

**CORNWALL ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY
2013-14
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
HELD AT TRURO BAPTIST CHURCH
ON SATURDAY 12TH APRIL 2014 AT 1.30 PM**

To be approved by the AGM in 2015

37 members attended the meeting. The list of members attending is on file.

1. Welcome

The President, Val Maxfield, welcomed those present and reminded them that only members of CAS were entitled to vote.

2. Apologies

These had been received from Henrietta Quinnell, Jenny Beale, Pete Crispin, Hazel and Brian Williams, Andy Jones, Val Littleton, Les Dodd, Richard Heard, Sheila and Brian Hammond.

3. Minutes of the 2013 Annual General Meeting held on Saturday 13th April 2013

These were approved unanimously as an accurate record of proceedings, having first been proposed by Ryan Smith and seconded by Anna Tyacke.

4. Matters arising from the minutes of the 2013 Annual General Meeting

Item 7 (a) Election of Officers

Val Maxfield explained that prior to last year's meeting Peter Herring had stood down as Editor but there hadn't been enough time to seek a successor. At the first editorial meeting following the AGM Peter Rose had agreed to be Joint Editor with Graeme Kirkham. Peter Rose was already a Trustee and has kept the Committee regularly informed on progress with the journals, while Graeme carried out the technical job of editing. She expressed pleasure that the Society was able to have two such skilled editors of *Cornish Archaeology*.

Item 7 (b) Committee members

The post of Lectures organiser remained unfilled at the 2013 AGM although it was reported that Jenny Moore had expressed interest. Val Maxfield informed members that immediately after the meeting Jenny Moore had agreed to take on the post and had carried it out with distinction.

5. President's Report

Val Maxfield explained that the President's report would incorporate the reports of all the Trustees, except that of the Treasurer, which would be presented separately, and would give a review of the committee's work during the previous year. It aimed to reflect on how, during the period since the last report was given in 2013, the Society had carried out the objectives stipulated in its constitution: namely, undertaking and fostering archaeological research in Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly, and disseminating knowledge of Cornish archaeology. This had been done through the provision of activities and information for members, at the same time as extending our role of care over the County's archaeological heritage, as well as reaching out to like-minded bodies and the wider public. In 2013 she had been pleased to report the award of the RAI Anniversary Prize to the society. That prize was now on display in the Neolithic cabinet in the Royal Cornwall Museum but had been brought to the meeting for members to see.

She was sad to report the loss of Mick Aston, one of our most well-known members. Mick had been a respected academic archaeologist, whose light touch (and his stripey jumpers), had attracted a considerable popular following which had also helped to boost recruitment to undergraduate courses.

Following his retirement, he had decided to move to Cornwall and it had been hoped that he would have been able to play a more active role in Cornish archaeology. Sadly, he had died suddenly in June 2013. CAS had been named as a beneficiary in his will, although no details had yet been received. The committee would, in due course, report on the appropriate use to which this money would be put. [Carl Thorpe informed members that he had spoken recently to Mick Aston's partner, Teresa Hall, who had sent her best wishes to the Society.]

The committee had met 6 times in the past year, the editorial subcommittee once, the excavations sub-committee twice, and the Roman Cornwall sub-committee four times. In addition a Strategy working group had been set up and had met once.

On March 23rd Jenny Beale had reported that the Society had: 8 Institutional members, which was the same as before; 438 individual or joint members, 68 of whom had not renewed their subscriptions, although letters reminding them had been sent, so some renewals may have occurred before the AGM. There had been 457 members in 2013, 19 more than at present, although 27 new members had been recruited over the preceding year. The committee had worked hard to maintain and boost membership by providing attractive activities and a range of volunteering opportunities; this was one of the main areas that the Strategy working party was focusing on.

