

## CORNWALL ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

### Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

held at Truro Baptist Church  
on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> April 2017 at 1.30 pm

32 Members in attendance

1. **Apologies:** Diana Sutherland; Laura Ratcliffe; Meg and Norman Reed; Sally Herriot; Frances Griffith.

2. **Minutes from the last AGM**

These were accepted and signed as being a true record. Proposed by Anna Tyacke and seconded by Christine Wilson.

3. **Matters Arising**

None

4. **President's Report:**

I am very happy to be able to re assure Members that the Society is in good heart. As I sum up our activities it will become clear that through the hard work of your Trustees and volunteers we have been able to provide a wide-ranging programme of events for members, we are supporting community projects, whilst growing our numbers and keeping a sound balance sheet.

This year has however had its moments of sadness. We have lost two former Presidents – Professor Charles Thomas and Professor Geoffrey Wainwright, a past Joint Honorary Secretary, as well as one of our most respected members, Sarnia Butcher, and also our very good friend Pip Richards of The Sustainable Trust and the Carwynnen Quoit Project.

**Geoffrey Wainwright** may be less well known to you; having been a formidable excavator, he was an Inspector of Ancient Monuments for many years, becoming Chief Archaeologist with English Heritage 1989-1999. He was our President 1980-1984. **Charles Thomas** needs no introduction to a Cornish audience. A full obituary is appearing in our Journal in May and of course we are celebrating his archaeological life this afternoon. Suffice to say that he was West Cornwall Field Club editor 1953-1961, Cornish Archaeology Editor from 1962-76, Hon Vice President since 1975, and President 1984-87. **Brian Hammond** was joint Hon. Sec with his wife **Sheila** from 1993-7. They were a winning combination of great enthusiasm for archaeology, efficiency in their duties and abundant goodwill to all. **Sarnia Butcher** was an Inspector of Ancient Monuments responsible for Roman matters. Following in Dorothy Dudley's footsteps she excavated the eroding Romano-British courtyard settlement on Nornour, IoS (1969-73) and published fully in 1978, with a review in 2000-1. She was Area Correspondent for Scilly 1970-76, and when she retired she moved to St Mary's and was Area Correspondent again between 2002-6. We are all grateful that she lived to see her re consideration of the amazing collection of Roman brooches from Nornour published in our latest journal. **Pip Richards**, who we celebrated at our March lecture in Truro was responsible for the re erection of Carwynnen Quoit, and the proposed **Lost Landscapes of Pendarves Project**, both great projects that CAS has supported.

On a happier note, the President's report is the opportunity to shine a light on both individuals and activities that might otherwise go unnoticed by Members, buried deep in the Minutes of various meetings. We have had 6 meetings of the Trustees over the year, as well as meetings of the Area Representatives, the Excavations Committee, and the Roman Cornwall Research Group. We have four places where we meet ... the Royal Cornwall Museum for Trustee meetings, Truro Baptist Chapel for our AGM and Truro lectures, St Martin's Church Hall for our Liskeard lectures and Wheal Martyn for our Area Representatives' meetings. Thanks to all organisations for making these facilities available.

As President I chair Trustees meetings, I try to attend our walks and talks where possible, I say nice things about lecturers, and I am witness to the waterfall of e-mails and blizzard of social media chatter that the day to day organisation of this Society involves and provokes. I write letters on your behalf supporting various initiatives and strategies. This year it has included:

- **Charter for Cornwall** All prospective local authority and parliamentary candidates are being asked to support four principles: Protect our Cornish heritage; Provide genuinely affordable housing; Put limits on second homes; Plan for Cornish communities, not developers' profits
- **Cornwall Environmental Growth Strategy** Securing our natural heritage and enhancing it through better management helps protect our historic environment.
- **The West Northwood Community Dig, Eat and Sing.** The excavation of a Bronze Age roundhouse

As archaeologists we have also welcomed the publication of **Cornwall Local Plan** and the **Cornwall Council White Paper for Culture**, both of which have important things to say about heritage.

