The technology and infrastructure developed at Cornish and west Devon mines enabled these to dominate copper, tin and later arsenic production worldwide, and to greatly influence nineteenth century mining practice internationally. The substantial remains within the Site are a prominent reminder of the contribution Cornwall and west Devon made to the Industrial Revolution in Britain and to the fundamental influence the area asserted on the development of mining globally. Innovative Cornish technology embodied in high-pressure steam engines and other mining equipment was exported around the world, concurrent with the movement of mineworkers migrating to live and work in mining communities based in many instances on Cornish traditions. The transfer of mining technology and related culture led to a replication of readily discernable landscapes overseas, and numerous migrant-descended communities prosper around the globe as confirmation of the scale of this influence.'
East Wheal Rose was a mine approximately four miles from Newquay. Mainly a source of lead, it also provided significant quantities of silver and zinc.

By 1834, the mine employed over 1,200 men, women and children. The mine comprised two main lodes, ‘Middleton’s Lode’ and ‘East Lode’, which had been cut through what was, by the very nature of its ores, soft rock and this meant that the tunnels required significant amounts of shoring up with timber struts. At its most extensive, it contained twenty shafts and the deepest gallery was almost 1000 feet below the surface.

On this day in 1846, the morning was bright and sunny but in early afternoon a very heavy thunderstorm cause serious flooding of the surface and of the mine itself.

Of the two hundred underground at the time, thirty-nine drowned.

Surprisingly, the mine soon reopened and continued working until 1886.
On this day in 1940, South Cornwall experienced its first bombing raid of the war. Off Falmouth, one ship was sunk and two were burnt out, killing four people and injuring thirty-six. There was also bombing of Looe and Millbrook and it appears that the target was actually Plymouth.

The rivers Fal and Helford became extremely important in the Second World War. Thousands of American soldiers departed from the beaches on the Helford and the Fal, as part of the D-Day attack, whilst Falmouth was a regular target throughout the rest of the war.

Falmouth became bombed so frequently that a dummy Falmouth was constructed on the cliffs around and including Nare Point. Brightly lit at night whilst Falmouth was subject to the black out, the idea was that the decoy site would appear to be a badly blacked out town. Fifteen foot long trays were filled with various combinations of diesel, wood and coke and placed on top of electrically controlled sparking devices while there were also oil tanks filled with tar or sand and explosives. The devices could be set alight remotely from a control centre on the cliff to simulate an exploding ship, burning houses and destroyed factories.

By 1944, however, the Nazis had become aware of the deceit and attempted to bomb Nare Point but caused no damage and no injuries as the bombs all hit the water.
Helford – born Thomas Flindell (1767 – 1824), was a printer and newspaper editor and entrepreneur.

Describing himself as ‘bred an illiterate half-seaman’, Flindell became apprenticed to a Helston printer and was sent to Yorkshire to edit, produce and print the ‘Doncaster Gazette’. He made his reputation by increasing the circulation by guessing, correctly, the verdicts in a number of trials. In 1798, he moved to Helston to open a print shop, established the ‘Stannary Press’ and began publishing ‘The Royal Cornwall Gazette’ (July 2nd). He made connections in Cornwall by publishing works by Rev. Richard Polwhele (January 6th) and R.S. Hawker (December 3rd).

In 1800, now in Falmouth, he printed numbered impressions of the Bible with some of the Books of the Bible introduced by Polwhele.

In 1813 he produced, in Exeter, he started the Tory-supporting ‘Western Luminary’, and he was prosecuted for his libel of Queen Caroline for which he served eight months in Exeter gaol.

After a long illness, he died at Exeter on 11 July 1824, aged 57.
Helston – born **Rev. William Moyle Rogers** (1835 – 1920), was ordained in South Africa in 1861 where he became Vice-Principal of the Theological College in Capetown.

On his return to England he was, successively, curate at Yarconme, Upton-on-Severn, Chetnole and Woolland.

After service as the vicar of Stapleford and then Bridgrule he retired to Bournemouth in 1885 on the grounds of ill health and it was then that he engaged fully in his lifelong interest in botany becoming the foremost expert in brambles such as blackberries etc;

A keen botanist, he studied the genus *Rubus* (known as blackberry) and wrote a landmark publication ‘*Handbook of British Rubi*’ (1900) on the genus. *Rubus rogersii* E.F. Linton was named in his honour.

After his death, Rogers’ collection of specimens was presented to the British Museum.
Stratton – born **Anthony Payne** (1612 – 1691) was the bodyguard for Sir Bevil Grenville (February 23rd) in the English Civil War. Payne grew to a height of 7’4” which is almost two feet taller than the average height of a man of his time. His weight was allegedly almost 32 stone and he had the strength that would be expected of such a man, with tales such as climbing up a steep cliff with one friend tucked under each arm.

His loyalty to Grenville and his bravery brought him to the attention of King Charles I who ordered the painting of his portrait (above left) which now hangs in the The Royal Cornwall Museum, Truro. After the Civil War, Payne returned to his home in Stratton and spent the rest of his life in the manor house of his birth which is now a public house, *The Tree* (pictured below).

Payne was buried under the floor of St. Andrews Church in Stratton.
Somerset – born **Mabel Lethbridge** (1900 – 1968) is the youngest person to be appointed Officer of the Order of the British Empire (OBE) which she received for services in the First World War when she was severely injured whilst working in a munitions factory.

On October 23rd, 1917 some munitions exploded killing several colleagues and blowing her left leg off. Despite being appointed OBE Lethbridge was denied a disability pension because she had lied about her age to engage in war service. This led her to a number of years of poverty where she worked as a housemaid, and also sold matches on the street whilst, on Armistice Day, she hired a barrel organ to entertain the crowds. Later, in 1923, she started hiring out chairs and stools outside London theatres and cinemas for the waiting patrons, earning her the sobriquet ‘**Peggy the Chair Lady**’. In 1939, she volunteered for the Ambulance Service throughout the Blitz and with the end of the war, she moved to St. Ives with her daughter, Suzanne. Now, after an inheritance, a wealthy woman she paid the rent of the cottage occupied by Sven Berlin (September 11th) and befriended Bryan Wynter (September 8th) who married Suzanne (1949). She became famous for her four volumes of autobiography and was a subject of ‘**This Is Your Life**’ in 1962 where one guest was Megan Lloyd George.
Winthrop Mackworth Praed (1802 – 1839) was a politician and poet.

A member of the leading Praed family of Cornwall, he was educated at Eton and Cambridge (Trinity College) where, four times, he won the Browne medal for Greek verse and the Chancellor’s Gold Medal for English verse twice. Praed was called to the bar (Middle Temple) in 1829 and, although, by nature, a Whig he was chosen, by Lord Falmouth, to be the Tory Member of Parliament for St. Germans in 1830.

With the borough changes due to the Reform Act (1832), which occurred in large part due to the boroughmongering of Hawkins (April 6th) he contested St. Ives but lost to James Halse (January 28th).

In 1833, he published a number of near – libellous verses in ‘Trash’ which he ‘dedicated without respect to James Halse, M.P.’ These were typical of his sardonic verses and they were collected and published again, posthumously, in 1844.

In 1835, Praed married Helen Bogle but died, in 1839, of tuberculosis at Chester Square, London.
Henry Hawkins Tremayne (1741 – 1829) was the owner of the Heligan Estate near Mevagissey. A wealthy landowner and a successful mine investor, Tremayne created the gardens around Heligan House (now well known as the *Lost Gardens of Heligan*).

Educated at Blundell’s School in Tiverton and Balliol College, Oxford he was ordained in 1766 and became Curate of Lostwithiel. Ordination was a typical role for the second son in a wealthy family but Tremayne’s elder brother, Lewis, died suddenly leaving him the heir to the family estates. His wealth increased further with his marriage to Harriet Hearle of the wealthy Hearle family of Penryn and he then also inherited estates in Sydenham in Devon. Whilst fulfilling the traditional roles of the gentry – Parliament, Justice of the Peace etc; – Tremayne’s first love was horticulture and he converted the parkland into sheltered gardens at Heligan by planting protective belts of conifers, building walled gardens and glasshouses and digging a pineapple pit.

Tremayne’s descendants continued developing the Heligan gardens and, by the start of World War I, the family employed eighteen gardeners. Twelve volunteered to fight and only three returned. After the Armistice, the then owner John ‘Jack’ Tremayne donated the house as a soldiers’ convalescent home and moved to Italy. The gardens were neglected until the estate was inherited by Sir Tim Smit in 1990.
The Reverend Canon Arthur Townshend Boscawen (1862 – 1939) was, from 1893, the Rector of Ludgvan but is more famous for his activities as a recreational and commercial horticulturist who introduced the anemone as a commercial crop to Cornwall.

A descendant of the Tremayne family of Heligan (July 16th) and the Boscawen (Viscount Falmouth) family of Tregothnan, Boscawen was introduced to the joys of horticulture from an early age. This was further developed when he became Rector of Ludgvan whose gardens had been laid out by William Borlase (August 31st) after his appointment to the Ludgvan living in 1722.

Boscawen spent much of his time cultivating trees and shrubs from New Zealand and also plants from the Isles of Scilly, donated by the Dorrien – Smith family of Tresco. He also introduced anemones and broccoli as commercial crops. Harvesting both crops is very labour intensive but in Boscawen’s day there was ample labour available. Anemones are much less valuable in Cornwall now but, with the introduction of mechanisation in farming, broccoli is a major cash crop to this day and its market continues to increase.

In recognition, of his achievements, Boscawen was awarded the Victoria Medal of Honour in 1922 by the Royal Horticultural Society.
The, London – born artist, George Lambourn (1900 – 1977) became famous for the works he completed in Cornwall where he spent most of his life.

Following First World War service with the Royal Naval Air Service, he moved to Bruges to design a factory for the English Electric Light Bulb Company and it was there that he developed his interest in art and in painting. This led Lambourn to study art at Goldsmiths, the Royal Academy Schools and, briefly, in Paris. Lambourn and his wife moved to Sussex (1926) after their marriage but eventually they, with their two sons, settled in Norwich where he met Augustus John (January 3rd) whose portrait he completed in 1932. At John’s invitation, Lambourn visited Mousehole in 1936 and, in 1938, bought a former school which he developed into a studio. In 1938, Lambourn’s first solo exhibition at the Matthiessen Gallery included his celebrated ‘Portrait of a Communist’ which is now displayed in The Tate.

Lambourn served with the Red Cross at the start of World War Two where he was wounded and was one of the last to be evacuated from Dunkirk. After subsequent service, Lambourn painted military works and even painted canteens at a number of military bases across Italy and North Africa as an officer in the newly formed ‘Army Decorating Service’. After the war, Lambourn returned to Mousehole and concentrated on solo exhibitions in small, regional galleries.
On this day in 1588, the **Spanish Armada** was first sighted off the Lizard Point.

Everybody is well aware of the fleet and its defeat but it is often forgotten that the Spanish Armada was enormous, comprising one hundred and thirty ships. Fooled by the English, battered by storms and then losing sea battles with the English, the fleet attempted to return to Spain but lost at least one third of its ships on its way home.

The Lizard Peninsula’s location has made it significant on a number of occasions. Although the news of the death of Nelson was announced in Penzance, it was fishermen off Lizard Point who first saw the returning Trafalgar fleet and took the news to Penzance. Marconi received the first trans-Atlantic radio signal at Poldhu whilst, more recently, the Goonhilly Downs Earth Satellite Station was the first to receive live television transmissions to Britain and was the station which received the live film of the first landing on the moon for television broadcast.
On this day in 1595, Spanish marauders attacked Penzance and the nearby coastal villages of Newlyn, Mousehole and Paul. This raid continued the conflicts between Catholic Spain and Protestant England, which were aggravated in Cornwall by the continuing resentment over the introduction of the Revised Book of Common Prayer which had led to the Cornish Prayer Book Rebellion (1549).

Sir Francis Godolphin, grandfather of Sidney Godolphin (January 15th) had written to Queen Elizabeth I expressing concerns about possible attacks by the Spanish and his fears materialised when, on this day in 1595, four Spanish ships carrying four hundred soldiers arrived off the coast. Two hundred men fired the village of Mousehole and the Church in Paul.

The locals fled to Penzance where Sir Francis Godolphin attempted to organise resistance to defend the town. Meanwhile all four hundred soldiers landed at Newlyn and destroyed the town whilst Godolphin was unable to raise anyone other than his own men to fight the Spanish.

The Spaniards moved on to Penzance, set fire to the town, destroying four hundred houses before holding a mass on the beach and returning to their vessels. It has been suggested that the Cornish did not fight back because they still held on to their Catholic beliefs and that Godolphin did not fail to raise a defence but chose not to since, as a Catholic, he had allegedly favoured a Spanish invasion.
St. Ives – born William ‘Bill’ Marshall (1923 – 2007) joined the Leach Pottery as its first apprentice in 1938 when he was only 14.

In 1942, he was conscripted to serve in the Royal Artillery and finally returned to the town five years later after a long convalescence from his injuries.

On his return, he became the foreman of Bernard Leach’s pottery and, as Leach aged Marshall threw pots for Leach to add the final touches and decorations.

Marshall established his own pottery with his works clearly influenced not only by Leach.

He exhibited in his own right at the Penwith Society of Arts and at the Boymans Museum of Rotterdam.

Some of Marshall’s works are now exhibited in the Victoria and Albert Museum.
Shanghai – born **John Drew MacKenzie** (1861 – 1918) was a British master craftsman and founder of the Newlyn Copper School. Educated at Clifton College, MacKenzie travelled widely before moving to Cornwall to work as a painter and illustrator.

In 1890, with Thomas Gotch (December 10th) he founded the *Newlyn Industrial Class*, as an offshoot of the *Newlyn School of Art*, instructing local people in metalwork, enamelling and embroidery.

Very socially aware and conscious of the seasonal nature of the work of men and women in the fishing industry he conceived the idea as a way to enable the same people to have an occupation all year around and also to give young men and women an useful way to spend the evenings.

MacKenzie volunteered in the First World War and died on this day in 1918 at the Norfolk War Hospital in Norwich. Two of his pupils, Tom Batten and Johnny Payne Cotton, restarted the Newlyn school in 1920. Johnny Payne Cotton is *the young apprentice* pictured in Stanhope Forbes’ painting of MacKenzie above and it continued until the outbreak of the Second World War.
The first flight over Cornwall occurred on this day in 1910 when Claude Grahame-White (1879 – 1959) flew a Box Kite over the three fleets of ships in Mounts Bay which had been assembled to salute the accession of King George V to the throne and await his inspection.

Grahame – Wright had been taught to fly by Louis Bleriot and he took off from Eastern Green in a fifteen minute flight passing over some 200 ships assembled in the bay which included the flagship of the Royal Navy, ‘HMS Dreadnought’, and the King’s yacht, ‘The Enchantress’.

Thousands of people gathered on the beach at Marazion and lined the Penzance Promenade to observe this magnificent achievement.

The following month Grahame – Wright flew a bi-plane over Washington, landing close to the White House.

In 1911, Grahame-White established a flying school at Hendon Aerodrome which was requisitioned by the Admiralty in 1916 and was then absorbed by the RAF in 1919. He made his fortune from property development in the United Kingdom and North America and then retired to Nice where he died in 1959.
Robert Barclay Fox (1817 – 1855), always known as Barclay Fox, was a member of the famous, Quaker, Fox family of shipping agents, merchants, mine owners and horticulturalists.

The son of Robert Were Fox the Younger (July 25th), he was educated at Winchester College and Magdalen College, Oxford. Subsequently, Fox became the senior partner in the mining conglomerate G.C. Fox which invested in the Gwennap copper mines, ‘Poldice’ and ‘Wheat Unity’. Due to the prestigious nature of the family, Fox was appointed Consul for Denmark and Vice-Consul for Norway and was knighted (Order of St. Olav) by the King of Norway. Barclay Fox married his cousin, Margaret (Peggy) Bassett who with his sister, Naomi Bassett Fox, formed the Falmouth branch of the Women's Suffrage Society. Fox inherited Penjerrick from his father. The estate is situated between Mawnan Smith and Budock and he developed it as the ‘jungle garden’ (shown below in a 1905 postcard) which remains popular to this day.
Robert Were Fox the Younger FRS (1789 – 1877) was a renowned geologist, inventor and scientist.

The father of Robert Barclay Fox (July 24th) Fox wrote many scientific papers on the internal temperature of the earth which he studied after noticing that the rate of heating of a mine increased with depth.

Fox also investigated the effect of electricity on metal ores and invented a magnetic compass for polar navigation. One of his models was used by Sir James Clark Ross on his Antarctic expedition and was used to determine the exact position of the Earth’s south magnetic pole.

Like his brothers, Charles Fox (December 22nd) who laid out the gardens at Trebah and Alfred Fox (September 9th) who developed the Glendurgan estate’s garden, Fox was an enthusiastic horticulturalist and is credited with naturalising 300 species of plant in Cornwall and all three gardens are renowned for their collections of hydrangeas and camellias.
'I had no idea where to make for in Cornwall. One road was as good as another. I took the map and one name curled itself round my heart. I do not think that in the whole length and breadth of England there is a more beautiful name. But to fall in love with a name is like falling in love with a voice heard over a telephone. A meeting might prove fatal. But not to risk the impossible, I whispered it twice, and took the inevitable road to: **St. Anthony in Roseland**!

I am writing in the tiny bedroom of a cottage in St. Anthony in Roseland. The thatch comes down so low that the upper part of the window-frame has a stubby beard. I can see when I look out of the window a dump of trees and a field shaped like a green dome; beyond is a vast emptiness of sky that means the sea. I cannot see the water, but I can hear a steady whisper of waves breaking in the little rocky bay below. That and the song of birds are the only sounds in St. Anthony in Roseland.

I have said that I came here because I liked the name. I came prepared for the worst: for a mine shaft and a street of dreary shops. At Tregoney I left the main road and dived in a labyrinth of lanes so small that there was no clearance between the car and the hedge-banks. Green plants caught me by the arm and seemed to say: ‘**Don’t go on; don’t go on; a man who expects St. Anthony in Roseland to look as it sounds is only gathering one more disappointment. . . .**’
But I went on; and I came at length to the darkest tunnel of a lane I have ever seen. The hedges had grown up and formed arches the whole length of it; and the lane dipped down and down in green gloom and then rose deeply, in the manner of these Cornish lanes, bending suddenly to give a view of the sea, startlingly near, breaking on a rocky coast, the high hills lying back spread with neat, cultivated fields. Turning a corner I came to St. Anthony in Roseland.

Now, if anything you have believed in has continued to be worth your faith, if anything you have wanted has not fallen below the expectation, you will realize my wonder when I saw St. Anthony.

Twenty tiny whitewashed cottages stood dotted about among tall hedges. They were covered with flowers. The bees were busy in the gardens. In many gardens were those typical Cornish palm trees that rise twelve feet in the air and end in leaves like bunches of green bayonets. There was no inn, no post office, and the nearest shop, I learned, is at Gerrans, five miles down those luscious lanes. St. Anthony in Roseland seemed loft, and happy to be loft, dreaming beside the sea.’

This is an extract from H.V. Morton’s ‘In Search of England’ and is one of the loveliest descriptions of a Cornish village.

H.V. Morton (1892 – 1979) who was born on this day was a successful travel writer of the 1920s and 1930s who emigrated to South Africa after the Second World War but was extremely influential in promoting Cornish tourism.
Cawsand – born **John Pollard** (1787 – 1868) was a Royal Navy officer who, when a midshipman in HMS Victory under Admiral Lord Nelson at the Battle of Trafalgar, is credited with being the man who killed the Frenchman who shot Nelson.

In 1805, when HMS Victory engaged in battle with the French ship *Redoutable*, French snipers shot Nelson who later died.

At some point during the battle, Pollard was joined by another midshipman, Francis Edward Collingwood. Both men returned fire on the French ship but Pollard was credited with killing the sniper who had been identified as the one to have shot Nelson.

Pollard was later brought before Captain Thomas Hardy and congratulated for avenging Nelson’s death and Pollard was promoted to Lieutenant in 1806.

Although he continued to serve in the Royal Navy, he was given no further advancement and later joined the Irish Coastguard.
John Wells (Death) 2000

London – born John Clayworth Spencer Wells, but of a Cornish mother, studied medicine at University College Hospital and also learnt to paint at Saint Martin’s School of Art’s evening classes. From 1936, until the end of the Second World War he was the sole General Practitioner for the Isles of Scilly. When the war ended he retired from medicine to become a full time artist, settling in Newlyn and purchasing the ‘Anchor Studio’.

A geometric abstract artist, he became closely associated with the St. Ives artists namely Ben Nicholson, Barbara Hepworth (May 20th) and the Russian artist Naum Gabo (August 5th), who stayed in St. Ives for a brief period. He also became close friends with Peter Lanyon (August 31st), Patrick Heron (February 20th) and Bryan Wynter (September 8th), worked with Sven Berlin (September 11th) and exhibited regularly in London. Wells would often cycle over to St. Ives to meet with them in ‘The Sloop Inn’.

He was the co-founder of the ‘Penwith Society of Artists’ and with Moffatt Lindner (September 19th) and Borlase Smart (November 3rd) established the ‘Borlase Smart John Wells Trust’ to buy the Porthmeor Studios from the owners, Barclays Bank.
The son of St. Columb – born parents, Richard William Pearse (1877 – 1953) was, by occupation, a New Zealand farmer but was, by enthusiasm, a pioneer of aviation.

Pearse flew for a short distance, and then landed, a powered heavier-than-air machine on March 31st, 1903, a full nine months before the Wright brothers flew their aircraft. Pearse did not, however, develop his aircraft much further and left the claim to fame to the Wright brothers.

Nevertheless, Pearse was very innovative and was the first to invent ailerons and the first to use a lightweight, air-cooled, engine but he was unsuccessful in persuading anyone else of the utility of these innovations.

Throughout the 1930s and 1940s, Pearse worked on a tilt – wing aeroplane, with a helicopter – style rotor for personal use which could be switched between a car and a plane but which was described by some as resembling a cross between a windmill and a rubbish cart.

In later life, Pearse developed mental health issues and was committed to Sunnyside Mental Hospital in Christchurch in 1951 where he died on this day in 1953.
On this day in 1743, Charles Wesley made his first visit to St. Just. This is significant because his experiences inspired his brother, John (June 17th) to visit. Their joint impact was remarkable not just because of the effect they had on the lifestyle of many residents but also because they inspired the building of the magnificent, one thousand person capacity, Methodist Chapel which has been, justly, referred to as ‘The Miners’ Cathedral of Cornwall’ (pictured right).

At the time the country was already in the midst of the second Scottish Jacobite uprising and the combination of rebellion in the north and enthusiastic revivalism in the west led to resistance by local gentry who felt their position threatened by their incorrect notion that changes in the nation were unwanted. Their views were ignored and it was estimated that Charles Wesley preached to over two thousand people in the open air at the plain an gwarny (open air amphitheatre for dramas) which is one of the few, fully intact, examples remaining of such sites.

The first St Just Wesleyan Meeting House, (pictured left) which still stands was established in the same year in a barn.
Dod Procter (1890 – 1972), born Doris Margaret Shaw in Hampstead, was one of the most significant members of the Newlyn School of Art. The daughter of a ship’s doctor and a mother who had studied at the Slade School of Fine Art, her early years were spent in Tavistock but after the early death of her father, Dod’s mother moved the family to Newlyn in 1907. Aged fifteen, she enrolled in the Newlyn School of Painting which had been established and was run by Elizabeth Forbes (December 29th) and Stanhope Forbes (November 18th). It was in Newlyn that Dod met her lifelong friend, Dame Laura Knight (July 7th) and her future husband, Ernest Procter (March 22nd) and the Procters were regarded by the Forbes as their star pupils.

In 1910, Dod and Ernest, accompanied by her mother, went to Paris where they studied at the Atelier Colarossi and met both Renoir and Cézanne, becoming heavily influenced by Impressionism and Post-Impressionism. Dod and Ernest married at Paul Church in 1912 and set up home in North Corner, Newlyn. Just one year later, Dod exhibited at the Royal Academy for the first time, her reputation growing rapidly. After World War I, Dod concentrated on portraits, mainly of young local women. Two famous examples are ‘Girl In White’ (1923) (below left) and ‘The Model’ (1926) (below right). The sitter for ‘The Girl In White’ was a Newlyn fisherman’s daughter, Cissie Barnes, who was also the figure in ‘Morning’ (1927, below centre) whilst the sitter for ‘The Model’ was the artist Midge Bruford (April 2nd).
‘Morning’ was voted the Summer Picture of the Year at the Royal Academy and was bought for the public by the Daily Mail. It is now exhibited at The Tate.

In the early 1930s, Dod changed to painting interiors of which ‘Kitchen At Myrtle Cottage’ (left) is the most well known. Ernest died suddenly in 1935 and three years later, Dod moved to Zennor to live near her friend Alethea Garstin (June 1st) and as well as portraits, she also concentrated on painting flowers.

She was elected to Royal Academy in 1942 and travelled extensively in North America and in Africa, the latter trips with her artist friend Jeanne du Maurier (March 27th), the younger sister of Daphne du Maurier (May 13th). Dod also spent time in the 1950s in Jamaica, with Alethea Garstin where she mainly painted portraits of local children. Towards the end of her life, Dod’s work fell out of critical acclaim, but lost her popularity with the general public. Her talents are now fully recognised again and her works are displayed in many prestigious galleries.
On this day in 1644, King Charles I arrived at Launceston and stayed the night at the manorial hall of Ambrose Manaton in Lezant, a village five miles south of Launceston. The magnificent hall with grand perpendicular windows (pictured in 1925) still exists but is now a barn.

After the Parliamentarians had relieved the siege of Plymouth, the Earl of Essex advanced into Cornwall and reached Bodmin on July 28th. King Charles had arrived to lead the Royalist forces in an attempt to block any future attempt by Essex to retreat. Caught between the Royalist forces of the King and of Sir Bevil Grenville (March 23rd), Essex assembled his forces in Lostwithiel and Fowey in anticipation of relief by Parliamentarian ships since the Royalists had captured all the land routes.

The Royalists attacked on August 13th, captured Restormel Castle and Beacon Hill in Lostwithiel and pushed the Parliamentarians back to Castle Dore by August 31st. However, that night, the Parliamentarian cavalry broke through the Royalist forces, escaping to Plymouth.

On 1 September the Royalists took Castle Dore and Essex escaped by sea from Fowey, abandoning his 6,000 infantry forces who surrendered the following day.
On this day in 1450, a chapel in Northcott was licensed for worship. Although only a hamlet, Northcott has a fascinating history. Part of the manorial estates of the Prideaux family, it was first owned by Nicholas de Pridias, Lord of the Manor of Prideaux (1135-1200). An important man in Cornwall, responsible for collecting taxes, Nicholas was himself fined twice for tax evasion. On each occasion, 1189 and 1195, he had to pay a penalty of one half a mark. The mark, never used as coinage, was used for accounting purposes only and was assessed to be the equivalent of 13s/4d, two-thirds of one pound sterling. Nicholas fought in the Crusades and following the death of King Richard was responsible for the care of pilgrims to the Holy Land. Since they were at great risk of robbery and murder, he was instrumental in the formation of the Knights Templar whose chapel, at Temple on Bodmin Moor, was a staging post on the Saints’ Way (from Ireland to the Holy Land, which crossed Cornwall from Padstow to Fowey crossing Bodmin Moor, then known as Foweymoor).

