This report, despite being termed 'The President's Report', is in reality a report on the work of the whole committee and it aims to include a representative look at our work in an active year when much has been achieved.

Last year I started with the report of a happy event, the award of the RAI Anniversary Prize, in the form of a glass plaque which has been displayed in the Royal Cornwall Museum.

On a sad note, we lost one of our most well-known members, in the person of Mick Aston, of 'Time Team’ Fame. Mick was a respected academic archaeologist, tutor in Adult Education and professor of Archaeology at Bristol University. But he wore his scholarship lightly; he had a light touch which allowed him, and his trademark stripy jumpers, to attract a very considerable popular following. Following his retirement, Mick was moving down to Cornwall and we were looking forward to his increasing participation in the archaeology of the County. But he died suddenly in June last year. CAS has been named as a beneficiary in his will – no details as yet. Your committee will, in due course, report on an appropriate use to which this money will be put.

MEMBERSHIP: Our membership secretary, Jenny Beale, reports a small decline in membership since this time last year. There are 438 individual/joint members currently on our books; 53 of these had not (as of April 9) renewed their subscriptions; letters of reminder have been sent so this number should be reducing. [I reported 457 members in 2013 – so we are 19 down]. We also have eight Institutional members – no change here, a small but constant number. On a positive note, we have recruited 27 new members since the AGM last year.

PUBLICATIONS: Our editorial team this year comprised Peter Rose and Graeme Kirkham, who do the technical editing, while I coordinate the peer review process which was initiated last year.

Cornish Archaeology volume 51, for 2012, edited by Graeme Kirkham, was published in January. Members will be pleased to hear that over half the cost of this journal was covered by grants. Work is now well advanced on the preparation of volume 52, for 2013. There is still a large backlog of articles in the queue for publication, and to help address this the committee has agreed that, for at least one year, Cornish Archaeology will be published in two parts.

Meanwhile, back numbers of the journal have been scanned and placed on the Society's website. Volumes 1 to 38 – ie all the volumes up to 1999 – are now available, with more to follow. Once the backlog is complete, there will be a rolling programme of additions to the list, with an embargo on the 5 latest volumes.

The Society has now started to receive, via the Publishers Licensing Society, the money due to it from the borrowing of Cornish Archaeology from public libraries. We received the very welcome sum of £2,466.68, but since this includes a significant ‘backlog’ element we cannot hope for this every year. And indeed, the more people who access us via our electronic journal, the fewer the borrowings!

Three Newsletters have been produced this year: they were distributed in June and October 2013 and in February 2014. More members have elected to take their copies via email and can savour the photographs in full colour. Since it still costs more to post a newsletter than to print it, the more people who opt for the digital version the more money the Society will save. So may I urge any of you who have been considering going digital to take action – look for the relevant section of the CAS web site.

As well as reports on CAS field visits and talks, we have been able to describe the community excavations within the county. Members have contributed articles about their own discoveries and areas of especial interest, such as the purpose of quoits or about
astronomical alignments of prehistoric sites. The articles about local museums and their star exhibits should help members to plan visits. The Newsletter Editor again sent his thanks to the professional archaeologists who submitted news items, and who, ‘so gracefully and so quickly’, answered his queries and corrected his inaccuracies, especially Jacky Nowakowski, James Gossip and Andy Jones. Members are very generous with their photographs and summaries of lectures and walks, but more volunteer reporters would, as always, be most welcome. In his report to the AGM last year, Adrian asked for members to introduce their favourite monument or artefact(s) in a museum and explain why it excites or pleases them. That request still stands.

One of the main purposes of the Newsletter is to advertise the planned events, and the inclusion of a separate flyer listing lectures and field trips in the October issue has proved popular. Up-to-date news and announcements are always available on the CAS website and the two organs complement each other. Any suggestions about content for your Newsletter would be welcomed by the Editor, Adrian Rodda.

