



# Cobram Genealogical Group

Cobram  
Genealogical  
Group Newsletter  
Issue No. 19  
July 2001

## Presidents Report for May AGM 2001

Our group has continued to grow and change over the last 12 months, with new members joining our group and a changeover of executive in the last year, with our long standing President Jan Parker, Secretary Debbie Wright and Treasurer Shirley Frappell retiring last year. They have done a wonderful job over the years and we really appreciate their work and efforts.

This year has again been a busy year with more trips to Melbourne visiting the Public Records Office, State Library and GSV. I'm sure everyone has gathered some valuable research from these trips and had some fun as well. We have also continued with our fund raising ventures, while putting on hold our Trivia night last year, the Little Tatts, and our Footy Tipping competition were both great fund raisers last year and hopefully will continue to this year. Thanks to Roy & Shirley Bowles, Rick Gardiner and Gloria for organising these activities. Our Trivia night this year was quite a success and hopefully we can find some new blood to take on the running of it next year.

We have managed to purchase quite a few more CD's over the last year that has been of great benefit to our members. They are the South Australian Births 1842-1906, South Australian Deaths 1842-1915, Immigration to Victoria 1852-1879, Victorian Inquest Index, and the Queensland Pioneer Index, LDS American and European Vital Records. So all our fund raising has made it possible to provide our members with many more resources that are much easier to access and we hope that everyone utilizes these resources. With our new Wish List book it is hoped that we can get many more resources that our members are after, such as the recent Sydney burials index book for Shirley Frappell.

The first of our GMAGS events happened late last year, which was a great success both financially and genealogically. Thanks to all who spent some time at Mulwala helping out and let's hope we can get a few more to help at this years one.

We also now have a website and have been able to put our resources, surname list and projects we are working on. Hopefully I will have time to maintain it over the year. Please visit it if you have a chance and sign our guest book. We have been working on many projects over the last few years and it is great to get many of our local cemeteries such as Numurkah, Wunghnu, and in the near future Tocumwal indexed onto the computer. Our book from Ottrey Lodge is well on its way and Roy is working towards getting the Italian families in the area with his book.

I would like to thank Barb, Rick and Gloria for their support over the last 12 months as well as many of our other members who have worked hard to keep this group the success it is.

## NEW RESOURCES IN OUR LIBRARY

- **Index to Convicts who arrived in NSW, 1788-1842 and an index to the ships that transported them. (CD)**
- **William Smith O'Brien Petition. (CD)**
- **National Burial Index for England (CD)**

## COMING SOON

- **Melbourne General Cemetery Headstone Inscriptions (CD)**



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## GEORGE LANG CURRIE

Puckawidgee Station, Conargo, NSW

1848-1908

George Lang Currie was a farmer from Selkirkshire in Scotland and came out to Australia in 1848 to seek a new life. After a variety of occupations living at Larra, Lismore, and Mindie Station between Geelong and Darlington, he bought shares with a Mr Shaw and Mackinnon in Puckawidgee Station in 1879. He lived there until he died in 1908—nearly 30 years. His daughter Louise, married a JP in Melbourne called John McDonald, and she and her son John moved to London in 1910 after her husband died.

Harriett Glascott, whose grave is near the homestead at Puckawidgee, was George's mother-in-law. Harriett used to live in a house in England once occupied by Henry VIII second wife Ann Boleyn. Her parents were William Morley and Ann Mather. Her grandmother was a member of the court of Queen Anne of England. Her daughter also Harriett, married George Currie at Port Fairy on the Victorian coast near Portland in 1856. George's middle name Lang was his mothers maiden name.

The Langs as far as records tell us were descended from Bavarian Gypsies. They were a well to do family in Selkirk, Scotland and featured as characters in Walter Scott's novels. One the "Flower of Yarrow", another "Muckle Mouthed Meg", one of the four daughters whom the parents couldn't get married. One day her father Sir Bidean Murray, arrested a young man for cattle stealing and locked him up in his tower at Elibank Castle, intending to hang him in the morning. His wife pleaded for him to be spared—with four unmarried daughters, she wasn't going to let the young man go. So he was given the choice; to be hanged or to marry Meg. He chose the latter. The name Currie comes from Curror, one of whom was the Pursebearer to Richard the Lionheart.

