

**CORNWALL ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY  
2015-16  
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
HELD AT TRURO BAPTIST CHURCH  
ON SATURDAY 16<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2016 AT 1.30 PM**

**To be approved by the AGM in 2017**

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

**1. Welcome**

The President, Nick Johnson, welcomed those attending and expressed his hope that as many as possible would stay to hear the guest speaker at the end.

He was certain that the very sad news of the death of Professor Charles Thomas a week previously would have been known by all present. He recalled how important Charles Thomas had been in the archaeological world, particularly in Cornwall, where he was one of the members of the West Cornwall Field Club who had helped set up our own Society in 1961. Not only that, he had served as CAS President from 1984 to 1987, besides editing the journal for 14 years (in addition to editing the journal of the West Cornwall Field Club). Charles Thomas had not only been a notable scholar but also a great Cornishman and a friend to many of those present. A private funeral would be held in the family's private chapel in Gwithian and a memorial service would take place on 8th July 2016, details of which would be posted on the CAS website. An obituary would appear in *Cornish Archaeology*. Those present observed a few moments of quiet reflection.

**2. Apologies**

These had been received from Val Maxfield, Henrietta Quinnell, Ursula Davey, Cynthia Gaskell-Brown, Jenny Moore, Karen Cole, Sophie Meyer, Peter Cornall, Adrian Rodda, Bart O'Farrell, and Les Dodd.

The Hon. Treasurer, Karen Cole, and Hon. Secretary, Sophie Meyer, were unable to attend because of family illness. Roger Smith took the minutes.

**3. Minutes of the 2015 Annual General Meeting held on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> April 2015**

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

**4. Matters arising from the minutes of the 2015 Annual General Meeting**

There were no matters arising.

**5. President's Report**

The President reported that the Society had been extremely busy over the past year. At the last AGM we had welcomed Emma Trevarthen, Kathy Conder, Laura Ratcliffe, Millie Holman and Iain Rowe as new Trustees. There were also changes in posts, with Konstanze Rahn now looking after the Membership, Millie Holman becoming the new Web Manager and Kathryn Conder taking on the role of Walks Officer and, in perhaps the most notable change this year, Roger Smith retired as Hon. Secretary in November, to be replaced by Sophie Meyer.

The President's report was the opportunity to shine a light on both individuals and activities that might otherwise go unnoticed. There had been 6 meetings of the Trustees over the year, as well as meetings of the Area Representatives, the Website Panel, the Excavations Committee, and the Roman Cornwall Research Group.

There were four principal meeting places: the Royal Cornwall Museum for Trustee meetings, Truro Baptist Chapel for our AGM and Truro lectures, St Martin's Church Hall for our Liskeard lectures, and Wheal Martyn for our Area Representatives. He thanked all organisations for making these facilities available. Our meetings could not take place without the help of volunteers. Anna Tyacke and Ian Rowe looked after the projection equipment at lectures and Jenny Moore met, dined and introduced the lecturers. Roger Smith, Jenny Beale, Christine Wilson and Anna Tyacke, opened up and closed the premises for our meetings and provided the refreshments, and Adrian Rodda manned the bookstall. On behalf of members, he thanked them and all others who helped with this vital work. We were always, however, looking for volunteers to help with refreshments.

He would present Karen Cole's financial report later. It showed that the finances of the Society were in good heart. This was due in no small part to her good stewardship of the Society's money, for which he gave our hearty thanks. We had now received the generous benefaction of £8,080.47 from the late Mick Aston. After much debate, Trustees agreed that the money would be used to match-fund CAS and other organisations' research and fieldwork projects across Cornwall over the coming years.

