

**CORNWALL ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY**  
**2011-12**  
**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**  
**HELD AT TRURO BAPTIST CHURCH**  
**ON SATURDAY 14<sup>TH</sup> APRIL AT 1.30 PM**

**To be approved by the AGM in 2013**

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

**1. Welcome**

Henrietta Quinnell, as Past President, welcomed those attending and explained that because of the sad loss of our President, Tony Blackman, earlier in the year, she would chair the initial part of the meeting. She knew that the death of Tony had been felt keenly. He had been the only President of the Society from the amateur sphere and during his incumbency had been responsible for many achievements. The Committee intended to create an appropriate memorial to recognise his contribution to archaeology in Cornwall. The meeting then stood for a short while in remembrance.

**2. Apologies**

Apologies had been received from: Adrian Rodda; Priscilla Oates; Les Dodd; Imogen Morris; Kath Camp; Mark Camp; Brian Hammond; Sheila Hammond; Sally Herriott; Eunice Wood; Iain Rowe; Val Dawson; Pete Herring; Diana Sutherland.

**3. Minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting**

The minutes of the 2011 A.G.M., held on Saturday July 9<sup>th</sup> 2011, were approved, having been proposed by Konstanze Rahn and seconded by Fiona Fleming.

**4. Matters arising from the 2011 A.G.M.**

There were no matters arising.

**5. President's Report**

Henrietta Quinnell explained that, under the circumstances, it was impossible to have a President's Report; however, the Secretary, together with officers and committee members, had produced an annual report, a summary of which she, as Past President, would present to the meeting. The full version would be made available on the website and the Treasurer's report would be given as a separate item later in the proceedings. She thanked the Secretary for his efforts during the year.

First, she wished to consider our membership. Our numbers stood at about 455 and, of these, 58 had not renewed so far, therefore reminder letters had been sent about 4 weeks ago. Jenny Beale, our Membership Secretary, had reported that 49 new members had joined since the 2011 A.G.M. Attendance at events indicated a healthy wish on the part of members to be involved. The Society must meet the needs of its membership, and it was to be hoped that all members felt that they were able to put forward their views, favourable or otherwise, at any time.

It had been a difficult period for our Trustees. With typical determination and courage, Tony remained involved until the late autumn but his illness prevented him from acting with his customary vigour. However, much work was carried out on his behalf by Adrian Rodda and Jenny Beale, in their temporary roles as working Vice-Presidents. In particular, Adrian had chaired all recent Committee meetings. John Bennett's financial report showed that the Society was in a healthy position, which, she felt, was due to his astute stewardship. He had recently written a paper reviewing the constitution, which the Committee had discussed on 13<sup>th</sup> March. It was agreed that, with the exception of the amendment to be discussed at this A.G.M., the constitution did not require any major reform for the time being.

There had been 6 Committee meetings since the last A.G.M., plus sub-committees to consider excavation and journals. All Trustees had agreed to serve for another year. It was fortunate that the Trustees, as a result of their professional or personal connections, provided formal or informal links with Cornwall Council's Historic Environment service, Exeter University, the Portable Antiquities Scheme, the Royal Cornwall Museum and the Museum and Galleries Network, the Federation of Old Cornwall Societies, Cornwall Ancient Sites Protection Network, Lizard Ancient Sites Network, Saltash Heritage, the National Trust, Truro and Cornwall Colleges, Cornwall and West Devon Mining World Heritage Site. It was a good blend of professionals and amateurs, as should be the case in a society like ours.

Much had happened since the last A.G.M. Tony took great pleasure in the considerable achievements of the Society during his presidency. The 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations, especially the exhibition at Trerice and the party at St Newlyn East in September, proved to be very popular, due largely to the tireless planning and organisation undertaken by Adrian Rodda. Making links with other heritage organisations was an aim that Tony had always pursued and these celebrations involved us in working in partnership with the National Trust, the Royal Institution of Cornwall, the Portable Antiquities Scheme, St Piran's Trust and Newquay Old Cornwall Society.