The religious connections continued in Tudor times with the martyrdom of Agnes Prest, who lived in Northcott Hamlet. Convicted of blasphemy for denying the real presence of Jesus in the Holy Sacrament, she was burnt at the stake in Exeter (November 1588). The only person in Devon or Cornwall to be executed for her Protestant beliefs, almost unbelievably, the main witnesses against her at trial were her own husband and children.
John Williams the Third (1777 – 1849) of Scorrier House (pictured) inherited his wealth from his father, John Williams the Second who made his fortune from his activities in mining, smelting and banking.

Due to this inheritance, John Williams the Third was able to engage himself in his mineralogical studies and amassed a collection of over 10,000 specimens. Williams became famous for his collection which was visited, separately, by the future Kings Louis XVIII and Charles X of France. When he died, childless, his estate was inherited by his brother, Michael Williams, who purchased Caerhays Castle and who transferred his brother’s mineral collection to Caerhays before it was further distributed between the Natural History Museum, British Museum, Royal Cornwall Museum (Truro) and the Robert Hunt Memorial Collection in the University of Falmouth.

C.C.Rogers (March 1st) was a member of the Williams family and Rogers spent much of her childhood at Scorrier House.

Examples of Williams’ collection of Cornish minerals include torbernerite (hydrated copper uranium(VI) phosphate) from the Old Gunnislake Mine. The presence of uranium demonstrates the rich mineralogy of the county, which also contains the largest reserves of lithium and the second largest reserves of tungsten in the world.
August

4th Mary Ann Tocker (Libel trial) 1818

Tregony born **Mary Ann Tocker** (1778–1853) was the first woman to act as her own advocate in a British trial and has been described as Britain’s first woman lawyer.

The daughter of a Gwinear lawyer, Thomas Wheare Tocker, and Dorothy Hearle, her family became mired in debts and moved to Plymouth where they rented accommodation to friends and relatives. One such was Richard Gurney, who had secured a supposedly lucrative position as *Vice-warden of the Stannaries* and who employed Mary Ann’s brother, Henry, as his secretary. In 1817, Gurney fled to the Continent to escape his gambling and tailoring debts and his pending bankruptcy. Gurney had neither funded his accommodation nor paid Henry his promised salary and correspondence revealed that Gurney’s family had previously disowned him.

An anonymous letter, penned by Mary Ann and Henry appeared in the West Briton newspaper on June 6th, 1817, which exposed Gurney’s corruption and debts. Gurney pressured the editor to disclose the identities of the writers, which the editor did. Whilst Henry wrote a letter begging forgiveness, Mary Ann continued her accusations leading to Gurney taking out an indictment for libel in Bodmin.

On this day in 1818, Mary Ann appeared before a judge who stated that she had no defence at which point Henry rose to say it would be defended by the defendant herself against the charge of ‘*Committing a
August

most serious offence, in slandering the character of a gentleman in high judicial situation, by imputing to him practices of the greatest criminality, in a letter published in a newspaper called the West Briton.’

For two hours, despite numerous interruptions from the judge, Mary Ann defended herself on the grounds that her letter had not been published from malicious motives and she had only dwelt on the Vice-warden’s misconduct in his official capacity. She emphasised that men in public office could not complain about fair comment on their behaviour when acting in their appointed role and that the law was perverted when ‘the greater the truth, the greater the libel’ directed the verdict. Tocker also produced evidence that Gurney had only achieved his position after his father had arranged for Lord Falmouth’s candidate to be returned at the Tregony election, Gurney was declared an ‘outlaw for debt’ and he had been out of the county since 1815 and so had received his salary by deceit.

The judge insisted that Tocker could not prove anything and also denied her the right to call any witnesses in her defence. Consequently, Tocker drew her defence to a close with a direct appeal to the jury demanding that they question their feelings if they sent an innocent person to prison and asking that common sense prevailed and stating ‘I trust that it will be seen this day, that it is more hazardous to commit a crime, than to publish that crime when committed.’

Summing up, the judge told the jury that they could not say this publication was not libel.

After deliberating for half an hour, the jury found Tocker not guilty.
August

5th

Naum Gabo (Birth) 1890

Russian – born Naum Gabo (1890 – 1977) was the most influential sculptor and theorist in post-Revolutionary Russia. He specialised in abstract geometrical shapes and the essence of his art was the exploration of space with no, or as little as possible, depiction of mass. After the Russian Revolution, Gabo lived variously in Moscow, Paris, New York and London and became renowned in the art circles of those cities.

Having survived a revolution and one world war, Gabo, who was Jewish, settled in London in 1936 and became friends with Barbara Hepworth who encouraged him to come to St. Ives where he stayed with Adrian Stokes (October 27th) and his wife Margaret Mellis.

While in Cornwall he continued to work and became fully integrated into the St. Ives School of Artists. His influence on John Wells (July 28th) and Peter Lanyon (August 31st) was profound, leading both to develop a softer form of constructivism, the concept of art for social purposes as exemplified by the Bauhaus movement.

Whilst he was only in St. Ives for six years, Gabo exerted considerable influence on the St. Ives School members and inspired many people who, in their turn, inspired later generations of Cornish artists.
On a sunny evening in 1942, three Nazi air raids occurred in Truro, killing twelve people in the city, injuring sixty-five and destroying one hundred homes (pictured right).

The main targets were Truro Railway Station which was also machine-gunned and the Royal Infirmary ‘The City’ Hospital where ten were killed, including one young patient, Margaret Mortimore. Her parents, Percy Arnold Mortimore and Mabel Louise Mortimore, also died in the bombing.

One railway employee, Harold Percival Williams and, Alfred Edward Penticost, a member of the Home Guard were killed in the same raid.

After attacking Truro, the bombers machine-gunned several farms in Probus and Tregony and attacked St Breward on Bodmin Moor and Fowey. There were injuries and much damage but no deaths.

The following day, two German, Focke-Wulf Fw 190, aircraft bombed the town and also attacked with cannon fire and machine guns killing nine and injuring eighteen residents.

Eight of the nine who died were from one family, the Sargents, who had assembled for a family reunion.
Appledore – born Sir William Reardon Smith (1856 – 1935) was a shipowner and philanthropist.

Reardon Smith went to sea at the age of 12 as a cabin boy on the, 32 – ton sloop, Unity before serving on a number of ships which traversed the Bristol Channel and, later, on ships carrying railway lines to America, returning with copper ore from Chile.

Between the age of 20 and 34 he served as a master mariner with a Glasgow shipping company before returning to his wife, Ellen and family who were now living in Cardiff. With William Seager, he established Tempus Shipping Co. Ltd, but in 1905 he founded his own company W. R. Smith & Sons Ltd.

In 1912, one of his ships, The City of Cardiff was grounded near Land’s End and Smith visited St. Just to assess the wreckage.

It was then that he determined that West Cornwall was a potential source of wealth and he established the St. Just Steamship Co Ltd which became hugely profitable as a goods transport line in the First World War and which continued in various forms, and under different names until the late 1920s, bringing vast wealth to the mine owners of West Cornwall but little financial benefit to the West Cornwall miners themselves.
St. Columb Major – born **Henry Jenner** (1848 – 1934) was one of the foremost scholars of the Cornish language, history and culture.

The son of the Rector of the village, later to be consecrated as the first Bishop of Dunedin in New Zealand, Jenner heard his father and a guest discussing the Cornish language and this sparked his fascination with Celtic languages.

In 1877, he discovered, at the British Museum, forty-two lines of a medieval play written in Cornish around the year 1450.

In 1904, he published ‘*A Handbook of the Cornish Language*’, which sparked a revival of interest in the language spoken in West Cornwall in the 18th century. At its publication, Jenner observed that ‘*There has never been a time when there has been no person in Cornwall without a knowledge of the Cornish language ... The reason why a Cornishman should learn Cornish, the outward and audible sign of his separate nationality, is sentimental, and not in the least practical, and if everything sentimental were banished from it, the world would not be as pleasant a place as it is.*’

Jenner retired from the British Museum in 1909 after forty years service and moved with his wife, Kitty, to her childhood town of Hayle serving as President of the *Royal Cornwall Polytechnic Society* (April 22nd) and of the *Royal Institution of Cornwall* (February 5th).
Francis Basset, 1st Baron de Dunstanville and Basset (1757 – 1835) of Tehidy (pictured below) was a politician who engaged in conflicts with Viscount Falmouth for the political domination of Cornwall and was involved in a bitter election in Penryn.

The Bassets of Tehidy were considered the junior branch of the family, with the senior line resident at Heanton Court of Barnstable, but the Tehidy Bassets owned far more land and, with their mineral rights and tin mines were far wealthier, than their Devonian cousins.

Tehidy Park in 1800

Educated at Harrow, Eton and King’s College, Cambridge he left university for a Grand Tour of Europe where his portrait (above) was painted.
On his return in 1778, he became Member of Parliament for the family’s pocket borough of Penryn many of whose electors were Basset tenants. Penryn returned two members, the other being Sir John St Aubyn, grandson of the 3rd baronet (September 27th). Basset was one of the three dominant political manipulators in Cornwall, the others being Viscount Falmouth and Sir Christopher Hawkins (April 6th). Relations with Hawkins led to a duel in 1810 but neither were injured.

In 1799, with serious threats of a French invasion Basset sent six hundred of his miners to strengthen the fortifications of Plymouth for which he was made a baronet.

Basset was elevated to the peerage, as Baron de Dunstanville (17th, 1796) and then also as Baron Basset of Stratton (November 30th, 1797). The latter peerage was awarded with a special remainder to his daughter, Frances Basset, to enable her to inherit that title. Basset was married twice, firstly to Frances Susanna Hippsley-Coxe of Stone Easton Park in North East Somerset who predeceased him and secondly (July 13th, 1824) to Harriet Lemon (1777–1864), the granddaughter William Lemon of Carclew (March 25th) and his wife Jane Buller.

His second marriage, to a much younger woman, occurred when he was nearly seventy and, coming quickly after the death of Frances, scandalised society and was presumed to be to produce a male heir which did not happen.
On this day in 1917, the 251st Tunnelling Company exploded the last mine to be fired beneath German lines.

The 251st Tunnelling Company was part of the Royal Engineers and was created by the British Army during World War I. Their tasks were to dig and maintain mines under enemy lines to be packed with explosives, as well as creating the dugouts and trenches for the soldiers on the front line.

The Germans had similar forces and it has been said that both sides could hear the work of the enemy either above or beneath them and were armed in case the tunnel collapsed into that occupied by the other side.

Formed in Hayle, the 251st Tunnelling Company was manned by volunteer Cornish tin and copper miners and was first based in the French region of Loos, which became notorious for the eponymous battle, being the first occasion of the British using poison gas.

The miners were paid roughly twice their earnings from mining but also satisfied the patriotism of men who were not cleared for other military service.

Posted to Arras, the Company fired the last mine on this day in 1917, causing an explosion which could be heard on the English coast.
Bodmin – born John Arnold (1736 – 1799) is credited as the first English watchmaker to design a watch that was practical and accurate. He is also believed to have been the first to use the term ‘chronometer’.

His practical designs facilitated the mass production of quantities of shipboard marine chronometers from around 1782 and the design remained essentially unchanged until the late 20th century when the mechanisms were replaced with digital equipment. One of his innovations, however, remains in most mechanical watches to this day.

The son of a clockmaker, Arnold spent time in The Hague as a watchmaker returning to Cornwall in 1757. In 1762, Arnold set up shop on the Strand and presented several watches to King George III including one, in 1768, which displayed minutes and seconds, a highly significant innovation of its era. These gifts brought Arnold to the attention of the Astronomer Royal, Nevil Maskelyne, who was seeking a skilled watchmaker to reproduce John Harrison’s marine timekeeper for use on all ships. Maskelyne had also employed another Cornishman, Malachy Hitchins (May 18th) to verify the calculations for the annual Nautical Almanack. Whilst other watchmakers had produced copies of Harrison’s model they were simply too expensive for widespread use. Arnold’s version was simpler, smaller and cheaper and Captain Cook used it on his second voyage. Arnold’s timepiece was still running on Cook’s return whilst a pocket watch was also used, successfully, on Phipps’ voyage towards the North Pole.
Wing Commander Guy Penrose Gibson VC, DSO & Bar, DFC & Bar (1918 - 1944) was born in India of a Porthleven family.

He moved to Porthleven with his family in 1924 and was educated at St. Erbyn’s Preparatory School in Penzance and later at St Edward’s School, Oxford.

In 1936, he joined the RAF as Pilot Officer and by the start of the Second World War, he was a bomber pilot with 83 Squadron. He was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross (DFC) in July 1940. After completing his first tour of duty of twenty-seven operational sorties, Gibson volunteered for RAF Fighter Command and was posted to 29 Squadron. As a night fighter pilot, he claimed four kills in 99 sorties and, after his final night operation, he was awarded a bar to his DFC.

In April 1942, at the age of 23, Gibson was promoted to Wing Commander and posted to command 106 Squadron RAF Bomber Command. In 1943, he commanded the new 617 (Dambusters) squadron and for his role in the attack he was awarded the Victoria Cross. Gibson was killed when his Mosquito was shot down by ‘friendly fire’ near Steenbergen in the Netherlands. He is commemorated in Porthleven with a street named after him, his name on the War Memorial and a memorial in the town’s cemetery. The painting above, hung in Penzance Public Library’ reading room for decades, is now on display at Penlee House in Penzance.
Edward John Trelawny (1792 – 1881) was an adventurer, biographer, novelist and self-styled pirate who is best known for his friendship with the poets Shelley and Byron.

Cornwall – born Trelawny joined the Royal Navy at the age of twelve, serving on numerous ships, travelling to India and fighting the French before leaving the service in 1811.

He moved to Switzerland and, later, to Italy where he met Shelley and Byron and invented many stories including one ludicrous claim that he had deserted in India and became a pirate. Trelawny was the friend who identified Shelley’s death and arranged his funeral and burial.

Trelawny then travelled to Greece with Lord Byron supposedly to fight in the Greek War of Independence and after Byron’s death he arranged his funeral and the return of Byron’s body to England.

In the Greek War, he married the sister, Teritza, of a warlord, Odysseas Androutsos, and took command of Odysseas’ fortress after he was captured. Subsequently he divorced Teritza, returned to England, published his memoirs and travelled across America before returning again and, remarrying, lived the life of a country squire for twelve years. He later retired to Sompting in West Sussex where he died at the age of 88, having outlived almost all of his friends from the Romantic era.
Bodmin – born **Herman Cyril McNeile** MC (1888 – 1937), always known personally as Cyril, was a soldier and writer who published under the pseudonym ‘**Sapper**’, a name given to him by his first publisher, Lord Northcliffe, owner of the Daily Mail, who published his war stories.

After the Armistice, he started writing thrillers, known then as **shockers** and, in 1920, published the first of his tales of the exploits of ‘**Bulldog Drummond**’. Allegedly, Sapper based *Bulldog Drummond* on himself and the exploits of his friends.

Sapper wrote ten Bulldog Drummond novels together with three plays and a screenplay interspersing this work. One, the original play ‘**Bulldog Drummond**’, ran for 421 performances at the Wyndham Theatre (1921 – 1922) with Gerald du Maurier, father of Daphne du Maurier (May 13th), Angela du Maurier and Jeanne du Maurier (March 27th) playing the lead part.

One of the most successful British popular authors of the inter-war period *Sapper* died in 1937 from throat and lung cancer, which was attributed to damage sustained from a gas attack in World War I.
Kent-born Rose Hilton, née Phipps, (1931 – 2019), the daughter of a baker who was a member of the ultra-conservative religious grouping, the Plymouth Brethren, studied at the Royal College of Art, where a fellow student was Peter Blake and where she was awarded the Life Drawing and Painting Prize and the Abbey Minor Scholarship to Rome.

Returning to London to teach art, she met the abstract artist Roger Hilton (April 30th) and on their marriage they moved to Botallack where they became friends with W.S. Graham (November 19th) and became established members of The St. Ives School of Painting including Patrick Heron (March 20th), John Wells (July 28th), Peter Lanyon (August 31st), Bryan Wynter (September 8th) and Sir Terry Frost (October 13th). It was only after Roger’s death in 1975 that Rose began exhibiting, with her first solo exhibition being held at the Newlyn Art Gallery in 1977. Concentrating on post-impressionistic figurative painting, it was noted that her work showed clear influences by Matisse and she was also compared, favourably, with Pierre Bonnard. Roger was less than keen on her painting as he believed there could be only one artist in the family, which of course, could only be him. Nevertheless, she influenced Roger to include figure in his abstract paintings whilst, in his last three years when he was bedridden with peripheral neuritis, he helped her develop abstraction into her figurative works. Rose became famous in the late 1980s having been exhibited by the London dealer David Messum and her later works included bright colours and pointillism. She exhibited at the Royal Academy in 2015 and has been the subject of two monographs.
On this day in 1932, the extraordinary Minack Theatre presented its first public performance, ‘The Tempest’.

In 1929, a local amateur dramatic company had performed ‘A Midsummer Night’s Dream’ on a grassy meadow about a mile inland from the Minack.

Later when the players were looking for a suitable place to perform, Rowena Cade, who lived in Minack House, decided that the cliffs below her garden would be the perfect setting. Over the winter of 1931 – 1932 Cade and her gardener, Billy Rawlings (pictured above left) blew out part of the granite cliff and created a grass-covered stage and a series of terraces which became the Minack Theatre (pictured below right).

The family of Spondon – born Rowena Cade (1893–1983) moved to Lamorna after the First World War and bought the Minack headland in the 1920s for £100 where they built Minack House.

Seven years before her death on March 26th, 1983, Cade created a charitable trust to own the theatre and her family are still heavily involved in the management of the theatre.
Until the middle of the 19th century, there was no more than a track to The Lizard and walkers travelled on top of the double hedged paths, dry stone walls enclosing deeply compressed earth, many of which still remain. This changed with the introduction of larger wagons and carriages which required roads of greater width although the surfaces were still very much rough and ready. With the advent of the railway to Penzance, there had been suggestions to extend the railway via a branch line to The Lizard. The geology and geography of the Lizard, together with the limited number of potential passengers, made the proposal unfeasible and so the motor coach was seen as a suitable alternative. The road only became properly established in the late 19th century and, on this day in 1903, the Great Western Railway arrived at The Lizard for the first time with passengers who had alighted Helston Railway Station and this was a great spectacle since at the time no motor cars in the village. ‘Hill’s Hotel’, the public house at the destination point remains almost exactly unchanged since this event but is now known as ‘The Top House’.
The world famous concert pianist, Dame Moura Lympany (1916 – 2005) was born on this day in 1916 as Mary Gertrude Johnstone at Saltash.

Her mother was an inspirational piano teacher and her musical future was assured when, sent to a convent school in Belgium, her musical talent was noticed. Her teachers encouraged her to study music, leading her to study at piano at Liège before being awarded a scholarship to the Royal Academy of Music.

Lympany made her professional debut at the extraordinarily young age of twelve where she performed Mendelssohn’s Piano Concerto in G minor. The conductor, Basil Cameron, suggested that she adopt a stage name and she chose Moura, as a Russian diminutive of Mary and and an old spelling of her mother’s maiden name, Limpenny.

After studying in Vienna, Lympany made her London debut at The Wigmore Hall in 1935 and she was the first British musician to perform in Paris after its liberation, conducted by Adrian Boult. By the end of World War II, she was one of Britain’s most highly rated concert pianists, premiered Khachaturian’s Piano Concerto in D-flat and became loved for her interpretation of Rachmaninov’s piano concertos.

In later life, Lympany moved to France where she died, aged 88, in 2005.
Tregothnan – born **Admiral Edward Boscawen** (1711 – 1761), Member of Parliament for the Borough of Truro, is known for his commands at the *Siege of Louisburg* (1758) and the *Battle of Lagos* (1759).

He is notorious as the officer who signed the death warrant of Admiral John Byng (1757) for allegedly failing to engage the enemy at the *Battle of Minorca* (1756). Byng was executed by firing squad on the deck of his own flagship.

The son of Hugh Boscawen, 1st Viscount Falmouth (1680 – 1734), and also the nephew of the first Duke of Marlborough, Boscawen fought in North America, India and in the Seven Years War.

Aged twelve, Boscawen joined the Royal Navy and served on HMS Superb, a 60-gun first vessel in the West Indies for three years. Serving on numerous vessels subsequently he participated in the *War of the Austrian Succession* and the *War of Jenkin’s Ear*.

His final voyage was to the Mediterranean as Admiral of the Fleet and died of typhus on January 10th, 1761. He was buried at St. Michael's Church in St. Michael Penkevil.
Redruth–born A. K. Alfred Kenneth Hamilton Jenkin (1900 – 1980) was a renowned Cornish historian with a particular interest in Cornish mining. He came to fame with his first publication, *The Cornish Miner* (1927).

Born in to a mine owning family, Hamilton Jenkin was educated at Sherborne School, Clifton College and University College, Oxford, becoming a close friend of C.S. Lewis.

His first book, ‘*The Cornish Miner*’, was published in 1927 and his other works included ‘*Cornish Seafarers*’ (1932); ‘*Cornwall and the Cornish*’ (1933); ‘*Cornish Homes and Customs*’ (1934) and ‘*The Story of Cornwall*’ (1944). He continued his research and writings notably, ‘*Cornwall and its People*’ (1945) and ‘*News from Cornwall*’ (1951).

In the 1960s, however he consolidated his reputation as Cornwall’s foremost historian with his magisterial, 16-volume series, ‘*Mines and Miners of Cornwall*’.

A founding bard of the Gorseth Kernow (1928) with the bardic name ‘*Lef Stenoryon*’ (‘*Voice of the Tinners*’), he persuaded the Cornwall County Council to establish the Cornwall Record Office and served as President of the Royal Institution of Cornwall (February 5th).
August

1829  Lt. Col. William Sandys (Death)  21st

Helston – born **Lieutenant Colonel** William Sandys (1759 – 1829) was employed to protect the trading bases of the East India Company.

During his long service (1779 – 1805) in India, Sandys saw action in the 1st Maratha War (1778-1782) which was fought between the British East India Company and the Maratha Empire which, at the time, dominated almost two thirds of India.

He fought in the 3rd Mysore War (1790-1792) which was conducted between the Company and the Mysore Empire of south-western India.

Appointed a Major in the 5th Bengal Native Infantry (1803) and promoted to Lieutenant-Colonel in the 15th Bengal Native Infantry (1804) he retired to Lanarth, near St. Keverne the following year.

The Robert Home painting (left) shows Sandys with his first wife Charlotte, who died in 1802, and his sons and his sons William (born 1795) and Allan (born 1799).

Sandys remarried and also had an illegitimate son, John Francis (born 1788) by an Indian mistress.
August

Sandy’s memorial in St. Keverne Church states ‘Sacred to the Memory of Lieut. Colonel Sandys late of the Honourable East India Company’s Service on the Bengal Establishment, and one of his Majesty's Justice of the Peace for the County of Cornwall, who departed this life 21st of August, 1829 in his 70th year, and whose remains are interred in a vault at the west end of this Church.

As a soldier he was conspicuous for intrepidity, particularly in the Mysore War of 1792, under the command of Lord Cornwallis, and was rewarded with high offices on the Staff of that distinguished nobleman when Governor General and Commander in Chief in India.

In 1802, on his return to England he settled on his paternal estate at Lanarth in this parish. His integrity, as a Magistrate, his unaffected piety, and extensive benevolence gained for him the esteem and regard of all around.

His memory will be long affectionately revered and cherished.
Twice the Mayoress of the City of Adelaide (1866-1869, 1882-1883), Kilkhampton – born Amelia Georgina Fuller, née Harward (1834 – 1926) emigrated to Australia, with her mother, Elizabeth, and two younger sisters, Louisa and Emma, after the premature death of her father, Lawrence, in 1847. Her bereavement coincided with the Cornish potato famine and the discovery of copper near Adelaide where many Cornish miners had also just arrived.

In 1853, Amelia married Henry Fuller, son of a surgeon from London, and the couple, married for fifty two years, had twelve children. The youngest, Arthur (born 1878), was twenty-four years younger than his eldest sister, Louise Emma.

Amelia’s husband, was a member of the South Australian House of Assembly (1865 – 1870), the Adelaide Legislative Council (1894 – 1900) was, twice, Mayor of Adelaide.

Amelia Fuller is not a well-known name but she is a fascinating example of a Cornish – born person, who emigrated due to want and poverty in Cornwall, and made a life and an impact elsewhere as tens of thousands of her compatriots have also done.
West Looe – born **Rev. George Rundle Prynne** (1818 – 1903) was a famous hymn writer and theologian. A descendant of the well known Puritan of Newlyn, William Prynne, he studied at both Cambridge and Oxford and, ordained in 1842, was appointed to the living of Tywardreath, nominated by Robert Peel, the then Prime Minister.

Just a year later, he became the Rector of St. Levan and St. Sennen and then, just another year later, he became the Vicar of St. Peter’s Church in Plymouth which position he held until his death.

Prynne was a prolific writer and was most famous for ‘**The Eucharistic Manual**’ (1865) which was criticised and censured by the then Archbishop of Canterbury, Charles Longley. His other prose works include ‘**Truth and Reality of the Eucharistic Sacrifice**’ (1894) and ‘**Devotional Instructions on the Eucharistic Office**’ (1903), ‘**The Soldier’s Dying Visions, and other Poems and Hymns**’ (1881) and ‘**Via Dolorosa**’ as well as collections of sermons.

Prynne enjoyed a reputation as a hymn writer and his compilation ‘**A Hymnal**’ (1875) contained his popular hymn, ‘**Jesu, meek and gentle**’. He was also heavily involved in the revision of the standard Anglican hymnbook, ‘**Hymns Ancient and Modern**’. 
Launceston – born Charles Causley (1917 – 2003) left school at the age of fifteen after the death of his father from wounds suffered in the First World War. Having qualified as a teacher, Causley enlisted in the Royal Navy on the outbreak of the Second World War, and served in the Atlantic and then the Pacific Oceans.

He wrote about his wartime experiences in his first published books of short stories, ‘Hands to Dance and Skylark’ (1951) as well as in his first collection of poems, ‘Farewell, Aggie Weston’ (also 1951).

Now working as a primary school teacher in Launceston, he next published his collection of poetry, ‘Survivor’s Leave’ in 1953. Whilst he rarely left Cornwall, other than for a short period in Australia, Causley became in demand for poetry readings, on stage, on radio and on television. He was, for many years, the presenter of the BBC Radio 4 series ‘Poetry Please’.

