

**CORNWALL ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY****MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON SATURDAY 17<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2021 AT 11 A.M. USING A ZOOM VIDEO LINK**

**To be approved by the AGM in 2022**

37 members attended the meeting.

**1. Welcome**

The President, Caroline Dudley, welcomed members to the meeting.

Millie Holman (Webmaster) explained how voting would work on Zoom.

**2. Apologies**

These had been received from Tasha Fullbrook, Laura Ratcliffe-Warren, Peter Crispin, Priscilla Oates, Richard McCaulay and Caryl Scott.

**3. Minutes of the 2019 Annual General Meeting held on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> April 2019**

These were approved as an accurate record of proceedings, having first been proposed by Susan Short and seconded by Nick Johnson. There were 30 votes in favour, none against and 3 abstentions.

**4. Matters arising from the minutes of the 2019 Annual General Meeting**

There were no Matters Arising.

**5. President's Report**

The President was pleased to see such a good attendance and welcomed members to the 2021 AGM of Cornwall Archaeological Society. She said it was hard to believe how long it had been since we had last been able to meet face to face. We had been obliged to cancel our scheduled in-person AGM last year because of Covid restrictions. There didn't seem to be any alternative at the time, but if there was one good thing that the pandemic had taught us, it was how to use Zoom to communicate, even though we couldn't meet in person. Zoom had enabled us to hold our usual bi-monthly Trustees' committee meetings, and more importantly, we had been able to move our winter lecture programme on line as well.

In fact, the lecture programme had been remarkably well supported by members online. On several occasions our audience had been greater than when we met in person, and as a consequence our lectures sub-committee had suggested that next autumn we should devise a special series of six lectures specifically on Cornish archaeology to be delivered via Zoom, even if by then we were allowed to meet in person again. Members had told us that they were often uneasy about driving to lectures in winter at night, especially in bad weather, so it was hoped that this new initiative would be welcomed.

We would still hold lectures in person, in Truro, Liskeard and, thanks to our new committee member, Dr

John Riley, in Penzance as well. Dr Riley had kindly offered to co-ordinate a couple of talks which would take place in the Queens Hotel. Our thanks went to him and to the others involved in organising the lectures: Andy Jones, Jenny Moore, and Henrietta Quinnell, to Christine Wilson for publicising them, and in particular Millie Holman, our website manager and the invaluable host of our online meetings and the one who had taught the rest of us how to use Zoom!

The one activity we had not found a way of transferring to Zoom was our walks programme, normally devised and organised by Cathy Parkes. However, with the help of Steve Fletcher, our brilliant Newsletter editor, we had some superb self-guided walks published in the Newsletter, which members could follow themselves, or indeed just enjoy reading about them.

The Newsletter had been the subject of considerable discussion over the past year – not the content, which was always excellent, but the means of distribution. Although we had asked members to accept the Newsletter by email if possible, we still ended up posting the majority of hard copies, and were somewhat concerned to discover that the cost of postage for the Newsletter had risen to £3000 a year. Every pound that was spent on postage meant less funding for our grants for archaeological activities, so we had been looking for ways to reduce this bill, and decided to experiment with publishing two Newsletters in print in the autumn and spring, to include as much of our events calendar as possible, so that people had a hard copy to refer to, which we believed they would like, and to publish the summer Newsletter electronically. For this reason and for general communication purposes we were asking members to supply us with their email addresses if they had not already done so. Konstanze Rahn, our Membership Secretary, collected these addresses – her email address could be found in the Newsletter or online on the CAS website.

A further issue with the cost of postage had arisen very recently when we came to post the latest issue of the Journal to our overseas members. The costs had risen so steeply that we were obliged to alter the conditions of membership outside the UK. The details of our proposal had been set out on the agenda and would be presented for a decision by members under Any Other Business.

Speaking of membership, we were again immensely grateful to our Membership Secretary, Konstanze Rahn, who dealt with all our membership records. She reported that we had had a surprisingly good year for membership in 2020-2021, despite the lockdowns and the constraints on the activities of the CAS.

We gained 50 new memberships in 2020. That figure had almost made up for the high number of losses due to death, cancellation and (mainly) general failure to renew. The number of 395 memberships with 451 members was only slightly lower than the figure for 2019. The first quarter of 2021 had shown a very positive trend so far in gaining new members, but there were also a regrettably high number of members who had failed to react to the renewal notices before the deadline on 15 April 2021. Sadly this meant that those members would no longer receive the Journal or Newsletters. There had been no further considerable uptake of payment by Standing Order, although that was the safest way to make sure that the subscription was paid in time, and spared Konstanze a lot of work in chasing up subs. If members felt able to, she requested that they put a standing order in place – it could be cancelled at any time.

