

**CORNWALL ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY
2010-11
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
HELD AT TRURO BAPTIST CHURCH
ON SATURDAY 9TH JULY AT 1.30 PM**

To be approved by the AGM in 2012

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

1. Welcome.

The President welcomed those attending and opened the meeting. He reminded those present that only members could vote but stated that he was delighted that 2 people, having read a newspaper advert for the meeting, had decided to come along, and added that he hoped they would consider joining as a result. He extended a warm welcome to Charles Thomas and Val Maxfield, which was supported warmly by those in attendance.

The President asked the audience to be patient since health problems were posing a major challenge for him. He apologised for the postponement of the meeting and explained that 4 senior officers of the Society had suffered bereavements, the result being that it had not been possible to give the correct notice to members for the meeting in April; had it gone ahead as planned the legitimacy of any decisions made subsequently might have been questioned by members.

2. Apologies:

Nicholas Thomas, David Giddings, Imogen Wood, Maria Gardiner, Richard Heard, Pam Lee, Valerie Littleton, Brian and Sheila Hammond, Eunice Wood, Hazel and Brian Williams, Phil Dowd, Ursula Davey, Peter Cornall, James Gossip.

3. Minutes and matters arising from the Annual General Meeting held on April 24th 2010:

The minutes were approved, having been proposed by Ryan Smith and seconded by Jenny Beale. There were no matters arising.

4. President's Report.

Following the precedent set in 2010, this incorporated other officers' reports, except those of the Treasurer and Editor.

The President repeated his apology for the postponement of the AGM. Since the last AGM, the work carried out by the Committee had increased and this had led it to appoint 2 Trustees as Vice-Presidents supporting the President for the remainder of his period of office. Adrian Rodda and Jenny Beale had been invited to fill these roles and they had accepted. It had also been decided to co-opt 2 members to the Committee and he was pleased that Ryan Smith, the Society's webmaster, had agreed to take one of these positions.

Now that Cornwall had a unitary council, funded poorly by central government, a decision had been made to inform councillors how valuable the Historic Environment Service, the Museum Service, the County Record Office and the Cornwall Centre were to the county, and to seek assurances that these services would be maintained.

This was done in writing and the President had been able to table a request for the matter to be considered formally by the Cornwall Council Cabinet. He felt certain that there had been appreciation of the points raised. The Committee had also felt it necessary to contact the National Trust, in advance of its proposed reorganisation, to inform it how essential it considered the roles of the 2 archaeologists for Devon and Cornwall, and many of their Countryside Wardens, to be. As President, he represented CAS on the Historic Cornwall Advisory Committee, so he had been able to reinforce these points in that forum. On behalf of C.A.S., he had made a promise to Cornwall that we would extend the work of C.A.S.P.N. (Cornwall Ancient Sites Protection Network) and L.A.N. (Lizard Ancient Sites Network) to the remainder of the county and would make sure that nearly 500 Scheduled Ancient Monuments would be covered by our monitoring system within the next 3 years. It was anticipated that the Area Representatives would manage much of this, although it was to be hoped that we could enlist support from the public as well.

He now turned to the Society's network of Area Representatives and was pleased to report that they had increased in number, allowing a reduction in the areas for which individuals were responsible. He hoped that the result would be a fine example of the Prime Minister's 'Big Society', even though resources were limited. The Trustees wished to express their gratitude to Peter Cornall for taking on the role of Area Representatives' Convenor and working assiduously to simplify procedures, especially in the matter of the Monument Watch programme. His work had been greatly appreciated too by the Area Representatives themselves.

The President gave a report about the Society's membership. It was the second year of the increased subscriptions and the biggest problem had been to get some members to alter their Standing Orders to the new rate. Consequently, 16 members were still enjoying membership at the old (pre-2010 rate); the Committee would continue to address this problem. The switch to single membership had continued. There were 425 members compared with 497 at the same time in the previous year. 42 new members had joined during the year compared with 66 during the preceding year.

There had been no excavation in 2010 so that post-excavation work could be completed by experts and volunteers on Hay Close (2007) and Carn Galver and Bosporthenis (2009) under our director of excavations, Dr Andy Jones. Our next field project is a training excavation at a settlement at Bosiliack, near Madron, in September. This will include an assessment of the damage done by bracken roots to houses excavated by Professor Charles Thomas with CAS volunteers in the 1980s.