In November, over 100 people attended the Joint Symposium of the Cornwall and Devon Archaeological Societies in Launceston, a celebration of the Society's 50 years. Andy Jones assembled a superb group of speakers, who provided a summary of the last half century of archaeology in the County. Tony had been able to make a speech at the beginning but Professor Maxfield then chaired the morning session, followed by Professor Andrew Fleming, President of Devon Archaeological Society, in the afternoon.

The backlog of journals was being addressed. Journal 47 was published last August. It had been decided to combine CAs 48 and 49 into a single volume, under the editorship of Graeme Kirkham. This should be available in May. He was now in the process of producing journals 51 and 52. The Committee had agreed that all new substantial articles received would be peer-reviewed. This was necessary because contributors, for their own career progression, increasingly were only willing to

submit articles for publication in journals that do this; if we did not arrange for peer-review we might not continue to receive articles of the highest academic quality. Special mention must be made of CA 50, our Golden Jubilee volume. Thanks to Peter Rose for editing such a beautiful publication and to John Bennett who undertook much of the technical preparation that most readers would never be aware of. Alison Sheridan's review in *British Archaeology* magazine (March/April 2012) described it as "a cornucopia of information, syntheses, reviews and reminiscences...in an attractively produced, accessible and scholarly volume". Our journals were sizeable, which was pleasing to the reader, but it led to huge problems distributing them, as well as high postal charges. Adrian Rodda and others had been able to deliver many by hand but in future if members were able to collect their copies it would save the society a great deal of money.

Newsletter Editor, Adrian Rodda, had reported that newsletters had been published in June and October 2011 and February 2012. The last had celebrated the exhibition of members' work and CAS activities held at Trerice in September 2011, and the 50<sup>th</sup> Birthday Party held at St Newlyn East Village Hall, and was a 12 page edition. He was delighted with Integral Print, our new printers, who used good quality paper and produced the newsletters very quickly. There was still an issue with postage, which had risen again in April; an A4 newsletter cost more to post than to print. Efforts were being made to distribute as many copies as possible by hand. Members who received the newsletter via the website had, up to now, also received a hard copy by post. If any wished to have only the PDF version, would they indicate their choice to the Membership Secretary as soon as possible? Thanks to all the contributors who had sent summaries of lectures, pictures and news items, and to Konstanze Rahn, who still offered support with technical and editorial problems. More contributors would be welcome, especially anyone willing to summarise lectures in Truro or Liskeard. Members were welcome to discuss archaeological matters or to offer suggestions or constructive criticism. It was after all, a publication members paid for and owned. Complementary to the newsletter was our excellent website, which was full of information and frequently updated by Ryan Smith.

Dr Imogen Morris (no longer Imogen Wood) had continued to delight us with a varied programme of lectures. We were very fortunate to be able to attract experts of the highest calibre.

It had taken a long time to replace Pam Lee as Excursions Officer but Steve Hartgroves had come forward and, once again, we had an attractive programme of activities covering a wide range of periods and themes across the county. Anyone wishing for some fresh air on the following day would do well to go to Pencarrow House near Bodmin.

The Society tried to organise a dig every other year, which allowed time to prepare reports. Last September, the Society, with Historic Environment Projects, Cornwall Council, undertook an investigation at Bosiliack, with Andy Jones as Director. CAS

volunteers participated in this project which looked at one of the best-preserved roundhouse settlements in Penwith and the impact of bracken rhizomes on archaeological features. A summary of the excavation was available on the website and a more detailed report would be published later. Post-excavation work from the Boden excavation of 2008 continued. CAS members had also been able to participate in the Exeter University dig at Gunwalloe, run by Imogen Morris. In February, the National Trust invited CAS members to take part in a small excavation at Trevice House near Newquay. The Sustainable Trust had plans to undertake an evaluation exercise at Carwynnen Quoit with a view to undertaking an excavation later on. Trustees had offered their support, a donation of £500 and a letter of support to be used in the application to the Heritage Lottery Fund. The Sustainable Trust would offer CAS members the opportunity to be involved in these excavations and associated activities.

There was also analysis of finds. The Clodgy Moor Project, from May to January, had been run by Cornwall Council's Historic Environment Projects team and the Portable Antiquities Scheme, and commissioned by English Heritage, to record the massive assemblage of flint tools and pottery found by Graham Hill and Dave Edwards. Volunteers had been trained to record the finds and enter them on the PAS database. The resulting information was likely to be extremely important.

