



CORNWALL ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL HISTORIANS

Chairman's Letter

So far this year our visits have been blessed with wonderful weather. The day at Boconnoc was really special, it is such a beautiful estate to visit at any time but especially so when the sun is shining. Catherine Lorrigan (former CALH treasurer) gave a splendid and most informative talk on the history of the house and the people who have lived there, and those who hadn't already done so purchased her new book.

I took along a friend who was born and grew up at Boconnoc in the 1940's. Her father was the estate blacksmith and she was able to give a wonderful insight into life in this close-knit community that even had its own school and resident nurse. The day continued with a prowl round the house which has recently been restored and is now used as a wedding venue. We also strolled round the gardens, admired the 18th century plunge pool (now free of trees but no water yet) and visited the tranquil parish church which stands on a bank beside the house. We were served a really good lunch in the coach house so, all in all, it was a super day.

Our second summer outing took us to St Tudy where the local history group hosted us for the day. Friendly, extremely well organised, and very knowledgeable, they stand as a shining example of what a good local history group should be. After a most informative talk on the history of the area, we went for a stroll round the very attractive village, before sitting in the sun outside the church to eat our pasties whilst being

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Our Place on the Internet
www.calh.co.uk

entertained by the bell ringers. After lunch and a look round the church and the exhibition the group had put on for us, we went to Hengar Manor where, once again, we were royally entertained.

I hope the rest of the summer is as good, and I don't mean just weather-wise, as it has been so far. Happy Days, I'm still on cloud nine!!! (See why in story next page).

Your Chairman

Carole Vivian

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ARTISTS & AUTHORS With **CORNISH CONNECTIONS**

CALH's Autumn Conference

William Titcomb in Cornwall –

David Tovey, Specialist in Cornish Art

Turner's Cornwall –

Dorothy Kirk, Spanish Teacher & Cornwall
Counsellor

When Charles Dickens Visited –

Barry West, CALH Member

William Golding, Cornwall's Own –

Marilyn Thompson, CALH Joint-Events Secretary
– How Golding's *Lord of the Flies* made the post-war world examine the human condition

Kilbirnie Hotel
Saturday, 13 October
10 am – 4 pm

Booking form enclosed & on-line at
www.calh.co.uk
Booking deadline: Friday, 5 October 2018

Trelawny Coffin Plate Found

We had something of a minor miracle take place in Pelynt at the end of June which made this year's Trelawny Day celebration a very special day indeed. During the service our vicar revealed that Bishop Trelawny's coffin plate, stolen from the church over 18 months ago, has been returned.

It was found by a young woman from Suffolk, who was rummaging in a charity shop in Norfolk. Fortunately she realised it was something of importance not simply a piece of old junk, researched it through the internet and eventually contacted our vicar.

I will do an article about the history of the coffin plate and what happened to it for next year's journal. We are all so excited in Pelynt that this piece of history has been saved.

Carole Vivian

Donated Maps Find New Homes

Last year, CALH was contacted by Edward Bailey who had a large bundle of Ordnance Survey maps which once belonged to a Cornish estate agent.

CALH agreed to try to find good homes for the maps, which was quite an undertaking. While large maps show a wealth of detail of value to a local historian, they are very bulky, requiring large storage drawers. In their time they were essential working documents, but they have no place in a modern 'paperless' office.

There were almost 350 maps – the Cornwall Record Office didn't need any, the Cornish Studies Library selected some 1960s six-inch maps and some of the 1960s twenty-five-inch maps to improve their stock.

The Courtney Library picked out some 1940s six-inch maps and took most of the rest of the maps on the understanding they could sell any to raise money for the library. Any member wanting to see a particular map can check its new location with us.

Ian & Marilyn Thompson
Joint- Events Secretaries

Your Committee at Work

Robert Lyle is a long time member of CALH and has worked for many years as editor of our Newsletter and administrator of our website. Robert lives in the US so he utilises technology to do these jobs.

Robert and his wife Mary normally visit Cornwall each year, but for the past three years this was not possible.

When we heard they would be back this year, the committee agreed it was time we all met to catch up and to thank him for all he does.

One beautiful, sunny June day the committee and those who work behind the scenes supporting CALH assembled at Carole Vivian's home, and after a pre-lunch drink in the garden, enjoyed a delightful lunch provided by Carole, which of course included clotted cream, following which we sat in the garden and whiled away the rest of the afternoon.

The talk was very light with much laughter, and whilst subjects included local history and CALH, at my end of the table it also included admissions of naughty schooldays, and a misspent youth.

Robert and Mary will in the UK for a few more months so he will attend committee meetings and make his contribution in person. We all wish them an enjoyable stay.

Hugh Hedderly
Hon Treasurer

Prison History Project

Prisons and lock-ups were central to 19th century society, and Professor Rosalind Crone of the Open University has launched a national resource to collect data on the nearly 850 penal institutions across the country in the 1800s. She says this is an area often overlooked and especially valuable to local historians. Information at: www.prisonhistory.org including a survey. They are looking for local historians who want to participate in the program, bringing Cornish information to the data base.