Whilst a very private person, he became friends with writers including Jack Clemo, Susan Hill, Ted Hughes and Siegfried Sassoon and, in 1862, a book, celebrating his 65th birthday, included contributions from Seamus Heaney, Ted Hughes and Philip Larkin and twenty three other well known poets. Hughes wrote that ‘Before I was made Poet Laureate, I was asked to name my choice of the best poet for the job. Without hesitation I named Charles Causley.’
Flusing – born James Silk Buckingham (1786 – 1855) became a famous traveller and writer, best known for his contributions to creating a liberal press in India and his travelogues. He spent his youth in the merchant navy and, captured by the French during the Peninsular Wars, he was imprisoned in Corunna. On his release, he travelled across Europe, to the Holy Land and ended up in Kolkata. He published ‘Travels In Palestine’ (1821) and ‘Travels Among the Arab Tribes’ (1825) and, after years of wandering he settled in India. A man of liberal persuasion, he established a periodical, the Calcutta Journal (1818) in the face of the opposition of the East India Company who opposed a free press. The newspaper’s criticisms of the Company led to its suppression and Buckingham’s deportation from the dominion. On his return to England he settled in the magnificent Nash – designed Cornwall Terrace in Regent’s Park, established the ‘Oriental Herald and Colonial Review’ and served as MP for Sheffield (1832 – 1836), campaigning for the abolition of flogging in the armed services and the press gang and the repeal of the Corn Laws. On retiring from Parliament, he travelled across North America, writing all the time. A few months before his death he had published the second volume of his autobiography which is the main source of information about the famous musician, Joseph Antonio Emidy (April 23rd). In 1806, Buckingham married Elizabeth Jennings (1786–1865). Their youngest son, Leicester Silk Buckingham, was a popular playwright of the 1860s.
The Battle of Crécy, fought in northern France with a large contingent of Cornish soldiers, was largely funded by sales of Cornish tin. The battle took place between a French army commanded by King Philip VI and an English army led by King Edward III. The English army had almost reached Paris, sacking many towns on the way, before marching north, intending to link up with an allied Flemish army when they encountered the French. The result was the routing of the French and the besiegement of Calais by the English which, after its surrender, remained in English hands for almost two centuries.

One of the most important English commanders was Sir John Treffry of Fowey, which at the time was one of the most important ports in Southern England. During one battle, he seized the French Royal Standard and his reward was to be permitted to use the Royal Standard on his coat of arms. His actions were commemorated by a bench end in the Church of St. Fimbarrus in Fowey (pictured).
Henry Winstanley (1644 – 1703) was a wealthy painter, engineer and merchant who constructed the first Eddystone lighthouse after losing two of his five ships on the Eddystone Rocks.

He demanded to know why nothing had been done about the hazard and, when told they were too dangerous to mark, he told the Admiralty that he would build a lighthouse himself.

Construction began on July 14th, 1696 with an octagonal tower, anchored to the rock, constructed from Cornish granite and wood, with ornamental features and a glass lantern room in which candles would burn, providing the light. The first Eddystone Lighthouse was completed in November 1698 but almost immediately was obscured by spray breaking over the top of the tower. This inspired Winstanley to re-design the lighthouse making it taller and even more decorative. The second lighthouse survived five years and during that time not a single ship was wrecked on the rocks.

The second lighthouse was destroyed on the night of November 27th, 1703, during an enormous storm. Winstanley was at the lighthouse that night to make repairs, and was tragically killed in the storm.

A founding member of the Victorian Society, defending Victorian architecture, he began his career as a journalist and writer of the Shell Guides to different counties of England and is credited with saving Walsingham Place in Truro, designed by Philip Sambell, from demolition.

His most important publications include:-

‘Mount Zion’ (1931);
‘Continual Dew, a Little Book of Bourgeois Verse’ (1937);
‘New Bats in Old Belfries’ (1945);
‘A Few Late Chrysanthemums’ (1954);
‘Poems in the Porch’ (1954);
‘Collected Poems’ (1958);
‘Summoned by Bells’ (1960);
‘A Ring of Bells’ (1962); and
‘Church Poems’ (1981)
Devonport – born Alfred Wallis (1855 – 1942) of parents from Penzance moved to his parents’ hometown with his father, Charles, and his brother, Charles, after the death of his mother. He was apprenticed to a basket maker but became a merchant sailor, working on schooners travelling between Penzance and Newfoundland. In 1876, at the age of twenty he married Susan Ward in Penzance and became stepfather to his older wife’s five children. They had two children both of whom died in infancy and after leaving the merchant navy Wallis returned to live permanently in the town, working as a fisherman and labourer. In 1890, the family moved to St. Ives where, for twenty years he ran a marine stores. Wallis only started painting after the death of his wife purely, as he put it, ‘for company’. Entirely self taught his naïf style ignored perspective whilst the size of an object depends on its importance to the scene, making many of his paintings of almost map-like quality, as demonstrated by ‘Fish and Trawlers’ below).
August

Many of Wallis’ seascapes were painted from memory since the world
of sail that he had worked in had been replaced by the era of the
steamships. Living in near poverty, he improvised with his materials,
often painting cardboard from packing crates and with whatever paints
he could buy from ships’ chandlers.

In 1928, Wallis was discovered by Ben Nicholson (February 6th) and he
became an integral part of the St. Ives School. Nicholson said that, ‘to
Wallis, his paintings were never paintings but actual events’ whilst
Wallis himself wrote that ‘What I do mosley (mostly) is what use to be
out of my own memery (memory) what we may never see again as Thing
are altered all together. I do not go out any where to Draw’.

‘Newlyn’

Wallis was deeply religious, never painting on a Sunday and believed
it was everybody’s duty to read the Bible every day.

In 1937, he was hit by a car and developed severe nervousness which
escalated to a persecution complex, leading him to stop painting. He
moved to Madron Workhouse where he resumed painting, working
until almost until the day of his death.
On this day in 1743, Charles Wesley paid his first visit to St. Ives to preach. Although initially regarded with suspicion he quickly won over the many dozens of people who had come out to listen to him. Wesley remained overnight in the town and preached again in the morning. In his journal, he recorded that

‘Tuesday, 30th. In the evening we reached St. Ives. At seven I invited all guilty, helpless sinners who were conscious they had nothing to pay to accept of free forgiveness. The room was crowded both within and without; but all were quiet and attentive.

Wednesday, 31st I spoke severally with those of the society, who were about one hundred and twenty. Nearly a hundred of these had found peace with God: such is the blessing of being persecuted for righteousness’ sake! As we were going to church at eleven, a large company at the market place welcomed us with a loud huzza: wit as harmless as the ditty sung under my window (composed, one assured me, by a gentlewoman of their own town), “Charles Wesley is come to town, To try if he can pull the churches down”.’
St. Ives – born George Peter Lanyon (1918 – 1964) was an abstract modernist landscape painter.

Many critics regard Lanyon to have been one of the most important post-war painters. Beginning with Constructivism he came close to Pop Art by the end of his life, a life cut tragically short from injuries suffered from a gliding accident.

Educated at Clifton College, Lanyon was taught by Borlase Smart (November 3rd) and was introduced to Adrian Stokes (December 23rd) who facilitated his studies at the Euston Road School before he returned to attend the Penzance School of Art.

In 1939 he became friends and colleagues with Ben Nicholson (February 6th), Barbara Hepworth (May 20th) and Naum Gabo (August 5th) and Nicholson privately tutored Lanyon, guiding him towards Constructivism.

In the Second World War, Lanyon served with the Royal Air Force in North Africa, Palestine and Italy. On his return, he married Sheila St. John Browne (1918 – 2015) with whom he had six children, the third of whom, Matthew (1949 – 2016), became a respected artist in his own right.
Lanyon’s first solo exhibition was in 1949 at the ‘Lefevre Gallery’ of London and he taught at the Bath Academy of Art between 1951 and 1957 whilst taking time out to study in Italy and exhibit at the ‘Catherine Viviano Gallery’ in New York (1957).

Returning to St. Ives in 1957, Lanyon established an art school, ‘St Peter’s Loft’ with Terry Frost (September 1st) and William Redgrave and rented a studio to Francis Bacon for six months.

When in New York, Lanyon became friends with Mark Rothko who inspired his move towards abstract expressionism.

In 1961, Lanyon was elected a Bard of the Gorseth Kernow, taking the name ‘Marghak an Guwyns’ (‘Rider of the Winds’) and spent much of the following year travelling and painting in America before returning to Cornwall.

He was killed in a gliding accident on this day in 1964.
September
The Fowey – born Francis Oats (1848 – 1918) was a Cornish miner who became chairman of the South African De Beers diamond company. On his return to Cornwall he made many significant investments in the tin mining industry including the Levant Mine which became famous after the mining disaster (October 20th) and which closed a few years after he died. He is also remembered for the construction of Porthledden (left), a 21-bedroom mansion with 200 window panes, at Cape Cornwall in 1909.

The son of a poor farmer, the Oats family moved to St. Just as his father went to work in the mines. He walked to Penzance once a week for evening classes to train as a mining engineer and, after free tuition at the London School of Mines, he returned to Botallack Mine as Mining Captain. He spent a lot of time in South Africa, working with other Cornish immigrant miners, and was appointed to the Victoria Diamond Mine and became a director of De Beers in 1890, becoming Chairman in 1908.

He spent only a short time at Porthledden and died in in South Africa in 1918. One if his sons turned the mansion into a hotel but sold it on his own retirement in the 1950s.
Camborne – born (Francis James) **Ronald Bottrall** (1906 – 1989) was educated at Redruth Grammar School and Pembroke College, Cambridge. In the 1930s, Bottrall lectured in English at Raffles College in Singapore (1933–37) before being appointed the Assistant Director of the British Institute in Florence (1937–38). During the war he was the secretary of the School of Oriental and African Studies and then worked for the British Council before becoming a senior civil servant in the Food and Agriculture Organization. All the time, Bottrall was writing and publishing his poetry including, most notably:

*The Loosening and other Poems* (1931)

*Festivals of Fire* (1934)

*Farewell and Welcome* (1945)

*Adam Unparadised* (1954), and

*Day and Night* (1974)

With his wife, Margaret, he published *The Zephyr Book of English Verse* (1945) and *Collected English Verse* (1946).
Marazion – born Pascoe Grenfell (1761 –1838) was a businessman and politician from a family of tin and copper merchants.

Grenfell studied at Truro Grammar School and then joined a branch of his father’s business in London before becoming principal manager of ‘Thomas Williams of Llanidan’ a brass and copper producer on Anglesey. He was governor of the Royal Exchange Assurance Company from 1829 to 1838.

On Thomas Williams’ death, Grenfell replaced him as Member of Parliament for Great Marlow before switching constituency to Penryn.

In Parliament, he was a strong supporter of William Wilberforce’s anti-slavery and anti-slave trade campaigns.

Grenfell married his cousin, Charlotte Granville (1765–1790), who died in childbirth and he subsequently married Georgiana St Leger (1775–1818) with whom he had five daughters including Frances Eliza (1814–1891) who married Charles Kingsley (June 12th), a close friend of C.A. Johns (June 28th).
In the medieval period, Fowey was one of the most important English ports and played an essential part in the Siege of Calais (4th September 1346 – 3rd August 1347) which occurred at the end of the Battle of Crécy (August 26th).

Having defeated the French army of King Philip VI, the English forces of Edward III, numbering some 10,000, attacked the strongly fortified port of Calais and its garrison but failed to breach the town’s defences, which comprised a double moat outside the city walls whilst the citadel of the garrison itself was protected by its own moat. It is fascinating that soldiers were often accompanied by wives and children and the camp followers were also accompanied by merchants and traders. This is demonstrated by the fact that the English established a camp to the west of Calais, ‘Nouville’, which even had two market days a week. For the first few months of the siege the French were resupplied from the east until the English managed to blockade that route. It has been estimated that, over the year-long siege, 853 ships manned by 24,000 sailors blockaded the port and resupplied the English forces. Fowey and Polruan sent more ships to the blockade than did London. When the French capitulated, the ‘Fowey Gallants’, were rewarded for their efforts with Royal permission to raid French ships off Cornwall. Subsequently, Calais remained in English hands until 1558.
Kolkata (Calcutta) – born Sir Arthur William Buller (1808 – 1869), the son of Charles Buller, MP for West Looe and Barbara Isabella Kirkpatrick. The brother of Charles Buller (June 9th), he was educated at Truro Grammar School, the University of Edinburgh and Trinity College, Cambridge and he was called to the Bar (Lincoln’s Inn) in 1834.

In 1838, he served on a Special Council that administered Lower Canada following a rebellion, recommending that the official language should be English and not French and that the Protestant faith should be the established religion.

In the report, Buller proposed a system of elementary, secondary and tertiary education funded jointly by a land tax and Treasury funding, essentially laying the foundations for today’s Canadian education system.

Buller became Crown Attorney in Ceylon 1840 before being appointed to the Supreme Court of Calcutta in 1848.

Returning to England in 1858, Buller became Member of Parliament for Devonport (1859 – 1865) and then Liskeard (1859 – 1865).
On this day in 1846, Queen Victoria and Prince Albert came ashore at St. Michael’s Mount at the start of a Royal tour of Cornwall. Having departed from the Isle of Wight four days earlier, the Royal Yacht had anchored off the coast of Jersey and proceeded to Falmouth on September 5th. On this day in 1846, the Royal couple boarded their barge, The Fairy, and proceeded to St. Michael’s Mount as depicted in John Grenfell Moyle’s painting below.

On the same trip, Prince Albert visited the famous Kynance Cove on the Lizard peninsula and was so taken by the beautiful serpentine rock that he commissioned two, six feet tall, serpentine candlesticks which are still in Osborne House.
Elizabeth Catherine Thomas Carne (1817–1873) was a writer, geologist & mineralogist, banker and philanthropist.

Born in Phillack, the fifth child of daughter of the Penzance banker, Carne was the fifth child of the eight children of Joseph Carne, PRS, (October 12th) and his wife, Mary Thomas. She became fascinated by science due to the smelting and geological laboratories in the basement of her early-childhood home (Rivière House), which had been established by her father and had been visited by Davies Gilbert, FRS, (March 6th) and Sir Humphry Davy, PRS, (May 29th).

Unusually highly educated, for a woman of her times, Carne studied classics, mathematics and was fluent in French and Italian. She was brought up at the family’s townhouse in Chapel Street, Penzance, when her father returned the family to Penzance and she was a close friend of the Quaker diarist and founder of the Falmouth Polytechnic Society, Caroline Fox (May 24th).

Although born into a wealthy, Methodist, family Carne was acutely aware of the poverty of the ordinary people in West Cornwall and advocated education and social support. Inheriting considerable wealth from her father, she used a substantial part of her legacy to fund four elementary schools in Penzance and paid for the land for the Penzance Public Buildings, now known as St. John’s Hall (April 27th).
September

Following her father’s death, she ran the bank, Batten, Carne and Oxnam, which had been founded by her grandfather, William Carne, in 1795, again another rare event for a woman of her times.

Carne wrote four papers for the ‘Royal Geological Society of Cornwall’ ‘Cliff Boulders and the Former Condition of the Land and Sea in the Land’s End district’, ‘The Age of the Maritime Alps surrounding Mentone’, ‘On the Transition and Metamorphosis of Rocks’ and ‘On the Nature of the Forces that have acted on the Formation of the Land's End Granite’ and she was the first woman to be elected to membership of ‘The Royal Geological Society of Cornwall’ (February 11th).

Carne also contributed many articles to the ‘London Quarterly Review’, and she was the author of several books and pamphlets including ‘Three months’ rest at Pau in the winter and spring of 1859’ under the pseudonym John Altrayd Wittitterly in 1860, ‘Country Towns and the place they fill in Modern Civilisation’ (1868) and anonymously, ‘England’s Three Wants’ (1871) and ‘The Realm of Truth’ (1873).
The London-born, abstract artist, **Bryan Herbert Wynter** (1915 – 1975) was an integral member of the St. Ives Group.

Educated at Haileybury, he studied at the Westminster School of Art (1937 – 1938) and then the Slade School of Fine Art (1938-40). A conscientious objector, Wynter spent the Second World War working on land drainage and then worked for a zoologist before settling in Zennor where he met and married Suzanne Lethbridge, daughter of the writer Mabel Lethbridge (July 14th) whom he met in Cornwall. Between 1951 and 1956, Wynter also taught at the Bath Academy of Art.

Mainly an abstract artist inspired by nature, exemplified by ‘Riverbed’, Wynter also spent time developing his ‘Images Moving Out Onto Space’ where, with a parabolic mirror, he would hang contrasting pairs of painted shapes, which could rotate freely. This meant that, with their enlarged reflections, the images appeared to move in opposite directions.

Nine of Wynter’s works are owned by the Tate, fourteen by the British Council and others are in the collections of the Arts Council, the National Galleries of Scotland, the National Museum & Gallery of Wales and numerous other regional galleries.
Alfred Fox (1794 – 1874) was a member of the famous, Quaker, Fox family of Falmouth but is most renowned for establishing the gardens of Glendurgan.

The fourth son of Robert Were Fox the Elder (July 5th) and his wife, Elizabeth Tregelles (1768–1849), he was one of ten children. His two most famous brothers were Robert Were Fox the Younger (July 25th), Charles Fox (December 22nd) who laid out the gardens at Trebah whilst one sister, Mariana Fox, (1807–1863) was the mother of the famous mountaineer Francis Fox Tuckett. He was also the uncle of the famous diarist and founder of the Royal Polytechnic Society, Caroline Fox (May 24th).

With extensive business interests in Cornwall and South Wales, he was responsible for the family’s fisheries concerns and exports whilst also a director of the family’s shipbroking and iron foundry enterprises. He also acted as Consul or Vice-Consul in Falmouth for numerous European and South American countries.

Glendurgan heads the valley leading down to the idyllic riverside village of Durgan but is most famous for the cherry laurel maze (pictured above) which Fox laid out in the 1820s and 1830s and remains to this day.
Penzance – born Sir Walter Tremenheere (1761 – 1855) served in the Royal Navy in the Caribbean (1779 – 1783) until, with the ‘Treaty of Paris’, he was discharged on half pay and returned to the family home in Chapel Street.

The nephew of William Borlase, the renowned historian and Rector of Ludgvan, Tremenheere spent his seven years on half pay engaging in the social life of Penzance’s society, drawing and painting. The picture below is of Penzance Quay and shows the pre-1835 church and Church House at the bottom of Chapel Street.

Following the French Revolution, Tremenheere was recalled to the Navy to serve in the West Indies where he was welcomed by Sir Rose Price (November 21st) who was managing the Price family’s slave plantations.
In November 1800, Tremenheere was appointed governor of Curacao, which had been captured from the Dutch. Returning to Cornwall in 1802, he married Frances Apperly who was 19 years his junior and to whom he had been betrothed for eight years.

Tremenheere served as a Royal Marine in 1805 on board ships of the Channel Fleet and was then posted to Woolwich. In 1829, he was appointed Aide de Camp to King William IV and he was knighted three years later.

He turned down the offer of the Governorship of Jamaica and retired to Penzance in 1838 where he remained for the rest of his life.
London – born painter, sculptor and writer, Sven Paul Berlin (1911 – 1999) became controversial for his fictionalised autobiography ‘The Dark Monarch’ (1962) which was withdrawn days after publication following legal action by four local residents.

None of them were artists, but one was the poet, Arthur Caddick, who took exception to his portrayal in the book as Eldred Haddock, a drug-addicted writer. The book was republished in 2009 and was the theme of an exhibition at the Tate St Ives (June 23rd) to coinciding with the re-publication date.

Berlin left school at the age of twelve and became an adagio dancer (partnering another dancer in stationary poses) with Phyllis Groom until he was in his mid twenties. He moved to Cornwall (1938) with his first wife to study painting where during the Second World War, as a conscientious objector, he worked in the Carbis Bay market garden owned by the art critic, Adrian Stokes (December 23rd). During this time he met Ben Nicholson (February 6th) and Barbara Hepworth (May 20th). He also began researching the life of Alfred Wallis (August 29th) which resulted in the publication of ‘Alfred Wallis, Primitive’, the first biography of the naïf artist, in 1949. Berlin changed his views on the war, joined the army and participated in the D-Day landings. On his return to St. Ives, suffering from jaundice and shell shock and subsequently divorced, Berlin moved into a cottage owned by Mabel Lethbridge (July 14th).
He rented ‘The Tower’, adjacent to Porthgwidden Beach, where he became known for working on his sculpture in the open air and where he met his second wife, Juanita Fisher (October 10th). His friendship with Denys Val Baker (October 24th) led to numerous written articles and illustrations for Val Baker’s literary magazine ‘The Cornish Review’.

Working closely with Peter Lanyon (August 31st), John Wells (July 28th) and Bryan Wynter (September 8th), he clashed with Hepworth and Nicholson and the rift was the inspiration for ‘The Dark Monarch’.

Isolation from his former friends and the purchase of ‘The Tower’, which was converted to other uses, led to Berlin and Fisher leaving for the New Forest where he spent much time recording, in sketches, oils and watercolours, the Shave Green traveller community and animals whilst also writing extensively, publishing ‘I Am Lazarus’ (1961) based on his war experiences, and, of course, ‘The Dark Monarch’.

Berlin’s fascination with the Romany culture and wildlife of the New Forest was realised in a series of mystical and philosophical stories published as ‘Jonah’s Dream: A Meditation on Fishing’ and the story of the journey from St. Ives to the New Forest, as ‘Dromengro, Man of the Road’.

Fisher left Berlin for their groom, Fergus Casey and subsequently, Berlin married Julia Lenthall and the couple settled on the Isle of Wight and then in Wimborne where Berlin continued working until his death at the age of 88. One of his last publications was ‘The Rime of the Ancient Mariner’ (1997) which he wrote by hand and illustrated.
Texas – born Janet Darnell Leach (1918 – 1997) was a studio potter who spent her later working life at the Leach Pottery. After studying sculpture in New York and a brief marriage, in the Second World War, she worked on Staten Island as a welder. Increasingly interested in pottery, she studied under Shoji Hamada in North Carolina after the War and then studied with him in Japan for two years; the first foreign woman to study pottery in Japan and also only the second westerner. After marrying Bernard Leach (May 6th), who she met when he too was working with Hamada, they moved to St. Ives and worked at the eponymous Leach Pottery.

With her abilities under-estimated due to her husband’s fame, much of her work remained undiscovered for years. Examples of her works include ‘Vase’ (below left) and ‘Three Vases’ (below right).
The, Lanarkshire – born, poet Agnes Kilpatrick Dunsmuir (1909 – 1999), always known as Nessie Dunsmuir, was the widow of the poet W. S. Graham (November 19\textsuperscript{th}).

The youngest of nine children, Nessie was a trained user of a key-driven mechanical calculator, known as a comptometer, and she met Graham when studying, as a mature student, at Newbattle Abbey, Edinburgh. Through Graham, she became friends with some of the most famous artists and writers in Scotland and in Soho.

In 1944, she moved with Graham to Cornwall, initially living in a caravan where they became friends with Sven Berlin (September 11\textsuperscript{th}), Ben Nicholson (February 6\textsuperscript{th}) and Bryan Wynter (September 8\textsuperscript{th}).

Initially, the couple relied on Nessie’s earnings from her writing whilst Graham struggled for success however, as Graham became more popular she wrote less and less, believing him to be a better poet. Her collection of ten poems was published to acclaim in 1988 but when asked for more she apparently stated that there were only ever ten.

Although separating for a while Nessie and Graham married in 1954 and went again to live in West Cornwall where they became closely associated with the St. Ives artists, Peter Lanyon (August 31\textsuperscript{st}), Sir Terry Frost (September 1\textsuperscript{st}), Roger Hilton (April 30\textsuperscript{th}) and Rose Hilton (August 15\textsuperscript{th}).
Banstead – born Hilda Fearon (1878 – 1917) was the younger sister of the painter Annie (Fearon) Walke (July 6th), the wife of Father Bernard Walke (June 25th).

Fearon studied with her sister at the *Chelsea School of Art* and the *London School of Art*, with her sister. They moved to Dresden together to study before moving to Cornwall, initially to St. Ives although Annie then moved to Polruan.

Fearon studied under Algernon Mayow Talmage and painted a famous portrait of him smoking and reading (right).

An English Impressionist, however, she concentrated on representing women in domestic, indoor and outdoor, activities attempting to portray contemporary life as ‘transitory but knowable’.

She exhibited at The Royal Academy on at least sixteen occasions, Glasgow, Dublin, Paris, Vienna and Pittsburgh before her tragically early death at the age of thirty-nine. Much of her work is now in The Tate including her most famous work, ‘The Tea Party’ (pictured below).
St. Stephen – in Brannel born Silas Hocking (1850 – 1935) was the first writer to achieve sales of over one million copies of his books in his lifetime.

The brother of the novelists Joseph Hocking (March 4th) and Salome Hocking (April 10th), Silas was expected to follow his father in to tin mining but he felt called to the Methodist ministry and studied in Manchester. He was ordained in 1870, after which he worked in many areas of England, spreading the Methodist message before retiring in 1896 in order to devote himself to writing and to Liberal politics.

Hocking became famous with the publication of his second novel, ‘Her Benny. A story of Street Life’ which was about street children in Liverpool, sold over one million copies and became one of the first silent films (1920).

He wrote an autobiographical novel, ‘The Strange Adventures of Israel Pendry’ (1899) and, after writing another fifty books, he contemplated the nature of Sin and Guilt, in his volume ‘God’s Outcast’ and in another autobiographical novel, ‘My Book of Memory’ (1923).

Politically involved, Hocking also contested, unsuccessfully, Aylesbury for the Liberal Party (1906) and for Coventry (1910).
Newlyn – born **Robert Hichens** (1882 – 1940) was at the wheel of the Titanic when warning of the looming iceberg came from the lookout.

Hichens was ordered by First Officer Murdoch to turn the wheel to starboard to avoid the iceberg and everybody knows that attempt failed.

Placed in charge of the, 65-seat, Lifeboat Number 6, he departed the sinking ship with only twenty eight people in the boat. He was later accused of drinking whisky and refusing to return to the Titanic to rescue others, all of which was disproved.

In World War I, he served in the Royal Naval Reserve and, post-war, moved, with his family to Torquay to run a guesthouse and a boat charter company.

He never, however, came to terms with the disaster and he became a heavy drinker whilst the boat charter company failed.

His wife and family left him in 1931 and, two years later, he tried to murder the man he blamed for his failed boat charter business.

Released in 1937 he returned to sea as a merchant seaman. During the Second World War, Hichens ended up as third mate on a cargo ship transporting coal over to Africa but in 1940 he was found in his bunk, dead from heart failure.
On this day in 1790, St. Keverne-born Charles Incledon (1763–1826), made his debut at Covent Garden. The son of a surgeon, Bartholomew Incledon and his wife, Loveday, Incledon, christened Benjamin, was educated at Blundell’s School, Tiverton, and then became a choral scholar at Exeter before running away to sea on a ship bound for the West Indies. Returning five years later he sang at Southampton (1784) and then at Bath (1785). He had three seasons at London’s Vauxhall Gardens (1786 to 1789) before making his Covent Garden debut today in 1790. He became renowned for the quality of his tenor voice and became one of the main stars at Covent Garden Theatre until 1815. Although an opera star, he specialised in ballads and made full use of his vocal range, from tenor to falsetto.