LECTURES & DAY SCHOOLS: Our lectures officer, Jenny Moore, took over the task after the last AGM. She has done a superb job; being new to the Committee she has had a steep learning curve which she has negotiated most adeptly. Jenny put together an excellent, varied programme of eleven evening lectures – seven in Truro, four in Liskeard. We have heard about two Roman military sites – one in Devon, one in Cornwall – have considered the controversial area of Wind Farms and Archaeology; while a look at Ham Hill and the Hillforts of western Britain with Prof Niall Sharples was timely in view of the Society’s anticipated involvement in the Historic Environment Service’s Hillforts Project. An unusual and delightful contribution was that on the work of Alan Sorrell, a pioneer in the field of Archaeological Reconstruction drawing. The Corfield Nankivel Memorial Lecture was given this year by Professor Tim Darvill on Stonehenge. Area Reps evenings were held at both Truro and Liskeard giving us the opportunity to hear about the important work of Monument Watch.

In addition to our evening lectures, we joined in with the Devon Archaeological Society in mounting the biennial Joint Symposium; this year it was Devon’s turn to host it – at Tavistock – on the topic ‘Studying Stone: New Light on the prehistoric and Roman Southwest’. The prime organiser of what was an exceptionally successful and enjoyable event was our Past President (and DAS’s Vice President) Henrietta Quinell.

For this coming year we are planning another ‘Archaeology in Cornwall’ day, put together, as previously, by Henrietta and Andy Jones.

PUBLICITY: Publicity for all our events continues to be provided by our ever-active Publicity Officer, Christine Wilson. She produces and disseminates eye-catching posters advertising our lectures and other activities which are displayed as widely as possible. She would, I am sure, be happy to hear from any member willing to display her posters.

Christine has also applied, successfully, for CAS to have a stand at the 2014 Stithians Show in July – a valuable place for us to advertise our wares!

And then there is our electronic platform, the web site run by our web officer, Ryan Smith, keeping us updated on all aspects of the Society’s activities, hosting our ‘e’ journal and providing links to and material from like-minded bodies. It serves as a tool for both members and ‘visitors’, hopefully, prospective members. A new departure is that we also now have a Facebook page; this has been set up by Ryan with Carl Thorpe acting as administrator.

THE AREA REPS: The work of the Area Reps continues strongly under the leadership of its convenor, Peter Cornall. Two meetings were held during the year, in October 2013 and March 2014 and reports of these can be found on the web site. As already noted, the work of the Reps again featured in the Winter Lectures programme at both Truro and Liskeard and was well-received.

The meeting held at Wheal Martyn in October 2013 welcomed Richard Mikulski, the new Community Archaeologist [holder of a Community Archaeology Training Placement, funded by the Council for British Archaeology and based at Historic Environment]. Since taking up his appointment, Richard has been in regular contact with CAS and played a vital role with the Listed Building Survey, an example of the sort of partnership between willing amateurs and the declining band of professionals that may be an essential feature of a society which slashes public spending while expecting the historic environment to be looked after.

The Area Reps continue to make a very significant contribution to Monument Watch – the monitoring of Scheduled Monuments across the County; notably, David Giddings has successfully applied for the scheduling of a site at Wheal Buller that had been threatened by moorstone extraction, while Val Jacob was able to bring to the attention of English Heritage concerns regarding potentially damaging work being undertaken at St Stephen’s Beacon, an Iron Age hillfort (and possible Neolithic tor enclosure) near Foxhole – concerns initially raised by members of the public.

Our warmest thanks to Peter Cornall, Ann Preston-Jones and Emma Tregarthen who between them have made the Area Representatives into effective system engaged in looking after the county’s monuments. Warmest thanks to all our Reps. Coverage within the County varies because some ARs have too many parishes, so assistance from members would be welcome. Don’t be backward in coming forward! Training and guidance are provided.

