

**CORNWALL ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY
2014-15
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
HELD AT TRURO BAPTIST CHURCH
ON SATURDAY 18TH APRIL 2015 AT 1.30 PM**

To be approved by the AGM in 2016

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

1. Welcome

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

2. Apologies

These had been received from Henrietta Quinnell, Iain Rowe, Emma Trevarthen, and Les Dodd.

3. Minutes of the 2014 Annual General Meeting held on Saturday 12th April 2014

These were approved unanimously as an accurate record of proceedings, having first been proposed by Steve Hartgroves and seconded by Nicholas Thomas.

4. Matters arising from the minutes of the 2014 Annual General Meeting

(a) 2014/8 Any Other Business

The President explained that, in the light of the suggestion made at last year's AGM, charges had not been made for non-members at lectures.

(b) CBA Annual Conference, York, 2014

Peter Cornall asked if the Society had sent a representative to the 2014 CBA conference, and, if so, what had been the outcome of the meeting. The President explained that although it had been the intention for someone to attend it had, unfortunately not been possible. However, the committee continued to pay close attention to developments at the CBA.

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. In putting it together she had been greatly helped by input from many of the officers, and other committee members, who had taken on particular responsibilities. The committee comprised, in fact, a very hard-working bunch: 6 main committee meetings had been held in the past 12 months, in between which much work had been done. Her report would give just a flavour of the sort of things the committee had been focusing on. She aimed to cover the major issues, excluding the report on finances which would be separate.

As reported last year, Mick Aston, who had died in June 2013, had named CAS as a beneficiary in his will. This generous legacy, of £8,080.47, had been received and the committee was giving urgent consideration to an appropriate use for the money.

CAS Trustees had successfully nominated Pip Richards, of the Sustainable Trust, and director of the Carwynnen Quoit project, for the award of Heritage Champion, presented by Cornwall Heritage Trust in memory of Sir Richard Trant. Each year the award was presented to an 'unsung hero or heroine' – someone who gave their time and energy in a voluntary capacity and made a significant contribution to Cornwall's heritage. (Subsequently, the Carwynnen team had gone on to win a second award, the CBA's Marsh Award

for Community Archaeology, for which it had been nominated by community archaeologist Richard Mikulski.) CAS had grant-aided this project in 2012, and a report on the work would appear in *Cornish Archaeology*.

The RAI Anniversary Prize plaque, which was displayed at the 2014 AGM, now had its place in the Royal Cornwall Museum. It could be seen in the Main Gallery, with the Carn Brea material.

On March 24th 2015, there were 443 individual or joint members, not including institutions, compared with 438 last year; 83 of these members had not yet renewed their subscriptions (it was 68 in 2014). Since the last AGM, 36 new members had joined (the figure for last year was 27). Jenny Beale, who had served as Membership Secretary for the past 15 years, would be stepping down from the job (though happily not from the committee). As the major interface with members, and the first point of contact for new members, this was a vital role, and Jenny had fulfilled it efficiently and pleasantly, despite intermittent struggles with various problematic technologies! The Society was most grateful to her for all the work she had done on its behalf.

The tried and tested editorial team of Peter Rose and Graeme Kirkham had continued its work. Peter was a member of the Committee; Graeme, though not on the committee, performed the technical role of editing. *Cornish Archaeology* volume 52, for 2013, was published in January 2015: it included articles on Boden fogou and the prehistoric settlement at Bosiliack. CAS members were heavily involved in the excavations at both of these sites. Work was now well advanced on the preparation of volume 53, which would include articles on the Romano-British brooches from Nornour, the excavation of Glasney College in Penryn and the CAS excavations at Hay Close, St Newlyn East. Beyond that, there was still a large backlog of articles received by the editors and in the queue for publication. The Society was particularly grateful to Graeme, who gave his time freely, which she meant in both senses of the word. For the last two journals he had refused to accept the customary editorial honorarium, asking that the money be put towards protecting Cornwall's historic environment instead. The programme of uploading back numbers onto our website continued, in line with the agreed policy of leaving a 5-year lapse between publication and public on-line accessibility. While the back numbers of the journal could be consulted on line, a small but steady income accrued through the Publishers Licensing Society, for library-borrowing of our publications.

