

**CORNWALL ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY
2012-13
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
HELD AT TRURO BAPTIST CHURCH
ON SATURDAY 13TH APRIL 2013 AT 1.30 PM**

To be approved by the AGM in 2014

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

1. Welcome

The President, Val Maxfield, welcomed those present and reminded them that only members of CAS were entitled to vote.

2. Apologies

These had been received from Pete Nicholas, Iain Rowe, Pete Herring, Nicholas Thomas, Frances Griffith and Margaret Hunt

3. Minutes of the 2012 Annual General Meeting held on Saturday 14th April 2012

These were approved unanimously as an accurate record of proceedings, having first been proposed by Carl Thorpe and seconded by Ryan Smith.

4. Matters arising from the minutes of the 2012 Annual General Meeting

Item 10 (b) Bodmin Moor

Val Maxfield reported that in response to concerns raised by Roger Farnworth about cairn-building the Secretary had written to the National Trust and the Ramblers' Association and had received positive responses from both. The responses had been forwarded to Roger who, sadly, has since died. She was certain that Roger, who had been dedicated to the heritage of Cornwall and such a stalwart supporter of our Society would be greatly missed.

5. President's Report

Val Maxfield explained that the President's report would incorporate the reports of all the Trustees, except that of the Treasurer, which would be presented separately, and would give a review of the Committee's work during the previous year. The report aimed to reflect on how, during the period since the previous report in 2012, the Society had carried out the objectives stipulated in its constitution: namely, undertaking and fostering archaeological research in Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly, and disseminating knowledge of Cornish archaeology through the activities and information provided for its members, as well as extending our role of care over the county's archaeological heritage and reaching out to like-minded bodies and the public.

A major, if unexpected, highlight of the year had come through the Society being awarded what could be termed the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Prize. In order to celebrate the Diamond Jubilee of its patron, the Queen, The Royal Archaeological Institute, had resolved to host, on its website, for the duration of the Jubilee year, reports from local societies, marking their proudest archaeological or historical achievements of the past 60 years. The Society's entry, featuring the important work at Carn Brea, written by Peter Rose, had won a prize for the best entry, namely £100 and an engraved trophy presented at a ceremony in London by the RAI's President, Professor David Hinton, and had been collected on our behalf by Hilary Orange. The money was in the Society's account but the trophy had yet to reach Cornwall – when it did it was hoped to display it, along with information about our submission and the Society's work in a travelling exhibition. The Report could be found

on the RAI's website (with a link to our website) - <http://www.royalarchinst.org/jubilee/cas> - as well as on our website.

The Committee had met 6 times in the previous year, the Editorial sub-committee had met once and various working groups had met as necessary; between meetings, members of the Committee had put in considerable amounts of time on the Society's behalf.

Membership remained stable. There were 457 members, compared to 455 at the time of the previous A.G.M., so numbers had recovered from the losses that had occurred following an increase in subscriptions. Unfortunately 55 (58 last year) of these members had not yet renewed their subscriptions and the Membership Secretary was pursuing the defaulters. Reminders had been sent out and a steady trickle of payments continued to come in. There were 8 institutional members, which was a small but constant number. Since 2011 there had been 52 new members, representing a small, steady increase. The Committee had worked hard to maintain and boost membership by providing attractive activities, including volunteering opportunities, and all activities were very well supported by our members.

The President praised the Society's trusty pair of joint Editors, Graeme Kirkham and Peter Herring, who had in the previous year produced: a bumper volume of *Cornish Archaeology* – the joint issue 48-49 (2009-2010); and 50 (the Jubilee volume, edited by Peter Rose). Work on journal 51 was well under way, bringing the publication programme almost up-to-date. One significant change in editorial procedure was the adoption by the Committee, on the recommendation of the Editorial sub-committee, of the practice of peer reviewing articles submitted for publication and this was now in operation for future numbers of the journal. (Academic institutions were firmly discouraging publication in non-peer-reviewed journals, and a failure to introduce this practice could have impacted adversely on the range of articles submitted to the Society.) The high cost of producing the journal, as well as the likely impact on our publishing programme of the pending requirement for prompt Open Access to publically-funded research, had led the Committee to consider the future of the journal, including electronic publication. A survey of members on digital publication and 'print on demand' had received a moderate response (less than 20% of the membership); unsurprisingly, there had been mixed responses but certainly no overwhelming demand for a digital journal. The issue was something which would be kept under review. Meanwhile, a good start had been made on digitizing the back numbers of the journal; the digital files would be put up on the Society's website. This would make the journal more readily accessible to researchers worldwide which, hopefully, might encourage more of them to join the Society.

