

Onen hag oll

The Cornish Association of Victoria Inc. Ballarat Branch

A.C.N. A0008 264A

August 2025 Newsletter

Chairperson

Keith Lanyon
34 Glazebrook St
Ballarat 3350
03 4343 2390

kmlanyon@hotmail.com

Admin. Secretary

Wendy Benoit
3 Pistol Club Road
Mt Rowan 3352
0403 166 887

wendy.benoit45@outlook.com

Treasurer

Jim Hocking
PO Box 4010
Alfredton 3350
03 5334 3322

jim@go2000.com.au

Newsletter Editor

Robyn Coates
28 Town Hall Ave
Preston Vic 3072
03 9478 6135

robyncoates@hotmail.com



Saturday 2nd August - Doug Bradby - his talk is titled, "Who benefitted most from the Gold Rush?"

Saturday 11th October - proposed visit to the Geelong Branch of the CAV - Neil Thomas, from Geelong, is arranging a tour of places connected with Cornish Heritage - detailed information in the next newsletter

June Meeting - Annual General Meeting

Although it was a cold miserable day, fourteen members ventured out to the Skipton Street Church Vestry for some fellowship and heard a wonderful talk about the Fox Family from Falmouth delivered by the President of the CAV, Brian Rollason.

Brian also conducted the election of Officer Bearers:

Chair person Keith Lanyon.

Vice Chair Wendy Benoit. ,

Admin Secretary Wendy Benoit.

Treasurer Jim Hocking.

Committee Members Robyn Coates and Bev Hocking.

Chairperson's Annual Report

Next Tuesday, I expect to lead the members of the AFA (air Force Association) with these words.

"They shall not grow old as we who are left grow old: Age shall not weary them or the years

condemn... "

Cold comfort for the death of our sons and daughters.

We must face it we have grown old.

The ravages of time are upon us.

The 1988 wave of interest in Cornish Heritage is well past its crest and other things hold the interest of the younger generations.

Much will be lost with our passing but we cannot hold ourselves responsible for those who follow or not.

We answer for our stewardship of our heritage and the way we have honoured it.

This year has seen us affected by the years which bought the death of Ian Jennings and saw Lorice Jenkin go into care and Di Christensen has not been able to attend our meetings, so our numbers have been reduced.

Yet we are in good heart .

There is I think a spirit of friendship enriching our interest in things Cornish which makes our meetings worthwhile.

We have had some interesting presentations especially with Mr Charles Zhang of the Ballarat Chinese Group.

Our finances are healthy.

I thank Wendy, Jim, Bev and Robyn, our hard working Committee, and I should not neglect Arthur's quiet but significant contribution.

Normally meetings are held on the even months at Skipton Street Uniting Church Hall,
cnr Darling and Skipton Streets, Ballarat.

Meetings begin at 2.00 pm and are followed by a shared high tea.



It's been my privilege to occupy the chair. I would be delighted to forgo that privilege to another.

Thank you one and all,
Keith.

Financial Report.

Due to illness, Jim Hocking forwarded the Financial Report.

Balance as of 2024 \$4963.05

Balance as of 2025 \$5338.90

No unrepresented cheques.
One unpaid invoice.

Brian Rollason shared an interesting talk about the Fox family from Falmouth, with beautiful photos of their gardens and a strong recommendation of anyone who visits Cornwall to make the gardens a part of their itinerary.

The Quakers

The Cornish Fox family don't appear to have any connection with George Fox, the founder of the Quakers though the Cornish branch of the Society of Friends was established in Cornwall in the seventeenth century not long after George Fox founded the organisation. (c 1652)

The Falmouth Fox Family

The Fox family was deeply involved in the town's history particularly in shipping, mining and philanthropy.

They established G.C.Fox and Company, a major ship agency and were also known for their contributions to the development of Falmouth as a port.

They became well known as scientists and inventors.

Descended from Francis Fox (1606-1670) who moved to St Germans from Wiltshire in c1646

The Fox family was connected by lineage and marriage to the great network of Quakers.

The banking houses of Barclays and Lloyds, the chocolate manufacturers of Fry, Cadbury and Rowntree, the firms of Allen and Hanbury, Reckitt and Coleman, Huntley and Palmer the biscuit people, Abraham Darby of the iron foundry at Coalbrookdale and Elizabeth Fry the great prison reformer were all Quakers.