We are represented on the Board and Forum of **Heritage Kernow**, the body tasked with guiding the heritage element of the Cornwall Devolution Deal. The first task this past year has been to set in motion the project that is defining the distinctiveness of Cornwall's heritage. This will, in time, result in a **Cornwall Heritage Strategy** that will seek to better protect Cornwall's historic environment - the physical remains of our heritage.

**Sophie Meyer**, our Hon. Secretary has had a very busy year. In addition to organizing and minuting Trustee meetings Sophie has fielded in excess of 60 enquiries that range from asking for speakers at events; attendance at launches and conferences; possible sites for CAS excavations; requests for funding; requests for advice on various rock carvings, mounds in fields, flints from ploughed fields, bones from cliff edges and neolithic axes from Scilly; help with objections to development proposals; the whereabouts of a painting of a wall painting in Grampound; advice on an unusually thick wall in a house; where did Harlyn Museum go to? Where can I deposit my old set of Cornish Archaeology? Can I use your photo please? How about this place for some geophys? These request are filtered through the Trustees and others and most get definitive answers. It may not always be what they hoped for but we do our best.

It is very helpful that Sophie works at the RCM, not just because they host our mail address, but we welcome our close relationship with them. 2018 is their bi-centenary and we are proud that our Society is a direct descendant of The Royal Institution of Cornwall, the Penzance Natural History and Antiquarian Society and the West Cornwall Field Club. We are delighted to welcome the new Collections Manager Dr Jayne Wackett and we are confident that, in due course the stores will once again be open for the deposition of archaeological archives. It will be a great relief for Members to know that the whole of Charles Thomas's archaeological archives and finds from Gwithian, Tintagel, Merther Uny and elsewhere in Cornwall are now safely in the RCM stores.

**Karen Cole**, our Hon. Treasurer will report to you in a minute that the finances of the Society are positive and stable. This is due in no small part to her firm stewardship of the Society's money, for which our hearty thanks. The Society receives grant requests from time to time. This year Trustees have agreed to fund the following:

- £100 towards the costs of petrological analysis of the greenstone fillers of the Tremough excavations pottery
- £200 towards the West Northwood Community Archaeological Project – the excavation of a Bronze Age Roundhouse.
- £100 towards our Graffiti Project
- £400 for a RC Date for the Roman Cornwall Project excavations at the Restormel Iron Lode

**Konstanze Rahn** reports that the **Membership** figures continue to look very healthy, with a steady upwards trend. We now have 354 single memberships and 55 two-at one-address memberships, which makes 409 memberships or 464 members - 23 up on last year; some as birthday or Christmas presents, others resulting from our activities like the Northcliffs excavation. Subscriptions are an important part of our income and are the bedrock upon which our charitable status is judged. Timely annual renewals are still a problem, despite a reminder in the February Newsletter and on the website. An extensive email and letter reminder programme has brought the number down to about 50 to date, with a very high proportion being more recent members. Many more members are now using PayPal, although many of those in turn are also late-payers. There doesn't seem to be much demand for new standing order payments although this would be the easiest option for members and would help us by taking care of renewals. We have a total of 185 standing order payments at the moment, and a new drive to get members to pay by SO should be considered.

Our **publications** remain a vital part of our Society's mission; in an increasingly digital world we continue to offer the journal in hard copy, whilst making the digital version available online. Similarly the Newsletter in print form is always a welcome arrival with the post whilst the digital version is available online for reference. We should always remember that publication of the results of fieldwork and research in Journals such as ours is a vital means of maintaining the standards of the archaeological profession as defined in the Chartered Institute of Archaeologists' Code of Conduct.