The second regular publication was the Newsletter, which was a very popular aspect of the Society's output, a very good read, and much enjoyed by the membership. The June, October and February Newsletters were all produced on time and, under Adrian Rodda's editorship, the publication went from strength to strength, with its appearance greatly enhanced by the increased use of colour. As members may have noted, Adrian had been experimenting with different column layouts to show off the pictures better. (She had been particularly taken by the extremely striking view of the newly re-erected Carwynnen Quoit, in the October edition.) As regards content, there had been more articles by members about their visits to sites around the world, or about their special studies; more space was being made available to describe particular field trips, such as the one to Stonehenge, and to reports of community excavations, and other projects involving Society members. As always, Adrian welcomed members' articles and photographs; in particular, volunteers who would write up summaries of the lectures and field trips were in short supply. The programmes of lectures and field trips now appeared on a separate flyer. The cost of postage remained a challenge. Forty two members had opted to receive their newsletters through email only. Others who might wish to receive them in this way should contact the editor with their email addresses and their home addresses so that lists could be updated. The President offered a big 'thank you' to all members who had contributed this year and urged them to keep sending contributions. She was sure everyone would agree with her agree with her that the Newsletter was both well-presented and a very good read, and, on behalf of the Society, extended her warmest thanks to Adrian for all his hard work.

A very successful lecture series had taken place, with 6 lectures in Truro, and 4 in Liskeard; topics had ranged from mass graves to astronomical alignments, Cornish soils to Bronze Age beads, and a geographical focus right around Cornwall, and from Leicester to Lebanon. All had been well-attended, with those

attending the Liskeard lectures particularly appreciating the fact that the conundrum of how to turn on the heating in the hall had, at last, been cracked! Dr Richard Buckley, who last year was prevented by illness from giving the AGM lecture, had, instead, presented the Corfield Nankivell lecture on the same topic, 'The King under the Car Park: Greyfriars, Leicester and the search for Richard III'. For the Area Representatives' evenings, Peter Cornall had the inspired idea of getting speakers at Truro to repeat their lectures at Liskeard. Jenny Moore, our Lectures officer, would welcome hearing members' suggestions for talks, and from whom, in forthcoming lecture series. On behalf of the Society, she offered her warmest thanks to Jenny for organising us such a stimulating and varied programme, with speakers from near and far.

The biennial *Archaeology in Cornwall* day had been held at Truro College on November 15th 2014 and was well attended. Christine Wilson had organised liaison with the College very well, all ran smoothly and the catering had been, as previously, excellent; thanks were due to Caradoc Peters, our on-site contact, for his help. A good range of subjects had been covered by the nine speakers, all of them from Cornwall, except for Bryn Morris and Duncan Garrow, who talked respectively on the Early Bronze Age site at Burnt House, Mabe and the Old Quay Neolithic settlement on St Martin's, Isles of Scilly. The programme was organised by Andy Jones and Henrietta Quinnell. There would be no *Archaeology in Cornwall* day in 2015 as it was the turn for CAS to host the Joint Symposium with Devon Archaeological Society: however, she drew members' attention to the *Archaeology in Devon* day which this year was being held in Plymouth and was, therefore, accessible for those who live in the east of the County.

Once again, Steve Hartgroves had organised a full and varied programme of visits, to sites of all periods and types – Iron Age hillforts, rounds, field-systems, historic towns, and to Dartmoor on a joint walk with DAS. The Society had also ventured further afield with a coach trip to the new visitor centre at Stonehenge, where members were welcomed by Susan Greaney of English Heritage, who provided tea and cake whilst giving a talk about the developments at the site.

Publicity for all our events continued to be provided by the ever-active Publicity Officer, Christine Wilson. She produced and disseminated advertising material for lectures and other activities, which were displayed as widely as possible, although ideas of new places would be welcome. She liaised, as appropriate, with the press. Christine also managed to get CAS a stall at the Stithians Show in July 2014; the Society's display was erected and manned by Adrian Rodda, Jane Marley, Jenny Beale and Steve Hartgroves, and raised considerable interest. However, it would not be possible to have a stall in 2015.

