



## Summer 2016 E-newsletter

Dear Reader,

Welcome to the summer edition of our e-newsletter, which covers news from Cornwall Record Office and the Cornish Studies Library and is sent out quarterly. If you know anyone who would like to subscribe, please ask them to send a blank email to [cro@cornwall.gov.uk](mailto:cro@cornwall.gov.uk) with 'Subscribe to E-newsletter' in the subject line. We hope you enjoy this edition, and have a lovely summer.

Kind regards,

***The Archives and Cornish Studies Team***

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## News

### **Kresen Kernow Project**

The tender documents, plans and specifications for the Kresen Kernow main build were issued in May and we hope to make a decision regarding the appointment of the contractor to build Cornwall's new archive centre in September. On site, the majority of the retained historic structure is now propped and archaeologists from Cornwall Archaeological Unit are recording features which cannot be integrated into the design. As well as



progressing work on the façade of the building, over the coming months we will be developing the design and fit-out of the strongrooms, public spaces, learning rooms and exhibition areas.

We will be offering site tours in September as part of Redruth's Pasty Festival and Heritage Open Days. There's a little more information in the What's On section below.

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## What's on?

We are excited to offer two more **ArTchive** workshops this summer and autumn. These creative workshops, inspired by our collections, are a fascinating insight into our archives and how they can be used in a number of different ways, led by experienced practitioners.

- Friday July 8<sup>th</sup>, 10am-4.30pm, '**Archive Advertisements**' with sign-painter and artist, A. Goodwin, Cornwall Record Office, Truro. Design and make your own narrative poster, using colour, font, archive inspiration and stories. £10 including materials but not refreshments. Space is very limited so pre-booking and payment are essential; call 01872 323 127 to book or for more information.



- Thursday September 8<sup>th</sup>, 10am-4.30pm, '**Commonplace Books**' with artist Sue Lewington, Cornish Studies Library, Redruth. Bring snippets and memories to put in your own commonplace book, inspired by our collections. £10 including materials but not refreshments. Space is very limited so pre-booking and payment are essential; call 01209 216 760 to book or for more information.

As part of the Festival of Archaeology we are delighted to be taking part in events at Launceston Priory on Saturday July 30<sup>th</sup> when we will be holding a **Documents and Finds Roadshow**. Bring along the documents from your attic, or archaeological finds from your fields, and have them assessed by one of our experts. We will be at St Thomas' Church hall in Launceston from 11am – 3pm and look forward to seeing you there!



We will be offering bookable tours of the **Kresen Kernow site**, to see how the development of Cornwall's new archive centre is progressing, on Friday September 9<sup>th</sup> and Saturday September 10<sup>th</sup> as part of Redruth's Pasty Festival and the national Heritage Open Days scheme. There will be more information about these nearer the time so do keep an eye out on our social media platforms (listed below) and in local publicity material.

From September 9<sup>th</sup> – September 30<sup>th</sup> the Cornish Studies Library in Redruth will also host an exhibition of original work-in-progress by local artist **Sue Lewington**. 'Real Lives: History, Memory and Imagination' will be the result of Sue's residency with us earlier in June, and is inspired by our archive stores and collections.

To keep most in touch with forthcoming events and activities, find us on social media. We're on Facebook (@kresenkernow), Twitter (@kresenkernow) and Instagram (kresenkernow) and we love to hear from you on these platforms!

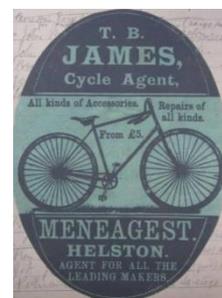
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## Recent accessions

Two new accessions at Cornwall Record Office demonstrate different contributions made by Camborne individuals in World War Two. The first, a photocopy of an RAF bomber command flying log book for John Emerson Nicholas of Camborne, shows the flights he made as a wireless operator in the RAF between April 1943 and April 1946. His service was varied and things didn't always go smoothly; on a mission described as 'OPS to Düsseldorf D.C.O.' on 3rd November 1943, 5 incendiaries were dropped on his Halifax piercing the number 4 starboard tank and stopping the starboard inner engine, meaning he had to return to his base in North Yorkshire.

The second accession is a wages book for the Cornwall Boiler Company, North Roskear. This lists the names of the employees and the department in which they worked. It shows most worked 50-70 hours a week, though for the week ending 10th October 1942 F. L. Wells received £9 13 shillings 7 pence for 118 hours work in the drop forge! The company also employed staff to carry out ARP [Air Raid Precautions] duties; they each received '5/- [shillings] extra for Camborne Feast'.