The Society's second publication, edited by Adrian Rodda, was the Newsletter, which continued to provide a mixture of news, reviews and write-ups of Society activities, as well as listing forthcoming events. Newsletters had been published in June and October 2012, and in February 2013. The cost of postage had risen each April, so efforts were being made to distribute copies by hand. People who would be happy to receive an electronic version, instead of a hard copy, were invited to let the Editor know before the next Newsletter was published in late May. Contributions to the Newsletter continued to come from a splendid mix of amateurs and professionals. Adrian Rodda was delighted that professional colleagues had allowed the Society to publish news of current excavations and discoveries and thanked them for their edited contributions and pictures. Amateur members were sending in accounts of their own discoveries, accompanied by good pictures. Regular columns from the Area Representatives and from Historic Environment Cornwall Council had kept members up to date with activities which may not have appeared in the local press. More volunteers were needed to write up walks and lectures. The Newsletter existed for its members, all of whom were encouraged to send in interesting pieces about their experiences of archaeology in other countries, or counties, or about visits to museums or other sites. Also, Adrian Rodda wished to create a regular feature where members introduced a monument or artefact(s) in a museum and explained why it excited or pleased them.

The President thanked our Lectures Officer, Imogen Morris, for once again providing a splendid programme of winter lectures – 10 in all, 7 in Truro and 3 in Liskeard. The subjects had ranged widely, covering various British sites and themes, such as the Bronze Age boat reconstruction, the

Olympic Park, the Scillies, Dartmoor and North Wales, and, of course, the A.G.M. lecture which would concern Orkney. Attention had not been confined to domestic archaeology: Egypt had featured twice, with talks on a mummy and a stone quarry. As well as distinguished visiting speakers, there had been excellent 'home-grown' contributions, both professional and amateur, including those on Members' Evening and the Area Representatives' evening. In addition to the evening lectures, the Society had mounted a very successful one-day conference; in November 2012, 55 members enjoyed an excellent day on *Archaeology in Cornwall*. The President thanked Henrietta Quinnell and Andy Jones, who had put together an extremely interesting and varied programme, and Christine Wilson who had arranged the venue (Truro College) and catering. The food had been excellent and the whole day had been a great success. Special thanks were due to Caradoc Peters of Truro College for on-site coordination, as well as for a fascinating and intriguing concluding lecture on Cornish Game Hens.

Our Publicity Officer, Christine Wilson, had continued to produce eye-catching posters advertising the lectures. To increase the Society's profile beyond the existing membership, attempts were also being made to encourage the local press to take a more lively interest in archaeological stories by submitting advance notice of and concise reports of its lectures. Response had so far been muted. The website continued to be very effective. It amplified material in the Newsletter, and added further material, including information for members, as well as being a means of providing outreach. The President thanked Ryan Smith, our Webmaster, for managing the site.

Our Excursions Officer, Steve Hartgroves, had organised an attractive and varied programme of monthly site visits, including: the inaugural 'Tony Blackman New Year Walk', led by Val Jacob; while in February a joint meeting had been held with our sister society in Devon, led by Peter Herring. The next chance to get out and about would be in a week's time, with a walk to be led by David Giddings and Adrian Rodda around the Hayle Estuary. It would not be quite correct to describe this section as 'CAS Walks' since in May members were invited to get on their bikes and cycle 'the Great Flat Lode' with Nick Johnson.

A major contribution made to Cornwall's archaeological heritage by the Society was through the work of the Area Representatives. This work was going from strength to strength under the leadership of Peter Cornall as Area Representatives' Convenor. During the year a major milestone had been achieved when the coverage of the county was completed, with a network of 19 Representatives. Meetings of the Representatives took place every October and March. The President recommended members to visit the website to read their reports. Two very successful field training days for Area Representatives had been held in different parts of the county, one in May 2012, and another in February 2013. The Area Representatives continued to carry out Monument Watch, which involved the monitoring of Scheduled Monuments across the County. This was having a very significant impact, with regular reports being submitted to HES (Emma Trevarthen) and thence, as appropriate, to English Heritage (Ann Preston-Jones). The President considered this to be a model of good practice which could profitably be adopted elsewhere; indeed the work on Monument Watch had been brought to a much wider public through an article submitted by Peter to the on-line *Heritage Journal*. Four representatives had spoken about their work, in one of the lectures that season. There was a regular Area Representatives' column in the Newsletter, in addition to the section on the Society's website, which included the latest reports and minutes of the meetings.