George Currie died in 1908. His daughter Louise erected a memorial stone to her father back in Selkirk Old Churchyard, close to where he was born. It reads:

In loving memory of George Currie  
Born at Howford, 1st January 1823  
Died 10th April 1908  
Interred at Deniliquin NSW  
Near his Puckawidgee Estate  
A small tribute from his daughter Louise

So he is buried in Deniliquin, but the name Puckawidgee is inscribed in stone in the little graveyard in Scotland. His obituary was printed in *The Independent*, Deniliquin April 17th 1908.

### Death of a Pioneer

We regret to record the death of Mr George Currie, of Puckawidgee, which took place at nine o'clock on Friday morning last. Deceased was born in Selkirkshire, and came to Melbourne in 1848, and for the next three years resided with his brother J L Currie at Larra. On the discovery of gold in 1852 he went to Forest Creek diggings and subsequently resumed pastoral pursuits as owner of Mindie Station on the Woody Yallock Creek, which he sold in 1862, and in conjunction with Messers Scott and De Frayer, bought the Korrong Station on the Murray, and Karimba on the Goulburn. In 1879 with the late John Mackinnon he bought Puckawidgee from the late Robert Patterson, and continued to reside there until the time of his death. Deceased was a man of high principle and integrity, greatly respected by all who knew him, and although he never took an active part in public life, was well known in pastoral circles as an enthusiastic breeder of high class fine wool Merinos. He was in his 86th year and leaves a widow and grown family of three sons and three daughters.

Puckawidgee Station is now owned by Grace Cavanagh.

©By Shirley Frappell

## Are You Addicted to Genealogy??

When you are in a different city do you look through the phone book to find people that have the same surname as an ancestor?

Do you get excited when you drive by a cemetery?

Do you talk about your deceased ancestors as though they were still alive?

Do you check the obituaries every day?

Does your librarian or the person that works at the archives know your whole life story?

Does your spouse call the library to see when you are coming home?

Do you spend your vacation tracking down ancestors in county courthouses?

Do you keep pictures of tombstones or long deceased ancestors in your wallet?

Can you remember the date an ancestor died but can't remember to feed your pets?

If you said yes to one or more of these - you are addicted!!



## The Theory of Relativity

Many many years ago when I was twenty three,  
I got married to a widow who was pretty as could be.  
This widow had a grown-up daughter  
Who had hair of red.  
My father fell in love with her,  
And soon the two were wed.  
This made my dad my son-in-law  
And changed my very life.  
My daughter was my mother,  
For she was my father's wife.  
To complicate the matters worse,  
Although it brought me joy,  
I soon became the father  
Of a bouncing baby boy.  
My little baby then became  
A brother-in-law to dad.  
And so became my uncle,  
Though it made me very sad.  
For if he was my uncle,  
Then that also made him brother  
To the widow's grown-up daughter  
Who, of course, was my step-mother.  
Father's wife then had a son,  
Who kept them on the run.  
And he became my grandson,  
For he was my daughter's son.  
My wife is now my mother's mother  
And it makes me blue.  
Because, although she is my wife,  
She's my grandma too.  
If my wife is my grandmother,  
Then I am her grandchild.  
And every time I think of it,  
It simply drives me wild.  
For now I have become  
The strangest case you ever saw.  
As the husband of my grandmother,  
I am my own grandpa.



## Happy 150th Birthday Victoria

On July 1st, 1851 the Port Phillip District officially separated from New South Wales to become the colony of Victoria. A reward of £200 was offered to anyone finding gold in Victoria.

On the 7 July James Esmond's discovery of gold at Clunes was announced. Within two months of independence Victoria was producing more gold than anywhere else in the world.



## **WANTED**

Information leading to the discovery of one missing ancestor.