In 1817, Incledon toured in North America and was a star in New York for one year, returning with a fortune of £5,000. He retired from opera in 1822 and toured the provinces until, finally retiring from the professional stage, he moved to Prospect Place in Brighton establishing the Brighton Glee Club.

Despite retirement, Incledon did perform the occasional concert and it was whilst on stage in Worcester that he suffered a stroke which proved fatal and he died in 1826.
Penzance – born Richard Edmonds (1801 – 1886) was a renowned geologist, archaeologist and musician.

Educated at Penzance and Helston Grammar Schools he qualified as an attorney and practised in Penzance and Redruth. Edmonds joined the Royal Geological Society of Cornwall (February 11\textsuperscript{th}) in 1814, specialising in the study of the sandbanks and submerged forests of Mount’s Bay contributing to the Literary Gazette (London) and to the Edinburgh Philosophical Magazine. He contributed many papers to the Penzance Natural History and Antiquarian Society which were collected in a single volume entitled ‘The Land’s End District: its Antiquities, Natural History, Natural Phenomena, and Scenery’ (1862). Edmonds made detailed records of a sudden rise and fall in the sea level on July 5\textsuperscript{th}, 1843 and he subsequently researched previous such incidents. The event he wrote about, however, is now not considered to have been a tsunami.

As well as geology, Edmonds had interests in archaeology and presented papers on the submerged St. Piran’s Church of Perranzabuloe and researched the possibility of Cornish trade with the Phoenicians contributing his findings to a number of periodicals and ‘Proceedings of the Royal Cornwall Geological Society’ and ‘Proceedings of the Royal Institution of Cornwall’. In addition, an amateur musician, he contributed hymns to a volume of ‘Hymns for Festivals of the Church’ (1857).
| September 19th | Moffat Peter Lindner (Death) | 1949 |

Birmingham – born **Moffat Lindner** (1852 – 1949) was a renowned maritime artist who exhibited at the Royal Academy, the last occasion being when he was 86 years old.

The son of an import/export trader, Maximilian Lindner, Moffat studied art at the Slade School of Art and specialised in oils for his landscapes and watercolours for his maritime studies.

Lindner divided his time between London and St. Ives where he built his own house, ‘Chy-an-Porth’. Associated with St. Ives for 60 years, he was one of the main links between the earliest days of the St. Ives School and the St. Ives post – War modernists. His most significant contributions were nurturing upcoming artists such as Frances Hodgkin and the funding of the Porthmeor Studios which he bought from Barclays Bank enabling the establishment of the ‘Borlase Smart John Wells Trust’ created by John Wells (July 28\(^{\text{th}}\)) and Borlase Smart (November 3\(^{\text{rd}}\)).

Pictured is one of Hodgkin’s most famous works, *Mr. and Mrs. Moffat Lindner & Hope* (1916).
St. Ives – born Sir Edward Hain (1851 – 1917) was one of the most important shipping magnates of Edwardian times.

His father, also Edward Hain, one of a long line of shipowners, owned the, 2,523 acre Porthia Estate which comprised twenty three farms, downs, moorlands and numerous houses; the estate comprised essentially the vast majority of the land and houses between St. Ives, Towednack and Zennor. Not wishing to enter his family’s business, Hain went to London to work for a bank and then as a tea merchant.

He did, however, return to St. Ives, convinced from his importing experience that his family’s company should move from sail to steam. He eventually convinced his sceptical father that the future of shipping depended on steam and, funded by the Bolitho Bank, he ordered his first steamship from John Readhead & Co. of South Shields. ‘Trewidden’ named after the Bolitho family estate was launched on November 19th 1878. Over the course of his business life, Hain commissioned the extraordinarily high number of eighty seven ships. By 1901, Hain had established a number of steamship companies, which he amalgamated as The Hain Steamship Company Limited. A non-conformist, Hain funded the United Methodist Church and was MP for St. Ives (1900 – 1906). In 1917, after his death, Hain’s company was sold to the P&O and British India Steam Navigation Company for £4 million and which forms a significant of P&O as we know it today.
On this day in 1928, the **Gorsedh Kernow** (Cornish Gorsedd) was established. The Grand Bard was Henry Jenner (August 8th) of Hayle (pictured) and the Bards (Bardic names in bold and English translations in italics) elected that day included:

- Sir Arthur Quiller-Couch, **Marghak Cough; Red Knight**, (May 12th);
- A.K. Hamilton Jenkin, **Lef Stenoryon; Voice of the Tinters**, (August 20th); and
- Charles Henderson, **Map Hendra; Son of the Old Town**

A number of Bards were unable to attend including Mark Guy Pearse **Pyscajor a Dus; Fisher of Men**, (January 3rd).

There are no known photographs of the first Gorsedd but the picture below is from a newspaper report of the 2nd Gorsedh Kernow.
Yorkshire-bred **Bryan Ingham** (1936 – 1997) was a painter, sculptor and etcher. Born with partial deafness and brought up in a poor family, he was introduced to art, literature and music by an uncle who lived with the family.

He developed his interest in oil painting and completed many paintings whilst on National Service.

After demobilisation he studied at St Martin’s School of Art and then at the Royal College of Art where he was a contemporary of David Hockney and where he developed a further interest in etching.

Some time later he rejected the idea of what he described as being an ‘establishment artist’ and settled in a semi-detached cottage on the west side of the Lizard with no running water or electricity and on the boundary of RNAS Predannack (May 7th). He retained the cottage, one of the last remaining parts of the ancient community of Jollytown, for the rest of his short life, concentrating on creating large etchings and sculpting whilst also teaching at the Falmouth School of Art.

Later, he moved to a converted barn at the Lizard and then to Helston to be near his parents who lived in a house he had bought for their retirement.

Ingham lived in Helston until his death from cancer in 1997.
Ponsanooth – born Frederick Hamilton Davey (1868–1915) trained as a chemist and assayer at the Redruth School of Mines and then succeeded his father as Works Manager of the Cornwall Arsenic Company site at Bissoe.

His main interest though was botany, an outdoors interest which was encouraged as he suffered recurring bouts of ill health due to contracting rheumatism when he was seventeen, and he read his first paper in 1891, aged just 23, to the *Royal Cornwall Polytechnic Society* (April 22nd).

In 1899, he met the famous botanist and ornithologist, Allan Octavian (A.O.) Hume and accompanied him on tours of Devon and Cornwall. By 1903, Davey had become the youngest member of the Linnean Society and collected a huge array of plants for his book, including about ninety species of bramble.

Hume encouraged Davey to write about Cornish flora leading to Davey’s major, 600-page, ‘*Flora of Cornwall*’ (1909) which became the standard text on the subject. Davey prepared a herbarium, comprising 4,000 sheets of pressed plants, which is now in the possession of the Royal Cornwall Museum in Truro.

In 1911, Davey suffered a heart attack and a stroke, leaving him unable to speak and he died four years later.
On this day in 1851, Gulval – born Mary Kelynack was presented to the Lord Mayor London and then to Queen Victoria and Prince Albert.

Having heard about the Great Exhibition, Kelynack said ‘I’ll go and see’n too, I reckon!’

She was eighty four years old and, according to The Times, walked the entire, 300 mile, journey in five weeks.

The paper reported that the Lord Mayor described the encounter to Prince Albert who asked her to be presented to him and the Queen. The prince gave her £2 which, together with another £3 from other donors, facilitated a rather more rapid journey home.

Despite her fame and her death being reported in the national newspapers she died in poverty and was buried in a pauper’s grave.

Educated at Truro College, the Leys School and Cambridge (Gonville and Caius College) he was ordained a priest at the age of twenty-six and appointed Curate of St Andrew’s Church in Plymouth. An army chaplain in the First World War, he became Dean of Chapel at Gonville and Caius before becoming Archdeacon of Coventry and Honorary Chaplain to King George V.

Consecrated a bishop by Cosmo Lang, Archbishop of Canterbury, on June 11th, 1935 Hunkin was a committed evangelical and was noted for his pastoral work, chairing a commission (1948 – 1950) to produce a new English translation of the Bible. Hunkin’s pastoral staff comprised the traditional, bishop’s, shepherd’s crook of iron with a wooden shaft which was bound with a silver band inscribed ‘Un para, un bugel’ (Cornish for ‘One flock, one shepherd’).

He was a notable theologian whose most important works include ‘Is it Reasonable to Believe?’ (1935) and ‘From a Cornish Bishop’s Garden’ (2001) the latter being a collection of his writings for the weekly Anglican newspaper, The Guardian, (not today’s national newspaper).
Richard, 2nd Earl of Mount Edgcumbe (1764 – 1839) was a politician and musicologist.

The heir of George Edgcumbe, 1st Earl of Mount Edgcumbe, and Emma, the daughter of the Archbishop of York, John Gilbert, Edgcumbe engaged in the Grand Tour and was painted in Florence (pictured).

Edgcumbe was Member of Parliament for Fowey in 1786 – 1795, until elevated to the peerage on the death of his father when he also became Vice-Admiral of Cornwall, responsible for the defence of the coast in the event of a French invasion.

Elected a member of the Royal Society in 1808, he was also Lord Lieutenant of Cornwall from 1795 until his death.

A lover of opera, Edgcumbe compiled a list of all the operas he had attended between 1773 and 1823 and published it as ‘Musical Reminiscences of the Earl of Mount Edgcumbe’ and which has proven to be an important source of operatic history of that period.

In 1789, Edgcumbe married Lady Sophia Hobart, the youngest daughter of John Hobart, 2nd Earl of Buckinghamshire with whom he had five children. Sophia, styled after marriage, as the Countess of Mount Edgcumbe died in 1806 and, unusually for those times, Edgcumbe did not remarry.
September

27th  Sir John St Aubyn (Birth)  1696

The 3rd Baronet, Sir John St Aubyn, (1696 – 1744) of Clowance (pictured) was the main supporter of Henry Rogers (June 18th) who caused the last siege of England.

He was also the descendant of Thomas St. Aubyn who, even though the local magistrate, was implicated in the wrecking of a ship owned by the King of Portugal, the Santo António, which sank just off Gunwalloe, in 1527, laden with silver ingots and copper.

Educated at Oxford, (Exeter College), St Aubyn was returned unopposed as Member of Parliament for Cornwall (1722) and continued, always unopposed, as a County Member in 1727, 1734 and 1741.

A rare speaker in the Commons, he was opposed to the actions of Robert Walpole and was vocal in his hostility to the Septennial Act, which increased the term of a Parliament from three to seven years and the employment of Hanoverian troops with British forces.

St. Aubyn died, of ‘fever’ in 1744 and was entombed in a granite vault at Crowan Church.
Launceston – born Captain Philip Gidley King (1758 – 1808) became the 3rd Governor of New South Wales on this day in 1800.

He joined the Royal Navy at the age of twelve and initially served on convict ships and at convict settlements. Serving on the First Fleet, which arrived in January 1788, King was detailed to colonise Norfolk Island for defence and farming and foraging. In early 1789, he prevented a mutiny by some of the convicts who planned to take the officers prisoner and escape on the next boat to arrive. Following the wreck of the prison ship, ‘Sirius’ in March 1790, King travelled to England to make a report on the difficulties of the settlements at New South Wales.

Returning to Norfolk Island, King found a poverty – stricken and desperate population but through development of farming and providing education he had, by 1794, established a self – sufficient population with a thriving beef market. He returned to England again in 1796 but arrived back in Australia, having been appointed Governor of New South Wales which office he assumed on this day in 1800.

Rebellions continued, however, and in 1806, he resigned and was replaced by William Bligh (December 9th) who, himself, ended up imprisoned for almost two years by the rebelling convicts and forces.
A number of the Cornish gentry and, quite extraordinarily, even some clergy, owned slaves in the sugar plantations of the West Indies. They were compensated for loss of their, human, ‘possessions’ when slavery was abolished. One notable slave owner was Sir Rose Price, creator of the Trengwainton Gardens (November 21st).

Nevertheless, there were also attacks on the south coast of Cornwall by North African pirates who would carry off men, women and children to slavery. One event, on this day in 1760, is best described by Sabine Baring – Gould in ‘Cornish Characters And Strange Events’ (1899):

‘An event occurred at Penzance in the year 1760 that deserves to be remembered. Great Britain had been engaged in the Seven Years War; and notwithstanding the successes of 1759, when Rodney bombarded Havre, Boscawen had routed and dispersed the Toulon fleet off Lagos, and Hawke had defeated the fleet of De Conflans near Quiberon, there was still a certain amount of alarm in the country, a dread of predatory incursions, and if this fear existed inland, it was most acute upon the coast. On the night of the 29th, September, Penzance was alarmed by the firing of guns, and soon after by the intelligence that a large ship of a strange appearance had run ashore near Newlyn. Half Penzance poured out in that direction in the grey of early morning. But on reaching the strand they were panic-stricken to see on the ship, and drawn up on the beach, a number of ferocious – looking individuals with baggy trousers, and red fezes on their heads, and each armed with a scimitar, and with brass-mounted pistols stuck in their girdles.'
September

Thereupon the half of Penzance that had turned out now turned tail and made the best of their way back to the town, crying out that the Turks had landed and were intent on massacring the inhabitants of Penzance, plundering their houses, and carrying away their wives and children into captivity to become galley-slaves or to fill the harems of these Moslem monsters. A volunteer company was called out, where they found 172 men, who were surrounded, deprived of their weapons, and marched to a spacious building called ‘The Folly’, on the Western Green. As there were some of the captives who could speak the lingua franca, and there was here and there to be found a magistrate or an officer who had a limited knowledge of French, it was at last elicited from these men that they were the crew of an Algerine corsair, carrying twenty-four guns, from nine to six pounders. The captain, believing himself to be in the Atlantic, somewhere about the latitude of Cadiz, had cheerily in the dark run his vessel into Mount’s Bay, and was vastly surprised when she struck, and still more so when he found himself surrounded by Cornishmen and not by Spaniards. A cordon of volunteers was accordingly drawn up round ‘The Folly’ to prevent all intercourse, intelligence was conveyed to the Government, and orders were issued for troops to march from Plymouth so as to surround the whole district. After some days, the people of the town and neighbourhood were suffered to approach and contemplate the strangers. Their dress, long beards and moustaches, the dark complexion and glittering eyes, made them objects of curiosity.

Upon the whole, they were kindly treated, and finally, as their vessel was a complete wreck, a man-of-war was despatched to take all the men on board and convey them back to Algiers.

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Thomas, Tommy, Charles Reginald Agar-Robartes, 6th Viscount Clifden, (1880 – 1915), a member of the Lanhydrock Robartes family and a Liberal politician.

Educated at Oxford, he was elected Member of Parliament for Bodmin (1906) but lost his seat following a petition by the defeated candidate alleging illegal payments to potential voters. In 1908, he was elected to represent St. Austell, a seat he held until his death.

At the outbreak of the First World War, he was commissioned into the Royal Buckinghamshire Hussars and then, transferring to the Coldstream Guards, he served in France and Flanders.

He was killed by a sniper on this day in 1915 whilst rescuing a wounded comrade under heavy fire for which action he was recommended for the Victoria Cross.

He is commemorated with a marble bust in Truro Cathedral and in stained glass windows at St. Hydroc Church (Lanhydrock), Selsey Abbey and at Church Norton. One of twenty-two Members of Parliament killed in the War his name is recorded on the Parliamentary War Memorial in Westminster Hall.
October
Bude – born George Ramsay Acland Mills (1896 – 1972) was a teacher and author of children's adventure stories, which revolved around boys’ preparatory schools and involved cricket, pranks and mysteries together with a pet bulldog, Uggles.

Mills’ education at Oxford was interrupted by the First World War in which he served with the Rifle Brigade and then the Royal Army Service Corps. He also served in the Second World War, in the Royal Army Pay Corps, until he was discharged in 1943 on the grounds of ill health.

After the First World War, Mills took advantage of a 1920, Oxford, decree that any undergraduate who had served in the forces for at least one year could return. Although he entered Christ Church in 1919, there is no record of him graduating.

Now very dated, Mill’s most popular books include ‘Meredith and Co.’ (1933), ‘King Willow’ (1938), and ‘Minor and Major’ (1939)
Leighton Sandys Wason (1867-1950) always known as Sandys, was the Perpetual Curate in Charge of Cury and Gunwalloe.

A renowned eccentric and Anglo Catholic who was rarely seen without his beretta on his head, he served in various parishes in London and in Suffolk before finally securing his own living in Cury. His Anglo – Catholic traditions resonated with those of Father Bernard Walke (June 25th) at whose home he took refuge after being unceremoniously removed from Cury Vicarage on this day in 1920. Wason had aroused the ire of many of his parishioners by using the Catholic liturgy in the Church and following complaints to the Bishop of Truro he was deprived of his living but refused to leave the Vicarage. He did, however, retain the key to the Church and continued to say Mass every Sunday, usually to an empty Church, for some time after his ejection from the vicarage.

On this day in 1920, newly elected Churchwardens arrived at the house and forcibly removed him and his belongings. Walke recalled that Wason arrived in St. Hilary before his furniture and belongings. Playing chess when they did arrive and in heavy rain, he refused to stop his game to receive them, which Walke and his parishioners did on his behalf. He went on to stay at Mullion Vicarage whilst continuing to say Mass at Cury until moving to London to run a bookshop where he continued to demonstrate his eccentricities by telling all potential customers ‘Nothing here. All rubbish.’ Unsurprisingly the shop failed and Wason retired to Yorkshire where he died in 1950.
Nottingham – born Harold Knight (1874 – 1961) studied at the Nottingham School of Art where he met Laura Johnson who he married in 1903. Knight concentrated on landscapes and gentle interior and exterior scenes of people but never became as famous as his wife, Dame Laura Knight RA (July 7th) who became a renowned artist and the first woman elected to the Royal Academy. After time in Paris and on the North Yorkshire cast, the Knights moved to Newlyn and then to Lamorna. Remaining until 1919, they both became integral parts of the Lamorna School notably being friends with Harold Harvey (May 19th), Alethea Garstin (June 1st), Ernest Procter (October 21st) and Dod Procter (July 31st), Annie Walke (July 6th) and her husband Father Bernard Walke (June 25th) who was a friend of Sandys Wason (October 2nd).

A conscientious objector, Knight spent the War as a farm labourer and was rejected by many of his former friends for his beliefs. After the Armistice, the Knights moved to London but returned to Lamorna frequently. Knight was elected to the Royal Academy in 1937 and died in Herefordshire in 1961.
Chacewater – born Matthew Paul Moyle (1788 – 1880) was a physician, meteorologist and mineralogist. The grandson of Jonathan Hornblower (February 23rd), he was educated at Guy’s and St. Thomas’s Hospitals becoming a member of the Royal College of Surgeons in 1809, before moving to Helston where he practised for an incredible sixty nine years. The location of his practice on the edge of the Wendron mining district, with Helston being one of the stannary and coinage towns, and his regular attendance to injured miners drew his attention to the dangers of industry but he also realised that mines were a great source of scientific information.

Moyle continued his grandfather’s work on the rate of increase of temperature with depth in a mine and, with Robert Were Fox the Younger (July 25th), kept meticulous meteorological records for the Royal Cornwall Polytechnic Society (April 22nd) submitting papers to that society as well as to the journal ‘Annals of Philosophy’ and to the Royal Geological Society of Cornwall (February 11th)

Moyle also became fascinated by electricity and electrochemistry working on electrotyping, a new form of engraving or forming metal parts with an irregular surface.
Maurice Petherick (1894 – 1985) was a novelist and Conservative Party politician who served as the Member of Parliament for Penryn & Falmouth (1931 – 1945) and was, briefly, Financial Secretary to the War Office in 1945.

Educated at Marlborough College and Cambridge (Trinity College), Petherick served with the Royal Devon Yeomanry at the outbreak of the First World War. Invalided out in 1915, he served at the Foreign Office (1916 – 1917) but was sufficiently recovered to be recommissioned, except this time, into the Royal Scots Greys, in 1917 and he served in France until the War ended.

Petherick unsuccessfully contested Penryn & Falmouth in 1929 but secured the seat in 1931, being re-elected in 1935. He wrote two novels, ‘Captain Culverin’ (1932) and ‘Victoire’ (1943) and served in the ‘Caretaker Government’ of 1945 as Financial Secretary to the War Office but lost the 1945 election to the Labour candidate, Evelyn King.

Post-War, he was a Director of the Prudential Assurance Co. Ltd. and High Sheriff of Cornwall (1957) and became known for nurturing the gardens of his home, Porthpean House near St. Austell (pictured).
Sarah Crosby (Methodist Preacher) 1729

Born on this day in 1729, Leeds – born Sarah Crosby (1729 – 1804) was the first female Methodist preacher.

Crosby worked closely with John Wesley (June 17th) and, although mainly working in the North of England, preaching until the day she died, she travelled extensively across Cornwall with Wesley.

Uninterested in religion until she was fourteen when she began attending her local Anglican Church as a family duty, she became terrified of death after becoming seriously ill at the age of seventeen and, convinced that she would go to Hell, she became a committed Christian.

In the winter of 1749, she heard both George Whitefield and John Wesley preach and became a committed Methodist. At around the same time she met some other Methodist preachers and found her lifelong vocation preaching and working with Mary Bosanquet, Sarah Ryan, and Mary Clark to assist the disabled and the poor.

John Wesley had a short-lived marriage to Mary Vazeille and it has been suggested that Wesley’s wife became suspicious of Crosby’s intentions towards John when she accompanied John Wesley across Cornwall in 1758.

In the 1770s, Crosby travelled across England preaching and joined up with Wesley on another visit to the South West. She died in 1804 having worked for her community until the day she died.
On this day in 1880, ‘The Great Storm’ hit Mount’s Bay, ruining the newly laid Penzance Promenade, destroying the fishing fleet of Newlyn, and flooding Penzance, Newlyn and Mousehole.

One large brig, the ‘Henry Beness’, of Newhaven, sprang a leak off the Longships, but four hours after abandoning ship the crew were rescued by the steamer ‘Progress’, and landed at Penzance.

Tragically, another of the ships destroyed was the ‘Jane’, which was wrecked off Lizard Point as it returned to Falmouth.

The daughter of the captain, and engaged to one of the crew attempted to telegraph the Signal Office. She soon received news that all hands on the ‘Jane’ had been lost meaning that she had lost her father and her fiancé at the same time.
The writer, artist, politician, Naval officer and Labour politician, William (Will) Arnold – Forster (1886 – 1951) was married to Ka Cox (May 21st). As described in the page about Ka Cox, the couple were instrumental in the founding of Gordonstoun School and Will was the first Chairman of the Board of Governors of the school.

Born into a military and political family, Arnold – Foster, inspired by his artistic mother, Mary Story-Maskeline, studied at the Slade School of Art (1905–1908) before moving to Tuscany to study painting. He returned to England at the outbreak of World War I, joining the Royal Navy, and worked at the Admiralty where he met his future wife. They moved to Zennor, to the Eagle’s Nest, where he concentrated on his art and his gardening, and joined the St. Ives Group of Artists, becoming noted for his pastels and landscapes.

Ka Cox died suddenly while he was on a peace mission to the USA and a year later, he married Ruth Leigh Mallory, the widow of the mountaineer, George Leigh Mallory, but she died of cancer four years later.

An influential Labour party member, but never an MP, he wrote extensively on pacifism and disarmament, was involved in the formation of the ‘League of Nations’ and also wrote for Country Life magazine on horticulture.
Zennor – born **Henry Quick** (1792 – 1857) was one of the most outstanding Victorian rural poets.

Born into a very poor family who subsisted on farming and spinning wool, Quick began to earn money from selling popular journals to which he also submitted his self – described ‘rugged verses for the countryside’.

Quick would write about local crimes and calamities and typically ended each poem with a religious exhortation but his poetry also described the potato famine. He also enjoyed acrostic poems where the first letter of each line corresponded to the person as shown (right) with the poem ‘Handbill’ for John Verrant of St. Hilary.

His most renowned publications though were his ‘Life and Progress in eighty-nine verses’, ‘Verses on the new Queen Victoria’ and ‘On the Glorious Coronation of Queen Victoria’. 
The writer and artist, **Juanita Casey** (1925 – 2012), the second wife of Sven Berlin (September 11th), wrote short stories, novels and poetry and she also became known for her drawings of horses.

Casey’s best-known novel was ‘**The Horse of Selene**’ (1971) which brought her popularity in both Ireland and North America whilst her first book of short stories ‘**Hath the Rain a Father**’ (1966) became a secondary school set text.

Inspired by an uncle with Romany and horse breeding links, Casey and her gypsy wagon parked outside Berlin’s St. Ives studio in 1948 when she met Berlin. He was a renowned bon vivant and the couple became known for charging through the town and Carbis Bay in a Bullnose Morris.

Following serious disagreements in St. Ives with other members of the St. Ives School of Painters, Casey and Berlin left and moved to the New Forest where Casey bred horses and attempted, unsuccessfully, to produce a ‘zorse’ by cross breeding a zebra and a horse.

Berlin and Juanita divorced in 1963 when she left with their groom, Fergus Casey, and lived, variously, between Devon, Cornwall, the New Forest and Ireland. When Fergus drowned, Juanita ended up living, as she loved to, with a circus working as a horse master.
October

1891 Leonard Fuller (Birth) 11th

London – born Leonard Fuller (1891 – 1973) was educated at Dulwich College and the Royal Academy School between 1912 and 1914 before moving to the Clapham School of Art. His studies were interrupted by his military service in the First World War in the Arts Rifles (Machine Gun Corps division) where he met Borlase Smart (November 3rd). Fuller and Smart agreed that if they both survived the War then they would establish a painting school in St. Ives.

After being demobbed, he returned to the Royal Academy School where he met and subsequently married a fellow student, Marjorie Mostyn (October 19th).

He spent twenty years teaching in various schools before moving to St. Ives where he did, finally, establish the ‘St Ives School of Painting’ (Porthmeor Studios) with his wife and Smart and he became a founder member of the ‘Penwith Society of Artists’, supporting the new wave of St. Ives artists including Barbara Hepworth (May 20th) and Ben Nicholson (February 6th). Fuller became one of his period’s most famous portrait artists, painting Sir Terry Frost (October 13th) and his son (above left).
He was also renowned for his depictions of indoor life including ‘Lanhams Framing Shop’ (1962) (below).

He became involved with all aspects of life in St Ives, serving as chairman of the St Ives Society of Artists. A founder member of the Penwith Society of Artists, he was known for his sympathetic views to new ideas and modernism. His school of painting was also an invaluable resource for several of the younger artists who gathered round St Ives including Terry Frost, Peter Lanyon (August 31st), Bryan Winter (September 8th), Wilhelmina Barns-Graham (June 8th), Sven Berlin (September 11th) and John Wells (July 28th).