The President and Committee had done their best to maintain the production of the journals. Graeme Kirkham had experienced problems trying to get work returned from authors but was now almost up to date. Peter Rose was to be thanked for all his hard work editing Journal 50, which would be the 50th birthday edition. Our Newsletter had been produced punctually by its editor, Adrian Rodda, with help from Konstanze Rahn and contributions from many of our members. While the Newsletter is good for recording and announcing our varied activities, our excellent website, under the direction of Ryan Smith, is more immediate and members are encouraged to turn to it for the latest news and for extended reports, which often include coloured photographs and features that cannot be published in the limited space of the Newsletter.

The survey group had been at work during many weekends and continued to provide information about sites in response to requests. The Committee had been pleased to add a new piece of equipment to its armoury and hoped that more members would take advantage of the opportunity to receive training.

The Civil War Battlefields Group was working under the Directorship of Trustee Peter Nicholas, with Roger Smith as Deputy Director. The President extended an open invitation to all members to participate in this project. Those with relevant expertise were invited to join but, equally, those who wished to gain experience would also be welcome. The Committee was grateful to Jo Higgins for constructing the Project Design and offering to be the archaeologist with oversight of the project. The first edition of the project newsletter, called *Warpeth*, was available on the CAS website. Two local artists, Jon Tremaine (a former pupil) and Nick Berringer (a lifelong friend from surf lifesaving days) had both offered to provide illustrations.

In the absence of an Excursions Officer, the President and members of the Committee had done their best to provide walks. Fortunately, he was able to report that a volunteer had come forward to take on this role and he hoped that this would be confirmed later in the proceedings. It had always been hoped that walks would be successful but he noted that during the recent difficult period responses had ranged from the congratulatory to the critical.

The President congratulated Imogen Wood for the Lecture Programme for 2010-2011. Numbers attending had increased, both in Liskeard and Truro, providing evidence that members too felt this to have been a good programme. He thanked Hazel and Brian Williams for their hard work in ensuring that the Liskeard venue was made ready, and Anna Tyacke for doing the same in Truro. Before long a programme for the following winter would be ready. Trustees had been considering adding further venues and asked members who wished to comment on this suggestion to send in their views. This idea formed part of a wider discussion about how to improve the Society's coverage of the whole county.

As President he especially wished to draw the attention of members to the celebrations of the Society's 50th Anniversary to be held in September and to thank Adrian Rodda for all his hard work in bringing this about.

Finally, he thanked the Trustees for their efforts and the members for the wonderful support that they had given the Society. He finished by inviting comments or questions about his report.

The Secretary read a letter to the President written on 24th June 2011 by Dr Mike Heyworth M.B.E., Director of the Council for British Archaeology, which he had asked to be passed on to the Society's members:

'I am writing in advance of the Cornwall Archaeological Society' AGM to ask you to pass on to the Society's membership the appreciation and admiration of the Council for British Archaeology for the work of the Society in recent years. We were hugely impressed during our weekend event in Cornwall last year with the knowledge, enthusiasm and energy of the Society. Our members commented in particular, via the

subsequent evaluation forms, on the much-appreciated contributions of the local tour guides during the weekend, and on the friendly welcome we had received.

‘I know that much of this comes from the inspiring example which you have set as the Society’s President and I remain grateful to you personally for all you have done for archaeology in Cornwall, and across the UK in connection with the CBA’s Young Archaeologists’ Club. This was rightly recognised by your election as an Honorary Vice-President of the CBA.

‘We are pleased to offer our continued support for the Society’s work in any way that we can in the future, based on the well-regarded programmes you have put in place during your tenure as CAS President.’

5. Officers’ reports:

(a) Treasurer’s Report

John Bennett provided copies of the Society’s accounts for the year ended 31st December 2010 and the report of the Independent Examiner. He stated that the accounts were in a satisfactory state and that the Society had sufficient assets to funds its operations in the foreseeable future. He noted that the assets in the bank were relatively high in order to cover the imminent expense of publishing journals but, even though this would be in the region of £8,000 per edition, the finances were reasonably robust. There were no questions. The accounts were accepted having been proposed by Pete Nicholas and seconded by Jane Marley.

(b) Editor’s Report

On behalf of the Editor, TB explained that in order to catch up Journals 48 and 49 would be combined in a single volume which Graeme Kirkham hoped to get published before Christmas 2011. He was grateful to Peter Rose for having agreed to edit Journal 50. Henrietta Quinnell reminded members that in addition to publishing a special journal to mark the Society’s 50th Anniversary and holding a celebratory event in September, there would be a Joint Symposium, held in conjunction with Devon Archaeological Society, at the Eagle House Hotel in Launceston on Saturday 12th November 2011.