- 1853:** Was named as a local correspondent for the "*Herald*" in Bendigo, Victoria.
- 1861:** VICTORIA POLICE GAZETTE **June 27, 1861**—Stolen from a box belonging to Edmund Harrison .....
- 1863:** VICTORIA POLICE GAZETTE **August 6, 1863**—A Warrant of commitment, in default of distress, has been issued at Ballarat West ..... He was formerly editor of the Tribune, Ballarat.
- The Ballarat Tribune was established in 1861, the office was in Main Road, Ballarat. The Printer and Publisher was Henry John Turner for the Proprietor Edmund Harrison of Bridge Street, Ballarat.
- 1865:** Listed in the Bendigo Directory and in local Rate Records as being a Resident of Mackenzie Street, Bendigo, occupation Journalist.
- 1866:** Rate records list his residence at The Brown House, Vine Street, Bendigo.  
He is supposed to have married Ellen Lonergan in Bendigo about this time.
- 1867:** Their first child Louis Harrison is born at Sandhurst.
- 1870:** Shared the Editorial responsibility of "*The Bendigo Advertiser*" with J.B. Thompson in these years.
- 1871:** Jessie Harrison is born in Fitzroy, to Edmund and Ellen.
- 1873:** Edmund Harrison (Jnr) is born in Fitzroy.
- 1874:** Edmund Harrison listed in Sands and McDougall Directory at 80 Gore St, Fitzroy
- 1875:** Minna Gertrude Harrison is born in Fitzroy. Edmund Harrison in Directory at 99 Gore St, Fitzroy.
- 1877:** Ellen May Harrison born in Fitzroy.

After this the trail runs dry as to his whereabouts. The family still stayed in the Fitzroy area, but as to him no one seems to know, or will say.

REWARD for anyone supplying information that will lead to the resting place and/or birth place of this gentleman.

Contact: Nicole Close, P O Box 192, Finley NSW 2713. Ph (03)58831985  
Fax (03) 58832634, email closeup@cnl.com.au

Goulburn & Murray Association of Local and  
Family History Groups

**Date: 4th November 2001**

**Time: 10.00am – 4.00pm**

**Venue:**

**Mulwala & District Services Club**

**Melbourne St**

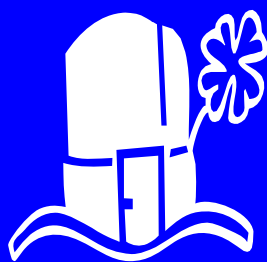
**Mulwala NSW 2647**

**Contact Persons:**

Jan Parker 03 5744 1460

Mary-Anne Hatters 03 5768 2219

**GMAG's**



**Come along and enjoy the  
2nd Annual Family & Local  
History Expo;**

- \* Listen to our Information sessions.**
- \* Talk with the many consultants who are on hand for the day.**
- \* Browse the many books available for sale on the day.**

**Guest Speakers:**

10.30 – 11.15 : Irene Fullarton

I'm in Ireland, What Next?

11.30 – 12.15 : Elizabeth Schirmer

I've got all these records. How Do I Keep Them?

1.30 – 2.30 : Ken McInnes

Which Family History Program Do I Buy?

2.45 – 3.30 : Deidre Hawkins

Writing your Family History.

Come along to Yarrawonga/Mulwala and participate in our Expo, while in town enjoy the Irish Music & Comedy Festival happening over the week-end.

# FAMILY & LOCAL HISTORY EXPO

Fuel Raffle  
\$200

Drawn at  
3.00 pm

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Mary-Anne Hatters  
Phone 03 5768 2219  
Email: kirkhatters@bigpond.com.au

  
**Entry \$5.00**

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Jan Parker  
Phone: 03 5744 1460  
Fax: 03 5744 1460  
Email: jparker@cni.com.au