Members had taken part in a number of excavations in the summer of 2012: at Gunwalloe with Imogen and Bryn Morris; at Godrevy Barrow, Gwithian and Carwynnen Quoit, with Jacky Nowakowski; and at Crane Castle with James Gossip. It was hoped that this summer Andy Jones would direct a small project at Hendraburnick, near Camelford – the site of a propped stone with cup marks. The newsletter and website would carry details.

Les Dodd and Pete Nicholas continued to undertake a programme of surveying monuments, which gave members the opportunity to learn about, as well as to participate in, field surveys. Sites where it was planned to work included St Piran's Oratory, Castle-an-Dinas, and Castle Dore. The generous bequest from Peter Brierley had been used, appropriately in view of his profession as a newspaper

photographer, to purchase a camera for use with the photographic tower. The February Newsletter showed the tower and camera, as well as a photograph of Carwynnen taken with the camera.

Pete Nicholas continued as Director of the Cornwall Civil War Battlefields Project. The Battlefield Trust had set up a regional group in Devon and Cornwall. The initial focus of work in the County would be on the Lostwithiel campaigns (of 1643 and 1644) and meetings had been held with interested parties to plan a project to look at the campaigns. Plans to get parts of the Lostwithiel area registered as a battlefield site were well advanced and consideration was being given to the submission of a bid jointly with other appropriate groups (through a Community Interest Company), to the Heritage Lottery Fund for money to support 'a multi-disciplinary, community-based approach' to the investigation of the Civil Wars in Cornwall. Among the areas of interest, permission would be sought for geophysical survey and metal detecting of the field at Beacon Hill near Lostwithiel and an application would be made to English Heritage for a licence to undertake an earthwork and geophysical survey at Castle Dore. A recording form had been designed in preparation for constructing a database of sites and finds throughout Cornwall and members were encouraged to participate. Leaflets on guided walks around places connected with the Lostwithiel campaign of 1644 were in preparation, if funding could be obtained.

The President reported that Society was working closely with other heritage bodies. Among its Trustees were members of Cornwall Historic Environment Service, the Royal Cornwall Museum, and the Portable Antiquities Scheme, who provided regular reports of their work. The Society was represented on, or was liaising with, a range of other heritage groups: Historic Cornwall Advisory Group; World Heritage Society Cornish Mining Consultative Forum; Cornwall Ancient Sites Protection Network; Lizard Ancient Sites Network; and the Young Archaeologists' Club. The Society was regularly appraised of their activities.

Notably, the Society would be joining in with two heritage proposals advanced by the Cornwall Council's Historic Environment Service. Firstly, it had supported a bid to carry out one of 15 pilot projects nationwide to survey Grade II Buildings at Risk. Unfortunately the bid had been unsuccessful, but such was the enthusiasm shown for the project among volunteer groups across the county, that an application was being made to the Heritage Lottery Fund for a 'Your Heritage' Grant to carry forward the work. Secondly, it had received an invitation to be a partner in the Cornish Hillforts Project, involving conservation work, surveys, research and educational and outreach activities. Applications had been made to Heritage Lottery Fund, English Heritage and Cornwall Heritage Trust. The results of both of these initiatives were awaited.

Three funding requests had been received during the year and grants had been made to all of them. One was towards the scanning of the drawings from the Castle-an-Dinas site archive and analysis of the charcoal samples (being undertaken by Andy Jones). Mark Borlase of Bristol University would receive a grant towards the analysis of a grain sample from Middle Amble, on the Camel Estuary. Finally, a contribution was being made towards Ann Preston-Jones' corpus of Cornish Crosses, a flavour of which had been given at the *Archaeology in Cornwall* day. An application from Professor Dame Rosemary Cramp had been received for a grant towards publication of this volume which is to appear as Volume XI of a nation-wide series on early crosses. It will be published by the British Academy, which has sponsored the whole project. As a result of experience of the variable quality of the background information provided by applicants, the application forms for the funding of Archaeological Projects had been updated.

The President reported on the tidying and tightening up of other aspects of the Society's administrative procedures, in particular: the introduction of a standardised risk assessment procedure for all activities; and updating the inventory of the Society's property.

