

**CORNWALL ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY 2018-19
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
HELD AT TRURO BAPTIST CHURCH ON SATURDAY 6TH APRIL 2019 AT 1.30 P.M.**

Approved by members at the AGM in 2020

38 members attended the meeting.

1. Welcome

The President, Caroline Dudley, welcomed those attending. She was pleased to see such a good attendance.

2. Apologies

These had been received from Sally Ealey and Nicholas Thomas.

3. Minutes of the 2018 Annual General Meeting held on Saturday 14th April 2018

These were approved unanimously as an accurate record of proceedings, having first been proposed by Jenny Beale and seconded by Iain Rowe.

4. Matters arising from the minutes of the 2018 Annual General Meeting

There were no Matters Arising.

5. President's Report

Caroline Dudley reported that it had been a good year in many ways, but before going on to report on the progress made, also had to record some sad losses from the membership this year. One of these was Pete Nicholas, who for many years undertook invaluable survey work for the CAS, and who died last year. Another major figure in Cornish archaeology, Roger Mercer, the original excavator of Carn Brea, had died recently as well. She did not have the good fortune to know either of them, but they were very well known to many members and the contributions of both men had been recorded in our newsletters.

Trustees had continued to meet regularly over the past twelve months in the Barham Room of the Royal Cornwall Museum, with the kind permission of the Director, and with the invaluable assistance of Anna Tyacke, who opened the museum, got the room ready and provided the essential tea and biscuits. The museum also allowed the society to use it as its postal address, and she expressed gratitude for the facilities they offered.

This year the society had welcomed a new Honorary Treasurer, Richard Hoskins, and an old Honorary Secretary, Roger Smith, who to her everlasting gratitude and relief, agreed to resume this post after the loss of the previous Secretary. Both officers had done an amazing job – Richard by bringing order and coherence to our management accounts and Roger by keeping tabs on everything that was going on, keeping wonderful records and keeping everyone in the loop. She couldn't thank either of them enough. This was just a snapshot of some of the many and varied activities that Roger undertook on the society's behalf.

The Secretary routinely received numerous requests for information. Many were enquiring about certain sites or features. Others were unorthodox, such as a television company specialising in the paranormal seeking suggestions for a suitable location for filming. Fortunately, reference to the excellent Cornwall

Council mapping website, or past journals, often yielded an answer. If not, an appeal to fellow trustees usually resulted in the desired information. Some enquirers were over-ambitious about the nature and reach of the society, believing that it had full-time archaeologists ready and equipped to carry out excavations and surveys. Nonetheless, the number of enquiries and their varied sources indicated that the society was considered (rightly) to be at the centre of matters relating to Cornwall's past. Members were encouraged to contact Roger if they had a query or if they just wished to share some snippet of information about local archaeology.

Richard had also taken on another really important project for CAS with the invaluable help of Konstanze Rahn, our Membership Secretary, which was to reclaim as much Gift Aid as possible on our subscriptions. This scheme had been in abeyance for a few years, but after extensive consultations with HMRC etc., Richard was able to confirm that we could do this, and Konstanze had the enormous task of getting as many members as possible to re-submit Gift Aid forms so that we could claim back this money. We could reclaim 25% of the membership fee on behalf of all members who paid tax, and had been able to reclaim over £2,000. So far, we had received Gift Aid forms from about a quarter of our members, and would really like everyone who was eligible to give us permission on their behalf. It was known that many members had signed a Gift Aid form in the past, but unfortunately the rules had changed, so there was a new form which needed to be signed. Forms were available from Konstanze Rahn if members needed them. She wished to seize this opportunity to say as well that it would help Konstanze enormously if members would also set up standing orders for their subscriptions – it would save her chasing people over and over. Konstanze had said that still only about 50% of members had set up a standing order, and it would be so helpful if everyone could do it. With online banking these days it was so easy to cancel if need be, so it was really not an onerous commitment. The income from Gift Aid helped the Society to keep the subscription fee at the current level, which she was sure everyone would welcome.

Konstanze Rahn had reported that the positive trend of the last year regarding membership had continued this year; the great number of new members off-set the cancellations due to death, old age, ill health or other reasons, especially the 'default' cancellations, i.e. members who didn't pay a membership fee for 2018 without any contact. At the moment, the membership stood at 358 single and 58 double memberships (plus 8 non-paying institutions). This brought the total number of members to 474, having taken off those who had officially cancelled this year. As in the years before, the total number would go down considerably by taking into account the high number of members who had, so far, reacted neither to the reminders in the newsletters nor to personal reminders. Many of the latter had joined only in 2018, so the problem might be that they were not sufficiently aware, when they joined, that the subscription ran from January to December and not a year from their joining date.

She had already mentioned that that Pete Nicholas had carried out important survey work for CAS and others, using geophysical survey equipment belonging to the Saltash Heritage Trust. After his death, the Trust decided that they no longer wanted to own this equipment and offered it to CAS for a nominal sum, provided we took over the storage and insurance. The Trustees had agreed to do this last autumn, and the equipment was now looked after by Les Dodd, so it would continue to be available for our use in future.