Our very professional journal editors **Graeme Kirkham** and **Peter Rose** report that *Cornish Archaeology* volume 54, for 2015, is to be published in May. They have worked tirelessly to put together a most interesting volume of 289 pages. It contains articles on the excavation of an Iron Age settlement at Camelford School ; recording at Restormel Castle; excavations at Glasney College, Penryn; EBA cist from Harlyn Bay; LBA remains at Manuells, Quintrell Downs; an urn from Lanteglos by Fowey; MBA pottery from St Mary's, IoS; R-B settlement at Gover Farm, St Austell; Post Roman remains at Gloweth, Truro; as well as shorter articles, reviews of recent work in the County and the Obituaries of Sarnia Butcher and Charles Thomas. Also included is a last article from him – typically it concerns an ogam inscription from West Penwith.

Meanwhile **Adrian Rodda** has produced three **Newsletters** for us this year. As usual each has had reports on CAS activities - our own fieldwork projects, reports on our lectures and walks, notices of future events and book reviews. In addition we have had special articles on developments at Tintagel Castle, Charles Thomas, the re emerged submarine forest at Mawgan Porth. After 10 years and 32 Newsletters Adrian will be handing on the editorial pen in June to Steve Fletcher. I would like to thank Adrian, on behalf of all of us, for his work. This is an amazing achievement, done with great style and kindness and always managing to pull together interesting and informative numbers. Editing is a difficult task at the best of times and yet he has managed to beg, encourage or cajole recalcitrant authors to submit copy in a persuasive yet kindly manner.

This brings us on to our Walks and Talks programmes this year, with **Jenny Moore** on talks and **Kathryn Conder** on walks. They have worked so hard to put on a great programme for us. It is both a skill to know what might be available out there and a real art to persuade busy or perhaps diffident enthusiasts and experts to talk to us or walk with us. Our meetings could not take place without the help of volunteers. **Anna Tyacke** and **Ian Rowe** look after the new projection equipment at lectures and **Jenny Moore** meets, dines and introduces the lecturers. **Roger Smith, Jenny Beale, Chris Wilson** and **Anna**, open up and close the premises for our meetings and provide the refreshments. Particular mention must be made here of **Jenny Hancock** who makes delicious homemade biscuits for us at each lecture and has provided special ones for our tribute to Charles Thomas this afternoon. Thank you **Jenny**. **Adrian** has manned the Society's bookstall so diligently for many years and begs you to reduce his stock through purchase or theft! We thank them and all others who help with this vital work. We are always however looking for volunteers to help with refreshments. The **lecture programmes** in Truro and Liskeard have now finished. Highlight of the year was our Corfield-Nankivell lecturer Mark Knight talking about the amazing excavations of the miraculously well preserved LBA settlement at Must Farm, Cambridge. In Truro we heard about: - The family of Guernsey antiquarian William Lukis and his work in Cornwall; the excavations in advance of Waitrose and the Truro Eastern Park and Ride; English Heritage work at Chysauster, and Tintagel and the work of Historic England in Designation; and 3 talks in celebration of Pip Richards. In Liskeard where audience numbers continue to grow, we have heard talks on: The World Heritage Site in the

Luxulyan valley; a Tudor tin- mill at Lanyon in Madron parish; R-B and early Med sites in the Fowey- Camel corridor; research at Restormel Castle; an update on *Reading the Hurlers* project; and two successful Members evenings in Truro and Liskeard where we heard 5 short presentations.

As CAS President I was asked to host the launch of the publication of *Archaeology and Landscape at the Land's End, Cornwall* at The Exchange gallery in Penzance. This was the culmination of archaeological survey work by Cornwall Archaeological Unit between 1980-2010. It was a bumper weekend. The Society's *Archaeology in Cornwall* Conference followed the next day at the Queen's Hotel in Penzance. **Andy Jones** and **Henrietta Quinnell** had arranged a very full day of talks. The first two sessions were given by authors of the book (**Andy Jones, Jacky Nowakowski, Peter Herring, Adam Sharpe and myself**) and covered the chronological development of the West Penwith landscape. The last session covered other subjects in West Cornwall: greenstone axes; PAS finds; the St Michael's Mount hoard and conservation work by the Cornwall Ancient Sites Protection Network – given by **Henrietta Quinnell, Anna Tyacke, Jim Parry and David Giddings**. All 120 places at the conference were taken, and Adrian on the bookstand sold out of the new publication. All enjoyed a great day and many thanks are due to those who helped make it so successful.