Fuller’s wife, Marjorie Mostyn (October 19th) was a renowned portraitist in her own right and one of her most famous paintings was of her own husband (pictured right).
October

1858  Joseph Carne FRS (Death)  12th

Penzance – born **Joseph Carne** (1782 – 1858) was an industrialist and banker and the father of the noted geologist Elizabeth Catherine Thomas Carne (September 7th).

Born into the Carne banking family, he was educated at home and then at the Wesleyan School in Keynsham. As a child, Carne showed a fascination with geology and mineralogy and was in the habit of wondering around copper mines, buying mineralogical samples of ores and this formed the basis of his enormous mineralogical collection. After his marriage to Mary Thomas (1808) he and his new wife lived in Rivière House, Phillack when he was manager of his family’s *Cornish Copper Company*’s smelting works at Hayle but the family later moved to Chapel Street in Penzance.

Carne was particularly interested in the geology of St Michael’s Mount, and he reported his findings to the *Royal Geological Society of Cornwall* (February 11th) together with his studies of the geology of, and mineral production in, West Penwith leading to his election to the Royal Society (May 28th, 1818). A committed Methodist, Carne made substantial donations to nearly all the Wesleyan Chapels in West Cornwall and this continued until his death on October 12th, 1858.
Leamington Spa born, **Sir Terry Frost** (1915 – 2003) became a Newlyn – based abstract artist renowned for his use of light, colour and shape.

Frost did not become a professional artist until he was in his thirties. When he left school, he worked in engineering and served in France, Greece and the Middle East during the Second World War. He was taught to paint when, as a prisoner of war, he met the artist Adrian Heath who, in later years, visited St. Ives (1949 & 1951) and who became the main link between the St. Ives School and Constructivism. After studying at the **Camberwell School of Art**, Frost moved to St. Ives in 1946 and had his first solo exhibition in St. Ives the following year. He returned to Camberwell and studied under Ben Nicholson before returning to St. Ives (1951) working under Barbara Hepworth and collaborating with Roger Hilton (April 30th) on constructivism.

Frost’s first London exhibition was at the Leicester Galleries and he taught at the Bath Academy of Art, the Coventry College of Art and the Leeds School of Art before being appointed Professor of Painting at the University of Reading. Frost’s first American exhibition occurred in New York in 1960 where met many abstract expressionists including Mark Rothko who was a powerful influence on Peter Lanyon (August 31st).
The SS Mohegan was a steamship which was wrecked on the Manacles on her second commercial voyage with the loss of 106 of the 197 passengers and crew. Originally named ‘SS Cleopatra’ she completed her first commercial voyage from London to New York. Owned by the Atlantic Transport Line, she could carry 120 First Class passengers and had stalls for 700 cattle.

On the maiden voyage, the officers and crew identified a number of serious faults including leaks and a malfunctioning water boiler system.
October

Returning to London, at half speed, she was repaired and renamed ‘SS Mohegan’, starting on her second commercial voyage on October 13th, 1898 commanded by Captain Richard Griffith and carrying 97 crew, 57 passengers, hundreds of cattle cared for by 7 cattlemen and with other cargo of spirits & beer as well as antimony.

The SS Mohegan sailed down the English Channel at maximum speed, hugging the coast, but took the wrong bearing. This was noticed by some of the crew when observing that the coast was too close and the Eddystone Lighthouse too far away. This meant that she was heading directly for the Manacles (pictured right). Attempts to alert the crew were made by Coverack Coastguard but to no avail and she hit the rocks at full speed.

The ship had three lifeboats capable of carrying 59 people but, despite the best efforts of two lifeboats (one of which capsized), coastguard and local fishermen, the loss of life was enormous when she sank within twelve minutes. None of the officers appeared to survive, meaning that no cause for the incorrect navigation could be determined, but there were rumours that the Porthoustock lifeboat had saved an officer who ran away and was never seen again. This led to local legend that he was the captain but nothing was ever proven. Some of the recovered bodies were identified and a number sent to London and more to New York for burial but most were buried in a mass grave in St. Keverne Churchyard whose Church has a stained glass window memorial given by the Atlantic Transport Line.
Penryn – born Thomas Pellow (1704 – 1747), of a ship owning family, went to sea, aged eleven, on the *Francis*, which was bound for Genoa with a cargo of pilchards. On its return voyage, the ship and crew were captured by Moorish pirates who sold all aboard as slaves in Morocco. Pellow remained a slave in North Africa for twenty-three years during which time he kept a diary which was published, in three editions, on his escape and return to England.

Pellow was given as a slave to of the Sultan’s favourite sons, one Muley Spha, who made him run after him when riding. Offered the chance of status and a horse if he converted to Islam, Pellow refused and was kept in chains for several months with the manacles being adjusted more and more tightly each day. Having learnt Arabic, he was assigned to run the Sultan’s harem of thirty-eight concubines before being promoted to be the Sultan’s chief bodyguard and was given a Spanish wife by whom he had a daughter.

Pellow was made several attempts to escape but remained a captive until finally managing to get to Gibraltar where he was claimed as the property of the Sultan, a request that was denied by the Governor, General Field-Marshal Joseph Sabine. He was given transport to Deptford and embarked in London for Falmouth arriving back in Penryn on his 34th birthday (this day in 1738) where he was hailed a hero and greeted by cheering crowds of thousands. Having been away since a child, he did not recognise his own parents and they did not recognise their son whom they had not seen since he was eleven.
Fowey – born **Hugh Peters** (1598 – 1660) was a puritan minister who became Chaplain to the Parliamentarian forces in the Civil War, became a colonist in New England and was condemned to death for his role in the execution of King Charles I.

Educated at Trinity College, Cambridge, Peters (sometimes known as Hugh Peter) was a flamboyant preacher and came from a radical, protestant, family of Dutch origin. He rose to fame when he joined a puritan colony in Connecticut (where he was one of the founders of Harvard University) afterwards spending time in Holland. He returned to England (1641) as agent for the colony and this was when he became a close associate of Oliver Cromwell, becoming Chaplain to the Parliamentarian forces putting down the Irish rebellion. It was recognised that his preaching style recruited many to the puritan cause. A strong advocate of capital punishment, Peters was often the priest who read the condemnation of those about to be executed and, whenever the parliamentarians were to assault a town, he would preach a sermon to the forces. With the capture of the King, Peters led the force returning him to London and it has been stated that at the beheading, Peters acted as the executioner’s assistant.

Upon the Restoration of the Monarchy, Peters, convicted of regicide was hanged, drawn and quartered at Charing Cross on this day in 1660.
The Hon. Gerard Collier (1878 – 1923), son of the 2nd Baron Monkswell, having briefly been a Professor of History at the University of Sydney, became, in 1908, the one of the first tutors of the Workers’ Educational Association (WEA) as well as a history lecturer at the University of Birmingham.

Collier, pictured with his five-month-old son William, was born into a left wing, and Quaker, family. He was a pacifist, and conscientious objector in World War I. After the Armistice he moved his family to Marazion due to his ill health and he became friendly with Father Bernard Walke (June 25th) and his artist wife Annie Walke (July 6th). He continued his WEA activities running classes in both Penzance and Redruth and published ‘Economic Justice: A textbook of Political Economy from a Christian Point of View’ (1924).

With chronic unemployment in post-war Cornwall, Collier created an organisation, Servants of the Church, with Walke and his fellow Quaker, Ernest Procter (October 21st) to alleviate the unemployment and its consequences and devised a plan to re-open a tin mine in Scorrier. This plan was well advanced and appeared feasible but was abandoned when the government announced road-building initiatives with the same intent.

In the 1920s, Collier’s health deteriorated further and he died of tuberculosis at the age of 44.
Leeds – born Trevor Bell (1930 – 2017) was the last of the generation of the St. Ives Group of Artists which included Roger Hilton (April 30th), Peter Lanyon (August 31st), Ben Nicholson (February 6th), Barbara Hepworth (May 20th) and Patrick Heron (February 20th).

Educated at Leeds College of Art, he trained as a teacher and became friendly with Sir Terry Frost (October 13th) then at Leeds University who encouraged Bell to move to St. Ives. He arrived with his wife in 1955 and initially shared a studio in the basement of the St. Ives Mission to Seamen with the sculptor Brian Wall who was working as an assistant to Barbara Hepworth. With his wife on board, Bell often rode his motorcycle to Zennor, to the home of his friend, Karl Weschke (February 20th), and he later rented a cottage at Nancledra, which would subsequently be the home of Roger and Rose Hilton (August 15th).

He returned to Yorkshire in 1960 to teach at the University of Leeds and then taught in America before coming back to Cornwall, once more and for good, in 1996.

A major retrospective exhibition was one of the earliest solo shows of the Tate St. Ives (June 23rd).
One of the three daughters of the artist Tom Mostyn, Marjorie Mostyn (1893 - 1979) studied at St John’s Wood School of Art and the Royal Academy Schools (1912 - 1915) where she met her future husband, Leonard Fuller (October 11th). Fuller painted her portrait (right) and her teachers included John Singer Sargent, the renowned Italian – born, American, artist known for his portraiture and his depictions of Edwardian-era luxury.

A superb portraitist and painter of outdoor scenes, one of Mostyn’s loveliest outdoor scenes is Sunday Evening, St. Ives (1950), pictured left, but most of her paintings were of children, and women. After the birth of their son, Mostyn restricted her activities to commercial work and running the St. Ives School of Painting.

Following the death of her husband in 1973, Mostyn assumed complete responsibility for running the St. Ives School of Painting and continued until her death in 1979, aged eighty six.
Until the mid 1850s, miners had to ascend and descend shafts via 10 foot ladders resting on platforms on which the miners (always men and teenage boys since women were not permitted to work other than on the surface as ‘bal maidens’ sifting, stamping and collecting the crushed ore). The shafts were often many hundreds of feet in depth and it has been estimated that more miners were killed falling off the ladders, at the end of a shift in terribly hot and dirty conditions or were killed by the miners above falling than in shaft and tunnels collapses and flooding.

In 1857, the first ‘man engine’, essentially an early form of a mechanical lift was installed at Levant for lowering, but more importantly raising, miners between the surface and the levels. The engine was popular but it still took half an hour to transport the men from the deepest depth to the surface.

In 1919, one of the cables of the man engine snapped, sending 32 miners to their death. The engine was almost at ground level when the accident occurred and, although some managed to jump off, the breakage consigned the remaining miners to a certain death half a mile down. Fellow miners came from Geevor and East Pool Mines and spent five days digging out the bodies.

That deep section of the mine was never worked again and, in 1930, the entire Levant Mine closed, due to the collapse in the price of tin.
Franklin Thomas Grant Richards (1872 – 1942) was the son of the botanist Franklin Thomas Richards, Fellow of Trinity College, Oxford who spent every summer vacation in Cadgwith. One of his undergraduates was Sir Arthur Quiller-Couch ‘Q’ (May 12th) and it was on one such reading vacation that Q was inspired to write his first novel, ‘The Roll Call of the Reef’. Richards did not excel at school and left at the age of fifteen to work in a publisher’s warehouse but soon moved to work at ‘The Review of the Reviews’ through which he came to know many famous writers. Inspired by his contacts, Richards established himself as a publisher. Despite suffering two bankruptcies, he introduced Joyce to the literary world, publishing ‘Dubliners’, and was also the first publisher of Alec Waugh and Vera Brittain. He published Brittain’s first two novels, ‘The Dark Tide’ (1923) and ‘Halcyon: Or, The Future of Monogamy’ (1929) and also published ‘The Sands of Pleasure’, the scandalous novel of Filson Young (June 5th). Richards worked closely with Filson Young and Father Bernard Walke (June 25th) to produce ‘Bethlehem’, reputedly the first outside broadcast of a play by the BBC (Christmas Eve, 1927).

He lived on the Lizard Peninsula for many years and, perhaps, most extraordinarily, his first wife, Elisina Palamidessi de Castelvecchio (1878–1959) was a descendant of Napoleon’s brother, King Louis of Holland (1806 – 1810).
Admiral of the Fleet Sir Cloudesley Shovell MP (1650 – 1707) saw action in the Third Anglo-Dutch War, in the wars in Ireland and in the War of the Spanish Succession.

Appointed commander-in-chief of the Navy while at Lisbon, Shovell also served as MP for Rochester (1695 – 1701; 1705 – 1707), and was killed when returning from attack on Toulon.

His flagship ‘HMS Association’, was wrecked on Scilly, sinking in four minutes with the loss of all 800 crew. Three other ships, the third-rate ‘HMS Eagle’, the fourth-rate ‘HMS Romney’ and the fire ship ‘HMS Firebrand’ sank, leading to the loss of 2,000 sailors in a single night.

Shovell’s body, along with those of both of his stepsons, was recovered in Porthellick Cove on St Mary’s, nearly seven miles from where his ship was wrecked. It has been suggested that Shovell, stepsons and the captain of his ship escaped on one of its boats and all drowned while trying to get ashore.

On the order of Queen Anne, his body was returned to Plymouth and carried in state to London prior to his internment at Westminster Abbey on December 22nd, 1707 and commemorated with a marble monument in the south choir aisle (pictured above right).
Gorran – born Sir Charles Wills (1666 – 1741) was a politician and an army officer who became famed for taking the Jacobite army at Preston (1715).

His father, a tenant farmer had accumulated massive debts and quit the farmstead, offered his services and those of all six of his sons to the William of Orange in the Civil War. William gave them all commissions.

Wills served in Ireland, Flanders and Cadiz before being posted to the West Indies and then returning to Ireland in the winter of 1703. Subsequently he served in Spain in the Peninsular War.

Returning to Britain, Wills was appointed commander of the regiments in Cheshire, assembled his forces in Manchester and marched on Wigan before progressing to the town of Preston which he surrounded until reinforcements arrived upon which the town surrendered.

Wills became Member of Parliament for Totnes in 1718 and served for twenty-three years.

Dying, unmarried, on December 25th, 1741 he was interred in Westminster Abbey with a memorial in the Guards Chapel.

In the 1930s, he worked for the Derby Evening Telegraph before moving to London as a freelance journalist. A pacifist and vegetarian, he spent the first few months of the Second World War, as a registered conscientious objector, working as a farm labourer on Jersey before being returned to London due to the threat to the island. He then became a rescue worker during the Blitz.

In the war years, Val Baker began publishing his own quarterly magazine ‘Opus’ which featured stories, poems and reviews and, in 1943, produced the first of the annual ‘Little Reviews Anthologies’ and anthologies of short stories by numerous writers. In the 1940s, he published three novels and had at least one hundred short stories broadcast on the BBC’s ‘Morning Story’ programme.

In 1948, Val Baker moved to St. Ives and launched ‘The Cornish Review’ in 1949, which continued until 1974. With the exception of three years in Bermuda (1954 – 1957) and one in London, Val Baker remained in Cornwall for the rest of his life.

In 1949, Val Baker and his wife, Jess, bought the 17-room house in St. Hilary which had been the vicarage in the days of Father Bernard Walke (June 23rd) and his, artist, wife Annie (Fearon) Walke (Julie 6th).
Val Baker’s, already impressive, literary output increased enormously and in the next forty six years he published twenty-six humorous books about life in Cornwall, fourteen novels and twenty-three collections of short stories. He also published another ten books on diverse subjects as well as producing hundreds of short stories and articles for magazines across the world.

At the same time Jess started taking pottery lessons with David Leach, the son of Bernard Leach (May 6th) and she opened a studio pottery in St. Ives. Whilst Jess was working, Val Baker would sit writing and serving customers.

In 1967, the Val Baker family moved to ‘The old Sawmills’ on Golant creek of the River Fowey which was accessible only by water or via the railway operated by the English China Clay Company. They remained there for five years until Jess was offered a one year appointment teaching pottery in Bermuda.

On their return in 1972, they moved to Crean, between St. Buryan and Land’s End where they remained until his death in 1984.
October

25th Richard Lomax (Death) 1836

Until the 19th century, Newquay was a typical small fishing town reliant on the pilchards industry. There had been a short quay since the 14th century which had been repeatedly repaired and slightly extended but it was seriously damaged during the 1439 storms and replaced with a larger quay in an area then known as Tewen Blustery. This sufficed until the early 19th century when the pilchards industry went into decline and the port increasingly became used for the export of tin, lead and china clay as well as for fishing.

A Lambeth entrepreneur, Richard Lomax, Squire Lomax of the manor of Towan Blistra (having bought his Lordship of the Manor in St. Columb Major) decided to build a larger, three acre, harbour which was needed for the new, larger cargo vessels travelling to and from South Wales and he employed a local architect, John Ennor, to create an enclosed harbour. Until then boats had been pulled up the beaches at high tide so that at low water they could be loaded and unloaded by carts pulled up alongside. Lomax died on this day in 1836 and never saw his plans come to fruition, The manor and harbour were bought by Joseph Treffry (January 29th) who built a tramway to enable china clay and mineral ore to be transported by rail using horse drawn carts all the way from Fowey and from the harbour he had built at Par. This route was cheaper and safer than navigating around the Lands End.
Illogan – born Thomas Merritt (1863 – 1908) worked at Carn Brea mine from the age of twelve and then Tolvaddon to support his family after the early death of his father.

A keen musician, he was almost entirely self-taught except for receiving a few months of private tuition when he was eighteen. A committed Methodist he became organist at Chili Road Chapel and at Illogan Highway Chapel. He became famous for his anthology of twelve Christmas Carols of which the two most famous are ‘Hark the Angels Sing!’ and ‘Angels from the Realms of Glory’.

Merritt also wrote ‘The Christian Soldier’ and ‘Hark, The Glad Sound!’ and was commissioned to compose a Coronation march for Edward VII but of which little is known.

His composing style has been described as in the ‘West Gallery style’ which derives from the fact that many churches and chapels had a musicians’ gallery in the west of the Church. Most Churches have altars pointing eastwards to Jerusalem and the musicians’ gallery was usually at the opposite end, often accessed through the tower. Sadly, musicians’ galleries have been removed from many churches but the walls often exhibit marks showing where they existed.

Merritt became a full time music teacher at the age of nineteen but, plagued by ill health for most of his life, he died, aged forty-six, on April 17th, 1908.
Torpoint – born Admiral **Thomas Graves, 1st Baron Graves** (1725 – 1802) is best known for commanding the British fleet when it was defeated in the most significant naval engagement of the War of Independence and for his failure to attempt to retake Chesapeake Bay from the French after Cornwallis’ surrender.

The second son of Rear-Admiral Thomas Graves of Thanckes in Torpoint he came from a renowned naval family and he numbered six Admirals or Rear – Admirals amongst his cousins.

Graves had a long and initially successful career, serving in the West Indies and in the Mediterranean during the War of Austrian Succession. Promoted to Captain of **HMS Sheerness** he was reprimanded for failing to capture a French merchant vessel but promotions continued until he reached the rank of Admiral and was sent to assist Cornwallis’ defence of Chesapeake Bay.

In command of the naval forces in North America, he reached Chesapeake Bay on this day in 1781 only to find that Cornwallis had surrendered and, instead of attempting to retake it from the French, returned to New York. Under severe criticism he returned to England to defend himself but lost his flagship, **HMS Ramillies**, en route and faced a number of Parliamentary enquiries. He emerged unscathed and continued his career until forced to retire after being seriously injured in 1794. Raised to the Irish peerage, he died at the family home in 1802.
London – born Viscountess (Hilda) Runciman (1869 – 1956) was a Liberal politician who served as Member of Parliament for St. Ives for one year only (1928) before standing in Tavistock in 1929, leaving St. Ives for her husband, Walter Runciman, to stand in her place. Walter was successful, defeating the Unionist candidate by 1,032 votes and the Labour candidate, William Arnold-Foster (October 8th), by 7,523 votes. Runciman represented St. Ives until raised to the peerage in 1937.

Cambridge educated (Girton College), she married Runciman in 1898 and served on many national bodies including the Women’s National Liberal Federation, Women’s Free Church Council, the Westminster Housing Association and Westminster Housing Trust and was a member of the League of Nations Union.

A strong supporter of Asquith she supported the maintenance of independent Liberalism and an end to the Lloyd George coalition of the First World War.

In 1937, her husband became Viscount Runciman of Doxford.

Viscountess (Hilda) Runciman died of heart failure on this day in 1956, aged 87.
London – born **William Sandys** (1792 – 1874) was a solicitor and antiquarian who is renowned for his famous and enduring ‘*Christmas Carols Ancient and Modern*’ (1833).

Sandys was married twice, firstly to Harriette Hill (1793 – 1851) of Constantine, and moved to Helston to practice law.

A committed Christian, he was inspired by the publication of traditional carols by Davies Gilbert (March 6th) in ‘*Some Ancient Christmas Carols*’ (1822). Christmas carolling had almost completely ceased when Gilbert produced his anthology and Sandys followed his example, collecting what have since become standard Christmas carols which are familiar even to the completely non-religious. For example, his first collection included ‘*God Rest You Merry Gentlemen*’ and ‘*The First Noel*’.

Sandys classified the carols by date with the first volume being titled ‘*Containing Ancient Carols and Christmas Songs, From the Early Part of the Fifteenth to The End of the Seventeenth Century*’ which includes carols from both Middle and Early Modern English. The second publication ‘*A Selection From Carols Still Used In The West Of England*’ in which Sandys claimed he had selected ‘from upwards of one hundred obtained in different parts of the West of Cornwall’, included the first printing of ‘*I Saw Three Ships*’ and ‘*Hark the Herald Angels Sing*’. 
The Manchester – born Rev. John Whitaker (1735 – 1808) was an antiquarian and Rector of Ruan Lanihorne (located between Veryan, Tregony and St Michael Penkevil) for thirty years (1778 – 1808). Having written histories of his home city, he became famous for his ‘The Ancient Cathedral of Cornwall, A study of the Church of St. Germans’ (2 volumes, 1804).

Whitaker published poems and many of his sermons and contributed significantly to the ‘History of Cornwall’ by Rev. Richard Polwhele (January 6th). To further supplement his income, Whitaker also submitted articles to numerous periodicals.

Whitaker also published books on the decline of the Cornish language, an idiosyncratic study of the history of the Britons and ‘The Life of Saint Neot, the Oldest of all the Brothers to King Alfred’ (published posthumously in 1809), ‘Mary Queen of Scots Vindicated’ (3 volumes, 1787) and ‘The Real Origin of Government’ (1795).
Staffordshire – born Lionel Lea Townley Birch (1858 – 1930) moved to Newlyn with his wife, Constance Mary Birch, where they built their own home ‘La Pietra’ in Newlyn. Townley worked as a tutor with the Forbes School of Painting run by Stanhope Forbes (November 18\textsuperscript{th}) and Elizabeth Forbes (December 29\textsuperscript{th}).

He became known for his paintings of dogs as demonstrated by the, 1890, painting of a King Charles Spaniel (right).

The attention to detail of his oils on canvas are so precise that, at first glance, they almost appear photographic.

A committed Christian, Birch served as the Vicar’s Churchwarden at St Peter’s Church, Newlyn.

In later years, Lionel and Constance Birch moved to Whimple and then to Ottery St. Mary before leaving for Epsom where, Constance having pre-deceased him, he died in 1930, aged 71.
November
Michael Loam (1797 – 1871) was the Cornish engineer who introduced the first man engine to transport miners up and down a mineshaft.

Until the mid 19th century, miners would ascend or descend a shaft using 10-foot ladders resting on platforms. Huge numbers of shafts were many hundreds of feet in depth with some levels extending, horizontally, a mile or more under the sea.

Ascending the ladders, carrying their tools, at the end of a long shift in dirty, hot environments often led to exhausted miners falling off the ladders to their death. When that happened, it could lead to miners below also being knocked off the ladder and it has been estimated that more miners died in this manner than in shaft and tunnel collapses and water ingress.

Consequently, in 1834, the Royal Cornwall Polytechnic Society (April 22nd) offered a prize for the design of a better system of transporting miners up and down the mineshafts. In 1841, Loam won the competition for his design of a mechanical lift.

This saved many lives but was also the cause of the Levant Mining Disaster (October 20th) which cost thirty one lives when a cable snapped just as some of the miners were close to the surface.
The famous painter of Mousehole, much loved by the public loved but critically extremely unpopular, Joan Gillchrest (1918 – 2008), born Joan Gilbert Scott was the great grand daughter of George Gilbert Scott, the niece of Sir Giles Gilbert Scott and the daughter of a distinguished radiologist who had worked with Marie Curie and developed radiotherapy medical treatments.

After a year in Paris to learn French, Gillchrest studied at the Grosvenor School of Art and after one brief, failed, marriage moved to Chelsea, renting a flat and studio one floor above Adrian Ryan (December 15th) who became her partner in 1957. Gillchrest and Ryan set up home in Mousehole in 1959 and she built a studio in the garden of their cottage. Ryan used the view to create his series of ‘Mousehole Rooftops’ pictures but saw no virtue in Gillchrest’s paintings, to the extent of turning her works to the wall when they had visitors. They were popular in Mousehole having originated the idea of the, now world famous, Mousehole Christmas lights in 1963 when she put up a string of Christmas lights. Gillchrest ended their tempestuous relationship when she wrote to Ryan, then temporarily in Camden Town, telling him that she had sent all his paintings and belongings to Harrods Depository and telling him never to come back. A brilliant, almost cartoonist artist, Gillchrest’s skills only seriously became admired towards the end of her life, when modest as ever, she expressed simple delight that others enjoyed her work.
In his obituary in the *Western Morning News*, Robert Borlase Smart, always known as Borlase Smart, was described as ‘St. Ives personified’.

The Kingsbridge – born Borlase Smart worked as the art editor and critic on the Western Morning News from 1901 to 1913. In the First World War he served in the Artists Rifles’ volunteer force when he met Leonard Fuller (October 11th) who was to become a lifelong friend. They agreed that, if they both survived the War they would create an Art School in St. Ives, a promise that Fuller was not to meet for twenty years.

On his return from the front, Smart did though become a member of the St Ives School, exhibited at the first exhibition of the Society of Graphic Art in London (1921) and published a series of books on painting techniques including his most famous, ‘*The Technique of Seascape Painting*’ which became a standard text. Living at Porthmeor, from 1924 until his death in 1947, Smart engaged fully in the life of the town, serving on the town council, leading the Sea Scouts and, in WW2, the Home Guard. He supported and promoted the new wave of post-war artists including Ben Nicholson (February 6th), Barbara Hepworth (May 20th) and Peter Lanyon (August 31st).

In 1933, he was made a Bard of the Gorsedh Kernow, taking the name *Ton Mor-Bras* (‘Ocean Wave’).
Admiral Lord Nelson’s famous death at the Battle of Trafalgar was first reported when a few fishermen in a boat off Lizard Point saw the fleet returning. Contacting the fleet’s *HMS Pickle*, a small fast schooner travelling to Falmouth, and carrying the news of the death of a national hero, the fishermen hurried to Penzance to report the national tragedy.

News of Nelson’s death was received at the Assembly Rooms in Chapel Street (pictured right) whilst a ball was in progress.