There had been some lobbying on behalf of the historic environment sector. The Trustees had responded to the Historic Environment White Paper issued by Cornwall Council, and to the Cornwall and West Devon Mining Landscape World Heritage Site Draft Management Plan 2013-2018. The President had written on members' behalf to Cornwall Council expressing our very grave concern

over the massive reduction in the grant from Cornwall Council to the Royal Institution in Cornwall – from £145,350 to £85,000. The Society had also been in contact with the National Trust Property Manager for North Cornwall and the Cornwall Ramblers' Association over the issue of cairn-building on Bodmin Moor.

The President finished by offering her thanks to her fellow Trustees. Firstly, she expressed gratitude to those who were standing down from the Committee. John Bennett had kept our finances in exemplary form, given wise counsel about the deployment of our money and was handing it all in good order to his successor. Imogen Morris had delighted and entertained the Society with splendid programmes of winter lectures, but had been called away by the demands of, among other things, a (very nearly) 1-year-old. Thanks were also due to Peter Herring, who had served for over 7 years as our joint Editor. She also thanked all the other members of the Committee, all of whom have worked hard on our behalf, with a particular personal thank you to the secretary, Roger Smith, who seemed to do a prodigious amount of work on behalf of the Society and who had kept her informed, and to Henrietta Quinnell who had very thoughtfully extended her time as Past President to cover for that post after the sad loss of our immediate Past President, Tony Blackman.

There were no questions and it was agreed unanimously that the President's Report should be accepted. This was proposed by Carl Thorpe and seconded by Anna Tyacke.

6. Treasurer's Report

All present had been provided with a copy of the Independent Examiner's report on the Society's Accounts for the year ending on 31st December 2012. John Bennett offered to answer any questions but none were asked. All those present voted to accept the report, which had been proposed by Valerie Jacob and seconded by Ryan Smith.

John Bennett explained that this was his 8th and last A.G.M. as Treasurer, having taken on the role on 26th November 2005. He couldn't claim to have become an expert in archaeology in that period but he hoped that his efforts had been helpful, and he thanked the Trustees for their trust in him. He had felt it important that Trustees should not ask him about the wisdom of a particular course of expenditure, which should be for the Committee to decide, rather to look to him to find out how much money the Society had. Also, the Charity Commission preferred that charities should make appropriate use of funds, instead of accruing a large balance, and he had tried to encourage the Committee to make use of its money. Having said that, he was rather surprised to observe that when he began it had assets of around £51,000 but this was currently over £54,000. He wished Karen Cole, his successor, good luck as Treasurer and hoped that she gained as much enjoyment from it as he had.

7. Election of Officers, 2013-2014

(a) Officers:

The President explained that when notice had been given of the A.G.M. there had not been a nomination for Treasurer but, that since that time, Karen Cole had come forward and had been duly proposed and seconded. Jenny Beale and Roger Smith had also been proposed and seconded as Membership Secretary and Secretary respectively and no other nominations had been received. Since the notification had gone out Peter Herring had stepped down as Editor but there had not been time to advertise for a successor. Until recently there have been two editors: Graeme Kirkham, who is not a trustee, and Peter Herring, who has been. Therefore, there was a need to find an editor who would be willing to serve on the Committee as a trustee. However, there would be no hiatus in the editing process since Graeme would continue with the assistance of Peter Rose. An Editorial sub-committee would meet soon to discuss the future of editorship.

The following officers would serve from 2013 to 2014:

- Treasurer-Karen Cole
- Membership Secretary-Jenny Beale

- Secretary-Roger Smith

(b) Committee members

No nominations had been received. The following had been duly proposed and seconded and so would serve from 2013 to 2014:

- Adrian Rodda
- Leslie Dodd
- David Giddings
- Steve Hartgroves
- Valerie Jacob
- Andy Jones
- Jane Marley
- Peter Nicholas
- Peter Rose
- Anna Tyacke
- Christine Wilson

The President asked those present to welcome them on to the Committee. She added that Carl Thorpe and Ryan Smith were co-opted members whose positions would be confirmed by the Committee later on. There was still a vacancy for a Lectures Officer and very recently Jenny Moore had expressed an interest. The Committee intended to take this forward.

8. Any Other Business

No matters were raised for discussion and the meeting was concluded at 2.24 p.m. and was followed by a lecture by Graeme Wilson of EASE Archaeology on *Figurines and cow skulls: new evidence for ritual on Neolithic Orkney*.