Another public face of the Society was the website, run by our webmaster, Ryan Smith, who kept members up-to-date with the Society's activities, besides hosting the e-journal and providing links to, and material from, like-minded bodies. It served as a most valuable tool for members and also, and very importantly, for 'visitors' – among them, it was to be hoped, prospective members attracted by what is our 'shop front'. Sadly, pressures of work had prevented Ryan from standing for the committee for the coming year. She offered the Society's warmest thanks to him for his endeavours with what had become an ever-increasingly important aspect of the Society's work. The website had been running for some years now, and a facelift was due. This year the committee had set up a sub-committee to consider the way forward. As a result of their report, the committee had decided to employ a professional web-designer (Dominica Williamson of *Ecogeographer: Digital Design and Sustainability*) to redesign the site, and an initial assessment had been obtained. The website sub-committee (augmented by our new webmaster Millie Holman) would liaise with the designer over its content, features and appearance.

The Area Representatives continued their invaluable work, with Peter Cornall as their Convenor. As usual, they had met twice, in October 2014 and March 2015, to exchange information, discuss developments and hear presentations relevant to their work. Discussions about upgrading the Area Representatives' page on the CAS website, to enhance the amount of information available, were being held as part of the website changes. Sheila James was to be thanked for her assistance in this. Reports on the work of Area Representatives had been given as part of the Winter Meetings programme at both Truro and Liskeard and were very well-received. The warmest thanks were due to Peter Cornall whose role as Convenor was vital in maintaining a network of representatives and the Monument Watch programme.

The Roman Cornwall research group continued to meet regularly under the energetic chairmanship of Steve Hartgroves. Following up on the decision to focus, in the first instance, on sites of possible Roman military origin, geophysical surveys had been undertaken at a number of promising-looking sites and others were planned. The outcomes so far were what could, most optimistically, be described ‘as positive evidence of a negation’, for example, surveys showed Mount Whistle clearly not to be a Roman fortlet, and Bodrugan probably not. Work at Carvossa, due this summer, was awaiting clearance of the land. The group was looking into the publication of the results of the geophysical survey and field walking at Restormel. An excellent, full interim statement produced by Carl Thorpe (with input from John Smith) for the Duchy of Cornwall, on whose land the site sat, would be integrated with a fresh geophysical survey and specialist comment on the pottery and glass. Members of the group intended to visit the Restormel Iron lode the following week. Steve would continue with the group. Very many thanks were due to him for starting it off so effectively.

The Society continued to be represented on, and to keep in touch with, a range of heritage-related bodies around the County. Jane Marley kept the committee up-to-date with Museum matters. At the January 2014 meeting, trustees had been addressed by Ian Wall, the new Director of the Royal Cornwall Museum. He had noted the close association that had long existed between this Society and the Museum and hoped that it could be strengthened. He had explained that the museum, like many others, was experiencing hard financial times. Against this background, the role of volunteers would be critical and partnerships with societies such as ours would be beneficial to all concerned. Anna Tyacke kept the committee up-to date on the workings of the Portable Antiquities Scheme in Cornwall. The Historic Cornwall Advisory Group had, sadly, been disbanded – a victim of the cuts in County Council funding. Our Secretary was the recipient of many requests for information relating to the archaeology of the County, to which he replied, or passed on to the relevant person – the Society was clearly performing an important function in the county as one of the first points of contact for archaeological matters, including those relating to planning.

During the course of 2014/15 CAS had received a request from the *Reading the Hurlers* project, a follow-up to the very successful *Mapping the Sun* project. The committee granted £500 as matched funding to support the application by Saltash U3A to the Heritage Lottery Fund, with the request that a summary or full report appeared in *Cornish Archaeology*. A second grant had been pledged towards a project for cataloguing Mesolithic field collections from the North Cliffs, near Camborne, and carrying out further field investigation. The overall cost of the project would be £33,000 and CAS had agreed (in principle) to contribute 10% (£3,300). The bulk of the funding was being sought from English Heritage, whose decision was anticipated by the end of April. The Society would look to provide a geophysical survey and volunteers, as appropriate

She wished to add her appreciation of our Treasurer, Karen Cole, who would be giving her report shortly, and the Secretary, Roger Smith, who had been very supportive over the past 3 years. He was looking to stand down at next year’s AGM, so the committee was actively seeking a replacement, hopefully as soon as possible, to shadow him for the remainder of his term. Thanks were also due to Anna Tyacke and Iain Rowe (would hopefully be joining the committee very shortly) for setting up lectures at Truro and Liskeard respectively. Adrian Rodda had been mentioned earlier for his role as Newsletter Editor, but he continued to do much else besides, such as the distribution and postage of newsletters and journals, besides selling journals to bookshops, books at lectures and attending most events. He was a stalwart.