6. Election of a President-Elect 2011-2012/President 2012-2015

The President informed the meeting that the Trustees had nominated Professor Valerie Maxfield BA, PhD, FSA, to become President-Elect for the period 2011 to 2012, after which she would serve as President from 2012 to 2015, subject to the confirmation of the AGM. He welcomed her to the meeting and invited her to address members. Professor Maxfield thanked the President, Committee and members of the Society for the invitation. She explained that she had strong connections with the South-West, not by birth, although on her mother’s side there were regional links, but chiefly through her professional career. She had begun working at Exeter University in 1972, eventually becoming Professor of Roman Archaeology, and had retired 3 years ago. Her particular interests were in the Roman Empire, notably its fringes; however, she had been involved in many aspects of archaeology, including carrying out at different times most of the posts (with the exception of being Secretary) in

Devon Archaeological Society, and was currently its Editor. Although she had not had much involvement with CAS up to the present, with the exceptions of lecturing and running Day Schools, she looked forwards greatly to becoming the President-Elect, then President, of such a distinguished society, especially one that was celebrating its 50th year. She realised that there would be a steep learning curve but was pleased to accept the nomination. The Trustees proposed the invitation, which was seconded by Carl Thorpe, and approved by the meeting.

7. Election of Officers and Committee Members:

The Secretary reported that no nominations had been received and that all Trustees had agreed to continue in office, subject to the approval of the AGM, and each had been proposed and seconded.

(a) Officers:

President-Tony Blackman (term of office due to end at the 2012 AGM)

Past President-Henrietta Quinnell (term of office due to end at the 2012 AGM)

The following were named as Trustees standing for re-election as officers:

Secretary-Roger Smith

Treasurer-John Bennett

Editor-Peter Herring

Membership Secretary-Jenny Beale

The election of the above was proposed by Pete Nicholas, seconded by Ryan Smith and approved by the meeting.

(b) Committee Members:

The following were named as Trustees standing for re-election as Committee members:

Adrian Rodda

Leslie Dodd

David Giddings

Steve Hartgroves

Valerie Jacob

Andy Jones

Jane Marley

Peter Nicholas

Peter Rose

Anna Tyacke

Christine Wilson

Imogen Wood

The election of the above was proposed by Carl Thorpe, seconded by Jenny Beale and approved by the meeting.

(Members were also given the welcome news that Steve Hartgroves had agreed to take on the role of Excursions Officer.)

8. Any Other Business

(a) Access to ancient monuments on Bodmin Moor

Roger Farnworth informed the meeting that fencing now restricts public access to Leaze stone circle and the Stipple Stones henge. These were formerly accessible and indeed had been visited by CAS members on field trips. Since one of the Society's objectives was to disseminate archaeological knowledge, he proposed that the Society should investigate ways in which the public could gain access to those archaeological monuments to which access had been restricted by fencing. This was seconded by Henrietta Quinnell and approved by the meeting.

(b) Davidstow Wind Farm

Roger Farnworth reminded members that a resolution expressing concern about proposals submitted by Community Windpower Ltd. to build 20 wind turbine generators on land adjacent to Davidstow Wood, Davidstow, had been passed at our AGM in April 2010. Subsequently, following Cornwall Council's refusal, the applicant had lodged an appeal with the Department for Communities and Local Government, and a public enquiry was due to be conducted in November 2011. He circulated copies of a paper he intended to submit to the enquiry and requested the meeting to consider the following proposal:

At the planning enquiry to be held in Camelford in November 2011, Cornwall Archaeological Society has resolved to oppose an application to construct 20 industrial wind turbines in close proximity to one of Britain's best preserved Neolithic and Bronze age ritual landscapes as each turbine would be taller than Rough Tor and would damage the setting of its scheduled monuments and sightlines to and from its summit cairns. The meaning of that ritual landscape is woven into the lands where it was constructed. You unweave the fabric of that meaning by changing the landscape as the wind farm would do.

Roger Farnworth accepted a suggestion from John Bennett that the following statement should be added to the original wording:

Cornwall Archaeological Society is generally supportive of wind farms but not in this location.

Roger Farnworth proposed that the above statement should be added to his original resolution and this was seconded by Steve Hartgroves. The meeting approved the changed wording of the proposition to be considered.

