



## CORNWALL ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL HISTORIANS

### Chairman's Letter

Happy New Year to you all. I hope you all had a really good Christmas and have had, and will continue to have, a cold and flu-free winter. As usual, this is the time of year when I ask if any of you have got or could write an article for the Journal, which is published in the spring.

I know the editor has several reports on outings that occurred last year and also on papers that have been given at our indoor meetings, but it is vital that the Journal contains more than just reports. If you have any short pieces of local history information you would like to share with the membership, why not send it for inclusion under our 'Snippets' heading.

If you have read a really good, a moderately good, or a really poor book on Cornwall, why not write a review on it. It may be a newly published book or one of the 'Old Faithfulls' that you have re-read.

If you have been talking to an elderly local in your area about the changes they have seen, why not turn it into a short article for the Journal. Or, why not sit down and write that article you have been meaning to write for years but simply haven't got round to yet. We really do need the help of the membership if the society is to remain active and of value to future generations.

## NEWSLETTER February 2018

Our Place on the Internet  
[www.calh.co.uk](http://www.calh.co.uk)

I look forward to seeing many of you both at Newquay and also at our outdoor meetings during the coming months.

Your Chairman  
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### 'Let's Go to Town'

Spring Conference & AGM

#### Saturday, 10 March

10:45 am – Annual General Meeting

11:45 – Conference – Let's Go to Town

*Early Medieval Markets & Meets* –

Henrietta Quinell

*Looe & Liskeard Charters* –

Tony Wood

*Rotten Boroughs in Georgian Cornwall* –

Christine Edwards

*Camborne – An Industrial Town* –

David Thomas

#### Sunday, 11 March

*When's a Village Not a Village?* –

Dr Joanna Mattingly

*Shape of Towns – Fix line, Fore Sts* –

Nick Cahill

*Mystery of the St Day Drapers Book* –

Dr Leslie Trotter

*Newquay: A 19<sup>th</sup> Century New Town* –

Marilyn Thompson

*Sure Mariners & Vicious Pirates – Fowey during the 100 Years War* –

Sam Drake

*Future of Cornish Towns* –

Colin Buck

Sat & Sun 10-11 March 2018

**Kilbirnie Hotel**

Newquay

Booking by 24 Feb, form on line

## **CALH Annual General Meeting**

The AGM will be held on Saturday, 10<sup>th</sup> March at the Kilbirnie Hotel, Narrowcliff Road, Newquay at 10:45 am – All members are welcome at no cost.

Minutes of the 2017 AGM will be approved, reports received, rates of subscription considered and office-bearers and members of the committee elected. Members are invited to stand for election. At least two posts need to be filled.

A Study Day Secretary is also sought to shadow the Joint Events Secretaries in 2018 with a view to taking over in 2019.

*Joan Webb*  
*Hon Secretary*

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## **Great Line-up of Days Out for 2018**

Our Joint Events Secretaries Ian and Marilyn Thompson have put together an amazing line-up of study days-out for the year.

Starting in May, we will visit the historic Boconnoc House. Hosted by CALH member Dr Catherine Lorigan, she will be talking about her just released book on Boconnoc, which will be available for purchase at a discount rate of £15. We will also tour the house, the gardens and the stables.

In June, we will visit St Tudy on a day organised by the St Tudy History Society. The day will include a circular history walk around the village, the church and the nearby Hengar manor house.

For July, we'll be going to Cornwall's ancient capital of Launceston in a visit put together by the Launceston History Group and Museum. The day will include a tour of historic buildings and a visit to Trecarrell Manor.

A new feature this year – you can pay directly into the CALH bank account, avoiding the necessity of writing a cheque. You still must mail in the booking form.

## **RIC Reopening: 200 Years Old**

The Royal Institution of Cornwall and the Courtney Library will be reopening on February 6<sup>th</sup> to begin a big celebration of its 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

It was in February of 1818 that a group of Cornish men and women got together in Truro and formed what is now the RIC.

It is said that the founders were inspired by the passion for invention and discovery that was so prevalent in Cornwall at that time.

The building has been closed to allow for a complete reorganisation of many of the exhibitions to reflect the themes of Cornish technological ingenuity over time.

The celebrations will involve diverse community groups, and include drama, dance, song, poetry, lectures and re-enacted historical science experiments both inside the building and out

For its special part, the Courtney Library is digitising one of its prized pieces – the working notebook of 18<sup>th</sup> century mineralogist and collector Philip Rashleigh.

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## **Local History Group Shines**

It can come as no surprise to CALH members that a Cornish local history group has stood out in a national competition.

The Linkinhorne History Group, in southeast Cornwall, participated in BBC Radio 4's *Making History* programme.

The Linkinhorne group was part of the show's 'Top Town History' contest, which pits groups from different sizes of communities against each other to assess who has made the best contribution to local history.

In the first week, Fort William, Scotland beat Reading and then went on to best Greenwich. But Linkinhorne then vanquished Fort William. The final outcome is yet to occur as we go to press.

## Kresen Kernow Moves Forward

Construction of Cornwall's new archival centre is progressing well. The roof is nearly on all of the old brewhouse, the concrete box archive store is rising rapidly, now up to the first floor level and the floors will soon be ready for the original granite flagstones.

The roof slates and windows are now going in. If you would like to see it for yourself, the next public tours will be in March. Watch the Record Office's webpage and the CALH webpage for details.