In line with other charitable organisations, the Society now had a Trustees' Expenses, Benefits and Payments policy, which had been posted in the Members' Area on our website. The Society received grant requests from time to time. This year Trustees had agreed to fund the following: £500 for the Saltash U3A group's *Reading the Hurlers* project; £350 to Mathew Knight for the reconstruction of Bronze Age axes; £100 p.a. for 5 years to the Council for British Archaeology to support its work; we had been thrilled this year that the Carwynnen Quoit project, that CAS had part-funded, had received the 2014 CBA Marsh Award for the best community project, and that Pip Richards was the 2014 Cornwall Heritage Trust Heritage Champion; we had committed to contribute £500 and a further £500 worth of in-kind help towards a future Chun Castle exploration project headed up by Professor Sir Barry Cunliffe. These projects would be spread out over several years and Trustees had resolved that:

*When the Society gives financial aid or material support to an outside project, we will require that a copy of the project report(s) will be lodged with the HER and that an article or illustrated summary be provided for publication in Cornish Archaeology- this would also include a lecture where appropriate.*

The work of the Hon. Secretary kept the CAS show on the road and was the point of contact for so many people and organisations, as well as being the guardian of the records of the Society. This year Roger, and now Sophie, had fielded all manner of queries and announcements (many each week) ranging from requests for help with student dissertations, volunteers to help the UCL project to compile a database of Cornish radiocarbon dates, a query from France about Norse influences on Scilly, whether dogs can come on walks, media requests for experts on a variety of subjects, alerts to damage to archaeological monuments, to mysterious claims of new archaeological monuments. CAS continued to champion the archaeology of Cornwall and letters of protest had been sent regarding the drastic reduction of heritage advice services at Cornwall Council and development proposals near Castle Canyke hillfort. On a more positive note, Members and Trustees had given presentations of our work at Newlyn School and the Federation of Old Cornwall Societies' annual meeting; we had commented in detail on the heritage aspects of the revision of the Cornwall AONB Management Plan 2011-16; and written in support of the *Lost Landscapes of Pendarves* project, as a follow-on from the successful Carwynnen Quoit project.

Our Society was seeing momentous changes in the wider heritage world. Public sector archaeology had changed dramatically. Cornwall Council had reduced its heritage advice service by 75%. The capacity of the Council to reduce or mitigate the effects of development on our archaeological heritage was under extreme pressure and there was little capacity now for attracting heritage grants towards programmes of conservation works. In response, CAS had been represented at meetings with Cornwall Council to discuss how the Council might re-engage with the heritage sector following the demise of the Historic

Cornwall Advisory Group. The Society helped establish its ancestor committee in 1975 and had been represented on this forum ever since. A new group, Heritage Kernow, had been established and CAS was on the Executive Board. This would advise Cornwall Council how to deliver the heritage aspects of the deal contained in the *Case for Cornwall* – the devolution package agreed with the Government last year. This was something that now had weight and drive behind it at the Council. Other organisations invited included: Historic England; English Heritage; Royal Institution of Cornwall; Gorsedd Kernow, Cornwall Heritage Trust; Kresen Kernow, Cornwall AONB; Tamar Valley AONB, Cornish Mining World Heritage Site; The National Trust; Visit Cornwall; Local Nature Partnership. We hoped that our speaker this afternoon would shed light on how this devolution deal would benefit Cornwall's archaeology and the wider heritage.

The Royal Cornwall Museum, which looked after the huge majority of archaeological finds in Cornwall, like most museums, had a chronic storage problem and had not accepted archaeological archives for the last five years. This was of great concern to CAS since we produce archaeological archives and finds. CAS had been involved in the scoping study to determine when accessions would be able to recommence.

Konstanze Rahn reported that the Membership figures looked healthy, the total number stood at 441 (institutions not counted), slightly down on the AGM 2015 numbers as we have lost some members through death, infirmity and old age, and the number of non-renewals for 2015 was quite high. To make up for it, we had 44 new members. The late payment of the membership fee that is due on 1<sup>st</sup> January each year continued to be a problem. Many members still assumed that membership counted from the time they joined (quite a few who joined in the middle of the year were amongst those that hadn't renewed yet). Reminder letters and emails had gone out to non-payers and we expected many of them to pay within the next weeks. It seemed generally that the membership was more 'on the move', as the payment through PayPal and the application through the internet and email made it easy to join but equally easy not to renew the following year. The Standing Order payment still offered the Society greater stability. We had the first membership given as a Christmas present, and an enquiry about membership as a birthday present. It would be great if this trend continued.