CRO, Studies Library Set Closings

The Cornwall Record Office and the Cornish Studies Library have now officially set their closing dates for the move to the new archive centre, Kresen Kernow.:

“In order to prepare for the move, Cornwall Record Office will be closed to the public from September 2nd and the Cornish Studies Library will be closed to the public from September 9th 2018. Together they will reopen as Kresen Kernow on the former brewery site in Redruth in 2019. The closure will allow staff and volunteers to package and move our thousands of documents, photographs, books and maps. While we are packaging and preparing the collections there will only be a limited enquiries and copies service, which will depend on physical access to the collections and staff availability. For more information, follow them on social media or keep an eye on the website www.cornwall.gov.uk/community-and-living/records-archives-and-cornish-studies/cornwall-record-office.

New Acquisitions

The Cornish Studies Library has recently acquired *Linkinhorne: The story of a Cornish Parish*, edited by Simon Parker. This book was researched and written by people with strong links to Linkinhorne. It takes the reader on a journey through time, from the geology of the hills, valleys and moorland of the parish, to the present day. Over 40 people contributed to the book including archaeologists and young people.

Older titles are also regularly donated and just recently the Library received a booklet called ‘Souvenir from Looe’. It was published by the Cornish Riviera Press in the 1930s and includes eight postcard sized reproductions from oil paintings by Herbert Truman

Music Critical Part of Archive

During the 18th century, pupils of the keyboard often learnt from manuscripts handwritten by their teachers. Famous surviving examples include those from the Bach and Mozart families. The Record Office has one owned by Philippa Davies, dated 1747, who was taught by Richard Clack. The book is in two hands, presumably Clack’s was the more assured hand that wrote most of it, and Philippa wrote the simpler items at the end, which include fingering.

The pieces are keyboard transcriptions of contemporary ‘hits’. Handel features prominently among composers that are still familiar today to Baroque music buffs (Boyce, Stanley, Corelli, Hasse) and others that are less so. There are arrangements of songs and instrumental works, as well as two arrangements of God Save the King, which had only just become popular after the Jacobite Rising. There is also some music theory.

Richard Clack became the organist at Hereford Cathedral, where he conducted probably the premiere performance of Handel’s Messiah in a cathedral at the Three Choirs Festival in 1759.

Estate Map of Manor of Penpoint

A fascinating estate map showing the Manor of Penpoint and Treglasta, in the parishes of Altarnun, Davidstow and St Clether, was one acquisition made by Cornwall Record Office this quarter. It was surveyed by Robert Sandercock of Altarnun in 1847, and includes details such as bound stones, the Wheal Roughtor mine sett, the manor pound and Lanlary [Lanlavery] Rock. A table of reference gives names of tenements and their tenants.

WWI Anniversary Events

The National Archives has launched its WWI 100th anniversary observance with a series of events this summer. Check it out at nationalarchives.gov.uk/3PUB-FG00-MJO6OC3/cr.asp

CALH Calendar of Events

29 September (Sat) - **Members Day Out - Penzance** - A day organised by Local Historians and will be based at the Morrab Library with talks in the morning, lunch in the Jenner Room and a choice of visits in the afternoon. More details and the booking form on the events page when available

4 October (Thurs) – **CALH Committee Meeting** – St Augustine of Hippo, Woodland road, St Austell – 4:45 pm

13 October (Sat) – **CALH Autumn Conference – Artists & Authors with Connections to Cornwall** – Booking form enclosed and available on line. Booking deadline is Fri. 5 Oct. Kilbirnie Hotel, Newquay

17 January 2019 (Thurs) - **CALH Committee Meeting** – St Augustine of Hippo, Woodland Road, St Austell – 4:45 pm

4 April 2019 (Thurs) – **CALH Committee Meeting** – Stuart House, Liskeard – 4:45 pm

9-10 March 2019 (Sat-Sun) – **Spring Conference and AGM** – Theme to be announced – Kilbirnie Hotel, Newquay

Devon & Cornwall Record Society

21 Oct. (Sun) - **Desert Island Documents - Honoring CALH Chairman Carole Vivian**. A celebration of the contribution she has made to Cornwall and its history. Discussion with Dr Todd Gray will cover, among other things, vernacular buildings, the influence of Veronica Chesher, Henderson's notes, tithe maps and parish records. Stewart House Liskeard, 2 pm. To book send (by 15 October) a cheque for £6 (£5 members) to DEVON & CORNWALL RECORD SOCIETY to The Cottage in The Hayes, Cheriton Fitzpaine, EX17 4JG. Enclose SAE if receipt required (email preferred)

Cornwall Record Office

7-9 August (Tues-Fri) - **Closed for Collection Works**

1 Sept (Sat) - **Saturday Open Day - 10-4. Last day of actual operations.**

2 September - **Closed for move to Kresen Kernow**

Reopening in the new facility in Redruth in 2019. In the meantime, there will be a limited enquiries and copy service, but it will depend on physical access to the collection and staff availability.

Cornish Studies Library

30 August (Thurs) - **A creative workshop** inspired by books and messages, led by artist Sue Lewington and writer Steph Haxton. It will explore more unusual book-forms to take messages from the present to the future via the past. Charge of £10 for the workshop. 10am-4pm. Pre-booking and payment are essential, please call 01209 216 760

8 Sept (Sat) - The Library will mark its final day in operation with **free family crafts** from 10am-2pm. Drop in to leave a message for the future, and take away a small book for your own memories

9 Sept - **Closed for move to Kresen Kernow**

Kresen Kernow

14-15 Sept (Fri-Sat) – **Free hard-hat tours** of the site of Cornwall's new archival centre in Redruth. 10am, 11am, 1pm, 2pm. Pre-booking essential. Call 01872 323 127

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