The same applied to the signing of the new Gift Aid form by long-standing members which was still rather scarce; many of those who had signed the old form (pre June 2018) had unfortunately failed to sign and return the new form. It was important that those who were eligible signed the new form do so to boost the much needed income – it added 25% to the value of each subscription. Konstanze would

be happy to supply a fresh copy of the form if anyone needed it.

The invitation to this AGM had also highlighted that many members had not returned the contact consent form and therefore were missing out on a lot of information about special events.

She had mentioned the Journal several times already, but could now report the Society had published volume 58 of our journal *Cornish Archaeology* in March 2021 – most members would have received this already. This edition included reports by Andy Jones and colleagues on the Society's excavations at three sites: Bosporthenis Quoit and the Neolithic tor enclosure on Carn Galva in Zennor, and Mesolithic flint scatters at North Cliffs. There was an article on the 1960s excavations at Castle-an-Dinas hillfort, pieced together from the surviving archives, and Henrietta Quinnell had given a review of Roman-period settlement in Cornwall. Other papers included a tenth-century sundial at St Blazey, the architecture of Launceston Priory, pottery at Lostwithiel, and excavation of nineteenth-century housing in Penzance. As ever, we were very grateful to Peter Rose and Graeme Kirkham for the sterling work they did in sourcing articles, collating and editing the Journal to such a high standard and to Adrian Rodda for his work in selling and distributing the journal.

A very important part of the work of the Society was carried out through the Area Representatives, organised by Iain Rowe, and that work had carried on, within the limits of any restrictions, throughout the period of lockdown. Almost all the parishes in Cornwall were overseen by a volunteer monitor, who kept an eye on all the historic monuments and sites in their area and reported on any disturbances or developments of concern. They produced a fascinating and informative monthly report which was emailed to all members who had given an email address.

The Treasurer's report was a separate item on the agenda, so she would confine herself here to thanking Richard Hosking for the wonderful job he had done in keeping track of our finances this year and producing accounts that were so detailed and clear.

Last, but by absolutely no mean least, she came to the work that our Hon. Secretary did for the Society. Quite apart from servicing the CAS committees with regard to agendas, minutes, reminders etc. Roger Smith was the primary contact for anyone who had an enquiry about the Society or the archaeology of Cornwall, and worked harder than any of us to answer queries and provide information to members, scholars and the general public.

The society received frequent enquiries, almost on a daily basis, including one on Christmas Day. These indicated that CAS was seen as a relevant and useful body for archaeological enquiry, so far from being a burden, they could be considered recognition of the society's status and reputation. Very often we got requests for information about specific sites. These could usually be answered by using the excellent interactive mapping website of the Cornwall and Scilly Historic Environment Record and the archive of past journals. If further information was needed, the trustees, former trustees and friends of CAS provided a huge and unfailingly helpful reservoir of expert advice and knowledge. Our links with the Historic Environment Service, Cornwall Archaeological Unit, Historic England and Portable Antiquities Scheme, as well as with numerous other heritage organisations, such as the Federation of Old Cornwall Societies and Cornwall Heritage Trust, meant that we sat within a well-informed, mutually supportive framework.

Enquiries were always welcome and we would do our best to answer quickly. This was part of the society's function in furthering and disseminating knowledge about archaeology in Cornwall. Sometimes we were confused with Cornwall Archaeological Unit and were asked to carry out

commercial investigations but this was not a problem and the enquiries were forwarded.

Concerns relating to planning applications were sometimes received. The society would normally only comment on major applications that might have an impact on archaeology and the historic environment. Even then comment would only be made after careful consideration by trustees. Fortunately, there were Cornwall Council Historic Environment archaeologists who were available to look at planning applications.

Members were encouraged to contact the secretary with any questions they have at [secretary@cornisharchaeology.org.uk](mailto:secretary@cornisharchaeology.org.uk).

She ended this report by re-iterating her thanks to the committee of Trustees who had kept the Society going over the last difficult year, and to members for keeping faith with us. She hoped that the coming year would allow us to get back to something like normal.

## 5 Treasurer's Report

Members were referred to the following Treasurer's Report and approved accounts for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020 that had previously been emailed to members and posted on the society's website:

*Copies of the Accounts for 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020 are attached to the email to members which advises the agenda of the Annual General Meeting.*

*The deficit on the Income and Expenditure for the financial year ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020 is £1,396. This is lower than predicted in last year's report, when a potential deficit of around £3,000 was forecast. A small rise in members' subscriptions contributed to the improvement. Much of the improvement is due to reduced activity in 2020 because of the Covid pandemic, which has resulted in lower costs. For example, the cost of online lectures and meetings is small, compared with venue hire, speakers' and other expenses of the normal lecture programme and symposium.*

*There is no doubt that inflation over the eleven years since Membership Subscriptions were last increased is putting pressure on the Society's finances. Small, but increasing, deficits are likely in the coming years. The Committee has been considering ways of increasing income to compensate for this: a drive to increase membership through the Web Site and Facebook pages, has already met with encouraging success.*

*The Society's finances remain healthy: our reserves at the end of 2020 stood at £58,597 and are sufficient to fund the Society's operations for the foreseeable future.*

The Honorary Treasurer, Richard Hoskins, invited any questions about the accounts and his report but there were none. Trustees had previously approved the audited accounts for submission to members. Approval of the accounts ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020 was proposed by Nick Johnson and seconded by Konstanze Rahn. They were approved by 36 members, with no votes against.