Some trustees, though remaining on the committee, were relinquishing their posts. Jenny Beale hoped to continue to serving loyally on the committee but would be passing the role of Membership Secretary to Konstanze Rahn. Henrietta Quinell, who had most kindly extended her role as Past President, in view of the death of Tony Blackman, could now stand down from that post, which she would now assume as her Presidency came to an end.

On behalf of the Society she wished to thank those who would be standing down from the committee. Steve Hartgroves had arranged some wonderful, popular walks, as well as charring (and continuing to chair) the Roman Cornwall group with tenacity and ambition. Ryan Smith would be leaving the committee as well as standing down as webmaster. In addition to maintaining the website, Ryan had taken on the distribution of

the newsletters to members who had opted to receive only the digital version. Under his auspices, journals 1 to 39 were put on line and he had improved the Area Representatives information pages. He would be a hard act to follow. Les Dodd had worked (alongside Pete Nicholas) in bringing to CAS the capacity to undertake geophysical surveying through a partnership with Saltash Heritage/Tamarside Archaeology. Carl Thorpe was a popular, ever-willing member of the Society, and had given many excellent talks and walks, besides his involvement with excavation and post-excavation work. Recently, he had taken on the day-to-day management of our Facebook page. He had played a very active and important role in the Roman Cornwall group, and would continue to do so. Finally, she wished to pass the warmest thanks and best wishes for the future to Jane Marley, who had left the Royal Cornwall Museum, where she had been the Curator of Archaeology and World Cultures, and was moving away from Cornwall to become Museums and Heritage Officer at South Gloucestershire Council. During her years on the Committee she had provided a vital link between the Royal Cornwall Museum and CAS. She had also taken on the role of representing CAS at the Historic Cornwall Advisory Group, besides helping out at lectures and providing practical assistance and support in many other ways. The President then presented a gift to Jane Marley on behalf of the trustees.

Jane Marley thanked the trustees and members for the gift, as well as their support and friendship over many years. She had greatly enjoyed her time in Cornwall and, though looking forward to her new post, was also sad to be leaving. She wished to take this opportunity to express her concerns about the impact of financial cuts on the museum service and archaeology in Cornwall. The Royal Institution had been forced to reduce staffing, which had meant that all the specialist curatorial posts had been made redundant and replaced by a general collection and exhibition manager, and assistant. Consequently there would no longer be a specialist curator trained in archaeology and human remains within the county to advise the education officer and researchers, to assist with exhibitions and conservation, or to liaise with the Portable Antiquities Scheme's Finds Liaison Officer. There was still no provision in the Cornwall Historic Environment County Planning for the deposition of digital-born archives, or digital archives resulting from archaeological investigations, to be deposited with Archaeology Data Service (ADS). If this proviso was added to the conditions for archaeological contractors in Cornwall, the developer would have to pay for this service to be carried out. She would no longer be able to champion this development. Happily, there was provision for documentary archives where no finds were discovered as the Cornwall Record Office was the long term repository for these. However, there was currently no main repository for the finds and documentary archives resulting from archaeological investigations in the county as, at present, the Royal Cornwall Museum/Royal Institution of Cornwall was not collecting until long term storage provision was agreed. Archaeological contractors worked to high standards but they currently had to keep archives in their own stores, which was costly for the contractor and unsatisfactory for researchers. It was worrying, too, that there was no longer anyone in Cornwall suitably qualified to ensure that the whole process of archaeological investigation from inception right through to the final signing off was carried out correctly. She was aware that Ian Wall, Nick Johnson and Dan Ratcliffe were aware of the problem, and were keen to solve it. She hoped that the Society would campaign for improvements. The President noted that the situation was critical and that this emphasised the important role that the Society played.

The meeting approved the President's report, which had been proposed by Bart O'Farrell and seconded by Pete Nicholas.