WALKS & EXCURSIONS: Our Excursions Officer, Steve Hartgroves, has again organised a very attractive and varied programme of monthly site visits, accommodating all tastes, prehistoric and historic, including ‘some well-known and lesser-known bronze age sites on Craddock Moor’ with Iain Rowe – the ‘New Years Day’ walk in memory of Tony Blackman (tho’ postponed ’til April!).
And coming shortly: in May, at a time when the bluebells are up, there will be a joint walk with our sister Society in Devon, visiting medieval settlements on Dartmoor in the company of Debbie Griffiths, the former Head of the Cultural Heritage Service for Dartmoor National Park, while in early October, we travel further afield to the new Stonehenge Visitor Centre.

**EXCAVATIONS:** This last summer, members had the opportunity to take part in a small excavation project run by Andy Jones of the HE Service at Hendraburnick, near Camelford – the site of a propped stone with cup marks. The work, though small-scale, was, in the words of its director, ‘phenomenally successful’. Eight CAS members had taken part and it was agreed that the training that they had received was extremely worthwhile.

**ROMAN CORNWALL:** The Roman group has met four times this year under the energetic chairmanship of Steve Hartgroves. A survey of existing literature relating to Roman or suspected Roman sites and finds was undertaken, and it was decided to focus, in the first instance, on sites of possible Roman military origin – given the interest in the military dimension raised by the recent work at Restormel and Calstock – and on mining remains. A short-list of likely fortlets has been drawn up, prioritised and permissions are being sought to carry out geophysical survey as a first step towards refining our definition of the sites.

**COUNCIL FOR BRITISH ARCHAEOLOGY:** The Society responded to an on-line consultation which the CBA was running on the role of local societies in the 21st century. The Committee considered also a paper by the late Mick Aston, concerning the future of the Somerset Society. As a result of this, a strategy working party was established to give further consideration to the issues raised by the questionnaire, and to look at the way forward for CAS. This working party has so far met just once to start to outline areas of concern and future action.

**WORKING CLOSELY WITH OTHER HERITAGE BODIES:** The Committee continues to work closely with other heritage bodies; among our Trustees are members of Cornwall HE Service, the RCM, and from the Portable Antiquities Scheme who provide us with regular reports of their work. **We are represented on and/or keep in touch with a range of heritage-related bodies around the County:** for example, Historic Cornwall Advisory Group; the World Heritage Society Cornish Mining Consultative Forum; Cornwall Ancient Sites Protection Network; Lizard Ancient Sites Network, CBA South-West. Through our representatives we are kept regularly appraised of their activities and provide input as appropriate.

**GRANT REQUESTS:** Two of the projects which we grant-aided in 2012/13 have come to fruition this year; Mark Borlase, who received support for a report on preserved grain from Middle Ambie has submitted his excavation report to us for publication in Cornish Archaeology and on Wednesday this week, Early Cornish Sculpture, by Ann Preston-Jones and Elisabeth Okasha (Volume XI of the Nationwide Corpus of Anglo-Saxon Stone, sponsored by the British Academy) was launched here in Truro at the Museum, in the presence of distinguished academicians, Dame Prof. Rosemary Cramp and Sir David Wilson, as well as our own Professor Charles Thomas. CAS was warmly thanked for the contribution which it had made towards the cost of publication.

During the course of 2013/14 we received three requests for support: from the Tamar Valley AONB HLF project (the committee agreed to provide ‘in kind’ support in the form of training), from The Sustainable Trust, re Carwynnen Quoit (an undertaking was made to consider post-excaution funding and to waive the page-fee for publication in Cornish Archaeology) and from the Cornwall Listed Buildings at Risk Project (a financial grant was made).

**‘HOUSEKEEPING’:** We continue to work on tidying up our administrative procedures: our treasurer has initiated the production of a set of guidelines regarding expenses for speakers; the risk assessment forms and guidance for field excursions near completion; and the drawing up of the inventory of the Society’s possessions continues.