The Society had its own surveying equipment, which was used by Les Dodd and Pete Nicholas. They had investigated many sites and had plans to look at Trecrogo Rings, Castle-an-Dinas, and Castle Dore in the near future. It was not unusual for them to be asked to survey sites, one example being St Piran's Oratory. They intended, where feasible, to provide training for society members, details of which would appear in future newsletters and on the website. A generous bequest had been made by Peter Brierley and it was our intention to use this, plus a grant from the Council for British Archaeology, to purchase photographic equipment to help monitor key sites and monuments.

Progress with the Battlefield Project had been slow and an update was planned for a future newsletter. Pete Nicholas and Les Dodd would be running a fieldwalking exercise involving schoolchildren at Stratton, as well as undertaking geophysics there. Tywardreath Battlefield Project group had invited us to work with them as part of the investigation into the Lostwithiel Campaign of 1644 and we remained in touch with the Battlefield Trust.

One of Tony Blackman's greatest wishes had been for the Society's Area Representatives to provide coverage for the entire county, and to work with English Heritage and Historic Environment Cornwall to monitor and help protect the Cornwall's large number of monuments, scheduled or otherwise. It had been a source of joy to him that this goal was now within sight. Peter Cornall's work as convenor for the Area Representatives had been essential in setting up a coherent system that worked. At the most recent meeting of the Area Representatives, Bryn Tapper and

Emma Trevarthen of Historic Environment, and Ann Preston-Jones of English Heritage, had demonstrated how the new reporting system was used to update official records and to support moves for remedial action where necessary. Our approach had attracted the attention of other South-West HERs and Bryn Tapper had been asked to speak at a conference in Birmingham. Coverage of the county was still uneven and more volunteers were being sought but huge progress had been made. A day-school would take place in May to train some of these volunteers and it was hoped that further days would be provided for anyone interested.

The Society was involved in the general protection of the historic environment. At the last AGM, a resolution had been passed recommending that the trustees should write to object to the Planning Inspectorate, stating the Society's opposition to the appeal lodged by Community Windpower Limited against the refusal by Cornwall Council to allow its application to build a wind farm on land adjacent to Davidstow Wood, Davidstow. This was subsequently approved by Trustees and a letter had been sent. The society then heard from the Inspector that the appeal had been withdrawn. Last year, it was learned that the Wayside Museum in Zennor, including its unique collection of artefacts (and a site closely connected to our own society), was being put up for sale. In response to an appeal from the current owners, the Trustees wrote to the National Trust urging them to consider acquiring the site and collection. Sadly, it had been reported recently in the press that the Trust had been unable to buy it. We would continue to be represented on the Historic Cornwall Advisory Group and the Mining World Heritage Consultative Forum.

Clearly, CAS was a very busy society. This year had been a mixture of celebration and sadness. The loss of Tony Blackman was a considerable blow; however, there was the consolation that many of the ambitions that he had for the Society were being pursued actively. The society now entered a new and exciting phase, with a new President, and, as before, an active, enthusiastic membership. Further events and initiatives were planned, including the *Archaeology in Cornwall* conference in November, a day school on *Science in Archaeology* and a *Roman Cornwall* project. In short, the Society was in very good shape but did not intend to stand still, rather to continue to fulfil its objectives to foster research and share the results widely.

In questions to the President, Nicholas Thomas asked if there had been further news about the fate of the Wayside Museum. None was known. There was a brief discussion about this.

Nigel Thomas proposed that the report delivered by the Past President was a satisfactory record. This was seconded by Roger Farnworth and passed unanimously.

## **6. Treasurer's report**

John Bennett began by thanking Henrietta Quinnell for the personal and professional strength with which she had supported the society over the year. He provided copies of the Society's accounts for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2011 and the report of the

Independent Examiner. He stated that the accounts were in a robust state and that the Society had sufficient assets to fund its operations in the foreseeable future. Total assets appeared lower because of the accounting method used and also because two journals had been published. He invited questions but there were none. The Treasurer's report was approved unanimously, having been proposed by Ursula Davey and seconded by Konstanze Rahn.