**Walks** have been well attended and have included a great variety of subjects and locations: Chapel Carn Brea, Carn Euny and Caer Bran with **Adrian Rodda**; Truthwall Common with **David Giddings**; an Open -Day at the Boden excavation with **James Gossip** and **Anna Tyacke**; an Open- Day at The Hurlers to see the excavations; DAS/CAS joint annual event was with **Jane Gibson** and **Nigel Overton** at Plymouth Citadel, the Barbican waterfront and Mount Batten; Trencrom and Hayle with **Adrian Rodda**; Gear & Penhale Sands with **Colin Retallick (St Piran Trust)**. Brown Gelly with **Peter Herring**

All our events need publicity and **Christine Wilson** gets our posters out and about and contacts our media friends. We are gradually building up our list of Member e-mail addresses and of course our Facebook page with over 600 likes and our Twitter accounts are both growing in popularity. Our website and social media accounts are under the skilled management of **Millie Holman**. Our consultants website designer **Dominica Williamson** and software specialist **Paula Johnson** continue to tweak the website including adding a Newsfeed to the front page allowing us to display the latest three posts, which can include items such as *Monument of the Month*, announcements, and events details. There is still a Members Newsfeed where we can add items for members only if we wish to.

Mention of the Newsfeed reminds us all of the great work being done by the Area Representatives convened by **Peter Cornall** and chaired by **Roger Smith**. Hopefully Members will have noticed *Monument of the Month* and *From Your Own Correspondents* as regular items on the Newsfeed. Thank you **Roger** for organizing this. They help to highlight the important work that ARs are doing as part of the *Heritage at Risk* programme through our own *Monument Watch* programme. This year ARs were looking at Barrows and attended a very successful Training day on

Minions Moor with **Andy Jones, Emma Trevarthen** and **Ann Preston- Jones**. We are incredibly grateful to the latter two for giving such great support to the ARs and we are proud to record that over the last year ARs have submitted over 150 reports. Each of these reports attracts match funding from the Heritage Lottery to help in the development of Kresen Kernow, the new Cornwall Archive Centre in Redruth, and this year amounts to just over £22,000. Medieval monuments are the theme this year. I am delighted to say that although there are still Parishes to be covered, new volunteers continue to come forward. Meanwhile **Emma** reports that new Graffiti records continue to trickle in to the HER.

**Excavations and surveys** Our project cataloguing 23,000 Mesolithic flints and 2000 stones collected by Charles Thomas, from the North Cliffs, Camborne is now complete. Geophysics helped determine where the excavations last August were undertaken under the direction of **Andy Jones** our Excavations Director. 38 one metre square test pits were dug by CAS volunteers to determine where further work might be carried out. Members also had a chance to take part in the exciting excavations of the Post- Roman royal citadel on Tintagel Island, to be continued again this summer; and also again at the Hurlers in September where a standing stone was confirmed instead of a fourth stone circle. CAS members also continue to take part in geophysical surveys of monuments with **Pete Nicholas** and Saltash Heritage

The **Roman Cornwall Research Group**, convened by **Steve Hartgroves** and with the guidance of our Vice President **Val Maxfield** have had a busy time excavating waste dumps at Restormel Iron Mine in order to explore any Roman origins. We eagerly await a RC date to be obtained from charcoal that will hopefully give an earliest date for the iron ore waste. Meanwhile attempts to carry out geophysics at Carvossa Hillfort, above Grampond had to be postponed until this summer. Carvossa sits above the historical tidal limit of the Fal, in much the same way that the forts at Nanstallon, Restormel and Calstock sit next to the limits of tidal navigation of the Camel, Fowey and Tamar respectively.