The President thanked Richard Hoskins for his hard work.

## 7. Election of President, 2021-2022

At this point Caroline Dudley withdrew from proceedings and this section of the meeting was chaired by the Hon. Secretary. He explained that in 2020 the committee had nominated Caroline Dudley to serve a second term as President from 2021 until the 2024 A.G.M. This was due to have been considered by members at the 2020 A.G.M. but the pandemic and the subsequent cancellation of the AGM had prevented it. Therefore, Caroline had continued in office until today. Usually a President-Elect would sit alongside the incumbent for a year and take up office at the following AGM. Now that an AGM could be held, the committee had nominated her for a second term of office.

On the Nominations list sent by email and placed on the website, Caroline had been proposed by Roger Smith and seconded by Richard Hoskins. A vote was held with 97% approving the proposition, no-one voting against and 3% abstaining.

Henrietta Quinnell, as Honorary Vice-President, reflected that such a gap between AGMs was rare and thanked Caroline Dudley for her role before and during the pandemic. Caroline replied that she had enjoyed in spite of the recent difficult circumstances.

At this stage, Caroline Dudley resumed the chair.

## 8. Election of Officers and Committee Members

The President explained that no nominations had been received from members before the deadline of 17<sup>th</sup> March 2021. The Nominations list had been sent by email and placed on the website.

### (a) Officers, 2020-2021

Certain officers were elected directly by members. The following had agreed to stand and had been nominated in accordance with Rule 6:

**Secretary** – Roger Smith; **Treasurer** – Richard Hoskins; **Joint Journal Editor** - Peter Rose;  
**Membership Secretary** – Konstanze Rahn

These nominations were approved, with 31 votes in favour, none against and 2 abstentions.

### (b) Committee Members, 2020-2021

The following had agreed to stand and had been nominated in accordance with Rule 8:

Jenny Beale; Steve Fletcher; Steve Hartgroves; Millie Holman; Andy Jones; Jenny Moore; Cathy Parkes; Ann Preston-Jones; Laura Ratcliffe-Warren; John Riley; Iain Rowe; Christine Wilson.

These nominations were approved, with 35 votes in favour, none against and no abstentions.

The President explained that the Committee was allowed to co-opt two additional members. Recently, two new trustees (Tasha Fullbrook and Mike Efstathiou) had been co-opted to serve until the AGM and that it was the intention to co-opt them again immediately after the AGM to serve until 2022.

The President further explained that certain posts of responsibility were decided by the committee and that it was the intention immediately after the AGM for the following trustees to be confirmed in the posts that they currently held for the following year:

Steve Fletcher (Newsletter Editor); Steve Hartgroves (Roman Cornwall Research Group); Millie Holman (Webmaster); Andy Jones (Surveying & Excavations); Cathy Parkes (Excursions & Safeguarding); Iain Rowe (Area Representatives); Christine Wilson (Publicity).

## 9. Any Other Business

The President explained there had been a steep and unexpected recent increase in postal charges from the United Kingdom, in addition to disproportionate rises since we had last adjusted subscription levels. To accommodate this, members were asked to consider the following proposal to alter subscription rates for overseas members only. This did not affect domestic membership rates. The society did not alter subscriptions very often but this was a special circumstance.

**Proposal:** To change the membership subscription for overseas members from January 1<sup>st</sup> 2022 by offering a choice between:

- (a) An annual subscription for overseas members of £40, to include the receipt of hard copies of the journal and newsletters; or
- (b) An annual subscription for overseas members of £25, with electronic journals and newsletters only.

Proposed by Richard Hoskins; seconded by Caroline Dudley.

This was approved by 35 members with no votes against. Accordingly, the membership subscription for overseas members would be altered.

No other matters were raised for discussion. The President hoped that in 2022 physical meetings would return but in the meantime the society would continue to make good use of Zoom. She thanked members for attending.

The meeting ended at 11.42 a.m.

**The meeting was followed at 1.45 pm by a series of Zoom talks on the theme of archaeological work carried out in Cornwall by the late Roger Mercer. A minute's silence was held at 3 pm to mark the death of Prince Philip.**