Another priority for the Trustees this year had been to make sure that as a registered charity our policies and procedures were up to date. It started with the dreaded GDPR, which members might remember - the General Data Protection Regulations - which were intended to help us keep our own data safe. It meant amongst other things that we had needed a Privacy Policy for our members, which was now on our website. At the same time, as a result of growing concern in society in general about safeguarding and welfare, the Charity Commission encouraged all registered charities to draw up their own policies, and in response to this our committee had drawn up a Safeguarding and Welfare policy and a Volunteer policy, which covered both the Society's obligations to its members and the obligations of volunteers when they were working on behalf of the Society. Again, these policies were now available on our website. Here she had to thank Cathy Parkes for her help in drawing up these policies, attending a seminar on the subject and passing on what she

had gleaned to the rest of us. Because of her interest in this subject, Cathy had agreed to act as our Safeguarding and Welfare representative on the committee.

Cathy was also our Excursions Officer, and the excursions this year had explored many kinds of sites and historic landscapes across Cornwall: urban edge and industrial (Liskeard); medieval heartland (Cardinham); estuarine and coastal (The Rumps); parkland (Pentillie); and downs (Zennor). As in previous years, we had shared an excursion with Devon Archaeological Society, this time at Pentillie. The day there included lunch at the Castle and this might be the kind of experience we could enjoy again elsewhere!

The Risk Assessment process had been adapted and an Outdoor First Aid course completed by Cathy, and walks as well as other activities had been included in our review of Health, Safety and Welfare policies and practices.

The wide range of excursions was thanks to the varied interests and knowledge of members, landowners and others. Cathy had said that contributions made through suggesting, designing, accommodating and guiding walks were very welcome. In future programmes it would be great to build on this variety if possible, including more walks with joint leaders contributing different archaeological perspectives, perhaps even combining archaeology with different strands of environmental interest. There was also potential for designing more walks to be accessible by public transport, as achieved at Liskeard.

A new programme of walks was now out, beginning on Sunday 19th May with a visit to Week St. Mary and Penhallam moated mansion, to be led by Cathy Parkes and Nick Johnson. Members would need to remember that date, because while the whole programme would be in the June Newsletter, May comes before June, so it would be a good idea to put it in diaries straight away. The programme would also be on the website, of course, and even possibly on the Facebook page.

Winter meant lectures, and the Society had had some wonderful talks. The programme had started in Truro with Pete Herring talking about transhumance in Cornwall, and culminated with Jenny Moore's tour de force, the lecture by Professor Klaus Oeggl of Innsbruck University on his research on the body of Oetzi the Neolithic iceman from the Alps. This was a real triumph – Jenny had learned that Professor Oeggl was going to give a lecture in Devon and had managed to persuade him to extend his visit to Cornwall. We had managed to squeeze 150 people into the main gallery of the Royal Cornwall Museum to hear him, and the museum staff actually did a live video of him speaking, which she believed was still available on the museum's Facebook page. It was fascinating the detail that it had been possible to extract from the iceman about his diet, his actions on the day he died, his genetic origins etc. Using the museum as a lecture venue worked well, and consequently the committee had decided that next season's Truro lectures would all be held there, taking advantage of the new audio-visual system.

The lecture programme in Liskeard was also very successful and well-attended, in spite of some horrible weather on some evenings, and once again the Society was very grateful to Jenny Moore, our Lectures Officer, for all her hard work in finding lecturers, preparing the venues and looking after them while they were here.

Iain Rowe and his team of Area Representatives continued to do a remarkable job in keeping a watchful eye on the county's historic sites and monuments, as well as reporting any problems, changes and discoveries. Area Reps covered most of the parishes in Cornwall, but there were vacancies, and Iain would be very pleased if any more volunteers were to step forward to look after some of the vacant parishes. Area Reps were given training for the role and met regularly to exchange reports and hear presentations – they met generally at Wheal Martyn Museum – and their meetings were really enjoyable and informative.

CAS's cooperation with the Cornwall Archaeological Unit continued to be a strength for archaeology in Cornwall and it was a great advantage to have Andy Jones on the committee – hopefully it was an advantage for both organisations. An example of this was an exciting forthcoming research and survey project which

was coming up shortly as a spin-off from the work on the new A30 section between Carland Cross and Chiverton, for which Andy would be looking for volunteers from CAS members.

She had already mentioned Anna Tyacke in connection with our meetings in the museum, but should also mention her contribution to our committee meetings. Anna was the Portable Antiquities Scheme Finds Liaison Officer for Cornwall, which meant that she was responsible for liaising with metal detectorists in the county, encouraging them to bring their finds to her for identification and logging on the finds.org.uk online database. She was also responsible for shepherding finds which were designated as Treasure (i.e. gold and silver etc.) through the coroner's court, and last year alone she had 19 Treasure cases, plus a further four already this year. Some of the objects found were on display in the Royal Cornwall Museum, including a lovely Iron Age terret ring from Porthleven, an Iron Age bridle bit and mount from St. Erth and a selection of Roman Republican denarii.

