



# CORNISH BUILDINGS GROUP

## THE CHAIRMAN

In 1882 legislation was introduced whereby anyone caught damaging a historic building could be fined £5. Then the Ancient Monuments Protection Act (1900) empowered local government to protect its own regional antiquities as the wake of Edwardian prosperity brought better transport and heritage tourism. Stronger custodianship of our built heritage followed the Ancient

Monuments Act (1931) which impelled various bodies to collect heritage on an unprecedented scale. To advise and formulate collecting policies, a cogent system of surveying, ranking and ordering historic buildings was introduced in the Town and Country Planning Act (1942) which established a Statutory List of Buildings of Architectural or Historic Interest. English Heritage continues to manage this service so as to inform its users about

**BUILDINGS AT RISK:**  
*An illustration of the rebuilt St Columb Major Rectory, in 1851, described now by Peter Beacham as an 'understated masterpiece'. In 1841 Dr Walker became Rector, his father, a rich London barrister having bought, the advowson from Lord Clinton for £12,000. Samuel Walker employed the young William White to rebuild the Rectory, his first major work. On completion Walker then offered the building to those supporting the proposal for St Columb as the seat of the rumoured new Cornish See; ever since it has been known popularly as the 'Bishop's Palace'.*

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a building's past history and present condition to guide and manage its future.

Looking through our casework files for the past year, two immediate questions spring to mind. First, is the listing system still a robust and fit-for-purpose arrangement for the twenty-first century? And second, does statutory protection actually mean that a listed building is protected by law? The answer to both, it seems, is no. Our group has long been campaigning for the Grade 2\* listed St Columb Rectory (1851) and the Grade 2 listed St Peter's Church (1846-51) at Chiverton Cross both by the notable Victorian architect William White, both abandoned, both with leaking defective roofs - so both are deteriorating rapidly. The *Cornishman* published our concerns about the condition of the Grade 1 listed Market House (1837), Penzance, by William Harris of Bristol; fortunately, thanks to added community pressure it looks likely that repairs to make this iconic building watertight will go ahead. In August both the *Western Morning News* and *Cornish Guardian* published our press release questioning why the unlisted Saltash railway station (adjoining the magnificent Grade 1 listed Royal Albert Bridge) has been allowed to fall into such dilapidation over a whole decade. Although unlisted, this C19th building is a most prominent sight for railway visitors on arrival in the county.

It is easy to blame Cornwall Council for failing in its duties towards these buildings. However, the Cornish Buildings Group would be failing in our duty if we did not pursue our local authority

to enforce a solution to overcome such neglect. More and more buildings are falling into dereliction, for example, the old Station Master's House in Fowey; the old Fire Station at Redruth; the parish church of St Paul's, Truro; and forsaken shops in Camborne, Penzance and St Columb. All are blots on the landscape, lowering the quality of the neighbourhood and a waste of built resources as well as potential loss to our heritage.

Reviewing these cases has led me to several worrying conclusions. First, Cornish buildings face an uncertain future. Back in March 2014 we called on Cornwall Council to rethink changes being made to the Environment and Planning departments. We felt strongly that the loss of front line services, such as the natural resources team and a reduction in numbers of conservation officers, would have an adverse effect on the quality of advice given in supporting effective planning and historic environment services. We were right and mistakes in the treatment of our environment are now becoming increasingly common. For example, no Environmental Assessments were conducted before building the new Sainsbury's in Penzance or demolishing the Foster Complex in Bodmin, while neglect of the Hayman House site in Redruth shows a real lack of commitment towards Cornwall's rich heritage.

A second concern, a consequence of cut-backs, is the little regard given to the settings of historic assets in the wake of wind-farm applications;

*BELOW: A recent photograph of the 32' long drawing room at the NE corner; the main entrance, off picture to the left.*



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*LEFT: The staircase in St Columb Major Rectory, photographed on a memorable CBG visit in 1981; the character and originality are clear - simple arts & crafts Gothick revival. The staircase and much of the interior surprises - given its completion date in the year of the Great Exhibition!*

recent examples of failed appeals at Castle Dore and Trathan in St. Erme parish highlight this issue. As a buildings group we would not normally be drawn on wind turbines or solar farms, however this year has seen several members approach us to comment on the negative affect wind turbines have. A recent case proposed a huge wind turbine above the Glynn Valley, towering over 231 Listed buildings (9 Grade 1), 36 scheduled ancient monuments, 2 registered parks and gardens and 2 registered battlefield sites within a 5km radius. We lodged an objection and the application has been withdrawn.