Another recent accession demonstrates how Thomas Bath James, ironmonger of Helston, branched out to become a cycle agent in order to cater for the increased demand for bicycles during the 1890s. His ledger records his purchases from manufacturers and wholesalers including the Swift Cycle Company Limited of Coventry and the East London Rubber Company, india rubber and waterproof manufacturers, of Shoreditch.



Family photograph albums are not an uncommon accession, but all too often they are filled with photographs of individuals whose identity has been lost in the midst of time. It was therefore lovely to receive an album for the Cock family of Trescoll, Luxulyan in which each picture is identified. The first photograph, of Jonathan Cock, is followed by pictures of his descendants – and having fathered 25 children there will be plenty of these! Many of Jonathan's sons moved to Australia to find mining work, so this album could potentially be of interest to Cock family members from all over the world.



New books at the Cornish Studies Library include:

***The Ellis breweries at Helston and Hayle* by Charlotte Mackenzie. Published by Cornwall History, 2016. ISBN – 978-1326623463.**

A local history outlining the origins and history of the Ellis breweries at Helston and Hayle. Also including information on the pubs, inns and hotels across West Cornwall which were associated with the breweries. It is a useful source too for family historians with references to the names of licensees, as well as deeds and leases.

***Cornish Pirate Legends* by Steve Tomlin. Published by Amberley, 2015. ISBN – 978-1445646565.**

The Penzance and Newlyn Rugby Football Club rebranded itself as the Cornish Pirates in 2005 and this book details the lives and



playing careers of forty six leading players and four senior coaches. The author, who is also an ex-player, covers both the amateur and professional eras of the club and the book is based on interviews with the players themselves or with colleagues and families. It gives an insight into the lives, pressures and achievements of players from different generations.

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## Learning update

The Learning team have been busy as ever delivering activities and events across Cornwall.

These include a residency by local artist **Sue Lewington**, which will provide inspiration for a new exhibition (see What's On for more information). Sue loved exploring the strongrooms and took delight in many of the peeling labels, curling papers and handwritten annotations – all the things of an archivist's nightmares!

Sue also led another workshop in our popular 'ArTchive' series, this time creating personal maps inspired by our wonderful archive collections. Participants really enjoyed the workshop and produced brilliant '**Imaginary Maps**'.



After taking last year off, the team returned to Royal Cornwall Show to launch our **Scouting For History** project. The project, which aims to create a Scout archive to be housed at Kresen Kernow, is looking for material on Scouting as it is sorely underrepresented in our collections at present. As part of the launch we looked for Cornwall's oldest Scout, and the Scout who had travelled furthest! If you have material on Scouting in Cornwall that you would be interested in contributing then please contact the Activity Programme Team at Cornwall Record Office on 01872 324 321.

The Learning team have also been working with groups in Redruth to '**Bring the Brewery Back to Life**' for an installation on display at the Cornish Studies Library until the end of June. Working with local artist, Tony Johns, the groups created clay models of the site which are brought to life using sounds and oral history recordings from people connected with the former Brewery. A celebration event and workshop were held as part of Redruth's Murdoch Day celebrations.

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## Collection highlight

This bound book is comprised of two separate sections entitled 'My Sketch Book' (1833) and "'Young Troublesome"; or Master Jacky's Holidays' (mid-19<sup>th</sup> century) respectively. Although these are bound together, it appears they are by different authors, the first by George Cruikshank and the latter probably by John Leech, although both are similar in style. Similarly, although both sections appear in colour in other reproductions, they are black and white in this book.

The first section by Cruikshank includes humorous and sometimes mocking etchings. Here he depicts scenes such as the 'Montpellier Rotunda', 'St Swithin's Chapel' and 'The Fox and the Goose'. This latter etching criticises the 'quack doctors' of the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries, depicting one as a 'fox' out to exploit the 'geese'. George Cruikshank (1792-1878) first made a name for himself by producing anti-establishment illustrations, becoming one of the most well-known graphic artists in England by the 1830s. He, like his contemporary John Leech, also illustrated novels such as those by Charles Dickens.

The second section details the exploits of 'Master Jacky', a mischievous schoolboy just returned home for the Christmas holidays. This short story is most likely by John Leech (1817-1864), a caricaturist and illustrator, and is accompanied by charmingly detailed and amusing etchings. These include Master Jacky 'playing at Cricket in the drawing-room', smoking, firing a gun during a play rehearsal, and generally causing havoc to his family and friends.



The book originally came from the library at Trelissick.

*By Alex, volunteer*

## Contact us

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