The editorial team this year comprised Peter Rose and Graeme Kirkham. Peter was a member of the Committee; Graeme was not on the committee but continued to perform the actual technical editing role. *Cornish Archaeology* volume 51, for 2012, edited by Graeme Kirkham, had been published in January 2014. Half the cost of this journal had been covered by grants. Work on the preparation of volume 52, for 2013, was now well advanced. There was still a large backlog of articles in the queue for publication and, to help address this, the committee had agreed that, for at least one year, *Cornish Archaeology* would be published in two parts. Back numbers of the journal had been scanned and placed on the society's website. Thanks to the efforts of John Bennett, Adrian Rodda and Ryan Smith, volumes 1 to 38, i.e. all the volumes up to 1999, were now available online, with more to follow. There would be a rolling programme of additions to the list, the committee accepting the Editorial committee's recommendation that there should be an embargo on the 5 latest volumes. The Society had started to receive, via the Publishers' Licensing Society, the money due to it from the borrowing of *Cornish Archaeology* from public libraries. We had received the very welcome sum of £2,466.68, but since that included a significant 'backlog' element it would be unrealistic to hope for this every year. And indeed, the more people who accessed us via our electronic journal, the fewer the borrowings.

The Society's second regular publication was the Newsletter, a very popular aspect of the Society's work, which kept us up-to date on a wide range of news, reviews and write-ups of Society activities, as well as listing forthcoming events. Our Newsletter Editor, Adrian Rodda, had produced three newsletters since the last AGM: they had been distributed in June and October 2013 and in February 2014. More members had elected to take their copies via email to enjoy the photographs in full colour. Since it still cost more to post a newsletter than to print it, more people opting for the digital version would save the Society money. She urged more people to opt to receive the newsletter in this form. As well as reporting on CAS field visits and talks, it had been possible to describe the community excavations within the county. Members had contributed articles about their own discoveries and areas of especial interest, such as the purpose of quoits or about astronomical alignments of prehistoric sites. The newsletter was essentially for amateur members and patiently and cogently explained articles about theories, practices and ideas were very welcome. The articles about local museums and their star exhibits should help members to plan visits. Adrian Rodda was very grateful to those professional archaeologists, especially Jacky Nowakowski, James Gossip and Andy Jones, who sent him news items, answered queries and corrected inaccuracies so gracefully and quickly. Members were very generous with their photographs and summaries of lectures and walks. However, he would welcome more volunteer reporters. The main purpose of the newsletter was to advertise the planned events and the inclusion of a separate flyer listing lectures and field trips in the October issue had proved popular. Up-to-date news and announcements were always

available on the CAS website and the two organs complemented each other. Any suggestions about content for the newsletter would be welcomed by the Editor. The request made by Adrian last year, for members to describe their favourite monument or museum artefact, and the reason why they had chosen it, still stood. Val was sure that members would concur with her view that Adrian did a first class job with the newsletter, besides deserving thanks for the many other things that he did, such as distributing journals, selling publications at lectures and generally being on hand to help when needed.

Since succeeding Imogen Morris as Lectures officer just after the 2013 AGM, Jenny Moore had done a superb job, especially so since she was new to the committee. She had put together an excellent, varied programme of 11 evening lectures - 7 in Truro, 4 in Liskeard, plus, of course, the one to follow the AGM - and had achieved a nice balance between local and visiting speakers. We had heard about two Roman military sites, one in Devon and one in Cornwall, as well as considering the controversial area of wind farms and archaeology. A look at Ham Hill and the hillforts of western Britain with Professor Niall Sharples had been timely in view of the Society's anticipated involvement in the HE Services' Hillforts Project. An unusual and delightful contribution had been the talk on the work of Alan Sorrell, a pioneer in the field of archaeological reconstruction drawing. The Corfield Nankivel Memorial Lecture had been given by Professor Tim Darvill, who had spoken about Stonehenge. Area Representatives' evenings were held at both Truro and Liskeard, and a Members' Evening in Truro had given members the opportunity to hear about finds from the area.