As President, she had been attending meetings of a forum called Heritage Kernow which was convened by the heritage section of Cornwall Council. The current preoccupation was in drawing up guidelines, mainly for the use of planners and developers, for identifying and preserving the cultural distinctiveness of Cornwall. At the same time, work was in hand on a Heritage Strategy for Cornwall, which would eventually involve consultation with interested parties. This was something that CAS needed to involve itself with and it gave us the opportunity to feed in the knowledge that the Society had built up over many years.

Finally and by no means least, the Editors of our Journal and Newsletter had done a tremendous job this year. Pete Rose and Graeme Kirkham were on track to produce two volumes of the Journal this year, bringing us pretty well up to date, and the quality of both the Journal, and the Newsletter under the editorship of Steve Fletcher, were remarkable for a small society.

There were many other people she would like to thank who helped the Society in so many ways, from Jenny Hancock and her wonderful biscuits, to Adrian Rodda, who sent out the Journals and manned the bookstall at events. There were too many people to mention, but she thanked them all for making this society such a success this past year.

6. Treasurer's Report

The Honorary Treasurer, Richard Hoskins, referred those present to the copies of the Accounts for 31st December 2018 which had been distributed. These had been signed and approved by Graham Boulton F.C.A. The Society had sufficient assets to fund its operations for the foreseeable future.

The Receipts and Payments Report showed that the Society ran at a deficit of £2,863 in 2018 - which was an improvement of just over £1,200 on the previous year. This improvement was partly due to a slight increase in Membership Subscriptions in 2018 – which had been achieved in no small part by Konstanze Rahn, our Membership Secretary, who spent many hours and days getting in touch with members who did not renew their subscriptions promptly in January. It would make Konstanze's task much less onerous if more members would consider signing a Standing Order to renew their subscriptions each year. Standing Order forms were available at the meeting or by request at any time.

He and Konstanze had also spent a lot of time over the past 12 months reviving the Gift Aid scheme. So far almost a third of members had helped by signing new Gift Aid declarations. This was currently worth almost £800 per year in additional income to CAS. So if any member had not yet completed a new Gift Aid form he asked them to consider doing so – CAS had a range of projects planned for the coming year and every pound would help. Gift Aid forms were also available at the meeting.

Members voted to approve that Graham Boulton FCA should continue as the independent examiner for 2019-2020. This had been proposed by Anna Tyacke and seconded by Christine Wilson.

In the past twelve months, as well as the publication of three newsletters and the annual journal, running a series of winter lectures and the Archaeology in Cornwall conference, the Society had supported a number of projects, such as:

1. £450 towards the publication of a report on medieval and later pottery found near Nut Rock, Scilly.
2. £775 for isotopic analysis and radiocarbon dating of two Iron Age skulls from Harlyn Bay.
3. £350 towards carbon dating of samples from Castle-an-Dinas.

It was hoped to be able to support many similar projects over the coming period.

The Treasurer invited any queries on these accounts but there were none. The President thanked Richard Hoskins for his hard work.

7. Election of Officers, 2019-2020

(a) Officers, 2019-2020

The following officers had been previously nominated and since no other nominations had been received, were duly elected, having been proposed by Laura Ratcliffe-Warren and seconded by Susan Boggis:

- Treasurer-Richard Hoskins
- Membership Secretary-Konstanze Rahn
- Secretary-Roger Smith
- Journal 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, 2019-2020

The following had been previously nominated and no other nominations had been received by the date stipulated on the notification. The following were therefore duly elected, having been proposed by Iain Rowe and seconded by Nick Johnson:

Jenny Beale; Andy Jones; Millie Holman; Jenny Moore; Cathy Parkes; Laura Ratcliffe-Warren; Iain Rowe; Steve Fletcher; Anna Tyacke; Christine Wilson; Steve Hartgroves.

This had left one vacancy and Ann Preston-Jones had subsequently agreed to stand for election. This was proposed by Roger Smith, seconded by Richard Hoskins and agreed by those present.

8. Any Other Business

The President sought members' views about starting the Truro lectures (which would henceforward be held at the Royal Cornwall Museum) at the earlier time of 6.30 p.m. Strong support was expressed by those present.

She informed members that it was planned for the 2020 AGM to be held on Saturday 28th March 2020, in the Philbrick Gallery of the Royal Cornwall Museum starting at 1.30 p.m. Henrietta Quinnell confirmed that this date would not clash with Devon Archaeological Society's AGM (and Archaeology in Devon conference, held on the same day).

The meeting was followed by a lecture by Carolyn Kennett Co-editor, Bulletin Society for the History of Astronomy on *Cornwall's Celestial Stones - Astronomy Heritage in Ancient Penwith*.