They kept journals giving a detailed account of life in Cornwall.

George Croker Fox 1727-1781

G.C.Fox (Shipping Brokers) was established by George Croker Fox in 1762

Robert Were Fox (1754 – 1818 - second son of George) was principal partner in the firm and consolidated the company's position in the Gwennap copper mines and purchased the mineral rights of the Duchy of Cornwall for thirty -one years.

They had interests in the pilchard fishery and exported to Mediterranean countries
Still exists as a Company but all connection with the Fox family ended in 2003

Robert Were Fox 1789-1877

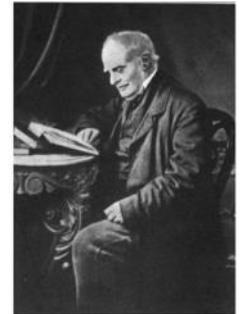
He was born in 1789, married Maria Barclay, and lived until 1877 outliving two of his three children.

Children were Anna Maria, Robert and Carolyn.

He was a fellow of the Royal Society and a scientist of distinction

He had business interests in mining and shipping which led to inventions and discoveries in mining, engineering, geology and navigation

He collaborated with another Quaker, Joel Lean in developing Watt's steam engine and increasing its power by the use of high -pressure steam



Robert Were Fox

Photo -
Wikipedia: public domain



Photo:
Trebah Gardens website

Charles Fox was the brother of Robert Were Fox and he married Sarah Hustler and they established Trebah Gardens

Charles and Sarah bought Trebah on the 27th April 1831.

The original area was a wooded valley full of native trees which opened out to a small cove at the bottom. First plan was to plant conifers Scots pine, silver fir, holm oak and Monterey pine to act as a shelter belt.

(NOTE: some of these trees are still there)

Through the family shipping business, the Foxes had access to an array of newly discovered plants from around the world.

These included palm trees, the handkerchief tree and magnolia campbelli.

Charles's brother Alfred lived next door at Glendurgan - Gledurgan has a wonderful maze and is now managed by the National Trust. Their brother Robert lived at Penjerrick in Budock Water.

Rosehill Gardens were also established by members of the Fox family.

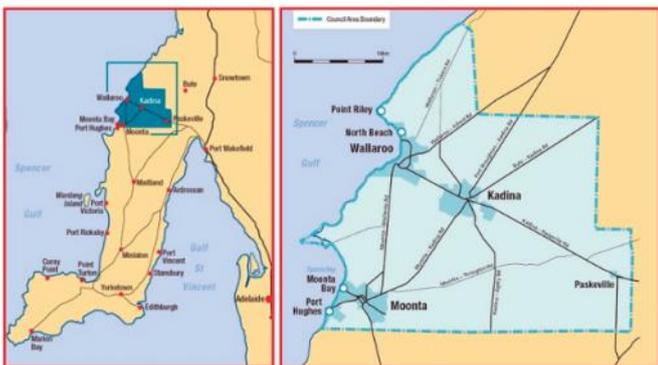


Those in attendance thoroughly enjoyed the presentation and Keith thanked Brian with a small presentation.



Kernewek Lowender 2025

Twelve members of the Victorian Cornish Association joined in the celebrations for Kernewek Lowender, in May 2025, staying in Kadina, Wallaroo and Moonta/Moonta Bay - all located on the Copper Coast of the Yorke Peninsula in South Australia. The Festival ran from 12th-18th May and each day there were many events available to attend. A popular event on both Tuesday and Wednesday



was Dressing the Graves Ceremonies held at four district cemeteries - Green Plains near Paskeville, Wallaroo, Kadina and Moonta.

Dressing the Graves was an idea of the late Roslyn Paterson and began 20 years ago - it was decided that it was an opportunity to recognize the contribution made by local pioneers and to ensure that younger people appreciated the historic past contained in the cemeteries.

At each ceremony, eight people were honoured. Citations developed from family history research were read at the graveside and placed on the grave by relatives along with flowers. This year the theme was *Everyday People*. A choir from the local school sang at each venue and at Wallaroo the local band played before the ceremony.

