

The Cornish are Coming!

The first week in September sees two major events in Looe, Dehwelans, which means the homecoming in Cornish and the Gorseth.

Dehwelans is a weeklong celebration from 1st – 7th September of all things Cornish, with performances, walks, talks, lectures, trips out, dancing, music, local history and heritage. There will be events all around the town from a packed programme including; award winning Cornish films in the Masonic Hall sponsored by Barclay House Hotel to local produce tasting and musical drama performances in a large marquee on the Millpool. The town will welcome visitors from the worldwide Cornish diaspora keen to immerse themselves in Cornish culture and heritage and a chance to retrace their family ancestry. Many of the visitors from the USA, Australia and Canada are descendent of the Cornish miners who left their homeland at the end of the 1800's following the collapse of tin prices. These miners' skills were highly sought after around the World. The phrase goes, 'Find a hole in the ground and you'll find a Cornish man in it!'

Trelawne Manor Tour

Trelawne Manor has been the seat of the famous Trelawny family for over 400 years, although the Manor dates originally from 1450. Local historian and Cornish Bard Carole Vivian will unlock the Manors colourful past with a tour highlighting the history of the Trelawny family, the architecture of the building from its mediaeval roots through through to later Victorian additions and the modern day use as a tourist centre. The tour of the Manor will be followed by a tour of Trelawne Barton formally the home farm and its beautiful gardens, topped with a Cornish cream tea.,

Jonathan Trelawny

Jonathan Trelawny was born at Trelawne in the parish of Pelynt on 24th March 1650. He was educated at Westminster School and then went to Christ Church, Oxford at the start of the Michaelmas term of 1668 where he distinguished himself as a scholar. A staunch royalist, he was ordained in 1673 and became a beneficed clergyman. He was appointed Rector of Southill on 4th October and of St. Ives on 12th December 1677.

In 1685, he and his brother (Major General Charles Trelawny) were active in putting down the western rebellion led by the Duke of Monmouth. This led to the brothers being known as Spiritual Dragon and Christian Turk. Shortly after this his elder brother Charles died, closely followed by his father and so Sir Jonathan inherited the title and estates as the 3rd. Baronet. A grateful sovereign, King James II appointed, against the advice of Archbishop Sancroft, Sir Jonathan Bishop of Bristol (he had hoped for Exeter) for his services during the uprising. The appointment was consecrated at Lambeth on 8th November 1685.

1687 saw him acting for the crown again as the King's watchdog at that years Stannary Parliament. This was a semi-offical role where he took the 'pulse' of the Parliment and promoted the Kings views to the Senators taking part. Trelawny was one of the seven Bishops who petitioned against James II's Declaration of Indulgence, 1687 and 1688 (granting religious tolerance to the Catholics) and as a result of this he was arrested and imprisoned in the Tower on charges of 'seditious libel'.

King James's commented that '*my lord Bristol was the most saucy of the Seven*'. Trelawnys reply to James accusation of rebellion was one of outrage

'Rebellion, Sir! I beseech your Majesty do not say so hard a thing of us; for God's sake! Do not believe we are or can be guilty of rebellion! Your Majesty cannot but remember that you sent me to quell Monmouth's rebellion and I am as ready to do what I can to quell another. We will do our duty to your Majesty to our utmost in everything that does not interfere with our duty towards god'.

The Bishop was held for three weeks before the trial, then tried and acquitted, leading to celebrations through out the country with bells being rung in his home parish of Pelynt. When William of Orange landed in England shortly after, James offered Sir Jonathan the bishopric of Exeter however he refused and supported William.

In gratitude William made him Bishop of Exeter in 1688 and Queen Anne elevated him to Bishop of Winchester in 1707. Bishop Trelawny was immortalized in Hawker's ballad

'The Song of the Western Men'.

*A good sword and a trust hand!
A merry heart and true
King James's men shall understand
What Cornish lads can do!*

*And have they fixed the where and when?
And shall Trelawny die ?
Here's twenty thousand Cornish men
Will know the reason why!*

*Out spake our Captain brave and bold
A merry wight was he;
'If London Tower were Michael's hold'
We'd set Trelawny free*

*'We'll cross the Tamar, land to land:
The Seven is no stay:
With 'one and all', and hand in hand;
And who shall bid us nay?.*

*'And when we come to London Wall,
A pleasant sight to view,
Come forth! Come forth!
Ye cowards all; Here's men as good as you*

*'Trelawny he's in the keep and hold:
Trelawny he may die
But here's twenty thousand Cornish bold
Will know the reason why!*

by Robert Stephen Hawker composed 1825

Half day tour Departs Looe 1.15pm Returns 4.30pm
£10 including transport and cream tea
Weekly ticket holders free of charge

The full programme is available on a comprehensive website at
www.dehwelanskernow.com or contact the co-ordinator Edwina Arkell on 01503
264160 email dehwelanslooe@btconnect.com

Gorseth Kernow

The open Gorseth is an annual event when the Cornish Bards gather to invite new Bards to join and to celebrate Cornish culture and identity. Particular regard is given to excellence in artistic endeavour, promotion of the Cornish language and people who have generally worked hard on behalf of Cornwall.

This year the gathering will be on Saturday 6th September, weather permitting, in the open, on Barbican Sports Field, East Looe at 12 noon or if the weather is inclement in Looe Community School.

Bards, following robing, will process to the Gorseth site and form a large circle, at the North-eastern point of which is a platform (The Rock) on which stand the Grand Bard, the Deputy Grand Bard, the Gorseth Secretary and delegates from the Welsh and Breton Gorseths.

The ceremony includes a symbolic call to the four corners of the Nation, made by the Horner and the ceremony of peace.

A dance by local children from Sheila's School of Dancing precedes the "Lady of Cornwall", Christie Phillips, who is escorted by the Sword Bearer across the circle, presenting a sheaf of flowers and corn to the Grand Bard, symbolising God's gifts to Mankind.

After the ceremony of the Sword the Grand Bard asks all to swear their loyalty to Cornwall. All the Bards then sing "Land of Our Fathers". The Cry of Peace, which preceded the opening of the Gorseth, is repeated before the Gorseth is declared closed.

For more information on Gorseth Kernow go to www.gorsethkernow.org.uk