As is clear, we are a well-connected Society. We get regular reports at our Trustee meetings of the activities of our closest fellow Societies, including Devon Archaeological Society and Southwest CBA. **Anna Tyacke** keeps us up to date with developments at the Royal Cornwall Museum as well as providing us with amazing tales of archaeological 'treasure' brought in via the Portable Antiquities Scheme. This connection reminds us that we are an important part of the heritage sector in Cornwall. We are extremely grateful for the connections that **Anna** provides us with the RCM, **Emma Trevarthen** with the HER, **Andy Jones** with CAU, **Ann Preston Jones** with Historic England and **Ian Rowe** with Kresen Kernow. Heritage Kernow links all these bodies together and we are grateful to Member **Dan Ratcliffe** for encouraging our participation.

That concludes my review of the Society's activities over the last year. I think that you will agree that we are a thriving and lively Society. It also hasn't escaped your notice that none of this would be possible without the hard work and enthusiasm of your Trustees and our many volunteers amongst of Members. May I thank them

all on your behalf and trust that they continue to give so generously of their time? I cannot end however without singling out **David Giddings** as he is not standing again as a Trustee having served since 2009. He has also been Area Representative for Penwith since 2006, and has for the last couple of years been our representative on the Penwith Landscape Project. Many of you know him from those many memorable walks and events in West Penwith carried out in all weathers; others will know him for his modest but always wise advice at meetings. You will be pleased to hear that he has promised to continue to be our man on the western horizon. David thank you for all you have done for us as a Trustee.

The report was approved. Proposer-Andy Jones    Seconder- Kathy Conder

#### **5. Hon. Treasurers Report**

The accounts are stable and in healthy. NJ notes that whilst we were delighted to receive the Mick Aston bequest last year, we do hope that the Society will be remembered in people's wills since it enables us to carry out more work ourselves and support others to carry out community archaeology. The accounts and choice of auditor were approved unanimously, having been proposed by Ursula Davey and seconded by David Giddings.

#### **6. Election of President-Elect.**

The choice of president-elect was approved unanimously. Caroline Dudley said a few words about the honour of being accepted as president elect.

Proposed-Nick Johnson    Seconded-Adrian Rodda.

#### **7. Election of Officers and Trustees**

##### **7.1 Officers**

No nominations were received from members

The following have agreed to stand and have been nominated in accordance with Rule 6: Hon Secretary – Sophie Meyer; Hon Treasurer - Karen Cole; Joint Editor -:Peter Rose;

All elected: Proposed-Caroline Dudley    Seconded-Steve Hartgroves

##### **7.2 Other Trustees:**

No nominations were received from members

(2017-2018). The following have agreed to stand and have been nominated in accordance with Rule 8.

Konstanze Rahn (Membership Secretary); Jenny Beale; Andy Jones (Excavations); Jenny Moore (Lectures); Peter Nicholas; Henrietta Quinnell; Laura Ratcliffe; Iain Rowe; Emma Trevarthen; Anna Tyacke; Christine Wilson (Publicity) Millie Holman (Website and Social Media), Kathy Conder (Excursions). Laura Ratcliffe

All elected: Proposed Roger Smith; Seconded Steve Hartgroves

#### **8. AOB: Hon- Vice President**

Adrian Rodda has edited the Newsletter for many years, and been an exceptionally active archaeological volunteer for 60 years. On his retirement from the Newsletter and the Board, it is proposed that he should be awarded Honorary Vice-President under Rule 5c of the constitution.

Unanimous approval; Proposed- Jenny Beale; Seconded- Henrietta Quinnell

**The AGM was followed at 2pm by a series of seven lectures titled: 'An Intellectual Adventurer in Archaeology: Tributes to the work of Prof. Charles Thomas**

DRAFT