Third, communications with and within Cornwall Council continues to be very painful, many enquiries left unacknowledged giving the impression that Cornwall Council is in complete disarray. Nothing has happened this year to make us change our minds. In fact with more people being forced out by corporate strategies a severely weakened team has only exacerbated the problem of poor communication and engagement between Cornwall's own planning, enforcement and historic buildings specialists.

Lastly, our casework has highlighted Cornwall Council's poor regard towards external interference. It is not only our opinions that have received short-shrift but those of independent charities and statutory consultees such as the Ancient Monuments Society, SAVE, the Georgian Group and the Victorian Society. We urge County Hall to accept that it has a responsibility towards its built environment and to engage further with partners in order to help facilitate and fulfil its responsibilities. Having no hunger to enforce repairs notices on derelict buildings and a failure to exercise its duties cannot be blamed on austerity. Let's hope that Cornwall Council can establish new ways of working in order to preserve our heritage and promote good design in the county. Over the past year we have been invited to two meetings with the Council's planning and historic environment representatives. We are very grateful that they have acknowledged our existence and have taken time to explain their changes to us - our hope is that they can create a culture of listening to, and working with, various partners, including knowledgeable local interest groups.

On the theme of partners, we are now fully fledged agents of the Council for British Archaeology so

we will have more informed support from a high profile independent charity. In the same way we have worked closely with SAVE and the Ancient Monuments Society on Foster Hall; the Victorian Society on St Columb Rectory and the Georgian Group on Marlborough House (see page 17). I am particularly pleased that we have collaborated with the Cornwall Heritage Trust, Yale University Press and the National Trust in organising our first interdisciplinary conference. This will take place on Friday 6 and Saturday 7 March 2015 at the National Maritime Museum, Falmouth. Judging by the quality of the speakers and the varied content, covering all aspects of Cornish architecture from the Conquest to the present day, it will be a great success. The conference has been organised to support the publication of the updated *The Buildings of England: Cornwall* volume by Peter Beacham and Nikolaus Pevsner. Peter has done a splendid job of revising the very first Pevsner guide, which was published in 1951, and we can only echo the sentiments contained in the late Candida Lycett Green's review in the *Spectator*:

*Not only is Peter [Beacham] a lyrical and sometimes funny writer with a true gift for evoking place but he also cares passionately about architecture and about doing full justice to Cornwall.*

Two more positive stories this year for our Group was first, our partnership with a Heritage Lottery funded project led by Cornwall Council in association with Cornwall Archaeological Society, Cornwall Buildings Preservation Trust, Cornwall Heritage Trust and Caradon Archaeology and secondly, our annual Awards scheme.

The ground breaking 'Buildings at Risk' project saw numerous Grade II listed buildings in the east of the county condition surveyed to measure resources needed to address their decline. I would like to thank our members who went out in all weathers to carry out this exercise. The feedback was wholly positive. Meanwhile, our Awards scheme attracted a good entry and a well-attended awards evening at Pill Farm, Trellisick. I would like to take this opportunity to say good-bye and thank-you to Joanne Laing who has managed our Award scheme for several years. Joanne was one of those people who just got on with the job, no moaning or groaning, always efficient and reliable; needless to say

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we are very sorry to see her go. I am pleased to announce that our new Council member Patrick Newberry has taken over the Awards scheme and we wish him every success.

Summing up, our two-fold mission is as true today as on the formation of the Group in 1969. The CBG exists to encourage the protection and repair of historic and traditional buildings and encourage good new architecture. Our hope is that our generation will leave behind buildings that will give the same pleasure and enjoyment we experience looking at the architecture of past ages. It is a great honour to chair a group that has so much expertise amongst its Council and membership. Using this knowledge we have informed opinions with regards to more recent developments affecting buildings in the region such as the campaigns to save the listed railway bridge at St Erth and St Day Old Church.

## TRURO

Truro alone has lost many significant buildings of varying architectural interest and merit in the 60+ years since the first edition of Pevsner. Now in a very short period the Eastern approach, down Tregolls Road has changed radically, always with substantially larger buildings rising up to replace the Brookdale Hotel, the (one-time) AA offices, Truro Police Station and, soon, Tremorvah House. The sole land-mark remaining, the Grade II\* listed St Paul's church is abandoned in a perilous state, so is unlikely to survive long.