## **7. Amendment to the Constitution**

John Bennett explained that at the Committee meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> March 2012 it had been agreed that only one amendment was needed for the time being and that was regarding the payment of honoraria:

*For contributions requiring significant professional skill and effort, the Committee is authorised to pay honoraria.*

He explained that under Charity Commission rules trustees could not be paid, so when professional expertise had been rewarded with a payment, he had always sought permission from them. The change, if approved, would remove the need for this letter to be written on each occasion. Honoraria did not reflect professional rates but were gestures of appreciation in a financial form. Henrietta Quinnell, from the chair, invited comments. Nigel Stanier noted that such payments would be chargeable income for tax. John Bennett agreed but pointed out that the onus would be on the recipients to declare them. The amendment was proposed by David Cormack, seconded by Konstanze Rahn and passed unanimously.

## **8. Election of President, 2012 to 2015**

Henrietta Quinnell explained that the Constitution provided a post of Past President to encourage continuity; however, the death of Tony Blackman meant that this post would be vacant. Therefore, the Committee had asked her to continue in this role and she had accepted. Due to personal circumstances, she regretted that she had been unable to do as much as she might have wished but she was pleased to be of use to the society.

She reminded members that Professor Valerie Maxfield had been elected as President-Elect at the 2011 A.G.M. and that it gave her great pleasure to invite her, on behalf of the members of the society, to formally take the role of President. Henrietta wished Professor Maxfield great success and hoped that she would gain as much satisfaction from the Presidency as she had.

Professor Maxfield thanked Henrietta and the members. She was honoured to become President. During her time as President –Elect, or President-in-training as it might be called, she had been most impressed by the range of activities pursued by the society and looked forward to becoming involved. She offered particular thanks to the trustees, who had given her such support over the past year. Professor Maxfield took the chair for the rest of the meeting.

## **9. Election of Officers and Committee Members:**

The Secretary reported that no nominations, apart from those Trustees who had been previously serving, 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:**

Secretary-Roger Smith

Treasurer-John Bennett

Editor-Peter Herring

Membership Secretary-Jenny Beale

These were approved unanimously.

### **(b) Committee Members:**

Adrian Rodda

Leslie Dodd

David Giddings

Steve Hartgroves

Valerie Jacob

Andy Jones

Jane Marley

Imogen Morris

Peter Nicholas

Peter Rose

Anna Tyacke

Christine Wilson

These were approved unanimously.

## **10. Any Other Business**

- (a) Henrietta Quinnell expressed her pleasure at being presented at the Devon Archaeological Society's A.G.M. with the festschrift volume [*Recent Archaeological Work in South-Western Britain Papers in Honour of Henrietta Quinnell*, edited by Susan Pearce] which had arisen from the Tavistock Symposium in 2009. She had already offered her thanks to Devon Archaeological Society and was pleased to take this opportunity to thank the members of Cornwall Archaeological Society. Valerie Maxfield added that it had been an honour to present the volume to her and reflected gratitude for all that Henrietta had done for the archaeology of both counties.
- (b) Roger Farnworth reminded members that at the previous A.G.M. he had expressed concerns about the restriction of public access to some monuments on Bodmin Moor, for example at Leaze. He wished to know if the Committee had discussed the matter and, if so, what had been decided. He was also concerned at recent cairn-building activity at sites like Rough Tor and the best response to take should these cairns be found. Valerie Maxfield replied that the Committee had not discussed the problem of access but that it might be useful if his concerns were passed to Area Representatives. Pete Nicholas reported that the monuments on southern part of the Moor were now well patrolled by a new group which he and Iain Rowe had recently set up.

Henrietta Quinnell shared the concern about cairn-building on Rough Tor but advised strongly against removing the stones. Valerie Maxfield suggested that Roger Farnworth should write to English Heritage about his concerns since it was always a good idea for individuals to express any concerns. He asked the Committee to consider sending a letter as well.

The meeting closed at 2.15 p.m. and was followed by a lecture by Dr. Helen Geake, *The Staffordshire Hoard: A treasure saved for the nation*.