In addition to the evening lectures, we had joined in with the Devon Archaeological Society in mounting the biennial Joint Symposium; this year it had been Devon's turn to host it, in Tavistock, on the topic 'Studying Stone: New Light on the Prehistoric and Roman Southwest'. The prime organiser of what was an exceptionally successful and enjoyable event had been our Past President (and DAS's Vice President), Henrietta Quinnell. For the coming year another 'Archaeology in Cornwall' day, was being planned, as previously, by Henrietta Quinnell and Andy Jones.

Publicity for all our events continued to be provided by our Publicity Officer, Christine Wilson. Her eye-catching posters advertised our lectures. She would be happy to hear from any member willing to display a poster. Christine had also applied, successfully, for CAS to have a stand at the 2014 Stithians Show in July, which would be a valuable place for us to advertise our wares!

Our 'electronic' platform, run by our webmaster, Ryan Smith, had kept us updated on all aspects of the Society's activities, hosting our e-journal and providing links to and material from like-minded bodies. It served as a tool for both members and 'visitors', who might be, hopefully, prospective members. We also now had a Facebook page; this had been set up by Ryan Smith and would be administered by Carl Thorpe.

One particularly valuable area of the website, which she urged members to look at, concerned the work of the Area Representatives. This continued strongly under the leadership of Peter Cornall as Convenor. Two meetings of the Area Representatives had been held during the year, in October 2013 and March 2014; the report of the former meeting and the Representatives' reports for the period March to October 2013 were on the website and the reports of the later meeting would follow shortly. The work of the Representatives again featured in the Winter Lectures programme at both Truro and Liskeard and had been well-received. The meeting held at Wheal Martyn in October 2013 had been attended by Richard Mikulski, the new Community Archaeologist (Community Archaeology Training Placement holder, funded by the Council for British Archaeology, based at Historic Environment). Since taking up his appointment, Richard had been in regular contact and played a vital role with the Listed Building Survey, an example of the sort of partnership between willing amateurs and the declining band of professionals that may prove to be an essential feature of a society which slashes public spending while expecting the historic environment to be looked after. Our Area Representatives continued to make a very significant contribution to Monument Watch, the monitoring of Scheduled Monuments across the County, for example: David Giddings had successfully applied for the scheduling of a site at Wheal Buller that had been threatened by

moorstone extraction; Val Jacob had brought to the attention of English Heritage potentially damaging work being undertaken at St Stephen's Beacon, an Iron Age hillfort (and possible Neolithic tor enclosure) near Foxhole following concerns initially raised by members of the public. This work constituted one of the most valuable contributions made by CAS to the archaeology of the county. She thanked Peter Cornall, Ann Preston-Jones and Emma Trevarthen on behalf of CAS for making the Area Representatives into an effective network engaged in looking after the county's monuments. The warmest thanks were extended to all our Representatives for their work. Coverage within the County varied because some had too many parishes, so assistance from members would be welcome and training and guidance would be provided. She encouraged members to volunteer!

Our Excursions Officer, Steve Hartgroves, had once again organised a very attractive and varied programme of monthly site visits, accommodating all tastes, prehistoric and historic. These included: Historic St Austell, with Val Jacobs; a miscellany of sites on the Lizard, led by James Gossip; well-known and lesser-known Bronze Age sites on Craddock Moor with Iain Rowe, which was the postponed New Year's Day walk in memory of Tony Blackman. In May, at a time when the bluebells are up, there would be a joint walk with our sister Society in Devon, visiting medieval settlements on Dartmoor in the company of the former Head of the Cultural Heritage Service for Dartmoor National Park. In early October, a visit further afield, to the new Stonehenge Visitor Centre, would take place.

In the previous summer, members had the opportunity to take part in a small excavation project run by Andy Jones of the HE Service at Hendraburnick, near Camelford, the site of a propped stone with cup marks. The work, though small-scale, was, in the words of its director, 'phenomenally successful'. Eight CAS members had taken part and it was agreed that the training that they had received was extremely worthwhile. Attention had been directed towards 2 axe-shaped stone and a third that was protruding from the ground. One of the stones appeared to have been propped and, once lichen had been cleared by Christine Wilson and Jane Marley, 65 cup marks, plus radial lines, could be seen, representing a highly significant example of rock art. The stone had been recorded in 1930 but its importance had not been realised until this investigation. Furthermore, the existence of samples of charcoal meant that there was the best chance so far of dating the cup marks and the only opportunity to do so nationally. Finds from the test pits included Early Neolithic flintwork and an Early Bronze Age faience bead.