Discussion of the revised resolution was held. Henrietta Quinnell asked those present to consider 3 points: firstly, it would be unprecedented for CAS to become involved formally in a public enquiry, an action that might lead to unwelcome complications; secondly, since it was likely that the views of the membership about matters such as wind power, sustainability and climate change would be divergent, it would be impossible to support a single point of view; finally, construction of a wind farm would cause fairly minimal damage to archaeology, certainly when compared with, say, a quarry or power station, and that Historic Environment would be better placed

to make a judgement about the impact of the scheme. Roger Farnworth confirmed that the resolution would seek a letter expressing the Society's views and that representation at the enquiry would be a separate matter. He accepted that the damage caused during construction would be small-scale but felt the scheme would adversely affect the archaeology of the wider landscape, since it would mar the intervisibility between archaeological sites in the vicinity. Carl Thorpe noted that any decision would be aesthetically-based, hence it would be impossible to reflect the views of all members; also, the turbines would be temporary structures. Peter Nicholas agreed that they would be temporary but stated that the views of local people, as reflected on local radio, were strongly opposed to the scheme, not least because of the proposed height of the turbines. Jenny Beale pointed out that once turbines have been given planning permission they are in situ permanently and can even be enlarged, or altered, after a time limit which is set in the original planning permission. Ryan Smith asked those present to consider the possible precedent to be set by showing opposition; if wind farms were objectionable should the Society also oppose photo-voltaic parks, which covered more land, arguably with greater damage. Caroline Dudley queried the real efficiency of wind farms. John Bennett observed that visual impact was a more valid consideration in planning enquiries and while he accepted the lack of a precedent in getting involved on behalf of CAS, it is a large site worthy of protection. If it had it been within an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty the negative visual impact would be taken into consideration. Steve Hartgroves agreed that it would be impossible to reflect the view of every member, given that the responses would be subjective, but proposed an amended resolution making clear that at the AGM it was recommended that the Society should voice its opposition. This was seconded by John Bennett and passed by those present, with no votes against and with 4 abstentions. To sum up: At the AGM of the CAS, members present voted to recommend the following resolution to the trustees:

At the planning enquiry to be held in Camelford in November 2011, Cornwall Archaeological Society should oppose an application to construct 20 industrial wind turbines in close proximity to one of Britain's best preserved Neolithic and Bronze age ritual landscapes as each turbine would be taller than Rough Tor and would damage the setting of its scheduled monuments and sightlines to and from its summit cairns. The meaning of that ritual landscape is woven into the lands where it was constructed. You unweave the fabric of that meaning by changing the landscape as the wind farm would do. Cornwall Archaeological Society is generally supportive of wind farms, but not in this location.

The President thanked Roger Farnworth for his kind offer to represent CAS at the Public Enquiry but stated that the issues of the content of the letter and any other action to be taken would be discussed by Trustees and that a letter would be sent in due course.

(c) Gunwalloe Excavation

Members were informed that Imogen Wood would be directing the dig and that there would be an Open Day on Saturday 13th August 2011.

(d) Festival of Archaeology 2011

Tony Blackman reminded members that the CBA Festival of British Archaeology was due to begin on Saturday 16th July and that during that fortnight there would be many walks of interest in Cornwall, including ones at Minions and Castle-an-Dinas for the visually impaired.

(e) Cornwall Archaeological Society's 50th Anniversary

Adrian Rodda explained how delighted he had been to see this project expand with so many offers of support. He drew attention to 4 strands of celebration in which he hoped as many members as possible would participate:

- The CAS/DAS Joint Symposium would be held at the Eagle House Hotel in Launceston on Saturday 12th November 2011. The programme, which included many eminent speakers, had been organised by Henrietta Quinnell and Andy Jones. Flyers had already been issued and more would appear with the next Newsletter.
- Journal 50 was exciting, colourful and well-edited and, thanks to Peter Rose and John Bennett, was almost ready to be sent to the printers. It would be an essential read in order to see what progress had been made since the 25th anniversary edition.
- In September 2011, there will be an exhibition in the Hayloft at Trevice with permission from the National Trust. This will take the theme of how we not only enjoy the county's historic environment but also how we seek to protect it. Other groups, including the Trevithick Society, the St Piran's Trust, CASPN, LAN, Historic Environment, the Royal Cornwall Museum, the Portable Antiquities Scheme and Newquay Old Cornwall Society had all been most supportive. Admission would be free and he felt sure that visitors to the exhibition would agree that CAS is rather a special society.
- Finally, on Saturday September 24th 2011, at Newlyn East Village Hall, a CAS party would be held. He had organised a buffet, a band and celebration cake. It would be an ideal opportunity to honour the contribution of founder members, including Charles Thomas, Henrietta Quinnell and Nicholas Thomas, and to reflect on the past and future of CAS.

The President praised and thanked Adrian for his hard work in organising these celebrations. He added that Trustees would be considering how CAS might work more closely with other organisations that were concerned with the understanding and protection of Cornwall's historic environment.

The meeting closed at 2.47 p.m.