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## CRO Open Until Autumn

The Cornwall Record Office and the Cornish Studies Library will both be closing in the autumn to make the move to the new facility.

Until then, however, both facilities will be open for researchers and activities.

On the 19<sup>th</sup> of February, designer Amanda Crago will conduct an ArTchive, leading participants in turning historic documents into jewellery pieces using image transfer techniques. The workshop costs £10 and lasts from 10 am to 4 pm. Book at 01872 323 127.

For St Piran's Day, the Cornish Studies Library will launch a new exhibition – "Cornwall in Colour." It will include a selection of historic images that have been digitally colourised. On the 20<sup>th</sup> of March, Joshua Barrett will give a talk about the process of digitising images.

On Monday, 5<sup>th</sup> March, another ArTchive workshop led by Vicki Aimers will be held at the CRO. Titled "Pocketing Memories", the workshop will work with fabrics, threads and stories. The cost is £10. Ring 01872 323 127 to book.

The CRO and the Library also do a wide range of workshops for schools all across Cornwall. They have delivered activities to over 2,400 children since April of last year.

## Cornish Carols 'Ring' Out

The history of Cornish carols is being celebrated with two new acquisitions at the Cornish Studies Library in Redruth.

The new book, *Hark! The Glad Sound of Cornish Carols* by Hilary Coleman and Sally Burley is a record of carols sung throughout Cornwall and traces their backgrounds, composers and reminiscences of the people who sing them. The book clearly shows how carols are embedded in Cornish communities.

The authors travelled across the Duchy to research and record carols being sung in churches and chapels, in pubs and people's houses, and at special events like Bodmin Wassail and St Just Feast. Two CDs accompany the book.

The second acquisition is *Strike Sound*, a collection of Padstow carols compiled by John Worden. The collection of 16 north Cornwall carols has been out of print for some time and has been republished by the Federation of Old Cornwall Societies, with new notes on the Padstow carollers who keep the singing tradition alive.

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## Garstin Family Archive Treasure

The acquisition of the archive of the Garstin family of Penzance last year – with funds from Cornwall Heritage Trust, Friends of the National Libraries and the V&A Grant Fund – is proving very valuable.

Of particular interest are the letters of Denis Garstin who was posted with the British government's propaganda Mission in St Petersburg during the Russian revolution.

His work brought him into close contact with revolutionary leaders Trotsky and Lenin. In July 1918, he was sent to re-join the British army in North Russia to fight against the Bolsheviks. Five days later, he was killed in action at the age of 28.

The CRO describes the letters as a "treasure trove."

## CALH Calendar of Events

10-11 March (Sat-Sun) – **CALH Spring Conference & AGM – “Let’s Go to Town”** – Kilbirnie Hotel, Newquay. Booking form on [www.calh.co.uk](http://www.calh.co.uk), events.

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

16 May (Weds) – **Members Day Out – Boconnoc Estate** – Led by Dr Catherine Lorigan. Includes a tour of the house, church and grounds and ability to buy her new book on Boconnoc. Booking form also on-line.

6 June (Weds) – **Members Day Out – St Tudy** – Led by the St Tudy History Group, beginning the tour in the Clink. Booking form also on-line.

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

31 July (Tues) – **Members Day Out – Launceston** – Led by the Launceston History Group and Museum, the day includes visit to buildings of interest within the town. Booking form also on-line.

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

13 October (Sat) – **CALH Autumn Conference** – Theme to be announced. Kilbirnie Hotel, Newquay.

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## Royal Cornwall Museum

6 February (Tues) – **Royal Cornwall Museum and Courtney Library Reopen for Celebration of 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary** – Launching a year of celebrating science & invention in Cornwall over two centuries.

22 February (Thurs) – **Inaugural Lecture by Dr Simon Naylor: Cornwall’s Scientific Past** – Museum, 6pm – Members £4, Non-members £7. Free for concessions & 14-18 year olds.

## Cornwall Record Office

6-9 February (Tues-Fri) – **TENTATIVE Closed for Collection Works**

3 March (Sat) – **TENTATIVE – Saturday Open Day** – 10 to 4

3-6 April (Tues-Fri) – **TENTATIVE – Closed for Collection Works**

8-11 May (Tues-Fri) – **TENTATIVE – Closed for Collection works**

5-8 June (Tues-Fri) – **TENTATIVE – Closed for Collection Works**

16 June (Sat) – **TENTATIVE – Saturday Open Day** – 10 to 4

3-6 July (Tues-Fri) – **TENTATIVE – Closed for Collection Works**

**Please note: The exact dates of collection work closings and Saturday open days are still being determined. Partly this is due to uncertainty of when the offices will close for the move to Kresen Kernow. Watch CALH webpage and CRO webpage for updates.**

Events:

19 February (Mon) – **ArTchive – Jewellery History** – Using image transfer techniques, Amanda Crago will show how to make historic documents into jewellery. £10, runs 10 am to 4 pm. Call 01872 323127 to book.

5 March (Mon) – **ArTchive Pocketing Memories** – Workshop led by Vicki Aimers using fabrics, threads and stories. £10, runs 10 am to 4 pm – Call 01872 323127 to book

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## Cornish Studies Library

3 March (Sat) – **St Piran’s Day - Cornwall in Colour** – Featuring historic images newly colourised - 20 March (Tues) – **Joshua Barrett** will talk and demonstrate digitally colourising images. Exhibit until 14 April.

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