Wednesday the programme which were offered were Cornish Pasty Making, a Cornish Language class for Beginners and a Feast or Famine Dinner: *In the old days, sometimes there was food and sometimes there wasn't. Cornish miners were very poor because they were paid so little. We have made a feast of five courses from their poverty-stricken pantries. The food is prepared by experienced country cooks.*

On Thursday, the Cornish History Seminar was held at Kadina Football and Netball Clubrooms - this year's theme was *Cornish Australians in Industry and Commerce*,

The seminar featured papers given by presenters from several states showing where Cornish born, or people of Cornish descent, had made significant contributions in public life.

Papers were presented by Terry Trembath (Sir David Fletcher Jones), John Carvosso (Samuel Carvosso), Margaret Dell (Sir Langdon Bonython), Claire Webster (Insights from the SA-Cornish Fishing Exchange 2023-24), Baden Teague (William Dangar of St Neot) and Noel Carthew (James Gartrell - A Philanthropic Merchant) - all different and very interesting..



Thursday evening featured the Opening of the Art Prize in Kadina Town Hall and an evening with the talented Kadina Wallaroo Moonta Band in the Wallaroo Town Hall.

Each Kernewek Lowender, the motto should be, *Don't rain on our Parade* as so often it does and this year was no exception.



As groups were lining up for the Parade, in Moonta, the heavens opened and down the rain came. Thankfully, it did ease as the Parade began.

The number of groups participating was much less than previous years as were the numbers attending to watch.

The Maypole Dancing and the Furry Dance were both held in Queen Square, alongside the Town Hall, (whilst it poured rain) with a much smaller Street Fer.

Entertainment was provided by *Dalla* - husband and wife duo Hilary Coleman and Neil Davey, from Cornwall - on clarinet and bouzouki and also voice.

A pasty bake off featuring local identities, plus the Grand Bard, Jenefer Lowe, Noel Carthew from SA Cornish Association and Hilary and Neil took place in the Park.



Jenefer Lowe and Noel Carthew

The Cornish contingent should have won but the Judges awarded the local Mayor the winner. (biased in my opinion)

Whilst all these activities were happening in the Square, an Organ recital by Ron Newton from NZ, was being held in the Moonta Mines Church on the wonderful pipe organ.

Wallaaroo Town Hall was the venue in the evening for *Sup and Sing* where 120 people gathered for a three course meal (including a Pasty of course) followed by an entertaining evening featuring *Dalla* (Hilary and Neil), some harp solos by Liesel Warner and a couple of humorous poems from Peter Gallford.



Hilary Coleman, ably assisted by Jenefer Lowe and Michele Brown, led everyone in some community singing of well known Cornish Favorites. It was a most enjoyable evening.



Saturday, it was Kadina's turn for Maypole Dancing and Furry Dancing, as well as the Rotary Village Fair held in Victoria Square opposite the Kadina Town Hall.

Some members chose to attend another Pasty Making class at Wallaroo.

The Gathering of the Bards took place in the afternoon - thankfully in the Wallaroo Town Hall as the rain poured down.



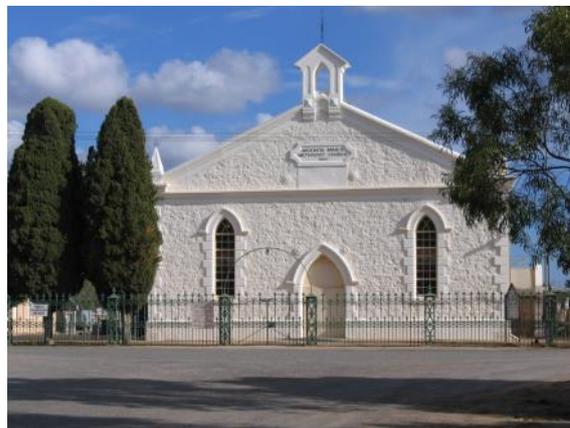
This ceremony was led by the Grand Bard, Jenefer Lowe. Twenty-one Bards from across Australia and Cornwall took part.



Sunday's activities began with a Blessing of the Waters remembering the hardships of previous generations, many of whom sailed from faraway lands, to Wallaroo, Kadina and Moonta, in the hope of making their fortunes.

Later on in the morning, a cavalcade of about 600 cars and motorcycles took several hours to travel through Wallaroo, Moonta Bay, Moonta and finally ending at Kadina Oval to be part of the fun fair.

A Heritage Concert or in Methodist terms a Pleasant Sunday Afternoon (PSA) took place in the historic Moonta Mines Church Building in the afternoon.