The news was publicly announced outside the Union Hotel in Chapel Street (adjacent to the Assembly Rooms) to immense public distress. This announcement is now commemorated in the pub sign of the Union Hotel (pictured below).
From the Cornish Telegraph

‘This evening, November 5th, we have all been down to the Penzance Institute, a gay little party, to see and hear the famous aesthete Mr Oscar Wilde. We had seen the cartoons, showing him fragile and etiolated, with long hair and a singular – foppish, even – style of dress. But what did we see on the platform at St John’s Hall tonight? “A tall, well-favoured gentleman in evening dress with lackadaisical step”. True, the trousers of his “exquisitely made” black dress suit seemed to be turned up at the cuff. And true, there was about his person a handkerchief of “straw-coloured” silk, with “pendant corner gracefully falling over the waistcoat” (which in turn was open, revealing – as if by negligence - a fine shirt front). But he is, in other respects, a wholly unremarkable figure of a man. He had been billed to talk about America, so imagine our surprise when, at the commencement, he announced that he “could not say anything useful” on the subject. But it turned out that this was mere drollery, because while he would not weary us with longitude and latitude, imports and exports, and so forth, he could – and would - offer his personal recollections. And that, of course, was what we had all gone along to hear: a few wisdoms, and a many arch witticisms, from the most esteemed society dinner guest and wit of the age. America! How many among us long to make that trip? He spoke of the comfort – if not the splendour of the clothing. Of the absence from the streets of shaming poverty – everyone, seemingly, with a coat and hat. He spoke of the tremendous hurry – imagine that, from a man used to the pace of London! And he spoke of the “romance of commerce” which is, to them,
“a wild game of life in which everyone, old and young, took part”. He transported us with the magic of his words to the “great commercial towns with marvellous hotels, long, straight streets, and mammoth dry goods stores, the streets being lighted by the electric light, which gave to them at night a sort of perpetual moonlight”. He spoke of crossing the Prairies; of his travels in the defeated south, where he “for the first time recognised clearly what ruin war brings a country”. How we laughed at that! He conjured before us the Indians – some civilised, some retaining native habits; the Mormons at Salt Lake City, where “a few years ago there was nothing but the Indian and the wild buffalo”; the trigger-happy silver miners of the Rocky Mountains. And he spoke, most beautifully of all, about California, and the delicacy and beauty the Chinese had brought to the place, so that visitors might take their tea from “cups delicate as the petal of the white rose”.

Mr Wilde is, of course, a man of aesthetic leanings – and so it was natural for him to pass to the topic of rational dress. He drew attention – delicately, of course - to the “natural curve” of a lady’s waist, and made it clear that he has no time for the “bows and flounces which had no meaning whatsoever. Rather, Mr Wilde favours the well-proportioned foot; the free movement and “natural folds” of drapery when a lady rises, walks, even runs. And there was much more – on lady doctors and lawyers; on education; on how in America “no man was barred by class or birth from anything”. But I fear that by that point he had lost some of his audience, and while there was “applause” for his remark, it was only “slight”.
Antony – born Richard Carew (1555 – 1620) was a translator and antiquary, best known for his ‘Survey of Cornwall’ which was published in 1602.

Educated at Christ Church, Oxford, he was a contemporary of the future courtier, poet and soldier Sir Philip Sidney and the antiquarian William Camden who is best known for ‘Britannia’, the first regional study of the entire country of Great Britain and Ireland.

From a respectable family, Carew married into huge wealth through his marriage to Juliana Arundell of Trerice (pictured left) and became a man of leisure and politics.

He translated Tasso’s ‘Jerusalem Delivered’, a version of the history of the First Crusade which apparently bears little relation to fact.

He also served as High Sheriff of Cornwall (1583 and 1586) and as Member of Parliament for Saltash (1584), replacing his father, Thomas Carew, who also only served for one session.

Carew died on this day in 1620 and was buried the following day in Antony.
Luxulyan – born Silvanus Trevail (1851 – 1903) was the most important Cornish architect of the 19th century who rose to prominence, locally, becoming Mayor of Truro, and, nationally, as President of the Society of Architects.

A campaigner for education and for sanitation, Trevail designed over fifty Board Schools subsequent to the Forster Education Act (1870). His skills were, however, distributed more widely as demonstrated by his design of the Headland Hotel in Newquay (below left) and the Carbis Bay Hotel (below right). He also designed the Housel Bay Hotel where Marconi resided (December 12th) whilst working at Poldhu.

Trevail’s interests also extended to ecclesiastical history and he funded the rebuilding of the derelict Church at Temple in 1883. Temple is a fascinating church for two reasons; it was built by the Knights Templar (c. 1120) as a chapel of ease for pilgrims travelling ‘The Saints Way’ to Jerusalem but it was also a Church where marriages could be performed, with neither banns needing to be read nor a licence being required. Tragically, suffering from lifelong depression, he shot himself in a train’s lavatory near Bodmin Road.
November

1859  1st Cornwall Artillery Volunteers  8th

Today marks the day, in 1859, that the 1st Cornwall (Duke of Cornwall’s) Artillery Volunteers was commissioned as a response to a perceived threat of a French invasion and trained to defend the Cornish coast and continued until it was decommissioned in 1956.

Corps were raised in Padstow, Hayle, St. Just, St. Ives and St. Buryan, on the north coast and in Penzance, Marazion, Newlyn, Charlestown, Looe, Par, Fowey and Polruan on the south coast. In 1888, they were consolidated as the 1st Cornwall (Duke of Cornwall’s) Artillery Volunteers, with ten batteries on the south coast of the county and headquartered at Pendennis Castle.

In World War I, the Volunteers were mobilised under the command of Major Francis Freathy Oats, son of the mining magnate Francis Oats (September 1st) to take over the defence of the coast from regular soldiers who were then released to travel to the front. By 1915, however, some of the Volunteers with their heavy artillery were deployed to the East Africa Campaign (pictured below)
November

9th Charles Masson Fox (Birth) 1866

Falmouth – born Charles Masson Fox (1866 – 1935) was a businessman who found notoriety in Edwardian England due to his sexuality but moved on to international prominence in the world of chess.

A cousin of the Fox family of Falmouth he was a senior partner of his family’s timber merchants, Fox Stanton & Company, and was also on the Board of the shipping agents, G. C. Fox & Company. Described as ‘a friendly man, kind, mellow, lovable, bringing peace and comfort and serene joy with him’, Fox was also homosexual. In 1913, he was subjected to a blackmail attempt by Edith Wagner of Shepherd’s Bush, who accused him of seducing her twenty four year old son, Ernest who had met Fox 1904 but had seen nothing of him since 1906. Fox sent a friend with £150 to exchange for two letters he had written to Ernest and a written retraction of the allegation. In July, however, he received a letter demanding another £150. Fox met Wagner who threatened to travel to Falmouth to ruin him but following consultations with his solicitors, the pair were prosecuted. Wagner was gaol for five years with hard labour and her son was gaol for one year, also with hard labour. With echoes of the scandal of Oscar Wilde (November 5th), the publicity around the case destroyed his social standing in restrained Cornish, Edwardian society, and had inevitably damaging consequences for the family businesses.

Subsequently, Fox split his time between Falmouth and London and concentrated on his love of chess, becoming President of the Cornwall Chess Association.
On this day in 1898, the ‘Blue Jacket’ was found, unbelievably, wrecked on the rocks of the Longships lighthouse. Having carried a cargo of railway sleepers from Danzig to Plymouth it had set off again, empty, towards Cardiff to collect its return cargo of coal.

After navigating the Lizard Point, it headed towards the Land’s End with two men on watch and intending to pass between the coast and the rocks. By the morning of this day in 1898, the bow ended up on the rocks with the hull ripped apart and with a 20-foot gash on her port side.

The blame for the wreck was assigned wholly and fully to the captain whose maritime licence was suspended, but only for six months.

Thankfully, the entire crew survived due to their rescue by the Sennen lifeboat.
Callington – born Selina Cooper, née Coombe (1864 – 1946) was a suffragist (not a suffragette) and the first woman to represent the Independent Labour Party (1901) when she was the first woman to be elected to the Board of Guardians which administered the Poor Laws.

Her father died of typhoid fever when she was twelve and the family moved to seek work in the textile mills of northern England, Barnoldswick (1876). She was employed as a ‘creeler’ ensuring that there was a constant supply of fresh bobbins for the cotton, earning sufficient (8 shillings a week for a 7 day a week, 8 hour shift) to rent a small house for herself and her family. After the death of her mother, Jane, Selina joined the Cotton Workers’ Union and attended classes organised by the Women’s Co-operative Guild when she also began reading books about history and politics. She also read medical texts in an attempt to advise those in her neighbourhood who were unable to afford a visit to the doctor. It was through her activities that Selina Coombe met and married another activist, Robert Cooper. In 1901, the Independent Labour Party asked Selina to stand in the forthcoming Poor Law Guardian elections.

She developed a national reputation for her passionate speeches in favour of women’s suffrage and a close friend of Millicent Fawcett who asked her to be one of the four women (pictured below with Selina on the left) to present the case for women’s suffrage to Asquith.
During the First World War, Selina organised relief in Nelson, supporting the wives and families of conscripted soldiers, and this included creating the town’s first-ever maternity home where she personally helped to deliver fifteen babies.

A convinced pacifist, Selina refused to take part in army recruiting campaigns and, totally opposed to conscription, she supported the conscientious objectors. In 1917, with Margaret Bondfield (later to become the first female Cabinet Minister and also the first female Privy Councillor), she organised a Women’s Peace Crusade event which was attended by over one thousand women but ended in a riot when they were attacked. The violence was sufficient that mounted police were required to protect the lives of Selina and Margaret Bondfield.

In the 1930s, she played a prominent role in the campaign against fascism and died at home on November 11th, 1946 shortly before her eighty-second birthday.
On this day in 1642, Parliamentarian forces, led by Sir John Roberts of Lanhydrock, were defeated at the Battle of Brentford by Royalist forces led by Prince Rupert of the Rhine. The battle was very much one sided and the outcome inevitable since the Royalist forces comprised mainly of cavalry with a regiment of foot soldiers whereas the outnumbered Parliamentarians were mainly infantry with little cavalry support.

Under the cover of an early morning mist the Royalists attacked the Parliamentarians who had barricaded themselves inside the town of Brentford. The initial attack was repulsed so a Welsh regiment of foot was sent in and after successfully taking the outer defences attacked the town itself. The fighting continued until late afternoon when the Parliamentarians under Roberts were forced out into the surrounding, open countryside. They withdrew under cover from Parliamentarian infantry, which had arrived from Uxbridge after which the Royalists completely sacked the town of Brentford. Defeated, Roberts’ estates were occupied by the Royalists during the Civil War and Lanhydrock was gifted to Sir Richard Grenville (June 26th). After the Civil War, Roberts retreated from public life but, with the restoration of the monarchy, he was appointed to the Privy Council, Lord Deputy of Ireland and Lord Keeper of the Privy Seal and in July, 1679, he was created Viscount Bodmin and Earl of Radnor.

His grandson, Charles, (November 13th) decided to dissociate himself from the once notoriety of his grandfather and changed the family name from Roberts to Robartes when he inherited the titles.
Charles Bodvile Robartes, 2nd Earl of Radnor (1660–1723), pictured right, was a member of the House of Commons (1679 – 1681, 1685) for Bossiney and was the grandson of Sir John Roberts (November 12th).

In 1689, he married into huge wealth which brought him the ownership of both Harewood House and Wimpole Hall.

Robartes was appointed to the Privy Council and made Lord Warden of the Stannaries, Lord Lieutenant of Cornwall. He was appointed Custos Rotulorum of Cornwall, a now ceremonial role but one that in his times was the highest civil office in Cornwall, maintaining records of population and taxes etc;

He was succeeded as the 3rd Earl of Radnor, by his nephew Henry Robartes, who died unmarried in Paris (1741) who was succeeded by his nephew, John Robartes (1686–1757).

The death of the 4th Earl led to the extinction of the title as he too was unmarried and childless.
Philack – born **Jack Cock** (1893 – 1966) was a forward with Plymouth Argyle who scored a record 32 league goals in the 1926 – 1927 season and became the second Cornishman to play for England, the first being Jack Hillman (December 16th). One of three brothers who all played soccer professionally, Cock also became a star of stage and screen. Having played for minor clubs, Cock signed for Brentford (1914) scoring two goals in his first, of only three matches, before being signed for Huddersfield Town as a professional. His career was put on hold by the advent of the First World War during which he was awarded the Military Medal (MM). Having rejoined Huddersfield Town in 1918, he signed for Chelsea for the then record fee of £2,650 and he, again, scored two goals on his debut against Bradford City. In the same year he won his full cap for England when, playing against Wales, he again scored. He was also the main reason for Chelsea finishing 3rd in the First Division, having scored 23 goals in 30 matches and for Chelsea reaching the semi-finals of the FA Cup. In the second of his only two games for England he scored against Ireland just 30 seconds into the match. Cock transferred to Everton FC before joining Plymouth Argyle in 1925 and then Millwall where he remained until retiring but where he returned as manager in 1944.

He is one of the few people to have played himself on film when he appeared in *The Winning Goal* (1920) and in *The Great Game* (1930).
William Murdoch (1754 – 1839) is renowned for introducing gas lighting to domestic homes with the first example being his own home in Camborne.

At the age of 23, the Scottish–born Murdoch walked 300 miles to Birmingham to ask James Watt for a job. He impressed Watt’s partner Matthew Boulton so much that he was hired immediately to work in the workshop designing the patterns for the casting of machine parts. In September 1779, Murdoch was sent to Redruth with responsibility for the erection, maintenance & repair of Boulton & Watt engines used to pump water from the mines.

In addition to his mechanical work, Murdoch also experimented chemically, discovering a form of cement made from ammonium chloride and iron filings. He also worked on copper compounds which were the foundation of the aniline dye industry as well as a replacement for isinglass (used to clear beer) from dried cod rather than Russian–imported sturgeon. Murdoch is, though, most famous for the replacement of smelly oil and tallow lamps with gas lighting (1792) which required him to devise an efficient method for the production and storage of coal gas. This had other benefits since the process yielded coke, ammonia, phenol (carbolic acid) and one of the components of Bakelite™ as well as coal tar, which was found to contain numerous organic compounds including one which was the basis of the first synthetic dye and another which was a precursor of an early form of aspirin.
Rear – Admiral John Pasco (1774 – 1853) joined the Royal Navy at the age of ten and acted as the signal officer on HMS Victory at the Battle of Trafalgar on which he had been posted since 1803. Nelson instructed Pasco to send the message, by semaphore flags, that ‘England confides that every man will do his duty’.

Pasco pointed out that ‘confides’ was not in the signal book and suggested replacing it with ‘expects’ as that was. Otherwise, ‘confides’ would have to be spelt out letter by letter. He recorded that Nelson immediately agreed to the change saying ‘That will do, Pasco, make it directly’ adding that ‘You must be quick, for I have one more message to make which is for close action’.

The second message was ‘Engage the enemy more closely’ which was sent and the flags were left raised until destroyed in the battle. In the battle Pasco suffered severe wounds to the right side of his body and his right arm and played no further part in the battle but at Nelson’s state funeral he was accorded the honour of escorting the Admiral’s coffin. Subsequently, Pasco commanded ships in North America and Australia before having commands in the Peninsular War before being given command of HMS Victory itself in 1846. He remained in service until his death in Stonehouse (Plymouth) on this day in 1853.
Charles Rashleigh (1747 – 1823) was born at Menabilly, which later became the home, for twenty years, of Daphne du Maurier (May 13th). The seventh son and tenth child of Jonathan Rashleigh FRS, MP for Fowey, he trained as an attorney in London until returning in 1769 to run the estate upon the death of his father. Rashleigh settled in St. Austell in a large townhouse, which is now the White Hart Hotel, and married into even greater wealth, two years later, upon his wedding to Grace Tremayne of Heligan. He then also bought a country home at Duporth. The lands and villages he managed included Porthmear Cove, which amounted to a handful of cottages around a fishing cove, with a total population of nine, which he decided, with the burgeoning china clay industry, could be developed as a port. This was designed by John Smeaton, the architect of the 3rd Eddystone Lighthouse and became known as ‘Charlestown’. In later life, Rashleigh was ruined by putting his trust in his clerks Joseph Dingle and Joseph Daniel who defrauded him.
Stanhope Alexander Forbes RA (1857 – 1947) was regarded as ‘the father of the Newlyn School’. Born in Ireland, the son of a French mother and an English father, Forbes was educated at Dulwich College and briefly studied art in London before moving to Luxembourg where his father was working. Returning to London, he attended the Lambeth School of Art and then studied at the Royal Academy Schools under Sir John Millais. One of his fellow students was Henry Herbert La Thangue who persuaded him to go to study in Paris (1880 – 1882). Forbes and La Thangue went to Brittany where they developed their own, *plein air*, style. Forbes married a fellow student Elizabeth Armstrong (December 29th), who painted the portrait above, and they lived in Newlyn where they led the ‘Newlyn School of Art’. With a growing family, though, they move Penzance.

Forbes became famous for his paintings of domestic or outdoor situations such as ‘Reading the News of the Queen’s Death in a Cornish Cottage’ (1901) (below left) and ‘Gala Day in Newlyn’ (1907) (below right) and his first painting in Newlyn, ‘Abbey Slip’ (next page).
Forbes work is important because of the detail in his paintings which beautifully record historical personalities such as Walter Barnes, the conductor of the Penzance Orchestral Society in ‘The Violinist’ (1933, left) and portray everyday life in a bygone age as demonstrated, for example by ‘A Fish Sale on a Cornish Beach’ (1885, below left) and ‘Florist and Fruiterer’ (1923, below right).

In 1915, three years after the death of Armstrong, Forbes married Maudie Palmer, who had been ‘assistant, helper and friend to the whole Forbes family’. During the First World War, his son with Armstrong, Alec served in the Duke of Cornwall’s Light Infantry and was killed in action on the Western Front in August 1916.

Forbes died in Newlyn on March 2nd, 1947 and is buried, with his first wife, in Sancreed Parish Churchyard.
The Greenock – born William Sydney Graham (1918 – 1986) poet was associated with the neo-romantics, Dylan Thomas and George Barker who he knew from his Soho days. He became noted due to promotion by his close friends, including Harold Pinter who wrote that ‘I've said about W.S. Graham's poetry: 'His song is unique and his work is an inspiration.' The same applies to this brilliant collection of letters. The subject is poetry. W.S. Graham drank and ate poetry every day of his life. These letters show an intelligence and sensibility ravished by language and conundrum of language. An explorer whose journey never ends.’

Having studied structural engineering in Glasgow and literature for one year, Graham spent the war working in Scotland, Ireland in London. His first book, ‘Cage Without Grievance’ was published in 1942 and he moved to Cornwall in 1944, creating another four volumes in the 1940s including, notably, in 1948, ‘The Voyages of Alfred Wallis’ (August 29th) and ‘The White Threshold’ (1949) which was published by T.S. Eliot, editor of Faber & Faber. Also close friends with Bryan Wynter (September 8th) he published a poem dedicated to him on Wynter’s death (opposite) and contributed articles to the ‘Cornish Magazine’ created by Denys Val Baker (October 24th). For many years, Graham lived in Madron in straitened circumstances with his poet wife, Nessie Dunsmuir (September 13th), and died there in 1986. His Madron home is now marked with a commemorative blue plaque.
November

Dear Bryan Wynter

This is only a note
To say how sorry I am
You died. You will realize
What a position it puts
Me in. I couldn’t really
Have died for you if so
I were inclined. The carn
Foxglove here on the wall
Outside your first house
Leans with me standing
In the Zennor wind.

Anyhow how are things?
Are you still somewhere
With your long legs
And twitching smile under
Your blue hat walking
Across a place? Or am
I greedy to make you up
Again out of memory?
Are you there at all?
I would like to think
You were all right
And not worried about
Monica and the children
And not unhappy or bored.

Speaking to you and not
Knowing if you are there
Is not too difficult.
My words are used to that.
Do you want anything?
Where shall I send something?
Rice-wine, meanders, paintings
By your contemporaries?
Or shall I send a kind
Of news of no time
Leaning against the wall
Outside your old house.

The house and the whole moor
Is flying in the mist.

I am up. I’ve washed
The front of my face
And here I stand looking
Out over the top
Half of my bedroom window.
There almost as far
As I can see I see
St Buryan’s church tower.
An inch to the left, behind
That dark rise of woods,
Is where you used to lurk.

This is only a note
To say I am aware
You are not here. I find
It difficult to go
Beside Housman’s star
Lit fences without you.
And nobody will laugh
At my jokes like you.

Bryan, I would be obliged
If you would scout things out
For me. Although I am not
Just ready to start out.
I am trying to be better,
Which will make you smile
Under your blue hat.

I know I make a symbol
Of the foxglove on the wall.
It is because it knows you.
Roche – born Sir Archie Pellow Marshall (1899-1966) was a repeatedly unsuccessful Liberal Parliamentary candidate but a very successful lawyer who became famous as the judge at the trial of Stephen Ward, the osteopath at the centre of the Profumo Scandal.

Educated at Truro School and Cambridge (Gonville and Caius), he was called to the Bar in 1925 and was appointed King’s Counsel in 1947, becoming a High Court Judge in 1959.

In 1963, he presided over the trial of Dr. Stephen Ward but it has been alleged that that he misdirected the jury on several legal points. The transcript of his summing up to the jury has been sealed until 2046 despite, or maybe because of, the case allegedly being ‘a gross miscarriage of justice’.

President of the London Cornish Association, he married Meta Hawke, of Bugle in 1926 and they had one son and one daughter.

In 1963 was appointed a Bard of the Gorsedh Kernow taking the Bardic name ‘Brusyas an Gernewyon’ (‘Judge of the Cornish’).
Sir Rose Price (1768 – 1834) was the son of John Price and Elizabeth Williams Brammer of Trengwainton and was awarded the title, Sir Rose Price, 1st Baronet of Trengwainton, in 1815.

Descended from Francis Price, who had settled in Jamaica and with a great-uncle, Sir Charles Price, who was for many years Speaker of the Jamaica House of Assembly, Penzance – born Sir Rose Price had wealthy parents whose wealth was based on their Jamaican sugar plantations. At Penzance, Price’s parents kept a retinue completely comprised of black servants; in other words slaves.

Educated at Harrow and Oxford (Magdalen College) he subsequently conducted a Grand Tour of Europe which coincided with the French Revolution. In 1790, he was sent to Jamaica to improve the family’s plantations and between then and 1796 he had greatly increased the number of slaves ‘owned’ by his family. In 1814, he bought the Trengwainton Estate in Penzance but soon became reviled both for being a slave owner and for being a believer in the ‘Unitarian’ concept that God is one entity as opposed to the conventional Holy Trinity of God, the Father, God the Son (Jesus) and the Holy Spirit. Price lived at Kenegie in Gulval whilst the Trengwainton mansion was rebuilt and the ‘pleasure gardens’ established. Whilst the slave trade had been abolished in 1807, slavery itself was not banned until 1833 the year before Price died and his estate received compensation of £5241 3s 7d for the loss of his human ‘property’, numbering a total of 543 slaves.
Morvah – born John Matthews (1807 – 1871) was brought up by his uncle who ran The Miners Arms. He was apprenticed to a carpenter but after its completion he joined the firm of John Crocker of Penzance, as an engineer, rapidly becoming a partner and taking an additional role of architect.

In the 1840s, Matthews was appointed the Borough Surveyor of Penzance. In his new role, he produced a map of a new town with sewerage works, a new market, a new cemetery, the Albert Pier, the Queen’s Hotel and the new civic public buildings – now known as St. John’s Hall (April 27th).

Matthews retired in 1869 on the grounds of ill health and was buried in the cemetery he had designed.

His two sons both rose to prominence, Sir William Matthews as President of the Institution of Civil Engineers and his brother, Sir John Matthews as Engineer in Chief with Trinity House who was responsible for the design of many lighthouses including that at Beachy Head and at Pendeen.
The singing talents of Redruth – born Fanny Moody (1866 – 1945) were recognised at local concerts by the Basset family of Tehidy who paid for her training in London at the singing academy run by the contralto Charlotte Sainton – Dolby and where Moody stayed with the physician Sir Morell Mackenzie and his wife. Moody’s first big break came when she sang for the Carl Rosa Opera Company (described as Britain’s most influential opera company of the 19th century) in its 1887 production of Balfe’s ‘The Bohemian Girl’. It was at this time that she met and married the bass, Charles Manners (born Southcote Mansergh), and together they formed the ‘Moody-Manners Opera Company’. As well as starring at Covent Garden and Drury Lane, she also toured extensively in North America and South Africa, becoming known as ‘the Cornish Nightingale’ and, in 1895, she was presented with a tiara with diamond representing the fifteen bezants of the shield of the Duchy of Cornwall (just visible in the profile picture) by Cornish miners in the Transvaal.

By 1916, the couple ran three Moody – Manners touring companies, the principal company having 115 members and a repertoire of thirty operas. Charles Manners died in 1935 and, with the outbreak of the Second World War, Moody auctioned her tiara to raise funds for the Red Cross.

She never really retired and died in Dublin in 1945.
Sir Richard Trevithick Tangye (1833 – 1906) was an engineer, a manufacturer of engines and a philanthropist.

Born in Illogan to a farmer and a shopkeeper, Tangye worked on the family farm as boy until, aged eight, he broke his arm. His father, determined that he receive the best possible education he could afford, sent him to the, Quaker, Sidcot School near Winscombe in Somerset, from where he progressed to an engineering company in Birmingham where he was joined by two of his brothers, James and Joseph.

In 1857, he and three of his brothers started an engineering business, James Tangye and Bros., where the first customers for their hydraulic equipment and lifting jacks were Redruth mine owners but their reputation became established nationally when their jacks were used in the launching of the steamship SS Great Eastern. Tangye wrote that ‘We launched the Great Eastern and she launched us.’

Two more brothers, Edward and George joined and along with George Price and, the company becoming successful, they bought and demolished Smethwick Hall to establish the ‘Cornwall Works’. This enabled the company to begin the manufacture of their design of steam engine whilst continuing their hydraulics including those for the country’s first funicular railway in Scarborough (pictured below left) and the Saltburn Cliff Lift, the oldest water-powered cliff railway in Britain (pictured below right).
In 1872, Tangye and his youngest brother George, became sole proprietors of the engineering company and developed an international business with offices in Sydney and in Johannesburg.

Richard and George Tangye were the founding benefactors of the Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery, which opened in 1885, and contributed substantial funding to the Birmingham School of Art.

Fascinated by the Civil War, Tangye became a renowned collector of Oliver Cromwell’s papers and memorabilia including printed books, including Cromwell’s Bible, coffin plate and death mask and, on his death, he bequeathed them to the Museum of London.

Tangye married Caroline Jesper in Birmingham and had five children, Mabel, Harold, Arthur and Ellis. Although based in Birmingham and London, Tangye and his family spent as much time as possible at their Newquay country home.