# Genea-Jogies Winners 2000

## Categories

- Federation Day Award:** Direct ancestor Born, Died or Married in Australia closest to 01.01.1901  
**Gloria Primmer** won with the death of Mary Ann Scrivens nee Rothery, 1826-1900, arrived in Australia 1849 per "*Harry Lorrequer*", and died in Shepparton, 11 October 1900, just 2 months and 3 weeks before Federation on 1 January, 1901.
- Federation Fellow:** Most interesting profile of a direct ancestor in Australia 01/01/1901.  
**Wayne Primmer** was the winner for Andrew Cowan Kell 1820-1901, an early colonist who saw the ship "*Mahogany*", lived through Federation and died 30 March, 1901.
- Box Brownie:** Best Collection of Family photos.  
**Shirley Frappell** for a 77 page computerised photograph family tree album of the Unger family 1654-2000, featuring Australian descendents of Wilhelm Christians c1832-1897 and Augusta Caroline Seifert 1830-1894.
- Magna Carta:** Most interesting document referring to an Ancestor.  
**Wayne Primmer** for the diary of Fred Low 1863-1932, grandson of Alfred Howard 1817-1892 and Elizabeth Cockerel 1821-1899 which gives details of the daily lives of many family members dated 1888-1932.
- Newshound:** Newspaper item which mentions an Ancestor.  
**Neville Coleman** for reports on the inquest and trial involving Joanna Osborne c1865-1933, who was found not guilty of murder, despite her illegitimate son by the local solicitor, being found in a box under the bed with the umbilical cord around his neck—"*Euroa Ensign & North Eastern Advertiser*", 4th May 1855 & 8 October 1885.
- Heirloom:** Most interesting item owned by an Ancestor.  
**Ian Summers** for a trio of books belonging to Margaret Mary Summers nee Stace-Smith 1862-1927, *National Nursery Rhymes*, 20 January 1880, *Floral Birthday Book*, 31 July, 1881, *Accounts Book*, 1 August 1884.
- Lone Traveler Award:** Most Ancestors who arrived alone.  
**Wayne Primmer** for 8 ancestors - David Jones, "*Surrey*", 1814, James Lambert "*Asia*", 1827, Quinton Dick and Agness Edgar, "*David Clark*", 1839, John Carmody & Margaret McArthur, "*Cheapside*", 1848, Alexander Duncan, "*Euphrates*", 1856 and Thomas Liverton, "*Star of Peace*", 1857.
- Age Difference Award:** Greatest difference between Ancestral partners.  
**Shirley Bowles** for 21 years between John Hargreaves 1818-1897 born 16 April, 1818 and his wife Mary Levena Hallett 1839-1904 born 6 March, 1839, who were married on 13 November, 1854.
- Alike Age Award:** **Wayne Primmer** for 28 days between David Duncan 1871-1945 born 30 September 1871, and his wife Amelia Burcombe 1871-1935 born 28 October 1871, who were married on 19 December, 1892.



## *Will the Real Viking Please Stand Up by Paul Pearce*

Well I'm a romantic and a dreamer and what I am about to do usually gets tut tut's from many genealogists. All I can say is "Where is your soul, your sense of fun and adventure?" In no way do I believe we have any real foundation for the speculation I will indulge in shortly, but what a great story it would make and you never know, you never can tell!

The Pearce family had a legend that we all knew and thought about. All we knew is one of our ancestors was a Shudall, which we pronounced Sh'dell with a very French emphasis. Not just a Sh'dell but the Count d Sh'dell, a nobleman who fled the French revolution and settled in Wales or Cornwall. There in order to blend in he changed his name to a more local one, Pearce. I do not know about my cousins but I dreamed that like the character in *Kind Hearts and Coronets* that I would be a Count if I was to dispose of a number of male relatives standing in my way. That meant Uncle Reuben and his son Brian had to go, then Uncle Clem and his son Redmond (interesting name), but my dad was next and he was a good bloke, but then all my uncles and cousins were good, so alas I was thwarted in my quest for nobility. We really believed that Uncle Reuben, the eldest male of the family, had papers and a ring all attesting to his noble rank. Well then one day one of us started doing family history and we found Charlotte Shudall, daughter of Loftus Shudall and Ann Redmond of Coolishal Co Wexford, who married Samuel Pearce in Melbourne in 1864 and sadly the whole legend was blown apart. We also found that the name was pronounced as Shoodle – this was courtesy of a Mrs Stafford who ran a B&B in Wexford at Targoat. (Interestingly I now see way back in the 1800's a Shudall married a Stafford). So no truth in the whole thing, except I wanted to know how it began. Unfortunately my aunts and uncles were mostly all gone, but two remained, one was the youngest the other a bit older, in her eighties and a good candidate to get information from. Aunt Florence though a good age was bright and alert and fit. She provided some very useful and challenging information about her grandmother, whom she had never known. The information came via her own mother and she emphasised how she vividly recalled mamma telling her. She did give me one piece of difficult information "You know he (Loftus) only married the Irish lass when his son was grown." This was a bolt, because if true it indicated that Loftus Shudall had been married before, had a son (at least) and was probably a lot older than Ann Redmond. There was evidence to support this as we found out, it also confounds things. But it was the inference that he perhaps was not Irish that caught my ear. "He only married the Irish lass", was he not Irish too? Aunt Florence was adamant of a French connection and some connection with nobility as told to her by her mother, Charlotte's daughter in law. Oh yes throw in the bit about Welsh blood and some obscure reference my uncle Clem made about there being some Danish blood in the family, what a mongrel lot we are.