**TO FINISH, THANKS TO ALL FELLOW TRUSTEES**

Firstly to Val Jacob who is standing down after many years on the Society’s committee. Val’s deep interest in and knowledge of the historic environment of her native county, and of the St Austell area in particular, has been invaluable to the work of the Society, and we are most grateful to her. She will, I am delighted to say, continue to be an Area Rep for parishes in Mid-Cornwall.

Unsung heroes, in the background of running the lectures are Iain Rowe and Anna Tyack. They are responsible for bringing and setting up the equipment (and explaining it to the speakers) – in Liskeard and Truro respectively.

Many of the other trustees who take on particular responsibilities I have mentioned above in the sections appropriate to them. And to these I must add two others – our Treasurer, Karen Cole, who took on the role of treasurer this time last year; she has quickly mastered our finances with a calm efficiency. We are all most grateful to her. And our Secretary Roger Smith, who does a prodigious amount of work on behalf of the Society: his notes and records are exemplary, and he has continued to keep me on the rails over the past 12 months.

In September 2013 The Caradon Project organised an exciting project combining the skills, knowledge and observations of archaeologists, astronomers and geologists to explore The Hurlers. The “Pavement” between the centre and northern circle was revealed once again, the geology of the stones was closely studied and visitors were helped to experience the astronomical alignments of the stones and other features on the moor.

CAS is privileged to host a **Day School on Saturday July 12**th, when the experts can present their insights and discoveries in the lecture theatre, through an exhibition and at the site itself. **See the flyer with this Newsletter or on the CAS website.**
SOLAR AND LUNAR ALIGNMENTS AT CORNISH PREHISTORIC SITES  Part 1

by Cheryl Straffon

The recent ‘Mapping the Sun’ project at The Hurlers stone circle, which included Brian Sheen from the Roseland Observatory, has awakened the interest of many members into the possibilities of astronomical alignments at prehistoric sites. This branch of archaeology, sometimes called archaeo-astronomy or alternatively astro-archaeology, is by no means new. Indeed, as far back as the turn of the 20th century, the Astronomer Royal Norman Lockyer was publishing his observations and suggestions of alignments to star risings and settings at The Hurlers, as well as stellar and solar alignments at the Merry Maidens, Tregeseal and Boscawen-un stone circles, and at the Mên-an-Tol.1 After this, there was no serious work done on the subject until the 1970s when Alexander Thom, a mathematician by profession, started doing accurate surveys of stone circles and stone rows, and working out their possible solar, lunar and stellar orientations. His work (which was generally ignored by archaeologists) has been taken up and developed by Clive Ruggles2, who is an archaeologist, mathematician and astrophysicist. Some archaeologists have been more open to these possibilities than others: for example in Cornwall Aubrey Burl wrote about midwinter sunrise from Louden Hill circle over Garrow Tor; equinox sunrise from Stannon circle over Rough Tor; and again from Stannon circle May/August (Beltane & Lughnasad) sunrises through a notch in Rough Tor.3 More locally, archaeologist Peter Herring has shown interest in a midsummer solstice sunset alignment over Leskernick Hill propped stone (calculated to 3700 BC), and the late Roger Farnworth (CAS member) had done a great deal of alignment work centred around Rough Tor on Bodmin Moor.4

In part 1 of this article the CAS Newsletter editor has asked me to expand on the outline of the solar festivals given in Newsletter 1335 with regard to some sites in Cornwall, and then in part 2 write a little about lunar orientations. Solar alignments are much easier to work out and observe. Because the earth takes 365½ days to orbit the sun, we in the northern hemisphere at a particular point in the sky it appears to rise and set at its most southerly point, and is the longest day and shortest night of the solar year. When viewed from Britain, the sun rises in a SE direction, and sets in a SW direction. In Cornwall it occurs about 08.24 GMT for sunrise and 16.13 GMT for sunset. The word “solstice” means “sun stand still”, and this comes from the observable phenomenon that for about a week either side of the solstice day, the sun appears to rise and set in the same place in the sky, and there is little variation in the length of day and night. It is sometimes said that the sun slows down leading up to solstice, and then starts speeding up again afterwards, though of course it does no such thing, only gives the illusion of doing so. Our megalithic ancestors were very aware of the midwinter solstice. At Newgrange in Ireland, the Neolithic tomb has a light box above its entrance that focuses the rays of the rising sun on and about the midwinter solstice, so that observers (or the dead) inside would have seen the ‘reborn’ sun’s rays fill the chamber with light.