He was the grandfather of the writer Derek Tangye (December 29th) and, through his niece Helena Tangye (a daughter of Edward), he was the great-uncle of the film director David Lean and Edward Tangye Lean who was one of the founders of the Oxford academic literary society, ‘The Inklings’, which included C.S. Lewis and J.R.R. Tolkien.
George Birch Jerrard (Birth) 1804

The famous mathematician, **George Birch Jerrard** (1804 – 1863) and the son of Major General Joseph Jerrard, was born in Bodmin on this day in 1804. Educated at Trinity College, Dublin and matriculating in 1827, he came to prominence with the publication of his ‘*Mathematical Researches*’ (1834) in which described ways to solve equations of all degrees. Until then ways to solve quadratic equations (of the form $ax^2 + bx + c$) and cubic equations (of the form $ax^3 + bx^2 + cx + d$) were well known but he had developed methods to solve quartic ($x^4$ type) and quintic ($x^5$ type) equations and believed his methods could be extended to solve equations to any power of $x$.

In 1826, London University was founded, with teaching beginning two years later. King’s College London was founded in 1829 and, in 1836, the University of London was formed as the administrative body for the two colleges with responsibility for examination of undergraduates and with the authority to confer degrees. Jerrard was appointed ‘*Examiner in Mathematics and Natural Philosophy in the University of London*’ in 1838 and, as a member of the Senate of the University of London, he was instrumental in the formation of the university’s library. He was an early member of ‘*The British Association for the Advancement of Science*’ (now known as ‘*The British Science Association*’). He also wrote numerous papers for the ‘*Philosophical Magazine*’ and the journals of the ‘*Royal Society*’. After retirement from the University of London (1859) the unmarried Jerrard moved to his brother’s house, Long Stratton Rectory in Norfolk where he died in 1863.
Budock – born **Elizabeth Philp** (1827 – 1885) was a singer, teacher, composer and writer and the daughter of the, Falmouth – based, publisher, printer and painter, James Philp and Jane Gluvias, and the elder sister of the painter James George Philp (1816 – 1885). In 1836, her father moved the family to Bristol and then, ten years later, to London where she began to move in musical and dramatic circles and her father in artistic circles, exhibiting at the Royal Academy.

She became a close friend and protégée of the American actress and singer Charlotte Saunders Cushman (renowned for being one of the first women to play Hamlet on stage) and through these connections she then studied harmony with the German composer Ferdinand Hiller in Cologne, becoming a close friend of the wife of Charles Dickens, Catherine Hogarth. Philip rose to prominence with the publication of her ‘*How to Sing an English Ballad including sixty songs*’ and with her songs and song cycles including those where she used poems by her friends including Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, Elizabeth Barrett Browning and Charles Kingsley (June 12th).

Her brother, having studied lithography, painting and working as an architectural draughtsman emigrated to Melbourne in 1853 where he apparently became successful but suddenly vanished, in 1865, with a large amount of other peoples’ money, never to be seen again.

Philip died in 1885 from liver disease with her reputation assured.
November

27th Neville Northey Burnard (Death) 1878

Altarnun – born Neville Northey Burnard (1818 – 1878) was a precociously talented sculptor who became a darling of London society for his busts and statues but ended up as a tramp in Cornwall, and who died in Redruth Workhouse.

The son of a stonemason, George Burnard, he showed an astonishing talent at an early age. Aged just seventeen, he sculpted a likeness of John Wesley on the Altarnun Wesleyan Chapel (pictured above left) which was next door to his home. Exhibiting at the Royal Academy and becoming a celebrated society sculptor he was introduced to Queen Victoria (who commissioned a bust of the future King Edward VII, then a child) and was in constant demand for public and private commissions. Notable works in Cornwall include of course, the Wesley relief but also the Richard Lander statue in Truro and a bust of the discover of Neptune, John Couch Adams (January 21st). In 1844, the celebrated Burnard married Mary Ann Nicholson and had two sons and two daughters but in 1870 his life disintegrated with the death of his eleven year old daughter, Charlotte, and his brother, George, both of scarlet fever and within a day of each other. He turned to drink, lost his wife, remaining children and clients and, broken, returned to Cornwall, where he spent the rest of life as a tramp and died in Redruth Workhouse on this day in 1878. He was commemorated in a poem ‘A Short Life of Nevil Northey Burnard’ by Charles Causley (August 24th).
The famous eye surgeon **Sir William Rawson**, born Adams, (1783 – 1827) was born in Morwenstow on this day in 1783.

He was apprenticed to a surgeon in Barnstable before becoming a pupil of the famous eye surgeon, J. Cunningham Saunders, the founder of the ‘**Royal London Ophthalmic Hospital**’, now known as ‘**Moorfields Eye Hospital**’.

Following years of professional practice and training with Saunders, he established ‘**The London Ophthalmic Hospital**’ (which was designed by John Nash) on Albany Street in London. He became famous for offering his services free of charge to soldiers injured in the military campaigns to expel Bonaparte from Egypt and for restoring the sight of several completely blind pensioners at the ‘**Greenwich Hospital**’ (the naval equivalent of the ‘**Royal Chelsea Hospital**’, the home of the famous Chelsea pensioners) for which work he was knighted. His reputation was such he was appointed ‘**Oculist Extraordinary to the Prince Regent**’, ‘**Oculist in ordinary to the Duke of Kent**’ and ‘**Oculist in ordinary to the Duke of Sussex**’

After Saunders’ death (1810), Rawson established ‘**The West of England Institution for Diseases of the Eye, at Exeter**’ and ‘**The Bath Eye Hospital**’. Known as Williams Adams until 1825, he took the surname **Rawson** in order to enable his wife to receive a bequest of property.
Barnstable – born Cuthbert Mayne (1543 – 1577) was executed on this day in 1577. The nephew of an Anglican priest, Mayne was ordained, aged just eighteen, and appointed to the living of Huntshaw, near Torrington, with his family’s expectation that he would, in due course, inherit his uncle’s living too. However, after ordination Mayne attended Oxford where he converted to Catholicism. He was intended for arrest but, being warned, he escaped to Cornwall before then further travelling to the English College at Douai where he was ordained a Catholic priest in 1575. In 1576, Mayne took further refuge at the home of Francis Tregian in Probus. Knowledge of his return and approximate whereabouts were quickly passed to the agents of the protestant, Elizabeth I, who began a systematic search. The High Sheriff of Cornwall, Sir Richard Grenville, father of Sir Richard Grenville (June 26th) and Sir Bevil Grenville (March 23rd) raid on Tregian’s house (then called Wolveden but now known as Golden Manor House) on June 8th, 1577. With nothing found, Tregian invited Grenville to dine during which he taunted Grenville for his failure to find Mayne in the region. Enraged, Grenville ordered another search of the house and eventually discovered Mayne in the secret Priest’s Hole. Mayne and Tregian were sentenced to death, although Tregian’s sentence was commuted to life imprisonment and seizure of all goods, wealth and property but Mayne was hanged, drawn and quartered at Launceston on this day in 1577. He was canonised by Pope Paul VI on October 25th, 1970.
Hartlepool – born, but of Scottish heritage, the famous novelist Sir Edward Montague Compton Mackenzie, (1883 – 1972), now most famous for ‘Whisky Galore!’ and ‘The Monarch of the Glen’ and his wife, Faith, spent three years living in the Cury and Gunwalloe villages.

Mackenzie had met Father Sandys Wason (October 2nd) at Alton Abbey when Wason was a deacon. In 1908, seeking somewhere quiet to live to write his first novel, ‘The Passionate Elopement’, Mackenzie and his wife came to live, originally for one year, at the Cury Vicarage as paying guests of Wason. Faith, an established actress and travel writer in her own right, not having realised that Wason expected her to act as housekeeper, left the vicarage for a couple of months. On her return she moved to Toy Cottage in the village of Gunwalloe where her husband joined her.

Mackenzie was licensed as a reader at Cury Church and started a Sunday School which essentially amounted to taking the children for a walk and telling them tales of nature rather than Bible stories.

Mackenzie’s character, Father Oliver Dorward in his trilogy, ‘The Altar Steps’ (1922), ‘Parson’s Progress’ (1923) and ‘The Heavenly Ladder’ (1924) is allegedly based on Wason and Toy Cottage now has a ceremonial plaque recording the period (1908 – 1909) of the residence of the Mackenzies who were married for fifty four years until Faith’s death in 1960, aged eighty two.
November

In 1954, Mackenzie wrote about Halzephron ‘Dollar’ Cove next to the sandy beach of Gunwalloe Cove:

‘Between Porthleven and the bar of the Loe Pool on the west side of the Lizard Peninsula great square coins bearing the golden arms of Spain, worth £8 10s. then, used to be found on the beach at very rare intervals some forty or fifty years ago. A little further south in the year 1801 a ship carrying a million Portuguese dollars was wrecked in the narrow cove behind Gunwalloe Church. Several attempts were made to salvage this cargo, the last one in 1907. The curious visitor may probably still see the remains of the stanchions fixed into the rocks to support the pumping apparatus which was always washed away by the equinoctial gales before it had time to get properly to work. One day in 1908 while walking along the beach of Gunwalloe Cove I was telling a friend that I had looked many a time for a silver dollar on this beach without success. Well, here’s one,’ he said, stooping down to pick it up. About the same time as the dollar ship was wrecked the Susan and Rebecca transport with men of the 4th Light Dragoons returning from the Peninsula was driven ashore under Helzephron cliffs. The men had put their pay for safety in their helmets, and they were all drowned, their bodies being buried on the top of the cliff. Legend said that their money was buried with them, and some of the more daring young men decided to dig in the low mounds which marked the graves of those Light Dragoons buried over a century ago. So with picks and Cornish spades they set to work one dark night after posting a look out on the road beyond. Unfortunately the two watchmen thought they saw a ghost approaching and flinging away their lanterns bolted with a yell.’
December
December

1888  John Divane VC (Death)  1st

Galway – born John Divane (1823 – 1888) grew up in Penzance and worked as a fish hawker. He enrolled in the 60th Rifles in 1854 but kept getting into trouble and he was repeatedly imprisoned for short periods and sentence to forfeiture of his pay until 1857. Divane was sent to India and was awarded his Victoria Cross (VC) for his actions on September 10th when his force attacked the city of Delhi. He was badly wounded and, having had a leg amputated, was invalided out in 1858.

The citation of the award of the Victoria Cross stated that it was ‘For distinguished gallantry in heading a successful charge made by the Beeloochee and Seikh Troops on one of the Enemy's trenches before Delhi, on the 10th of September, 1857. He leaped out of our trenches, closely followed by the Native Troops, and was shot down from the top of the Enemy's breastworks. Elected by the Privates of the Regiment.’

Semi-literate, it has been suggested that his surname was actually ‘Duane’ and mis-spelt when he signed up. After leaving the army, he returned to Penzance but ended up in poverty and, after his death, was buried in a pauper’s grave with no headstone. A headstone was erected in 1995 in a ceremony attended by the Field Marshal Lord Bramall and, in 2015 a plaque was unveiled at 35 New Street, his last known home.
William Curnow (1832 – 1903) was born in St. Ives and became a journalist and Methodist minister in Australia and he was the editor of ‘The Sydney Morning Herald’ for 15 years.

The son of a tin miner, he worked down the mines whilst also training for the ministry and once ordained he emigrated to Australia in 1854.

Curnow served as minister at four Wesleyan Chapels in Sydney and it was at one, Parramatta, that he married Matilda Susanna Weiss, in 1858. In 1859, he was transferred to Queensland for three years before being recalled to Sydney where he served until March 1874 when he returned to England for a few months. He became the editor of the ‘Christian Advocate and Wesleyan Record’ and also contributed to the ‘Sydney Morning Herald’ becoming the editor of the latter in 1886.

He retired in 1901 in failing health, and died in 1902, leaving his widow, two sons and two daughters.

His wife had been heavily involved in establishing free kindergartens and other education facilities and, in recognition, ‘The Women’s College, University of Sydney’ and ‘Curnow Place’, in Canberra, was named in her honour.
Cornwall – born **Robert Stephen Hawker** (1803 – 1888) was the son of the curate of Altarnun, the childhood village of Neville Northey Burnard (November 27th). Educated at Oxford, was ordained in 1831 and appointed to the living of Morwenstow where he served for over forty years. He often wrote about his love of the remote wild Cornish coast and became friends with smugglers, wreckers and dissenters. Hawker was the first resident Vicar of Morwenstow for a century and built himself his own vicarage with chimneys intended to resemble the towers of all the churches that had impacted on his life; Tamerton, where he had been curate; Morwenstow; Wellcombe and Magdalen College, Oxford.

He also constructed his own, cliffside, writing hut which is now owned by the National Trust. Hawker wrote ‘*Song of the Western Men*’, effectively the National Anthem of Cornwall with the famous line ‘*And Shall Trelawny Die?*’, a reference to Bishop Trelawny who was one of the seven bishops imprisoned after the failed Monmouth rebellion.

Regarded as an eccentric, as he dressed in bright colours, was often accompanied by his pet pig and took his nine cats to church he is also regarded as the deviser of the modern Harvest Festival (1843). On his deathbed, he converted to Roman Catholicism.
John Courtenay, ‘J.C.’ Trewin (1908 – 1990) was born in Plymouth of Cornish parents. His Gorran Haven – born father had been a maritime captain who, on retirement moved the family to The Lizard to a house which, thirty years later, became the holiday home of the aristocratic fascist, Colonel, The Master of Semple who was the first to land a plane on Scilly. Semple, notoriously, often accommodated Hitler’s foreign minister, Ribbentrop, who had decided to make St. Michael’s Mount his home after the Nazi’s defeat of Britain.

Educated at Plymouth College J.C. joined the ‘Western Morning News’ (1926) before moving to London to work on the ‘Morning Post’ and ‘The Observer’. He transferred to the ‘Manchester Guardian’ whilst also continuing to write for ‘The Observer’ and served as their drama critic for over sixty years, becoming Britain’s foremost Shakespearean performance expert. Hugely respected in theatre he was the best man at the wedding of the film star, Robert Donat. Married to a fellow critic, Wendy Monk (1915–2000), one of his sons, Ion, administered the man Booker Prize until his death in 2016. J.C. wrote annual reviews of that year’s theatre productions and wrote extensively on Shakespeare as well as two volumes of autobiography ‘Down To The Lizard’ and ‘Up From The Lion’ about Cornish life which give a tremendous vision of a long gone community but beautifully describes a region which appears, essentially, unchanged to this day.
Frank Bodilly (Birth)

Penzance – born Frank Bodilly (1860 – 1926) was the only Cornish-born member of the Newlyn School of Arts and the one with the shortest membership.

Bodilly was the son of a grocer in Market Place who became a significant shareholder in Penzance’s oldest bank, Batten, Carne and Carne, which later became entangled in one of Cornwall’s most notorious banking scandals.

Friendly with Stanhope Forbes (November 18th) and Elizabeth Forbes (December 29th) he started painting himself and, in the 1881 census was recorded as an artist, living at the family home of Alverton Cottage.

A witness to the wedding of Thomas ‘T.C.’Gotch (December 10th) and Caroline Burland Yates (December 14th), he subsequently married Caroline’s sister, Esther Burland Yates. In 1886, Bodilly exhibited at the Royal Academy but his most famous work was ‘Mending Father’s Nets’ (pictured above).

Bodilly’s artistic career was not to last long since, having trained as a lawyer, he moved to colonial service in India and Sri Lanka (then known as Ceylon).

On retirement, he returned to Alverton Cottage but died, in 1926, when travelling in Sicily.
Penzance received its first electric street lighting in 1912 but three years earlier an entrepreneur, Robert Thompson, had established his, temporary, ‘Electric Fairyland’ in a disused woollen factory in New Street which had also, further down the road, been the last home of John Divane (December 1st).

The attraction comprised a skating rink with mechanical skates (as advertised above), an ‘orchestra’ of thirty-five different mechanical musical entertainments, a comedienne, stage hall performances and a travelling cinema. Most extraordinarily, for people unfamiliar with the use of electricity, the hall was lit by a ceiling filled with 280 electric lightbulbs. For most people this was their first experience of electric lighting. Powered by an electrical generator which, connected in total using six miles of wiring, it was installed by the staff of the Union Hotel (adjacent to the Assembly Rooms, this was the location of the public announcement of the death of Nelson, November 4th). An electrician monitored and controlled a switchboard to produce different special effects. This was at the time that many people in London spent evenings looking into shop windows, not window shopping, but really just to see the amazing new phenomenon of electrically – powered window displays. Three years later, Penzance was provided with mains electricity which also facilitated the establishment of building and street lighting on Market Jew Street and Causeway Head. In 1912, Causeway Head home to the Savoy Cinema, which is now one of the oldest continuously operating cinemas in Britain.
On this day in 1923, the report was published on the extraordinary survival of three quarters of the crew of the *S.S. Trevassa* on Mauritius and Rodriguez Island after the ship had sunk. *S.S. Trevassa* was a flagship of the Hain Shipping line (Edward Hain, September 20th) and, as it sank, the captain, Cecil Foster, marshalled his crew of forty-four into two lifeboats.

With all contact lost, it was believed that the ship had sunk with the loss of all hands. Three weeks later, however, after a voyage estimated at 1700 miles, thirty-four survivors, all believed lost, suddenly appeared.

News of the survival of anybody would have been newsworthy but that 34 of a crew of 44 had survived flashed around the world and was, obviously rightly, hailed as a magnificent and frankly unbelievable event.
On his return to England, Captain Foster became a celebrity and was summoned to meet King George V who impressed the captain with the his knowledge of navigation, the King of course having served in the Royal navy for 14 years (1877 – 1891).

Foster, and his Chief Officer, J. C. Stewart, who had commanded the other lifeboat received the Lloyd’s Silver Medal for Saving Life at Sea.

It was decided that the sinking of the zinc cargo-bearing ship was nobody’s fault and was due to unexpected gales which washed two of the four lifeboats away but Foster was again congratulated on his decision.

Based on his WWI experiences, Foster had ordered the two remaining boats to be loaded with biscuits and condensed milk, huge volumes of drinking water, tobacco and cigarettes rather than relying on standard provisions. Foster had also divided the crews of the two boats into timed watches, rowing, managing the sails and they were rewarded with food, drink and tobacco.

Most incredibly of all, they left the sinking ship with no charts or chronometers and all that Foster and his Chief Officer could do was to calculate their latitude.

In 1924 Foster published a short memoir book about the event, ‘1,700 Miles in Open Boats’ and stated that he and his crew only survived due to the crew being a ‘wonderful crowd’; typical modesty from those of almost unbelievable achievement.
On this day in 1703, the south of England counted the results of the worst storm yet recorded which became known as The Great Storm. In London, 2,000 chimneystacks were blown down, the New Forest lost 4,000 oaks, the roof of Westminster Abbey was ruined and Queen Anne took shelter in a cellar at St James’s Palace to avoid a collapsing roof. Hundreds of people drowned on the Somerset Levels and at least four Royal navy vessels sank and 1,000 sailors drowned on the Goodwin Sands.

From the perspective of this almanack, however, there were two significant events. One ship, anchored on the Helford River, broke its moorings and, with only one boy on board, it arrived, eight hours later, on the Isle of Wight, 200 miles away. The most significant, physical, damage in Cornwall was to Winstanley’s Eddystone Lighthouse (pictured above) which was completely destroyed, killing all six people present including its designer and builder, Henry Winstanley (August 27th).
On this day in 1825, a brig named **The Perle** arrived in Hayle on its way from Liberia to the West Indies via Bristol (the *slave triangle*).

The ship arrived with five slaves below board but with the captain, mates, doctor and five other crewmen dead.

*The Perle* was bound from St John’s River on what is now on the Liberian coast with 244 slaves, including 30 – 40 children bound for the sugar plantations. Most of the human cargo had been transferred to another slaver’s boat.

The St. Malo – registered boat had a recorded crew of twelve and, when it arrived in Hayle, was found to contain chains, manacles and shackles and the five, still just alive, slaves were found chained up below deck. They had no knowledge of French or English and so could not give their names. Brought before Lord Chief Justice in London, they were released from slavery and taken to the Hampstead Workhouse where all contracted measles, and two died. The three survivors were returned to West Africa and nothing else is known of them.

*The Perle* was removed of her chains, shackles and manacles and then, quite astonishingly returned to her owners on January 25th, 1826 on the very same day that the above-advertised anti-slavery meeting was held in St. Ives.
Kettering – born **Thomas Cooper ‘T.C.’ Gotch** (1854–1931) was a painter and book illustrator. He studied at The Hetherley School of Art in London (1876 – 1877) and then at Koninklijke Academie voor Schone Kunsten in Antwerp (1877 – 1878) before returning to London to study at The Slade Schools of Art (1879) where he met his future wife, Caroline Burland (December 14th).

After their marriage (August 31st, 1881) in Newlyn, Gotch and Burland travelled to Paris to study at Académie Julian and Académie Laurens where he developed his plein-air approach exemplified by ‘*Mental Arithmetic*’ (1883, pictured below left) of a girl and a Newlyn fisherman.

In 1887 Gotch and Burland settled in Newlyn, swiftly becoming two of the integral members of the Newlyn School of Art and where he assisted John Drew Mackenzie (July 22nd) in establishing the Newlyn Industrial Classes. He also helped to set up the Newlyn Art Gallery, serving on its committee all his life and became close friends with Stanhope Forbes (November 18th) and Albert Chevallier Tayler (December 20th).
December

Whilst his early years work were of a pastoral, natural style he changed rapidly following another trip to Paris and then Florence (1891 – 1892) to painting in a Pre-Raphaelite genre. His first such painting (1892) was ‘My Crown and Sceptre’ (pictured right) for which his daughter, Phyllis Marian Gotch, sat. The combination of decorative Italian styles and symbolic figures, painted in a Renaissance style, brought him recognition and fame and resulted in regular exhibitions at the Royal Academy. His first exhibition at the Royal Academy (1894) was ‘The Child Enthroned’ (pictured left), again with his daughter as the sitter but he also sat for other artists, including Elizabeth Forbes (December 29th).

Gotch exhibited across the world, winning a gold medal at the Berlin Exhibition (1896) with other notable exhibitions including those at the Tate (where he exhibited Alleluia, pictured below), London’s Whitechapel Art Gallery (1902), Newcastle (1910) and Paris. Gotch died in 1931 and like Stanhope and Elizabeth Forbes, he is buried in Sancreed Churchyard. The Gotches were the grandparents of Deidre Patricia MacLellan who had an affair with the occultist Aleister Crowley and who gave birth to their son, Randall Gair, in 1937.
Sir William Lemon, 1st Baronet (1748 – 1824) was a Member of Parliament for Cornish constituencies from 1770 until his death in 1824, making an extraordinary total of 54 years. At the time of his death he was the ‘Father of the House’, an honour bestowed upon the longest continually serving Member.

He was the son of William Lemon and Anne Willyams of Carnanton House and the grandson of William Lemon (March 25th), who acquired the family estate at Carclew (pictured below) in 1749. Lemon’s younger brother, John (1754 – 1814) was, briefly, Member of Parliament for Saltash and then Truro. His sister, Anne, married John Buller, MP for West Looe who was the brother of Charles Buller (June 9th).

Educated at Christ Church, Oxford, Lemon followed university with the Grand Tour of Europe, the tradition for wealthy young gentlemen. Lemon married Jane Buller, daughter of yet another Member of Parliament, James Buller, with whom he had twelve children. One of his daughters, Harriet, married Sir Francis Basset, 1st Baron de Dunstanville and Basset in 1824.
December

Although Sir William Lemon was a Member of Parliament for over half a century (Penryn, 1770 – 1774 and then the County of Cornwall, 1774 – 1824), he only actually faced one electoral contest; a stunning indictment of the corruption and patronage of the electoral system which was addressed, in part at least, with the Reform Act of 1832. Whilst nominally independent, he consistently voted against measures that would adversely affect the commercial interests of the populace of the county, and his speeches and voting record demonstrate his Whig tendencies. His popularity was such that, after his death (on this day in 1824) he was described as ‘A quiet and gentlemanly old man, faithful to his King without servility — attached to those people without democracy; open and unaffected, candid, courteous and benevolent.’

Today, he is still remembered with the naming of what is commonly regarded as one of the most beautiful Regency terraces outside of Bath, Lemon Street in Truro (pictured right in Edwardian times).

One of his loves was horticulture, which he inherited from his father, and he spent much time developing the Carclew Estate gardens. Sir William Lemon established systematically planned gardens at Carclew and is credited responsible for introducing many exotic plants to Cornwall, including camellias. Many of these came from the Caribbean, notably Cuba, and Lemon’s publicising their origin did much for the economy of the region, explaining the, otherwise, inexplicable and extremely surprising fact that Cuba commemorated a Cornishman on a stamp in 1972 (profile picture above).
That Guglielmo Marconi (pictured right) conducted the first trans-Atlantic radio communication is well known but it is often believed that the message was sent from his Poldhu Cove station. That is incorrect; it was received at Poldhu from the station in Newfoundland and simply comprised the letter ‘S’ in Morse code.

The radio stations at both sites were stunning engineering achievements as demonstrated by the picture (left) showing the aerials towering above the multi-storied Poldhu Cove Hotel. This picture is also fascinating since, in the bottom right of this picture, the, subsequently removed, cliff railway used to raise the rocks for the construction of the hotel can just be seen.

At this time, Marconi resided at the Housel Bay Hotel (pictured right) which was designed by Silvanus Trevail (November 7th). On news of his death in 1937, all British Broadcasting Company stations offered a two minute silence in tribute to his development of radio.
William Chapman (1816 – 1903), was a Cornishman born near the battlefield of Waterloo and the one one who had a town in America named after him.

Chapman’s, St. Teath – born father, also William, worked in the Delabole Slate Quarry owned by Thomas Avery who was commissioned to raise a force to fight at Waterloo. William Chapman the Elder was a Lieutenant in the company of ninety men and was badly wounded in the battle. His wife, Elizabeth, being one of thousands of camp followers at Waterloo, nursed him back to health and gave birth to William.

The family returned to Delabole and Chapman started working in the quarry at the age of seven. As a young adult, he moved to work, initially, in Devon and then to the slate quarries of Wales, where he remained for seven years, saving enough money to enable his emigration to America and he arrived in Easton, Pennsylvania (1842) at the age of twenty six. After exploring the slate fields, he leased land, which he later purchased, and started ‘The Chapman Slate Company’.
December

He married Emily Carry, originally from South Carolina but educated in Baltimore, Maryland and they had four sons and seven daughters.

At its peak, the ‘The Chapman Slate Company’ produced one million square feet of slate a year employing skilled workers from Cornwall & Devon, North Wales and Italy.

The high quality of the product led to the slate being used, and remaining, on the roofs of the New York Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Philadelphia Academy of Fine Arts as well as on the State Capitol buildings of Albany, New York State and Hartford, Connecticut.

Chapman was a classic company owner of those times, building a town almost completely for his employees who bought their goods at the company owned store.