The afternoon was led by Rev, June Ladner. The Lobethal Harmony Group performed several items, locals Trevor Bowden and Craig Woodward sang the *Holy City* and organist Ron Newton played a couple of organ solos.

Darryl Parker (often the Moonta Mines organist at KL) joined with a local woman in playing an energetic piano duet.

Community singing of some old favourite hymns was very popular.

In a short address, June talked about two of the hymns - *God be with you till we meet again* and *O God our help in ages past*.

The hymn, *God be with you till we meet again*, evidently was a Moonta Mines favourite, which June explained was often sung in Cornwall, when people left home to come to Australia.

Many people who came to Australia would never see their family members again.

The second hymn *Oh God our help in Ages Past* was frequently sung at funerals in the church, with the people also singing it as they accompanied the coffin to the Moonta Cemetery, about a thirty minute walk along unmade roads.

A final gathering of members with Cornish Connections from NSW, SA, Victoria and Cornwall took place at the Wombat Hotel in Kadina where a great time of fellowship was enjoyed.



A few 'old' articles from the Ballarat Courier and the Ballarat Star

Courtesy of Chrissy Stancliffe as she volunteers at the Ballarat Mechanics Institute - Samuel Turner and the Sprague family.

Ballarat Courier (Vic. : 1869 - 1896; 1914 - 1918),
Saturday 6 August 1892, page 4
Obituary

The many friends of **Mr Samuel Turner** will be sorry to learn that he died at his late residence, 148 Barkly Street, last night after a long and painful illness. The funeral will take place tomorrow (Sunday) at three o'clock

Ballarat Courier (Vic. : 1869 - 1896; 1914 - 1918),
Monday 8 August 1892, page 4
OBITUARY.

Yesterday the funeral of the late **Mr Samuel Turner**, of Barkly Street, Golden Point (one of the old identities, who arrived at Ballarat in the early fifties), took place, and was largely attended. The members of the Loyal Ballarat Lodge, No2 Manchester-Order of Oddfellows of which the deceased was a member headed the cortege. The deceased was a native of Pool, Cornwall, and leaves a widow and grown-up family to mourn his loss. The remains were interred in the New Cemetery, and the Rev. J. C. Cowperthwaite officiated at the house and grave, Br Caddy reading the lodge service. The following acted as coffin bearers - Messrs S. Roberts, F. Smyth, A. Broom H. Hall and the pall bearers were Messrs Lukele, Collet, Downing, Wasley, Phillips, Tinney, members of the MU IOOF. The undertaker was Mr C. Morris.

Information discovered concerning Samuel Turner

Samuel Turner was baptized on 28th April 1829 at Perranzabuloe - the family listed as living at Reen Downs.

His parents were Samuel Turner (1799-1866) and Jane Chapman (1795-1876) who were married, in 1820, at Perranzabuloe.

His Siblings:

Jane 1823 - baptized Callington whilst the family is living at Callington.

Elizabeth 1825 - baptized Perranzabuloe - family living at Reen Downs - died aged 1 in 1826

Mary Ann 1827 - baptized Perranzabuloe - family living at Reen Downs.

In the 1841 census, Samuel is living with his parents and sisters Jane and Mary Ann in Pool - both he and

his father are listed as copper miners.

In the 1851 census, he is living with his parents and sister Mary Ann in the village of Pool - both men are copper miners and Mary Ann is a milliner.

He doesn't appear in the 1861 census - however, his sisters are living with their parents - both are married and indicated their husbands were working abroad.

Jane Hocking/Hosking and Mary Ann Roberts who had an eight year old daughter, Elizabeth Roberts.

His arrival in Australia is unknown but is sometime between 1851 and 1861.

One wonders if the two husbands of his sisters and Samuel all came to Australia.

Samuel Turner married Mary Jane Hall in 1860. Mary Jane was baptized at Madron on 26th November 1843 and her parents were Richard Hall and Mary Ann Lydycoat/Liddicoat. Mary Jane may have arrived in Australia in 1854 aboard the *Omega* with her brother James and his wife Tabitha and their two young children Mary (aged 2) and Elizabeth (aged 1)

Mary Jane and Samuel Turner had six children:

Mary Ann b1860; m Wm Bartle Carah in 1880 and then Herbert John Permewan in 1900 and d 1940;
James 1863-1936;
Samuel 1865-1945;
Elizabeth Jane 1868;
Edith 1875-1876 and
Florence Ethel b 1880 married William Brown in 1911 and d 1950

As mentioned in the articles, Samuel died in August 1892 and his wife Mary Jane in April 1916.