The Roman group had met 4 times under the energetic chairmanship of Steve Hartgroves. The focus, in the first instance, would be on sites of possible Roman military origin, given the interest in the military dimension raised by the recent work at Restormel and Calstock, and on mining remains. A survey of existing literature had been made, and a short-list of likely fortlets had been drawn up and prioritised. Permission was being sought to carry out geophysical surveys as a first step towards refining our definition of the sites.

The Society had responded to an on-line CBA consultation on the role of local societies in the 21st century. The Committee considered also a paper by the late Mick Aston, concerning the future of the Somerset Society. As a result of this, a strategy working party had been established to give further consideration to the issues raised by the questionnaire, and to look at the way forward for CAS. This working party had, so far, met just once to start to outline areas of concern. A follow-up conference was being run by the CBA in York, at which CAS planned to be represented.

The Society worked closely with other heritage bodies. Among our Trustees were members of Cornwall HE Service, the RCM, from the Portable Antiquities Scheme who provide us with regular reports of their work. The groups with whom CAS had links included: the Historic Cornwall Advisory Group; World Heritage Society Cornish Mining Consultative Forum; Cornwall Ancient Sites Protection Network; Lizard Ancient Sites Network; and the Young Archaeologists Club.

Two of the projects which we had grant-aided in 2012/13 had come to fruition. Mark Borlase, who received support for a report on preserved grain from Middle Amble, had submitted his excavation report to us for publication in *Cornish Archaeology*. In the preceding week, *Early Cornish Sculpture*,

by Ann Preston-Jones and Elisabeth Okasha, Volume XI of the Nationwide Corpus of Anglo-Saxon Stone sponsored by the British Academy, had been launched in Truro at the Museum, in the presence of distinguished academicians, Dame Professor Rosemary Cramp and Sir David Wilson, as well as our own Professor Charles Thomas. Members will have received a form allowing them to purchase this substantial, and superbly produced, volume, for £51 instead of £85. In addition, a grant had been made to the Cornwall Listed Buildings at Risk project. During the course of 2013/14 other requests for support had been received. The Tamar Valley AONB HLF project had requested financial or 'in kind' support and the committee had agreed that training would be offered. An undertaking was made to The Sustainable Trust to waive fees for certain post-excavation work arising from excavation at Carwynnen Quoit and the page-fee for publication in *Cornish Archaeology*.

Work on tidying up our administrative procedures continued. Our Treasurer had initiated the production of a set of guidelines regarding expenses for speakers. The risk assessment forms and guidance for field excursions were near completion. The drawing up of the inventory of the Society's possessions continued slowly.

Val thanked her fellow Trustees for their hard work. Special thanks were given to Val Jacob, who had decided to stand down from the Committee after many years (she was Val Brokenshire when she is first mentioned in the journal in 1993). She had a considerable reputation as a local historian, including publications on St Blazey, Tregrehan, St Austell and on A.L. Rowse, for whom she had worked. She remained active within the Federation of Old Cornwall Societies and regularly gave talks, often supported by her husband Brian Jacob. Recently, she and Brian had been instrumental in setting up the St Austell Town Museum. Her archaeological interests were wide but she had a profound love of her the historic environment of her native county and she would continue to be our Area Representative for many parishes in Mid Cornwall. Earlier this year, she had led a large group of CAS members around some of the lesser known sites in St Austell. On behalf of CAS Val thanked her for making an enormous contribution to the betterment of Cornwall's Archaeology and to this Society's role in it and a book token to show our appreciation would be sent to her.

Book tokens were also presented to two unsung heroes, Iain Rowe and Anna Tyacke, without whom lectures would not take place. Both were responsible for bringing and setting up the equipment (and explaining it to the speakers) in Liskeard and Truro respectively.