We start with Midwinter solstice, which occurs every year on either December 20th, 21st or 22nd. This is the point where the sun appears to rise and set at its most southerly point, and is the shortest day and longest night of the solar year. When viewed from Britain, the sun rises in a SE direction, and sets in a SW direction. In Cornwall it occurs about 08.24 GMT for sunrise and 16.13 GMT for sunset. The word “solstice” means “sun stand still”, and this comes from the observable phenomenon that for about a week either side of the solstice day, the sun appears to rise and set in the same place in the sky, and there is little variation in the length of day and night. It is sometimes said that the sun slows down leading up to solstice, and then starts speeding up again afterwards, though of course it does no such thing, only gives the illusion of doing so. Our megalithic ancestors were very aware of the midwinter solstice. At Newgrange in Ireland, the Neolithic tomb has a light box above its entrance that focuses the rays of the rising sun on and about the midwinter solstice, so that observers (or the dead) inside would have seen the ‘reborn’ sun’s rays fill the chamber with light.

1 Lockyer, Norman Stonehenge and Other British Stone Monuments Astronomically Considered [Macmillan, 1909].
2 Ruggles, Clive Astronomy in Prehistoric Britain and Ireland [Yale University Press, 1999].
3 Burl, Aubrey The stone circles of Britain, Ireland and Brittany [Yale University Press, 2000].
4 Publication forthcoming
5 Seaney, V & R The rediscovered stone circle on Scilly [CAS Newsletter no.133]
observable from Chûn Quoit on the moors, from where the sun may be viewed setting into a distinctive notch in the natural rocky outcrop of Carn Kenidjack on the horizon (which itself was a Neolithic Tor Enclosure). Illustrated below.

In fact there are two notches in the rock, so although the sun has 'moved' by one sun’s width, it would still have set in one of the notches in 3000 BC. The precise nature of this alignment is shown by the fact that if the viewer moves a few yards away from the Quoit, the setting of the sun into the notch does not ‘work’ in the same way.

Moving six months to the opposite time of the year, the Midsummer solstice occurs every year on June 20th, 21st or 22nd. This is the point where the sun appears to rise and set at its most northerly point, and is the longest day and shortest night of the solar year. When viewed from Britain, the sun rises in a NE direction, and sets in a NW direction. In Cornwall it occurs about 05.03 BST for sunrise and 21.41 BST for sunset. The most famous midsummer solstice sunrise is that which occurs at Stonehenge when the sun rises over the Heel Stone when viewed from the circle (though some archaeologists have argued that it was the midwinter solstice sunset in the opposite direction that was more significant). In Cornwall, something similar would have been visible from Boscawen-ûn stone circle, from where the midsummer sun would have risen over a standing stone to the NE (now in a hedge and obscured by another hedge). In fact, the first rays of the rising sun at the midsummer solstice illuminate a carving of two axe heads that was made on the leaning centre stone of the circle itself.

Also on Bodmin Moor, there was a midsummer sunrise visible over the Cheesewring (Stowe’s Hill) when seen from the Tregarrick Tor enclosure.

At the other end of the solstice day, the Nine Maidens (Boskednan) circle in West Penwith formerly had a standing stone outlier to the NW that would have marked the setting sun at the midsummer solstice. Illustrated below.

