

A-dro dhe'n Vro

Around the Country

Niver dew

The newsletter of the Taves an Tir Cornish language project

Dydh da pub huni/Hello everyone!

Welcome to the second newsletter of the Taves an Tir project!

Firstly, thank you to everyone who came to the 'Our Names, Our Cornwall' seminar. The project team have assessed the feedback and are very happy that the presentations were very well received, so thanks to all those who provided feedback. There's lots more about the seminar from page three.

Rob Simmons, our new Project Officer, and Dee Hunt have been busy working with the Cornwall and Scilly Historic Environment Service and the Cornwall Record Office in order to get everything organised for the next event on Saturday 27 September in

Truro. It looks set to be a very interesting day and will be a great chance to see some fascinating documents and maps, and talk to experts in the field of historical research.

Although we have some very active and eager volunteers, we're always looking for more people to get involved, so if you know anyone in Lanivet - or indeed, Heamoor or Tolgus - who might be interested in finding out more about Cornish language in the landscape, please pass on to them the project email address: tavesantir@gmail.com

Taves an Tir on the air with BBC Radio Cornwall

On Monday, 8 September, both Dee and Rob popped along to Radio Cornwall for a chat, and a short pre-recorded interview with Tiffany Truscott was broadcast later the same day. Dee and Rob spoke about the importance of the project and what it hopes to achieve, as well as taking the opportunity to advertise the 'Our Names Our Cornwall' seminar due to take place later that week.



'Our Names, Our Cornwall' highlights

It was good to see so many of you at the 'Our Names, Our Cornwall' seminar; here's a quick report for those not there. We had a variety of talks starting with Dr Loveday Jenkin, Chair of Kowethas an Yeth Kernewek, who spoke about the work of the charity and the Taves an Tir project itself.



(Loveday Jenkin introducing the event)

Pol Hodge from Maga spoke next; talking about recovered history, how languages in Britain developed through the ages and how the combined influence of British, Latin, Anglo-Saxon, Norse and Norman French developed into the modern English language. This historical development of English is well understood; however, alongside it the Cornish language was also developing, yet the latter remains understood to a lesser degree, even among historians. Pol finished on the positive note that Kernewek (the Cornish language) lives on, and that the next influences on the language will not be historical but rather beyond our control as Cornish becomes more widely spoken among the people of Cornwall today.

Nev Meek from the Signage Panel spoke next, giving an interesting talk about the panel and the work they do, including finding translations for street names where existing signs have become damaged and in need of replacing. Cornish is added to the signs with the bonus of incurring no extra cost for being bilingual. The work of the Panel also includes researching the history of place names to try to find the original meanings, thus giving newly-named housing developments a local connection. This was all very relevant to the project and provided everyone with an insight into how the experts approach the investigation of historical Cornish language place names.



(Pol Hodge invites Ken George to read out some ancient Brythonic, the ancestor tongue of Cornish and Welsh)

After a quick tea break, biscuits and some discussions about the previous talks, David Stark from the Federation of Old Cornwall Societies (FOCS) was kind enough to give a talk about FOCS and their work, including how the organisation protects ancient Cornish monuments and traditions, and seeks to nurture the history all around us.



(A display about the Federation of Old Cornwall Societies)

Later, Pol Hodge and Nev Meek jointly gave a talk about Cornish language personal names and surnames, both throughout Cornwall and specifically within Lanivet parish. They drew attention to the high number of Cornish language names locally and how patronymics (naming after the father) and naming after places was commonplace. They spoke about some of the examples found in the Muster Rolls and Parish registers, including names like Trenoweth (new farmstead), and postulated that at one time perhaps a farm in the parish was of that name but has since been renamed. Snippets like this highlight the possibility that the project could yet uncover new stories and mysteries in and around the parish.

Pol and Nev went on to talk about place names specifically, giving us a quick run-down of the most common Cornish place name elements, such as 'tre' (farmstead), 'pol' (pool/pit) and 'pen' (head/end), but also including others such as 'nans' (valley), 'park' (hedged field) and 'chi' (house). They also spoke of how the name Lanivet (Lanneves) was possibly formulated from the words 'lan' (an enclosure) and 'neves' the Cornish word for heaven.



Focussing specifically on how some of the place names of the parish had changed in the records, Pol and Nev told us about places such as Rosewarrick, which had been recorded in 1201 as Rosoroc Bichan and as Roseworoc Bihan in 1250. The second word 'bihan' (small in Cornish) meaning perhaps that a parcel of land had been separated. The same place was later recorded as Overroswarek in 1294 and Rosworrekwartha in 1314. The Cornish word 'wartha', of course means 'over' and is indicative of how one generation had used English in the place name and the next had translated that word back into Cornish. This was quite common in mid Cornwall during the era where one generation might use English and the next revert to Cornish. This was an interesting example of how Cornish language place names changed over time.

The talks were all very informative and interesting, and were well received, as were the handouts and display materials. The evening was a good introduction to and overview of the language and place names in general; many thanks to the speakers.

Volunteer Training at Cornwall Record Office, Truro

Volunteer training will take place at the Record Office in Truro on **Saturday 27 September**, and it's looking to be a very exciting day! Details have already been sent out by email from taveantir@gmail.com to those due to attend, so if you haven't yet received your email, please check your junk folders and don't hesitate to get in touch with us if you have any questions.

We'll start the day at 9.45am and finish at about 3.30pm. Teas, coffees and lunch are included free in the event, and please bring a jumper or fleece for the 'behind the scenes' tour – it's cold in those strongrooms!



At the end of the day, we'll be ready to share out sections of the map of Lanivet for investigation. Some volunteers have already come forward with their own ideas of

areas or subjects they would like to investigate, which we welcome. If you're a volunteer and just want to take away a section of the map on the day, that's good too. However, if you have an idea and haven't already come forward please do as soon as you can so that we can make sure your own ideas are accommodated on the day.

Here's the final programme for the day:

Taves an Tir
Volunteer Training at Cornwall Records Office

27 September 2014

9.45am	Arrival and refreshments
10am	Introduction <i>Loveday Jenkin, Chair, Kowethas an Yeth Kernewek</i> <i>Dee Hunt, Support Officer, Kowethas an Yeth Kernewek</i>
10.15am	Introduction to using the Cornwall and Scilly Historic Environment Record <i>Emma Trevarthen, Senior Archaeologist, Cornwall and Scilly Historic Environment Record</i>
12.15pm	Lunch
1pm	Behind the scenes tour <i>Deborah Tritton, Archive Services Manager, Cornwall Record Office</i>
1.45pm	Introduction to archive sources <i>Deborah Tritton</i>
2.15pm	Next steps <i>Rob Simmons, Taves an Tir Community Project Officer, Kowethas an Yeth Kernewek</i>
3pm	Time to look at display materials; feedback and refreshments <i>Deborah Tritton and Rob Simmons</i>
3.30pm	Doors close

And finally...

If you've any questions or have anything you'd like to see included in the next newsletter, please contact the office either by email or phone. Our email address is tavesantir@gmail.com and the phone number is 07568 391977.

Agas gweles arta yn skon! / See you again soon!

Kowethas an Yeth Kernewek

Next time

- ❖ Highlights of the training session at the Cornwall Record Office
- ❖ More about the upcoming feedback session with the Signage Panel in November

Taves an Tir 22.09.14