Val thanked Roger Smith for his work as Secretary.

The meeting approved the President's report, which had been proposed by Carl Thorpe and seconded by Ryan Smith.

6. Treasurer's Report

Val Maxfield thanked Karen Cole for taking over the role of Treasurer and introduced her to the meeting. Karen drew the attention of those present to the copies of the Independent Examiner's report on the Society's Accounts for the year ending on 31st December 2013 and offered to answer any questions. Konstanze Rahn asked why there had been no income from Gift Aid. Karen explained that, following changes made in September 2013, there were difficulties in claiming Gift Aid, especially from PayPal payments, but she intended to investigate the matter further. All those present voted to accept the report, which had been proposed by Konstanze Rahn and seconded by Christine Wilson.

7. Election of Officers, 2014-2015

(a) President-Elect, 2014-2015:

On behalf of the Committee, the President proposed Nick Johnson as President-Elect for the year 2014-2015 after which, under the constitution, he would automatically become President from 2015 to 2018. Val recommended him as being 'very much one of our own', having devoted the bulk of his professional life to Cornish archaeology. He had started his work in Cornwall in 1975 with the

Cornwall Committee for Rescue Archaeology (later to become the Cornwall Archaeological Unit and then the Historic Environment Service), which was about the time she had first come to Exeter University. He had become County Archaeologist in 1988, retiring from Cornwall Council in 2010. Among his many contributions had been early support for Industrial Archaeology, leading to his major role in securing World Heritage Status for the Cornwall and West Devon Mining Landscape. In 2008 he had been awarded the MBE for services to archaeology in Cornwall. His work had been disseminated locally, nationally and internationally. His publications included: *Bodmin Moor: The Human Landscape to c.1800 volume 1: An Archaeological Survey* (English Heritage Archaeological Report); *Bodmin Moor: Industrial and Post-medieval Landscapes v. 2: An Archaeological Survey* (with Peter Herring, Adam Sharpe and John R. Smith, and Colom Giles); *Cornwall's Archaeological Heritage* (with Peter Rose). Val commended Nick to members most warmly. Having been proposed and seconded formally before the meeting, and no other nominations having been received, all members present gave their approval to his election as President-Elect.

Nick Johnson thanked Val and the members for the great honour which the appointment represented. He had joined the Society in 1975/6 and had served on the Committee until work commitments had become too demanding. However, he was able to claim the introduction of winter lectures and the Society's presence at the Royal Cornwall Show. He looked forward to becoming an amateur archaeologist again after a break of 35 years.

(b) Officers, 2014-2015

The following officers had been previously proposed and seconded and since no other nominations had been received they were duly elected:

- Treasurer-Karen Cole
- Membership Secretary-Jenny Beale
- Secretary-Roger Smith
- Editor-Peter Rose [Joint Editor with Graeme Kirkham who carries out the technical task of editing but does not serve as a Trustee]

(c) Committee members, 2014-2015

No other nominations had been received. The following had been duly proposed and seconded so were duly elected:

Leslie Dodd; David Giddings; Steve Hartgroves Andy Jones; Jane Marley; Jenny Moore; Peter Nicholas; Konstanze Rahn; Adrian Rodda; Ryan Smith; Anna Tyacke; Christine Wilson.

8. Any Other Business

David Wheeler had noticed that winter lectures had not been well-attended by younger people and wondered if they had been deterred by the £5 charge for non-members. He asked if it worthwhile dropping the charge for students. The President thanked him and promised that she take the point forward.

David Wheeler asked for details about the proposed trip to Stonehenge. Steve Hartgroves replied that the visit would be on October 5th 2014 and that details would be published in the June newsletter. Jenny Moore recommended the new visitors' centre to members.

The meeting closed at 2.26 pm and was followed by a lecture by Dr. Robin Skeates, Reader in the Department of Archaeology, Durham University, on *An Archaeology of the Senses: Prehistoric Malta*, who had very kindly agreed to speak at short notice.