6. Treasurer's Report

Karen Cole reported that this had been her second year as Treasurer. Once again it had proved to be a very informative and interesting time. She thanked her fellow trustees for their help and support. The accounts had been prepared and examined by Graham Bolton, previously a partner of Robinson Reed Layton, who now operated as a sole trader. Copies had been distributed before the meeting began. The main financial highlights included: donations and grants, including £3000 from Cornwall Council for the Boden project and £1500 from English Heritage; the production and distribution of journal 51; the Archaeology in Cornwall day; and the coach trip to Stonehenge.

In her opinion the Society had sufficient funding to continue operating for the foreseeable future and could continue to pursue its goals and invest in worthwhile projects in the future.

Members were invited to ask questions about the report. David Wheeler asked if the auditor was paid. The Treasurer explained that a payment of £250, plus VAT, would be paid.

All those present voted to accept the report, which had been proposed by Anna Tyacke and seconded by Bart O'Farrell.

Val Maxfield thanked the Treasurer for her hard work.

7. Election of President

The President explained that her 3-year term of office had flown by and that it was now her turn to stand down and to hand over the Presidency to Nick Johnson, who had been President-Elect since his election during last year's AGM. When she had assumed the role, she had done so as the 'new girl', so had been grateful for the warm welcome and help she had received from trustees and members of the Society. It had been delightful to work such an enthusiastic group. Clearly, the status of archaeology and the historic environment was vulnerable, as Jane Marley had stated previously, so the Society had a very important role to play. She was pleased that the Presidency would be in extremely good hands. It was appropriate that it should pass to Nick Johnson, given his long connections not only with the Society but with the county. He had also become a trustee of the Royal Institution of Cornwall and would be able to bring knowledge and experience to both roles. She wished him the very best.

Nick Johnson thanked the outgoing President for all she had done. He was grateful to the Society's members for choosing him to fulfil the role of President. He noted that Val had taken over at a difficult and unsettling time, following the long illness of Tony Blackman and it was greatly to her credit that she had been such a reassuring, steady leader. The Society was in good shape. Its finances were healthy, the journal and newsletter were of high quality, there were strong links with other organisations, including Devon Archaeological Society, and the current reforms of the website demonstrated a forward momentum. Much credit for this was due to Val's work as President. Given the renewed interest in Roman archaeology in the county (after so long being considered as a county lacking Roman remains) it had been a very good time for a Professor of Roman Archaeology to have been President. Therefore, it was highly appropriate to be able present Val with a painting of the dismantling of Nanstallon fort, by local artist (and CAS member) Jane Stanley, in gratitude for her term as President. She expressed her great appreciation for such a generous and apt choice of gift.

The new President said he felt like a new head teacher taking over at a school that had just been deemed as outstanding by Ofsted. In 1975 he, and the Society, had been involved with early attempts to protect Cornwall's historic environment from overwhelming pressures being exerted by developers. This had led to the creation of the Cornwall Committee for Rescue Archaeology, which became the Cornwall Archaeological Unit, and later the Historic Environment Service. Now, 40 years on, this service, which he had led for many years, had become fragmented and weakened, and this was in the face of huge development pressures. Cornwall had the largest number of listed buildings and scheduled monuments of any county in the United Kingdom, which made it particularly vulnerable. He hoped that the Society would be able to play a significant advisory role, which, given its active and enthusiastic membership, stretching from Land's End to the Tamar, it was in a good position to carry out. This would be of great importance but there was no reason why it should not also be fun to carry out.

Election of Officers, 2015-2016**(a) Officers, 2015-2016**

The following officers had been previously nominated and since no other nominations had been received, they were duly elected, having been proposed by Bart O'Farrell and seconded by Ryan Smith:

- Treasurer-Karen Cole
- Membership Secretary-Konstanze Rahn
- 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]

(b) Committee members, 2015-2016

The following had been previously nominated and no other nominations had been received. The following were therefore duly elected, having been proposed by Dot Blackman and seconded by Peter Cornall: Jenny Beale; David Giddings; Andy Jones; Jenny Moore; Peter Nicholas; Henrietta Quinnell; Laura Ratcliffe; Adrian Rodda; Iain Rowe; Emma Trevarthen; Anna Tyacke; Christine Wilson .

8. Any Other Business

The meeting was followed by a lecture by Julian Richards FSA, MCifA: *'What's wrong with archaeology?'*