A committed Episcopalian (Anglican), he also funded the building of two churches, a school, post office and a hotel.

The town became known as Chapman Quarries Town but is now a suburb of a larger town, Bath, although still known as Chapman Borough.
Liverpool – born Caroline Burland Gotch (1854 – 1945), the daughter of a wealthy businessman, studied at the Heatherley School of Fine Art (1878 – 1879) and at the Slade School of Art in London where she met her future husband, Thomas Cooper Gotch (December 10th) who painted her portrait (pictured above). They studied together in Paris, married in Newlyn in 1881 and returned to Paris before moving London for three years (1884 – 1887) after which they settled in Newlyn in a newly built Arts & Crafts house, Wheal Betsy on Chywoone Hill.

Burland Gotch first exhibited at the Royal Academy in 1887 and then at the Paris Salon (1897 and 1898), winning second and third place medals, at the Royal Hibernian Academy (1879), Glasgow, Munich and commercial galleries.

Most of her pictures featured women and children in domestic settings and rural scenes as exemplified by ‘Mother and Two Young Children’ (above right) and ‘Chywoone Grove’ (left).
By the age of twenty three he was handsome, rich and already quite well-known. By the age of sixty-three he had had three wives, three daughters, had no money and was almost unheard of.'

**Adrian Ryan** (1920 – 1998) described by Sven Berlin (September 11th) as 'the painter's painter' and regarded by Francis Bacon as 'the best-kept secret in the art world' was born in Hampstead. He was educated at Eton and at the Slade School of Art (1938 – 1940) where his contemporaries included Patrick Heron (March 20th), Bryan Wynter (September 8th) and Peggy Rose (January 14th) who was described by her teachers as the best pupil since Augustus John (January 4th) and who became his wife.

Ryan first exhibited at the commercial, Redfern Gallery (1943) and exhibited regularly at the Royal Academy. In 1945, Ryan, his wife and two daughters moved to Cornwall, choosing Mousehole as he was irritated by the 'constant bickering of the St. Ives School'. He split his time between Cornwall and teaching at Goldsmiths College, London (1948 – 1983) and at the Cambridge College of Art and Technology, now a constituent part of Anglia Ruskin University (1973 – 1985).
December

Ryan and his first wife had an open marriage and, even after divorcing, remained on very good terms until his death when Peggy remarked that she had lost her best friend.

His plein air style fell out of favour in the 1950s with the advent of the modernist and abstract styles but his skill, as demonstrated by the above painting, *Still Life with Apples and Pears* is undeniable. Ryan also engaged in landscape paintings of Mousehole including ‘*Mousehole Rooftops*’ (below left) and and ‘*Coombe Valley Factory*’ (below right). This appears to be the only painting of a bottle top factory, which manufactured hand-painted for Chanel perfume bottles, for Faberge and covers for the expensive shaving bowls of Taylor of Old Bond Street. Originally, the factory had originally been used for the manufacture of ‘Sanatogen’ products which had led to the St. Just Butter Protest (February 7th).

Today Ryan’s works are displayed in numerous galleries including Manchester City Galleries, The Tate, The Government Art Collection and the National Museum of Northern Ireland.
Gunnislake - born **Jack Hillman** (1871 – 1952) played in goal for Burnley, Everton, Dundee, Manchester City, Millwall and for England.

He was first noticed by Burnley when playing for the junior Plymouth Argyle team, the ‘*Young Pilgrims*’, and he debuted for Burnley at the age of nineteen. Hillman remained with the club for most of the following decade with the exception of two years with Everton FC, to whom he was sold for £150, where he did not settle and from whom he moved to Dundee briefly who suspended him for ‘*not trying*’. Hillman made one international appearance against Ireland (February 18\(^{th}\), 1899) with a 13–2 victory for England. When Burnley were struggling to avoid relegation from the First Division, in the 1899 – 1900 season, their final match against Nottingham Forest had to be won so Hillman offered the, secure opposition, £2 a player to ‘take it easy’ and upped the offer at half time to £5 each. Burnley lost 4–0 and were relegated. He was banned for a season and his action is the first recorded case of attempted match fixing in soccer. He subsequently played for Manchester City (1902 – 1906) and was the goalkeeper in their FA Cup win in 1904. On his retirement, after yet another ban, he returned to Burnley to run a sweet shop. Hillman had a colourful life outside football, being prosecuted three times for assault but in 1906, he saved the life of a would be suicide by rescuing her from a canal. One week later, the woman he saved from drowning, a Mrs. Emily Kippax, was prosecuted and convicted of the, then, crime of attempting suicide.
December

17th  Henry Pierce Bone RA (Death)  1834

‘The Prince of Enamellers’

Truro – born Henry Pierce Bone RA (1755 – 1834) was appointed to the now obsolete office of ‘Official Enameller’ to three Kings, George III, George IV and William IV as an expert painter of both enamel and porcelain. The son of a cabinetmaker, Bone’s father moved the family to Plymouth where Bone became apprenticed to William Cookworthy (April 12th), at Cookworthy’s Plymouth porcelain works, and moved with Cookworthy to the new Bristol china works, where he remained for six years. When Cookworthy’s Bristol factory closed, Bone moved to London and continued his enamelling activities. On January 24th, 1780, he married Elizabeth Vandermeulen, with whom he had twelve children and also in the same year exhibited at the Royal Academy for the first time. In 1801 he was appointed official enameller to George III and was elected to the Royal Academy in 1811 and produced his largest enamel yet, 18” by 16”, after Titian’s ‘Bacchus and Ariadne’ (pictured above) which was sold for 2,200 guineas. It has been estimated that Bone produced more than 500 enamelled plaques in his lifetime but his work went out of popularity a few years before his death in 1834. He offered his personal collection to the nation for £4,000 an offer which was declined although many of his pieces have now ended up in the Victoria and Albert Museum, the Tate and numerous other prestigious galleries around the world.
Looe – born **Thomas Bond** (1765 – 1837), a cousin by marriage of Davies Gilbert (March 6th), was the son of the local magistrate, Thomas Bond, and Philippa Chubb, whose father, John, was the first to find fossils in the county.

Trained as an attorney, Bond was Town Clerk of both East Looe and West Looe when the towns were separate entities. He became known for his history of the area, ‘Topographical and Historical Sketches of the Boroughs of East and West Looe’ and his extensive contributions to the Journal of the Royal Institution of Cornwall (February 5th). He was also the character, Captain Pond, in the Troy Town books and amusing tales of the ‘Looe Die Hards’ of Sir Arthur Quiller-Couch (May 12th).

The illustration of Looe in his book was by his cousin, Mrs. Davies Gilbert (pictured below).
The greatest act of courage that I have ever seen, and am ever likely to see, was the penultimate courage and dedication shown by the Penlee crew when it manoeuvred back alongside the casualty in over 60 ft breakers and rescued four people shortly after the Penlee had been bashed on top of the casualty's hatch covers.

They were truly the bravest eight men I've ever seen, who were also totally dedicated to upholding the highest standards of the RNLI.*

On this day in 1981, Mousehole, and the whole of the country, suffered the grievous loss of the Solomon Browne. The Penlee Lifeboat responded to a MayDay call from a cargo coaster, The Union Star, which had suffered engine failure on its maiden voyage. Travelling from Denmark to Ireland, it was observed, eight miles from the Wolf Rock Lighthouse, to be heading directly towards it and, with hurricane – force winds, rescue attempts by helicopter were found to be impossible and could only be made by lifeboat. Four of the coaster’s eight crew were reported rescued by the lifeboatmen before all contact between the lifeboat and the Falmouth Coastguard was lost. The country awoke to the tragic news that the lifeboat had been lost with all of its crew: Coxswain Trevelyan Richards, Mechanic Stephen Madron, Assistant Mechanic Nigel Brockman and crewmen, John Blewett, Charlie Greenhaugh, Barrie Torrie, Kevin Smith and Gary Wallis along with all the crew of The Union Star.

*The quotation above was the view of by Lt. Cdr. Russell Smith (United States Navy) who was based at RNAS Culdrose on an exchange.
Leytonstone – born Albert Chevallier Tayler (1862 – 1925) studied at the Heatherley’s Art School, the Royal Academy Schools and The Slade School of Fine Arts where he became friends with Thomas Cooper Gotch (December 10th) and Norman Garstin (June 22nd). Due to these friendships, he moved to Newlyn (1884) where he remained for twelve years and became a member of the Newlyn School of Artists. He married the daughter of a surgeon to the Royal Household with whom he had two sons both of whom were tragically killed in the First World War.

The majority of Tayler’s paints were observations of personal lives as demonstrated by Negotiations (below left) and the heartbreakingly beautiful, Not Lost But Gone Before (below right).

Tayler also became famed for his portraits, notably that of Guglielmo Marconi (December 12th), pictured right. Tayler’s sister, Mary Beatrice Churchill Tayler (1869 – 1939) was heavily involved with the Newlyn School until her death making the link between the School and the Tayler family an unmatched 55 years.
Many parts of the country celebrated the Winter Solstice, the shortest day of the year, but there were a number of traditions specific to Cornwall notably Guise Dancing, The Cornish Christmas Bush and the Burning of the Mock.

**Guise dancers** would dress entirely in black and would rub the ash of burnt cork on their faces leaving only lips and eyes visible. They would then dance around the streets, knocking on doors to scare residents or receive a treat. It has become popular again in recent years and there have been allegations that blacking the face is racist. This ridiculous suggestion is complete nonsense. In previous centuries, there would be no street lighting so towns and villages would be extremely dark in the late evening. Cork ash on the face emphasised the eyes and lips and adding to the fright the dancers intended to give to the residents.

The **Cornish Christmas Bush**, also known as the ‘kissing bush’, is a willow wreath decorated with holly, mistletoe and ivy and topped with an apple and a candle stuck into it. The candle would be lit on this day.

Many villages had torchlit processions which ended at 10pm with a bonfire and with the burning of the **Mock** which was sometimes called the ‘Cornish Yule Log’. A chalk-drawn stick figure drawn on a log was cast on the bonfire to represent Old Father Time and the death of the old year.
December

| 1797 | Charles Fox (Birth) | 22nd |

**Charles Fox** (1797 – 1878) was a member of the famous, Quaker, Fox family of shipping agents, industrialists and philanthropists in Falmouth.

The brother of Robert Were Fox the Younger (July 25th) and Mariana Fox (1807–1863) who was the mother of the famous mountaineer Francis Fox Tuckett, he was also the uncle of Caroline Fox (May 24th), the brother of Alfred Fox (September 9th) and the uncle of Barclay Fox (July 24th). His niece, Caroline Fox, founded *The Royal Cornwall Polytechnic Society* at Falmouth and Charles was its President (1871–72). He was also President of the *Royal Geological Society of Cornwall* (February 11th) from 1863 until 1867. He is, however, best known for his development of Trebah Gardens and Polgwidden Cove, the adjacent estate to Alfred’s Glendurgan Gardens.

Under Fox’s ownership Trebah Gardens’ twenty six acres were developed into a sub-tropical environment with hundreds of oaks and elms planted to protect it from the wind.

Over one hundred and fifty years later, Polgwidden Cove was one of the main departure points for American troops involved in the D-Day Landings. In later generations, Trebah was owned by Donald Healey (July 3rd) who removed the concrete from the cove needed by the D-Day troops. Now owned by an independent trust it is regarded as one of South Cornwall’s greatest garden attractions.
London – born Adrian Stokes (1902 – 1972) was an art critic and amateur painter with a particular interest in early Renaissance works of art and, through his friendships he was instrumental in establishing the St. Ives School of Artists.

Educated at Rugby and Oxford, where he studied Philosophy, Stokes then spent some time in Europe and his experiences led to the publication of his first book, ‘The Thread of Ariadne’ (1925). This in turn led to an introduction to Osbert Sitwell, to Early Renaissance Italian art and to the avant-garde ‘Ballets Russes’, which formed the subjects of his next book ‘Sunrise in the West’ (1926). Stokes met the modernist poet, Ezra Pound, in November 1926, and wrote two further books on the Early Renaissance Period, ‘The Quattro Cento’ (1932) and ‘Stones of Rimini’ (1934) and two on ballet ‘To-Night the Ballet’ (1934) and ‘Russian Ballets’ (1935) after which, having decided to learn to paint, he studied at ‘The Euston Road School of Art’ and wrote his seventh book, ‘Colour and Form’ (1937).

Stokes married the artist Margaret Mellis (1914 – 2009), in 1938 and the newly married couple moved to Carbis Bay creating a hub which attracted Ben Nicholson (February 6th) and Barbara Hepworth (May 20th) who invited Naum Gabo (August 5th) to St Ives in 1939 creating the nucleus of the St. Ives School. He ran a market garden during the Second World War, where he employed the conscientious objector Sven Berlin (September 11th) and he was also a member of the Home Guard.
December

At the same time he continued his writing on the Early Italian Renaissance period, publishing ‘Venice’ (1945) and also ‘Inside Out’ (1947) which concentrated on psychoanalysis and Cézanne which was published following his departure from St. Ives subsequent to his divorce from Mellis.

Stokes then caused a scandal by marrying Mellis’ younger sister, the ceramist, Ann Mellis (1922 – 2014). Such a marriage was, at the time, illegal in Britain and consequently they married in Switzerland where there was no law preventing such a marriage. There must be few men who have married two sisters and have had children with both of them, Telfer, with Margaret and Philip and Ariadne with Ann.


He continued writing for newspapers and was a founder of the ‘Imago group’ which, for over eighteen years, met to discuss psychoanalysis to philosophy, ethics and philosophy.
Although the Nine Lessons and Carols Service at Kings College, Cambridge, is the most famous as it is has been broadcast every year since 1928, it was devised by the Bishop of Truro, A.C. Benson, as an alternative to men spending Christmas Eve in public houses and to keep them out of trouble. It was held in a temporary wooden building which was used for seven years whilst the Cathedral was being constructed on the site of the former St. Mary’s Church which had been condemned as having become unsafe. The illustration above depicts the laying of the foundation stone of the Cathedral.

The initial service included three anthems from Handel’s Messiah – ‘For unto us a child is born’, ‘There were shepherds abiding in the field’ and ‘The Hallelujah Chorus’ which do not appear in more recent services and did not include the now traditional opening carol of ‘Once in Royal David’s City’. Other than those and other minor variations made by the Dean of King’s, Eric Milner-White – the exact choice of hymns etc; – the general structure of the service is little changed from that time.
William Gregor (1761 – 1817), the Vicar of Creed and a geologist is credited as the discoverer of the essential element titanium.

Born at Trewarthenick near Tregony, an estate near Tregony with two and a half miles of river frontage on the River Fal, he was also the younger brother of Francis Gregor (1760 – 1815) who was Member of Parliament for the county of Cornwall between 1790 and 1806. Educated at Bristol Grammar School, where he became interested in chemistry, and then Cambridge (St John’s College) he was ordained in 1787 and was appointed curate at St Mary’s Church in Diptford, near Totnes. In 1790, after a brief period at Bratton Clovelly, he was appointed to the living of Creed.

Being a wealthy man, he was able to indulge in his interests in chemistry and geology and he began a systematic chemical analysis of Cornish minerals. In 1791, he collected samples of a mineral now named *ilmenite* from the Manaccan Valley and isolated the oxide, then described as a calx, of a previously unknown metal from which he named the ore, ‘*Manaccanite*’. Some months later, the discovery was repeated by a German geologist, Martin Heinrich Klaproth, who named the metal *tungsten*, which name has been kept.

Gregor was a founding member of the *Royal Geological Society of Cornwall* (February 11th) and was also a respected landscape painter, etcher and musician. He died of tuberculosis in 1817 at the young age of fifty six.
No Cornish Almanack could be complete without mention of, the Paul-born, Dolly Pentreath (1692–1777) who died on this day in 1777.

She is regarded as the last monoglotic speaker of the Cornish language as her native language was Cornish and she knew only a few phrases of English and she is often recorded as the last speaker of Cornish. That is not correct since there were other, later, speakers of Cornish but they also spoke English or Breton. Pentreath, portrayed above by John Opie RA (May 16th) came to fame following a tour of Cornwall by the antiquarian, Daines Barrington (1768) who decided to seek out a speaker of Cornish. He wrote about Pentreath in a letter to the Journal of the Society of Antiquaries in London. He claimed, he encountered her, by chance, in Mousehole, where he heard her speak in a ‘in a language which sounded very like Welsh’. That there were other Cornish speakers is indisputable but they could also speak another language. Baines reported this in another letter to the same society (1779). The painting of Pentreath, above right, painted by the unrelated Richard Thomas Pentreath (1806 – 1869), is now on display at Lanhydrock House and a monument in her honour was erected in Paul Churhyard in 1860 and unveiled by Bonaparte’s nephew, Prince Louis Lucien Bonaparte.
The St. Tudy-born William Bligh (1754 – 1817), who died on this day in 1817, is most famous for the Mutiny on The Bounty when on a voyage to find sources of breadfruit for slave plantations he was set adrift with loyal crewmen (1789) by mutineers and managed to travel to Timor. He became known, sarcastically, as ‘Breadfruit Bligh’ not least because as well as the mutiny it was determined that the slaves would not eat the fruit.

Bligh had a reputation for arrogance, impatience, bad temper, confrontational attitude and strong discipline. This led to the Admiralty often struggling to find roles for him and many of those found appear to have been intended to keep him busy and away from London. This resulted in an eventful career including accompanying Captain Cook on Cook’s third and fatal voyage to the Pacific whilst in 1801 he served under Nelson at the Battle of Copenhagen earning considerable praise for his navigational skills. In 1806, he was appointed Governor of New South Wales with instructions to address corruption but this resulted in his imprisonment by the colonists for two years (1808 – 1810). From a Cornish perspective, though, there is the amusing story of his capture and detention (1803) by locals who became observed him surveying the Helford River and assumed he was a Frenchman and a spy. He was confined in the shed of the Vicar of Manaccan, Rev. Richard Polwhele (January 6th) until he convinced Polwhele of his identity and his reason to be on the river. Bligh and Polwhele became quite good friends upon his release from the shed.
**December**

28th  Phillip Rashleigh (Birth)  1729

**Philip Rashleigh** FRS FSA (1729 – 1811) was born on this day at Menabilly (below right), which much later became, for twenty years, the home of Daphne du Maurier (May 13th). An antiquary, he became celebrated for his collecting and writing about the Anglo Saxon ‘Trewhiddle Hoard’.

Educated at New College, Oxford but leaving without a degree, he inherited Menabilly from his father Jonathan Rashleigh III, MP and also replaced his father as member of Parliament for Fowey. He sat continuously for 37 years (1765 – 1802) and at the time of his retirement, he was ‘The Father of the House’ as he was the longest serving member of the Commons at that time. Rashleigh’s studies of geology and mineralogy and his antiquarian studies led to him being elected as a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries and as a Fellow of the Royal Society in 1788.

The ‘Trewhiddle Hoard’ comprises 114 Anglo-Saxon coins, a silver chalice (pictured above left) and small gold and silver decorative objects which were found by tin miners in the Trewhiddle Valley just north of St. Austell. The coins originated in Mercia and in Wessex in the mid 9th century, suggesting it was hidden to protect it from Viking invaders.
December

Much of the collection is now in the British Museum and its decorations led to the concept of the ‘Trewhiddle style’.

Interestingly, in 2003, a massive lump of tungsten was discovered at Trewhiddle Farm which may be the earliest known example of smelted tungsten, an element which was first discovered in the Manaccan Valley by William Gregor (December 25th). With a mass of 19kg, the ‘Trewhiddle ingot’ was initially used a doorstep. It has been speculated that it was produced at the nearby Happy Union mine by the chemist Rudolf Erich Raspe in the late 18th century which would have been a phenomenal achievement since the temperature needed for smelting the ore is at least 3000°C. This also occurred at the time that one of the blowing houses burned down and one possibility is that this occurred during the smelting experiments which led to the ingot being abandoned.

Rashleigh created a renowned mineralogical collection which is distributed between the Royal Cornwall Museum and the Natural History Museum. The Royal Cornwall Museum also displays a painting of Rashleigh by the renowned portraitist, John Opie (May 16th).

Rashleigh married his first cousin, Jane Pole (1720–1795) but, dying childless, the estate passed to Rashleigh’s nephew, William Rashleigh (1777–1855), who replaced his uncle as Member of Parliament for Fowey serving between 1812 and 1818).

Rashleigh died at Menabilly on June 26th, 1811 and was buried in Tywardreath Church.
Ontario – born Elizabeth Forbes (1859 – 1912) moved to Newlyn after studying in Europe and became renowned for her works depicting children and for establishing the Newlyn School of Art with her husband, Stanhope Forbes (November 18th).

Trained at the South Kensington Art School (now the Royal College of Art) she then studied in New York (1877 – 1880) before being encouraged to study in Munich. A plein-air painter she joined an artist colony at Pont-Aven in Brittany where she taught etching whilst also painting and sending her works to London to sell. Armstrong and her mother moved to Newlyn (1885) where she established a studio in a shed also used to store fishing gear. She is pictured in her studio (right) and it was in Newlyn that she met Stanhope.

In 1904, they settled at their own self-designed home, ‘Higher Faugan’ (pictured above left in a painting by Stanhope) and together they opened the Newlyn Art School and the Newlyn Art Gallery with funding from Passmore Edwards (February 24th).
December

Her work often included children, exemplified by ‘Toddler with a Rattle’ (below left), and she developed a national reputation, displayed at over sixty exhibitions between 1883 and 1899, including the Royal Academy.

It has been written that her popularity arose not just from her talents but also from the subject matter which resonated with nostalgic concepts of provincial life and the pious and moral values valued by many of her time. This is demonstrated by ‘Ring a Ring O’Roses’ (1880, below left) and ‘School Is Out’ (1889, below right).

In 1900, her ‘Children and Child Lore’ exhibition at the Fine Art Society featured many works inspired by Thomas Cooper Gotch (December 10th) and she wrote and illustrated a number of childrens’ books.

Diagnosed with cancer in 1909, she spent time in France and in London seeking treatment and restorative cures but died in 1912.
Born on this day in Newquay, **Sir David Valentine Willcocks** MC (1919 – 2015) was a conductor, composer, organist and administrator who became renowned for directing the Choir of King’s College, Cambridge (1957 – 1974), broadcasting and producing many recordings.

The conductor of the *Nine Lessons and Carols* (December 24th), he composed the descants and arrangements of several carols which have become standard at many such services. He published these in the five volume series ‘*Carols for Choirs*’ which he edited with Reginald Jacques and John Rutter.

Trained as a chorister at Westminster Abbey (1929 – 1934) and then educated at Clifton College (attended in an earlier generation by by Sir Arthur Quiller – Couch, May 12th) where he had been awarded a music scholarship, he became the organ scholar at King’s and was later the Headmaster of King’s College School, the school attended by the King’s choirboys.

Willcocks served with the Duke of Cornwall’s Light Infantry in World War II and was awarded the Military Cross (MC) for his actions during the Battle of Normandy (D-Day) in 1944. Demobbed in 1945, he went to study at Cambridge in 1945 and was, in 1947, elected a Fellow of King’s.
December

He was also appointed to be Conductor of the Cambridge Philharmonic Society as well as being appointed to be the organist at Salisbury Cathedral and as the conductor of the Salisbury Musical Society.

Between 1950 and 1957 he was the organist of Worcester Cathedral, the principal conductor of the Three Choirs Festival (1951, 1954, 1957), and conducted the City of Birmingham Choir. In 1956, he was also appointed conductor of the Bradford Festival Choral Society, a role he fulfilled until 1974. Through this extraordinary range of roles he worked closely with the world famous composers, Ralph Vaughan Williams, Benjamin Britten and Sir Michael Tippett. As Director of Music at King’s (1957 – 1974) he made numerous recordings with the choir including Thomas Tallis’ ‘Spem in alium’ (1965) and he conducted the Cambridge University Musical Society’s performance of Britten’s War Requiem in Milan, La Scala and Venice in 1963.

Appointed Director of the Royal College of Music in 1971, he also became President of the City of Bath Bach Choir and Exeter Festival Chorus and, in 1981, he was the director of music for the marriage of Prince Charles and Lady Diana Spencer. Knighted in 1977 and having become the recipient of at least fifty honorary degrees from institutions across the world, he resumed editing scores and conducting when he retired from the Royal College. In retirement, however, he did not exactly slow down, travelling to America nine times in 1989 to conduct Evensong at the St. Thomas Episcopal Church and to also conduct the renowned Mormon Tabernacle Choir.

He died at the age of 94 on September 17th, 2015 with a worldwide reputation and a catalogue of recordings too large to even begin listing.
Newcastle-born **Lt-Cdr Steven Mackenzie** (1918 – 2013) was an MI6 operative who, in 1942, smuggled General de Gaulle’s Intelligence chief from Occupied France to Britain in a trawler.

Educated at Eton and then at Clare College, Cambridge, Mackenzie joined the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve in 1939 and was posted to the British Naval Liaison staff at Maintenon, near Chartres where he became friendly with Ian Fleming, who was, at the time, assistant to the Director of Naval Intelligence.

After the Fall of France, Mackenzie escaped on a Canadian destroyer, which was seriously damaged but he escaped again on to another boat. On return to England he was instructed by Fleming to report to Commander Frank Slocum who was constructing a covert network to transport SOE agents between England and France.

In March 1942, Mackenzie took command of ‘Le Dinan’ at Falmouth. The boat had been a Concarneau-based fishing trawler which had been refitted with Lewis guns and crewed with eight men for one mission: to extract Colonel Gilbert Renault, head of the *Confrérie de Notre Dame*, which was the most important of the Free French intelligence networks in occupied France. The boat was repainted at New Grimsby on Tresco in shades of green and brown and was given a false registration number, a Breton flag and French flags as well as hand weaponry.
December

In June 1942, the boat sailed to Brittany, escorted by the RAF until halfway across the Channel before being left to sail to the French coast under cover of darkness and through an area forbidden to fishery vessels. The plan was to rendezvous off with Renault on the coast off La Baie d'Audierne, just west of Quimper, two days later, at 5 pm. This did not occur as scheduled and the trawler was observed, but fortunately ignored, by a German corvette.

Within a few minutes a small boat, Les Deux Anges, put out from the harbour of Pont-Aven, which had been an artists colony used by Elizabeth Forbes (December 29th) and others in an earlier generation, came alongside. Renault, his wife and four daughters came aboard from Les Deux Anges with a detailed map of German fortifications on the North French coast.

For his actions, Mackenzie was awarded the Croix de Guerre in 1943 and the Distinguished Service Cross (DSC) in 1944.

In 1945, Mackenzie was recruited by MI6 who despatched him to Bad Salzuflen in Germany on a mission to infiltrate agents into the Soviet area in which role he was unsuccessful.

Completing his service in Germany (1949) he was posted to Holland until, in 1951, he was posted to Hong Kong and was subsequently appointed Director for the Far East and the Americas in 1960 before becoming Head of Station in Buenos Aires from 1962 until his retirement in 1968.
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