Ok we can eliminate the Welsh bit via the Pearces can't we? No. Try as I may the best I can do is William Pearce who was in the South Gloucestershire Militia in 1803 or so. But he was in Brighton and seems to have joined the Militia whilst it was on duty in Sussex. He seems to be a Sussex man and we have no indication of any Welsh connection. The Clarkes (my grandmothers people) came from Bristol and her other side, the Johnstons came from Ireland. That leaves the Shudalls, they are from Wexford and no amount of legerdemain can produce a French connection. As far as we can tell Loftus seems to be the great grand son or g g grandson of a Dublin tailor, Charles Shudall. Shudall itself would appear to originate in England and possibly Yorkshire and South Dale or Sud Hill, Eeh by goom!

So unless we assume the ideas of title and land and wealth stem from the apparent fact that the Shudalls did appear to have substantial property in Wexford and a very remote possibility of a connection to the Loftus family by marriage or by illegitimate birth (both not proven nor likely to be) we have no legend at all. Or do we?

What we have is Charlotte telling her daughter in law about her family background "We were titled, we had land and wealth which we lost in the revolution. We left France and went to Wales and we also had some Danish blood in us. Oh yes we changed our name to a more English name." The assumption was that she was on about the Shudalls, but what if it were not them but the Redmonds? Is there any basis for such a tale? Well yes there is and initially it is very plausible, but it does get into the realms of fantasy, but all in all good fun and a great legend to have in the family, King Arthur eat your heart out.

The Redmonds are really two families in Wexford. One is Gaelic in origin from north east Wexford and a lesser group from south of Wexford Town in the Baronies of Forth and Bargo (this includes Coolishall) The latter group have Cambro-Norman origins and came from south Wales with the Norman invasion of 1169-71 (Cambro-Norman invasion sometimes called Anglo-Norman). These people were mainly a Celtic-Norman mix. Dermot McMurogh a local chieftain or "king" crossed the Irish Sea to seek aid in dealing with troublesome neighbours. He gained the aid of the Cambro-Norman leader, Le Clare or Strongbow as he was known. Amongst his army of invaders was Raymond le Gras who served Strongbow well and in fact was wise enough to marry Strongbow's sister Basilea. They had a son Hamon or FitzRaymond (son of Raymond). It was FitzRaymond's son Sir Alexander who took the more anglicised name Redmond and he settled on the Hook and descendants Robert and Walter built Redmond's Hall.

Thus we have some Welshmen with probably "French" Norman background taking land and gaining a title. They change their name to a more English form and settle in on the Hook. All went well until Cromwell came along. Without going into the detail of Cromwell's rape of Ireland it is suffice to say that the Redmonds did not back the winner. Their shield shows a castellated building and woolsacks. This represents Alexanders defence of his "castle" against Cromwell where he used woolsacks for protection. On Cromwell's victory the Redmonds lost land and title and the area eventually passed over to the Loftus family and now there is a Loftus Hall. So we now have revolution and loss of land and title.

Thus we have all the ingredients of the Pearce legend contained within the Redmond saga. Not quite as we had originally imagined, but there nonetheless. I also wonder if my strong desire to call the son I hoped to have Alexander was some sort of atavistic memory!

Ok but the Danish bit what about that. Now we get really clever. You see the Normans lived in Normandy but the name



Norman is a corruption of Norseman. Yep you are correct, they were originally Vikings who conquered the area and settled. As with Viking settlements of conquest in most places, they became naturalised and blended in with the locals. Many of the Vikings were from Denmark and hence the Danish connection. Ok I have the serious genealogists and historians apoplectic by now and I do apologise for my bit of romantic meandering. For a start only certain lines can claim any connection with Viking chieftains of Normandy. Because of the Viking naming system where surname naming was not standardised till about the 13<sup>th</sup> century in England and France and later in Scandinavia, it makes establishing such a connection almost impossible. Equally the fact that the invaders were Cambro Norman is also no guarantee they were really descended from those men who landed at Hastings in 1066. But we have a legend for the family and if the original that I helped destroy was fanciful and romantic, I have atoned by replacing it with one of Arthurian scale. Perhaps one day I will get my DNA checked against some mummified Danish Viking found in a bog and it will match. Stranger things have happened. So there we have it and if it is all bunkum why do I have a fondness for axes and horned hats? If I have achieved nothing other than to make you go read the history I will have been successful, you will find it fascinating and worth the effort.

