

How to join the Society

To become a member of The John Harris Society please complete the following details:

Title.....

Name.....

Address.....

Post Code.....

Telephone.....

E-mail.....

Date.....

(• The John Harris Society will not divulge your personal information to any third party.)

For further information please contact the Secretary:
Mr Tony Langford
Tel: 01209 215918
Email: tony46langford@gmail.com

HOW TO PAY

Scan and send or post this completed form to:

The John Harris Society
Mr Paul Langford
Treasurer
Durlston, Pennance Lane,
Lanner, Redruth
TR16 5TL

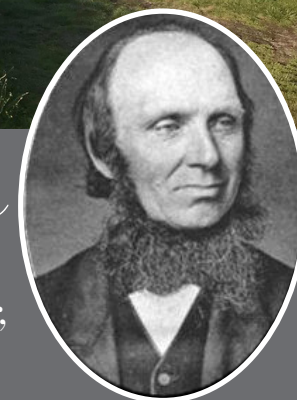
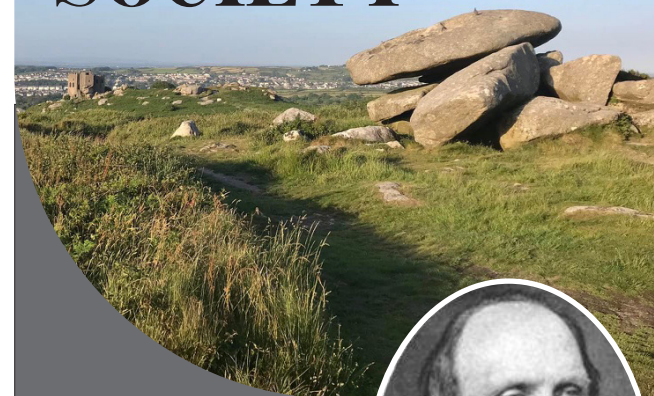
and enclose your cheque, unless paying by PayPal or BACS. If paying by PayPal please add 6% to cover charges

BANK DETAILS
The John Harris Society
Lloyds Bank
Sort code 30-97-00 A/c no: 00480676

Cheques payable to:
The John Harris Society
or via PayPal to:
pandglangford@gmail.com

Annual subscription:
£15.00 GBP

THE JOHN HARRIS SOCIETY



John Harris
(1820-1884)

The Cornish Miner,
Poet and Preacher

EMAIL:
jhsociety1820@gmail.com

WEBSITE:
www.johnharrissociety.org.uk

FACEBOOK:
www.facebook.com/johnharrissociety

MEMBERSHIP FORM

About the miner, poet and preacher

John Harris was a miner, poet and Methodist lay preacher. Between 1853 and his death in 1884, he had 16 volumes of poems and an autobiography published.

During his lifetime, he only once left Cornwall, to visit Stratford-upon-Avon after he had won the Shakespeare Tercentenary Prize in 1864, having competed successfully against upwards of 100 entries.

John Harris was born in Bolenowe in the parish of Camborne. He started work as a ploughboy at the tender age of nine, and on his tenth birthday he began work on surface at Dolcoath mine. Three years later he was working underground with his father. He continued working underground for the next 24 years. This experience inspired many of his finest poems. Harris was largely self taught, having received only a rudimentary education over a three-year period. While working at Dolcoath, he read

Shakespeare, Milton and Byron. He was encouraged by the first Vicar of Treslothan, the Rev George Bull, and was helped by Dr George Smith of Trevu, Camborne, to have his first poems published to many of his well-connected patrons.

He married in 1845 and settled in Troon for 12 years. He moved to Falmouth in 1857, working there as a Scripture Reader and 'Town Missionary' for the Scripture Readers' Society. After the toils and tribulations of Dolcoath, his later poetry reflected the cosmopolitan society of Falmouth. He became strongly influenced by the Quakers.

He died in 1884 and was buried in Treslothan Churchyard, Troon, with his beloved daughter Lucretia, who had died aged six years.

On his gravestone can be read the epitaph: *Blessed are the peacemakers: For they shall be called the children of God.*

John Harris was a truly remarkable man.



The Society's activities

The John Harris Society is dedicated to promoting the life and works of this unique Cornish Miner Poet.

A *John Harris Birthday Event* is held annually in October, a *summer's evening walk* is arranged in June, at which his poems can be read, and the *annual general meeting*, with guest speaker, is held in February/March.

The Society also aims to publish a newsletter, entitled **BARDH** (Cornish for Poet), twice a year, with articles of interest regarding Cornwall, related subjects and poems.

Mystic Melody

*There is a melody that floats to me
When eve is on the moor,
And the wind stealeth through the leafy tree
Beside the river's shore.*

*Like water's ebbing, down the cadence glides
The broad way of the moon,
Over the wide flat where the heron hides,
And night-birds sob their tune.*

*I strive to give it utterance in my lay,
But cannot catch the strain,
Which like a sceptred monarch stalks away,
And it is all in vain.*

From: **John Harris' Linto and Laneer (1881)**