Our publications remained a cornerstone of our Society's mission, interest and academic integrity. Graeme Kirkham and Peter Rose, our Journal editors, reported that *Cornish Archaeology* volume 53, for 2014, was published in January 2016. It was a bumper volume of nearly 250 pages covering a great variety of subjects and periods. It included a report on the Society's excavations at Hay Close, St Newlyn East, a detailed account of the remarkable collection of Romano-British brooches from Nornour, Isles of Scilly and reports on geophysics and excavations at two sites in St Kew and Stratton parishes in North Cornwall. Work was in progress on volume 54, which we expected to include articles on Glasney College, Restormel Castle, and the excavation of an Iron Age settlement at Camelford School. Meanwhile, Adrian Rodda had produced three lively and colourful Newsletters for us this year. Each had reports on CAS activities - our own fieldwork projects, reports on our lectures and walks, notices of future events and book reviews. In addition, we had special reports on the excavations at St Piran's Oratory, rock art at Boscawen-Un stone circle, the Kresen Kernow project, and excavations at Gunwalloe. The Newsletters and Journal remained a cornerstone of what we had to offer and were an enduring incentive to join us.

This brought us on to our Walks and Talks programmes this year: Jenny Moore on talks, and Steve Hartgroves and Kathryn Conder on walks. They had worked so hard to put on a great programme for us. It was both a skill to know what might be available out there and a real art to persuade busy, or perhaps diffident, enthusiasts and experts to talk to us or walk with us. The lecture programmes in Truro and Liskeard had now drawn to a close and by common acclamation had been a great success. We had heard talks on the CITiZAN project, the Royal Cornwall Museum, Neighbourhood Plans, Heritage at Risk, Monument Watch, Mawgan Porth Early Medieval farmstead, Luxulyan Valley, the Tamar Valley

AONB, Restormel Castle, Chysauster ancient village, Roman archaeology in Cornwall, PAST explorers; Excavations at Penhale Round (Indian Queens), Reading the Hurlers project, the excavation of Whitehorse Hill BA cairn on Dartmoor, and the Mary Rose Museum. It was particularly encouraging to have had talks about projects that we had supported (in the Tamar Valley and The Hurlers) and talks that had resulted in CAS being asked to get engaged with further work, as at Restormel Castle. It was very noticeable how full the hall was in Liskeard this winter, with attendance often above 40. We were now fully equipped with new projectors, laptops and screen for lectures both in Truro and Liskeard. Lectures on 'local' subjects seemed to be the most attractive to members, with perhaps only one or two lectures having a more national/international appeal. The programme for the coming year would be developed in a similar way.

Walks had been well attended and included a great variety of subjects and locations: the Bude Canal; CAS/DAS walk on Penkestele Downs, Redhill and Goonzion Downs (Bodmin Moor); Roughtor (Bodmin Moor); Soaprock on the Lizard; Lowland Point and the Three Brothers of Crugwith, also on the Lizard; a visit to the stores in the Royal Cornwall Museum, the Portable Antiquities Scheme display and North Cliffs archives; St Agnes Tinnars and Wreckers; monuments on the Penwith Moors; Castle Canyke, and St Thomas' chantry chapel in Bodmin.

The CAS/DAS Hillforts in the South West symposium in Launceston last October was packed with c.120 attendees. The lecture programme was exceptionally successful, managing to blend the overview with the particular across the South West. The organization was excellent, and feedback from those attending was very positive indeed. He wished to thank Konstanze, Roger, Adrian, Christine, Jenny Beale, Anna, and Mandy and John Eversett for their hard work, often behind the scenes, but particularly Henrietta Quinnell and Andy Jones for putting together both an interesting and balanced programme whilst also giving talks themselves.