Between the midwinter and midsummer solstices lies the Spring Equinox (March 20th, 21st or 22nd), and between the midsummer and midwinter solstices lies the Autumn Equinox (September 20th, 21st or 22nd). These are the points when the sun appears to rise due east and set due west. It is often said that it is the time of equal day and night everywhere in the world, and although that is not entirely true, the difference is only a few minutes at our
latitude. In Cornwall Spring Equinox sunrise occurs about 06.20 GMT, and sunset about 18.35 GMT; Autumn Equinox sunrise and sunset occur an hour later as we are still on BST then. There are two sites in the Boyne Valley in Ireland that seem to have been constructed deliberately to align with the Equinoxes. Knowth, a passage tomb close to Newgrange, has two long chambers, one facing east for the rising equinoctical sun, and the other facing west for the setting equinoctual sun. The excavator of the site, George Egan, believed that they were constructed deliberately for these orientations. And some miles further west is the megalithic complex of Loughcrew, where many of the cairns seem to have significant solar orientations.

One of them, Cairn T, is oriented to the rising sun at the equinoxes, the light shining into the passage illuminates a beautifully decorated stone at the end, covered by iconography that has been interpreted as sun symbols.

In Cornwall, it has been observed that on Bodmin Moor, Stannon circle and Fernacre circle are aligned to Brown Willy at the equinoctical sunrise, and an observer at Goodaver circle would have seen the equinoctical sun rise over Kilmar Tor to the east. Also in West Penwith, a fallen standing stone on Mulfra Hill aligns east-west intervisibly with the Nine Maidens (Boskednan) circle, so that from the circle the equinoctical sun would have risen over the stone, and from the stone the equinoctual sun would have set over the circle.

These are just a few of the alignments at these four great solar festivals that would have been of great interest to the megalithic builders. Many others will have been lost as stones were removed or destroyed over the millennia, but there may be others still waiting to be discovered. Please let us know if you find any yourselves when you are out 'in the field'. We still have much to learn from the builders of these megalithic sites in prehistory.

6 Most notably Mike Parker-Pearson
7 Viewed and photographed by Roger Farnworth [pers. comm. from Peter Herring]
8See Straffon, Cheryl Megalithic Mysteries of Cornwall [Meyn Mamvro, 2004]

Photos from Cheryl Straffon unless otherwise credited or licensed.

**Archaeology in Cornwall 2014**

The next Archaeology in Cornwall day will be held on Saturday 15th of November at Truro College. The booking form can be found with this newsletter and this should be sent to the Membership Secretary, Cornwall Archaeological Society, c/o 16 Cross Street, Padstow, Cornwall, PL28 8AT by November 10th 2014.

---

**Brief News Items**

**PhD e-thesis on ‘Public Perceptions of Cornish Mining Landscapes’ now Open Access**

CAS's former secretary Hilary Orange has recently published an e-thesis version of her PhD (University College London, 2012) online with Open Access.

Hilary's thesis considered local residents' perceptions of Cornish mining landscapes. The research focused on the everyday experience of living in or near mining sites (including industrial remains of the 20th century) and the thesis contains case studies on Botallack, St Agnes, and Minions.

Hilary's thesis can be viewed / downloaded here. http://discovery.ucl.ac.uk/1417864/

**Winter Storms Reveal Double Cist Grave at Harlyn Bay, Padstow**

Dr Andy Jones believes the bones, thought to be of a young woman, were from a burial in the Bronze Age or Iron Age because of the other graves in the vicinity. One side of the grave contained only a large quartz boulder. Once the bones have been radiocarbon dated it is hoped they will go to the Royal Cornwall Museum.

**Editorial:** Yes, a very different Newsletter this time, with two long commissioned articles, which deserved colour photographs. I have had to hold over reports on the lectures and walks until the October Newsletter, which will also contain a report on the resurrection of St Piran's Oratory and the re-erection of Carwynnen Quoit. But some appetising pictures on back page.

