**Report of Perranarworthal Local History Group meeting on Tuesday 22nd November**

This was a meeting with a difference! Speaker, Kingsley Rickard treated us to a talk entitled “Quirky Cornwall or a Cornish Pastiche”.

Kingsley explained how the talk had come about. He was approached by the Trevithick Society to fill in at the last minute for a speaker who unfortunately couldn’t attend. Kingsley explained that he had delivered all of his talks to the society recently and had no other talks prepared on other topics. “You must be able to do something” he was asked in desperation, “you have so many interesting slides about Cornwall”

Kingsley realised that he had as over the years he had collected a selection of interesting and quirky photos of the county. He was able to deliver the talk to the Trevithick society and from then on offered it as one of his topics.

There must have been about 60 slides in the collection and topics ranged far and wide. There were several from churchyards, Barnoon at Ives commemorating a life lost on the Titanic, a cast iron grave memorial in Hayle cast by the local Harvey’s Foundry, and tiled pottery graves in Barnoon.

Bricks from St Day were originally cast in an incorrectly made mould with the S being reversed. Examples of these can still be found in buildings in the area. A St Austell sign was spelled St Austle which was the original spelling as was Lansen for Launceston as seen on a milestone.

There were several mining references, a tungsten mine was sited at Porthtowan, the smallest mining head frame is sited at Camborne School of mines, Holmans tested their rock drills at Carn Marth quarry and the numerous holes can be spotted today. South Terrace mine at St Stephen only produced one metal & that was uranium. Worryingly the old engine house was used as accommodation at one time.

In our area you may have wondered why Baldhu has such a large & imposing church. There were prospects of large mines being built in the area and the church was sized accordingly. The mines and increase in population did not materialise. Billy Bray, local tin mining evangelist and preacher, is buried in the grounds of the chapel.

These are just a few examples of the interesting and often amusing slides shown by Kingsley.

Do join us at our future meetings, Perranarworthal Local History Group has an excellent & interesting programme for the new year. Follow us on Facebook Memories of Perranwell Station & Perranarworthal, or our website [www.perranwellhistory.com](http://www.perranwellhistory.com)

**Our next meeting is : Tuesday 21st Feb 7.30pm at the Perranwell Centre when well-known historian Garry Tregidga will be talking about St Piran’s Day Origins and Traditions.**

**Date for the diary: Tuesday 28th March 7.30 at the Perranwell Centre: Hilary Coleman speaking on ‘Cornish music in pubs’**