



Perran-ar-worthal
Local History Group

PRESENTS:



'THE MARRIED WIDOWS OF CORNWALL'

A talk by Dr Lesley Trotter

On Tuesday 25th OCT 7.30pm at the Perranwell Centre

AGRICULTURAL LABORERS

And Mechanics generally.

Eligible married persons under 35 years of
age, may have

AN EARLY FREE PASSAGE

TO

**NEW
ZEALAND**

ON APPLICATION

To Mr. LATIMER, Truro.

Married people above 40 years of age,
may have a *free passage* if they have one
child 14 years of age and upwards, for every
year that the parents exceed 40,---that is, a
father 42 years of age, or about, will be ac-
ceptable if he has 2 children above 14.

(c. 1840)

This is a story of 19th century emigration from Cornwall, when thousands of wives were 'left behind' by men departing to seek work overseas. Known as 'married widows', these women managed families and homes, and were unsung heroines, especially in the mining communities. The men usually intended to return home with a better financial position, or send for their wives and children later, but sometimes the separations became permanent.

Dr Lesley Trotter is a historian and genealogist who has conducted extensive research into how wives and families survived this separation in the 19th century and tells their stories.