Ballarat Courier Wednesday 26 April 1916, page 2
TURNER. — On the 24th April, at the residence of her son-in-law, W. Brown, 91 Barkly street, Ballarat, Mary Jane Turner, relict of the late Samuel Turner; aged 74.

They are buried with their baby daughter Edith in Ballarat New Cemetery Wesleyan A, Section 12, Grave 15

Ballarat Courier. January 6th 1892. Page 4

Mr John Sprague, a very old resident of Ballarat, died at a late hour last evening at his residence, Ford Street. The deceased gentleman, who was sixty-five

years of age, suffered from dropsy, and had been ailing for about three years.

He was a native of Cornwall; and came to Ballarat shortly after the Eureka riots.

He was for many years a member of the Barkly Street Wesleyan Church and was very highly respected in a wide circle.

Mr Sprague leaves a widow and seven in family. Mr Elijah Sprague (operator in the Ballarat West Telegraph Office), Mr John Sprague (driver on the Stawell to Ballarat line), and Mr Thomas Sprague (who three years ago was severely injured in the mine of the Britannia United Company), are sons of the deceased.

Much sympathy will be expressed for the bereaved relatives.

Ballarat Courier. January 8th 1892. Page 4

The funeral of the late Mr John Sprague, of Ford Street, Ballarat East, took place yesterday, the remains being conveyed to the Ballarat Cemetery for interment.

Included in the cortege were many prominent townsmen, and old colonists and adherents of the Barkly Street Wesleyan Church.

The service at the grave was conducted by the Rev. C. Lancaster.

Ballarat Star. 18th November 1895. Page 3

SPRAGUE —The Friends of the late Mrs JANE SPRAGUE, relict of the late John Sprague, are respectfully invited to follow her remains to their last resting place, the Ballarat Old Cemetery. The funeral cortege will move from her late residence. Ford street, off Eureka street This Day (Monday) at 4 o'clock. CHARLES MORRIS, Undertaker, Grenville street (near Alfred Hall); 186 Sturt Street (near City Fire Brigade), 3 and 5 Mair street

Ballarat Star, Monday 18th November 1895, page 4
IN MEMORIAM.

We regret to announce the death of Mrs J. Sprague. Ford street, Ballarat East.

The deceased lady, who was 68 years of age and mother of Mr E Sprague, of the Telegraph Department, was a very old resident of the district, arriving here 36 years ago.

She had been ailing for a long while, but the immediate cause of death was congestion of the lungs, supervening upon influenza

Mrs Sprague died on Saturday at her daughter's residence, St Kilda whither she had proceeded for

change of air.

The funeral will take place this Afternoon at 4 o'clock from Ford street, Ballarat East

Ballarat Star (Vic. : 1865 - 1924), Tuesday 19th November 1895

IN MEMORIAM.

The remains of the late Mrs Sprague, wife of the late John Sprague, were interred in the Old Cemetery yesterday afternoon The funeral was very largely attended. The coffin was covered with flowers sent by friends of the family.

The following acted as coffin bearer" —Messrs J. Nankervis, W. H. Bossence, S. George, and T Cornish,

The Rev. J. A. Marsland officiated at the house and grave. Mr C Morns was the undertaker.

Some background notes to the family

John Sprague married Jane Williams (1822-1895) on 15th October 1848 in Gwennap.

They were both living at Crofthandy, a village near Gwennap.

Their marriage details indicate John's father is listed as a shoe maker and Jane's as a miner.

John was the son of John and Johanna (Gregor) Sprague – his parents had married in 1813. Their daughter Joanna was baptised in 1815; a son John in 1818 who died at age four in 1822; another son Thomas was baptised in 1822 and he died in 1841 (complaint of the bladder); and **John** was baptised with his sister Elizabeth on Christmas Day 1827. John (senior) died in 1830 aged 38. Johanna died in 1867.

Jane Williams was the daughter of Thomas Williams and Joanna Richards who had married in 1827.

Her siblings were Thomas, Mary, John, Elizabeth, George, Elijah and James.