---

**Secretary:** Roger Smith, 18, St Sulien, Luxulyan, Bodmin, PL30 5EB (01726 850792) secretary@cornisharchaeology.org.uk

**Membership secretary:** Jenny Beale, 16, Cross St. Padstow. PL28 8AT (01841 533098)

**Newsletter Editor:** Adrian Rodda, 52, Mount Pleasant Road, Camborne, TR14 7RJ. (01209 715625) adrian.rodda@cornisharchaeology.org.uk
A walk around St Austell led by Val Jacob, 17th February 2014

Is this really 'St Awful'? For many years the china-clay industry allowed St Austell to prosper while other Cornish towns languished, but, with the decline of that industry, the local economy has shrunk, the town has been disfigured by developers and its surrounds spoiled by speculative house builders. Even so, there is much for those with an interest in the past to see and enjoy, particularly when guided by Val Jacob, whose knowledge of the area is unequalled. A.L. Rowse, arguably the town’s most famous son, advised that ‘a stout pair of walking shoes’ should be the historian’s first acquisition, adding that he was ‘all in favour of the open-air approach to history’. Val knew him well and has followed his advice.

We began on the steps of the Market House, built in 1844 in the Italian Renaissance style, and a reflection of the town’s growing prosperity, initially through its connection with metal mining (the 1851 census shows far more engaged in mining than in china-clay) and later with china-clay.

Across the road is Holy Trinity church with its tower adorned with superb carvings. Not surprisingly, Rowse advised the visitor to ‘step aside from the busy street and devote half-an-hour’ to look at the tower, which he described as ‘one of the sights most worth seeing in Cornwall’. Val pointed out the Mengu Stone, which had been moved from across the road to a place at the base of the tower. This is likely to have been a Bronze Age standing stone; later it marked where three manors met and, according to tradition, is where witches were burned. The raised churchyard provides an admirable vantage point to see two particularly fine buildings: the Victorian red brick bank (on the site of the bull-baiting ring), designed by Silvanus Trevail; and the White Hart, built around 1800 as the town house for Charles Rashleigh.

Val led us through Fore Street, which retains many good buildings, from 17th to the early 20th centuries; although to appreciate them you have to raise your eyes from the tawdry plastic and plate-glass shop fronts. We descended West Hill, originally the main road from the west, to the packhorse bridge mentioned by Leland in 1539.

Close-by is the terminus of the Pentewan railway, built by Sir Christopher Hawkins in 1829. Some buildings are extant, thanks to the efforts of Cornwall Archaeological Unit (now Historic Environment).

We made our way past mills and the site of at least one blowing house, straining our necks for glimpses of leats, waterwheels and other clues. Emerging on to Bodmin Road, we passed a turnpike toll house; then under the 1890s railway viaduct that replaced Brunel's original.

Our next stop was Menacuddle Well, where Austell was said to have settled initially. The structure built over the well dates from the 15th century and was restored in 1923 by Rear Admiral Sir Charles John Graves Sawle of Penrice in memory of his son Richard who had been killed in the First World War.

Val and Brian Jacob were excellent guides. A visit to the museum they have established in the Market House would be a good place to begin your own exploration of an interesting town.

We would all wish to thank Val Jacob for her long service as a CAS Trustee. She continues to serve the society and her community in St Austell as the CAS Area Representative and to work for the town museum and Old Cornwall Society.

Poldowrian Many members who have enjoyed visits to the round house and museum at Poldowrian will be sorry to hear that Valerie Hadley died just before Christmas aged 93. Over the years the Hadley family have given generously to archaeology allowing excavations and then numerous visits to their home.

For the present the family are continuing as usual, so the museum will be open by appointment only. Please contact Margaret 01326 280434 or Sally 01326 231553. Full address Poldowrian, Gwenter Road, Coverack, Helston TR12 6SL. Grid ref SW749 167 or contact pealey2@tiscali.co.uk for more help.

New Salt Working Site discovered at Pollurrian Cove.