All of these events needed the oxygen of publicity. Christine Wilson got our posters out and about and talked to our media friends. Millie Holman was our new Web Manager and her task had been daunting in her first year. In keeping with so many other groups, we were wrestling with how to come to terms with, and how best to function within, an increasingly digital world. As a positive step, a Website Panel consisting of Sheila James, Adrian Rodda, Steve Hartgroves, Emma Trevarthen, Christine Wilson, Millie Holman and himself had been established to help our website designer Dominica Williamson and software specialist Paula Johnson completely redesign our website. The site went live before Christmas and it had proved popular. Naturally we welcomed suggestions as to how we can improve.

The site now included a Members' Area, an interactive calendar of events and fully digitised versions of all our journals and recent newsletters. We were gradually filling the Members' Area with minutes and reports from committee and Area Representatives' meetings, to make this information more accessible to members. There had been an increasing uptake of our e-newsletter, which had been distributed successfully via our new web host. Our Facebook and Twitter accounts had also been re-launched, with the aims of providing a place of open discussion for Members, and promoting events held by us and other organisations in Cornwall. The Society now owned the *historic-cornwall.com* domain name, just in case we wished to use that in the future. In order to protect the privacy of Officers in an increasingly vexatious internet-dominated world, contact details of Officers and CAS Members were confined to the Members' Area; a postal address had been created c/o the Royal Cornwall Museum and generic email addresses given for the various CAS Officers. Paying on-line for membership and events was now enabled.

The Area Representatives, ably run by Peter Cornall and chaired by Roger Smith, had met twice this year. The ARs had been working closely with Ann Preston-Jones (Historic England) and Emma Trevarthen at the HER. The new Cornwall Record Office (Kresen Kernow) in Redruth, when completed, would house the Historic Environment Record. We were delighted that each Monument Watch record

entered into the HER by CAS Members resulted in a cash contribution to Kresen Kernow from the Heritage Lottery. ARs were delighted to see the printed results of the Grade II Listed Buildings Survey of North and East Cornwall (originated with our own Monument Watch), and this year had been liaising with a new national initiative, CITiZAN, that sought to explore and record coastal archaeology. Emma had initiated the Graffiti Project to record all the historic graffiti found on rocks, walls and buildings. CAS Members were beginning to record new sites already. A very successful AR training day with Emma and Ann Preston-Jones was held at Slaughterbridge and Ann's talk was also presented at the ARs' evening talks at Truro and Liskeard. The AR areas had changed from ecclesiastical parishes to civil parishes to help us online and with the HER. It was very heartening that enthusiasts were coming forward regularly to swell the ranks of volunteers and, to make the work more systematic and more focused, we would from this year concentrate on a different class (or classes) of monument each year over a 5 year cycle. Emma was also exploring how the HER could be available to fill out online and it was clear that if CAS members were able to help in expanding the HER then this would have a knock-on effect on the amount of archaeological protection and exploration in the future.

Excavations and surveys— Following the disappointment last year of not being able to progress the re-examination and publication of the unpublished excavations at Castle-an-Dinas (St Columb), this year we had seen the results of the Hendraburnick excavation (funded by CAS) published in autumn 2015. Further photographic work early this year was revealing new details of the rock art found at this site. Our current CAS project was the cataloguing of the huge Mesolithic flint collection (c 10,000), collected over many years by our late President Professor Charles Thomas, from North Cliffs, Camborne now being carried out by CAS volunteers at the Royal Cornwall Museum. Geophysics and targeted excavation would follow in the autumn. CAS members continued to take part in geophysical surveys of monuments with Pete Nicholas and Saltash Heritage, including at Pencarrow House, and Bury Down hillfort.