Clanna Reamainn Tighe Solais – The Redmond Family of the Lighthouse.

1. Mick Merrigan –Dun Laoghaire Historical Society.
2. From John A Redmond.



### **A POEM from the newsgroup: soc.genealogy.australia+nz**

"In the quiet of evening ,  
As the sun is sinking to rest,  
I stand in this little old graveyard, with kind thoughts and goodly,  
Lest,  
Those of my unseen ancestors,  
Who lie in this hallowed spot,  
Should think that their children's children,  
Have forgotten them-they have not.  
Drawn to these very tombstones,  
To quietly tarry anon,  
And honour my silent forefathers,  
For the fight that they fought and won."

Jack Higgins.





<http://www.angelfire.com/co3/cobramgenie>

We are on  
the Web

**President:** Nicole Close Ph 03 5883 1985 Fax 03 5883 2634 [closeup@cnl.com.au](mailto:closeup@cnl.com.au)

**Vice President:** Gloria Primmer

**Secretary:** Barbara Coleman Ph 03 5874 5548

**Research Officer:** Shirley Bowles

**Treasurer:** Rick Gardiner

Cobram Genealogical Group meets 2nd Wednesday of the month, February to November at the Old School House, Punt Road, Cobram at 8pm.

Research room is open every Thursday 1pm to 3pm or by appointment.

#### **Membership Fees**

Joining Fee \$10.00

Ordinary Member Fee \$25.00

Non-member research at rooms \$5.00

Research \$5.00 per hour, Send ssae to above postal address

## 2001 Genea-Logies

**To be held at the Cobram Special School, Wednesday 12th December, 2001 at 8.00pm.**

1. **Gigantic Generation Gap Award**—Greatest number of years between 4 generations in an ancestral line.
2. **Genetic Minute Margin Award**—The least number of years between 4 generations in an ancestral line.
3. **Veritable Victorian Award**—For the most interesting profile of an ancestor who was living in Victoria on the day of separation from NSW on the 1st July, 1851.
4. **Box Brownie Award**—For the best display of family photos.
5. **Fertile Years Award**—For the most number of years between the births of the first and last child of a female ancestor.
6. **Newshound Award**—For the most interesting newspaper article which mentions a direct ancestor, name and date of paper should be included.
7. **Celebrity Signatory Award**—For the signature of the most famous person on a document relating to an ancestor.
8. **Victoria Day Award**—For the birth, marriage or death of an ancestor in Victoria closest to the 1st July, 1851.
9. **Heirloom Award**—For the most interesting item owned by an ancestor.
10. **Magna Carta**—For the most interesting certificate or document relating to an ancestor.

### **“The Classifieds”**

Anyone is welcome to advertise in this section, just contact President (from above).

**‘The Grand Gathering of Goninans’** - to be held at the Penvention Hotel, Redruth, Cornwall on 7th, 8th and 9th June, 2002.

“Although the Grand Gathering as planned will be biased towards the descendants of Richard and Mary Ann Goninan, we hope that members of the wider family will also attend. There are four main branches to the family tree—the family of Richard and Mary Ann (sometimes referred to as the Gwithian branch and with descendants in the US and Australia); the family of William and Elizabeth Goninan of St Just (with some descendants in Australia); the family of Richard and Ann Goninan of Perranuthnoe (descendants in Australia) and the family of Edward and Honour Goninan of Heston (no living descendants of this family have yet been traced).”

Our latest estimate is about 45 going from Australia, 35 from America and 20 from the UK.

For further information regarding itinerary and accommodation contact Shirley Frappell, 9 Kenny Rd, Yarroweyah, Victoria, 3644 ph (03) 58732463.

You can also contact the organiser John Saunders, 45 Lanmoor Estate, Lanner, Redruth, Cornwall, TR16 6HN or at [saunders@lanner.fsnet.co.uk](mailto:saunders@lanner.fsnet.co.uk)