This type of site has a long history from the Bronze Age to Medieval times and is difficult to date without other associated artefacts. It brings the total of ancient salt working sites on the Lizard to four: 1) Trebarveth nr Lowland Point St Keverne; 2) Carngook Bank, both dated to around 200AD; 3) Ebber Rocks nr Coverack, excavated by Margaret Hunt (report awaiting publication).
CAS FIELD EXCURSIONS.

Sunday 25th May: Carnon Downs and the Lower Carnon Valley with Sheila James (Area Rep for Feock) and Emma Trevarthen (from the HES). 11:00 to 16:00; meet in the car park at Carnon Downs Village Hall, NGR SW 8001 4035; bring a packed lunch.

A walk around the Lower Carnon Valley looking at the Bronze Age ceremonial landscape, medieval settlement sites at Trestithick, Penpol and Devoran, and a range of domestic and industrial sites of the Early Modern period.

Sunday June 15th – There & back again – An stroll around the Mylor peninsula with Richard Mikulski, Outreach Officer with HES. 11:00 to 16:00; Meet at Mylor Bridge, NGR 804 361 (parking on roadsides nearby); Bring a picnic lunch and suitable footwear.

The walk, visiting prehistoric, medieval and modern sites, will start from Mylor Bridge and take in Mylor Church and Harbour, and Flushing. Richard will discuss the potential for archaeological and historical research at Mylor Harbour. [The details of this walk may be subject to change depending on tide and weather conditions.]

Sunday July 13th - Dowsing on Helman Tor with Bart O'Farrell (Coordinator of the West Cornwall Dowsers) Time: 11:00 to 16:00pm Meet in the car park on the south side of the Tor (NGR SX 062 614) Please bring a picnic lunch and wear appropriate clothing and footwear, plus sun-blocker. Dowsing rods and instructions for use will be provided at the site.

This is an opportunity to investigate another aspect of this important neolithic tor enclosure, and try your hand at an archaeological technique of a different kind........"Dowsing is a useful, non-invasive way to investigate a site" (Dowsing & Church Archaeology, Prof. Charles Thomas)

September – TBC

Sunday Oct 5th – Coach trip to the new Stonehenge Visitor Centre on Salisbury Plain

Stonehenge is one of the wonders of the ancient world and probably the best-known prehistoric monument in Europe. A new world-class visitor centre, housing museum-quality permanent and temporary exhibitions, plus a spacious shop and café opened in late 2013. The Society has arranged a day trip to enable members to visit these new facilities and experience the stones in their new setting. This special coach trip will leave Truro around 09:00 and get back around 22:00; pick-up points in Redruth, Truro, Penhale, Bodmin, Launceston and Exeter are being considered

Booking for this trip is essential and early booking is advised as numbers for this trip are limited to 35; to avoid disappointment don’t leave it until the last minute as tickets are likely to go fast.

For further details and a booking form, see the special flyer included with your Newsletter.

Sunday Nov 16th – Iron Age forts in Penwith with Area Rep Dave Giddings

11:00 to 16:00; Meet in the Tesco car park (in the spaces nearest to the sea) at SW 482 312. Bring a picnic lunch, or possibly a pub lunch in the Gurnards Head; bring wellies and waterproofs if the weather threatens to be wet and windy. For cancellations etc ring 07970 567771

A chance to visit some spectacular and iconic later prehistoric sites, including Castle-an-Dinas and Gurnards Head with an erudite and amicable guide.

August and December - no walks.

FESTIVAL OF ARCHAEOLOGY:

‘Discover Launceston Priory!’
Sat 19th July 2014. 10:00-16:00
‘Find out about Launceston Priory, once the largest and richest mediaeval monastic house in Cornwall, with guided tours of the ruins and an exhibition. Have family fun with mini excavation boxes, mediaeval stained glass making and cord winding (inside if bad weather).
Address: Launceston Priory (St. Thomas Church), Riverside, Launceston, Cornwall, PL15 8DH. Web: www.archaeologyfestival.org.uk/events/838

St. Piran’s Oratory Feb/March 2014

Pictures courtesy Brett Archer, James Gossip and Eustace Long.