Steve Hartgroves, the convenor of the Roman Cornwall Research Group, reported that work had concentrated on two projects. Work at bringing together the report for the journal *Britannia* of the results of field walking and geophysics at Restormel Fort was progressing through specialist pottery and archaeometallurgy reports. There were plans to investigate the nearby Restormel Royal Iron Mine openworks and ore dumps to see if they were Roman. The next project would be at Carvossa, a possible site of a fort where access was agreed and geophysics planned.

To conclude, wished to thank Trustees for the hard work and enthusiasm they showed on behalf of CAS. He also wanted to pay tribute to our Members, without whom we would not exist. He was particularly delighted to end this report by paying tribute to two particular people who had given outstanding service to CAS, Roger Smith and Graeme Kirkham. It was recommended by Trustees that they be awarded Honorary Membership under Agenda item 7. He offered our thanks and congratulations to both.

Roger had been our Hon. Secretary since 2010. He had brought both order and enthusiasm to his work and, as so many knew, he was everywhere...literally everywhere! He had taken the minutes, made the coffee, opened and closed meeting places, chaired the Area Reps' meetings, as well as reporting on Monument Watch and so much more. Wherever the Society met he had invariably been there first and was the last to leave. Trustees had been kept 'up to snuff' with what was going on in the archaeological world through his delightfully eclectic choice of archaeological articles trawled from the Internet. He had tirelessly gone out to other groups to promote the Society and the cause of archaeology and he represented everything that was admirable in CAS.

Graeme had edited eleven editions of our journal *Cornish Archaeology*, first with Peter Herring and now with Peter Rose. Over this period the journals had become noticeably more colourful and attractive, and the contents had remained both varied in subject and era and were interesting to read. It was, at the best of times, a daunting task to edit a journal that comprised articles by so many different authors. It required

great knowledge and a large degree of tact to first search out potential authors, to then badger them to produce a quality document, in the right format and to a deadline. It was a great labour and we were lucky to have Graeme with us.

## **5. Treasurer's Report**

The President referred those present to the copies of the unaudited accounts for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2015 that had been distributed beforehand. These had been examined and validated by Graham Boulton FCA. The President offered to answer questions from members either during the meeting or, if he could not do so at the time, he would refer them to the Treasurer. He was pleased with the financial situation of the Society but gently suggested that members thinking of making gifts or bequests to consider CAS as a beneficiary.

The accounts and choice of auditor were approved unanimously, having been proposed by Peter Nicholas and seconded by Steve Hartgroves.

## **7. Election of Officers**

The following officers had been previously nominated and since no other nominations had been received, they were duly elected, having been proposed by Steve Hartgroves and seconded by Ian Wall:

### **(a) Officers, 2016-2017**

- Treasurer-Karen Cole
- Membership Secretary-Konstanze Rahn
- Secretary-Sophie Meyer
- 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, 2016-2017**

Since the publication of the agenda Adrian Rodda had decided not to stand again as a trustee and newsletter editor (although he would produce the next edition). A replacement for him as editor of the newsletter would be sought as soon as possible. His resignation had created one space on the committee for a trustee appointed by members and Kathy Conder had kindly agreed to fill this instead of being one of the two members co-opted by the committee. No other nominations had been received. The following were therefore duly elected:

Jenny Beale; Kathy Conder; David Giddings; Andy Jones; Jenny Moore; Peter Nicholas; Henrietta Quinnell; Laura Ratcliffe; Iain Rowe; Emma Trevarthen; Anna Tyacke; Christine Wilson .

At a later meeting the trustees would co-opt Millie Holman, who would continue in her role as webmaster.

## **8. Any Other Business**

It was agreed to award Honorary Memberships to Graeme Kirkham and Roger Smith. Proposed by Andy Jones and seconded by David Giddings.

The meeting was followed by a lecture by George Eustice M.P., Minister of State for Farming, Food and the Marine Environment on: *The future of Cornwall's heritage in our own hands? - The case for local devolution.*