She was baptized on 18th November 1827 at Gwennap and was living at Crofthandy.

John and Jane had three children before emigrating to Australia – Elizabeth Jane 1848, John 1852 and Margaret 1855.

John came to Australia aboard the *Shalimar* in 1855. He was aged twenty-eight.

Jane and the three children came to Australia aboard the *Mermaid* in 1858 – Jane was aged thirty-one, Elizabeth nine, John six and Margaret three.

Their family was added to in Ballarat with the birth of Thomas in 1860; Mary Ann in 1862; William 1863;

George 1866; Emily 1869; and Elijah 1872.
Sadly, Margaret died at aged four in 1859 and Emily in 1870. Aged one.

Elizabeth (Bryant) 1848-1912
John 1852-1930
Margaret 1855-1859
Thomas 1850-1894
Mary Ann (Hambley) 1862-1928
William 1863-1911
George 1866-1935
Emily 1869-1870
Elijah 1872-1944

Ballarat Star Thursday 3 January 1889, page 2

An accident that is certain to end fatally happened at the Britannia United mine yesterday morning. In a portion of the mine, that is being worked on tribute a young man named Thomas Sprague, 28 years of age, who resided with his parents at Ford Street, was engaged at the face. Whilst working there, a mass of stone, weighing about 5 cwt or 6 cwt, fell on him, pinning him to the ground. He was extricated by his comrades as speedily as possible and conveyed to the Hospital. It was there found that, in addition to minor injuries, his back had been broken, so that the case is a hopeless one. Young Sprague was a great support to his parents and the rest of the family. He was a most respectable and well-behaved young fellow, and a prominent member of the Salvation Army. Great sympathy is expressed by their friends for the injured young man and his relatives.

Ballarat Star Thursday 11 August 1892, page 2

An interesting football match will take place tomorrow at the Eastern Oval, between the men working at the New Normanby and the Britannia claims. A feature of the game will be the appearance of both teams clad in underground clothing. As the proceeds are for the benefit of Messrs Thomas Sprague and John Watson, who have been ill for some time, it is hoped that there will be a good attendance, and that a substantial sum will be raised.



St Buryan: the drink trade

Drink was a central element of Victorian culture. The number of inns, public houses and beer shops (called kiddley winks or winks in parts of west Cornwall) was very much higher than now (although easy access to alcohol on the supermarket shelves was not an option). It was claimed in 1850 that the working class spent between a third and half of their income on drink. This was extremely unlikely and a gross exaggeration

but the consumption of beer and spirits in the UK did rise to peak in the 1870s.

The rise of the drink trade was accompanied by temperance agitation. Beginning in the industrial northern town of Preston in Lancashire an organised teetotal movement emerged in the 1840s. Its proponents at that time demanded radical social change, often being found in the ranks of Chartist groups and trade unions. By the 1860s moral reform was deemed sufficient as temperance (rather than teetotalism) became a hallmark of Victorian respectability.

Although the peak of alcohol consumption had passed, demands for local vetoes, closing pubs or limiting their hours of opening, gained ground in the 1870s, especially in the Liberal Party. In 1881 a Sunday Closing Act was passed for Wales. Two years later Cornwall very nearly followed suit but the Cornwall Sunday Closing Bill was narrowly defeated by Conservative opposition in the House of Lords.

John Hutchens Johns was someone who became a publican. He had been born in Sancreed where his father Joseph was a tin miner. John did not follow his father into the mines, first serving as a ploughboy at a farm in neighbouring St Buryan. By 1871 he was back with his parents who had by then moved to St Buryan churchtown. Both Joseph and John were farm labourers. Marrying in 1875, John was recorded as a gardener's labourer in 1881. However, between 1881 and 1883 he and his wife Louisa took on the running of the King's Arms inn in the village.

The venture had presumably failed by 1893 when John was no longer at the King's Arms. In those days as now, running a pub was not easy. In the late 1800s, with the population of St Buryan shrinking by over 20 per cent in 40 years and the rise of temperance agitation in Methodist Cornwall, the life of a publican was hardly a guaranteed road to riches. John fell back onto farm labouring.

Nonetheless, by 1911 he had again managed to escape the fields and was working as an auxiliary postman.
<https://bernarddeacon.com/2022/10/23/st-buryan-the-drink-trade/>