We joined the Civic Society to raise concern over Tremorvah House, so well hidden from the road by trees few people knew it was one of the most impressive – but unprotected buildings in the City. Listing had been refused and it is outside the Conservation Area, the extension of which should

It is still my aspiration that we involve our membership more in casework and decision making. Events and visits are important, after all it's where we network as a Group; however we need your input into other aspects of the Group's work. I set this mission when I first became Chairman and am heartened that we are now getting more emails and letters from members and the wider community sharing their concerns. It is also reassuring that we are getting more national recognition through the media and statutory consultees. My request is that, as a member of the Group, you speak to us, share your concerns, submit content for our website or eBulletin, suggest some outings and tell us where the Group should be going.

Follow what's going on at our website <https://sites.google.com/site/cornishbuildingsgroup/home>

If you have anything to contribute it will be most welcome.

PAUL HOLDEN, FSA

have been carried out by Cornwall Council. This would now seem rather pointless since nothing much of worth is left along Tregolls Road.

The rapid demolitions, in the last few months, has bought together the CBG and Truro Civic Society to consider the many 'Buildings at Risk', especially those of the C20th, within the City. Maybe this will take the form of an unofficial local 'List' with the City Council and other sympathetic bodies so these buildings can be highlighted when a possible risk arises. This would also form a basic list for consideration prior to submitting applications for Listing to English Heritage in the most worthy cases.

It is now apparent the Council are unable to act even on important II\* buildings, so we can hardly rely on them as in the past.

I wrote here last year of the demise of most historic industries in Cornwall, so we are now left with only Tourism. With the rapid spoiling of so much countryside and the 'development' of our villages, harbours and towns, the attraction to visitors is a resource being depleted.

EDITOR

*Built in 1845 for (Sir) Philip Prothero Smith, a Truro solicitor and four times mayor of Truro, Tremorvah House was an imposing residence in a fairly restrained style. Sir Philip's widow sold the house to Richard Chellev, the Truro steamship owner. Much of the roof and attic was destroyed in a fire in 1888 but rebuilt. In more recent years the House has been used as offices.*

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## SECRETARY'S REPORT 2014

On the day of the last CBG outing for 2014, the forecast had been awful and I really didn't expect to find anyone at the meeting point in the middle of Perran Sands Holiday Camp! However eighteen intrepid members were there, and Cornwall Council Archaeologist, James Gossip, led us – in sunshine – through the dunes to St Piran's Oratory, which in 1980 was buried in the sands to protect it from damage. He gave us a fascinating history of the 5th century site and told us he would welcome any volunteers when the dig resumes, which he hoped would be soon. It was interesting to discover that the early 20th century concrete cover built over the remains was by E H Sedding. At lunchtime a small party headed for the Miners Arms at Mithian, which has an interesting interior with bolection moulding. Afterwards we enjoyed a delightful visit to 'Harmony Cot' the thatched cottage where 'the Cornish Wonder', artist John Opie, was born in 1761.

To go back to the beginning of the year, our AGM was held in April at Enys - so from very small to very large, the CBG tries to cover an amazing variety of Cornish building treasures. Wendy Fowler, the co-owner of Enys gave us a fascinating tour of the house (designed by Henry Harrison in 1833) and garden, both of which are undergoing extensive restoration. We hope to keep in touch and visit again as work proceeds and the future use of the place becomes clearer. We were all most impressed by the cheerful way Wendy was coping with this enormous undertaking – and particularly the bats! She also has a good band of helpers who managed to provide us with a sustaining lunch in a huge empty shell of a house with countless kitchens and larders.

In June we visited the Chairman at Respryn, where he gave us a very interesting history of the hamlet. CBG members, Vaughan and Abi, kindly invited us to visit Halbathick in the afternoon. Near Liskeard, it is a former long house of medieval origin, which won the CBG Award in 1995. Apart from the interest of the building we enjoyed their charming "cottage garden" and an enormous quantity of Abi's scones and cream!

We were kindly invited to picnic in another stunning garden in July when we visited Rosteage on the Roseland. The manor house has been very sensitively restored, and we were particularly intrigued with the introduction of dressed leather panelling rescued from Morval in East Cornwall. It was difficult to tear ourselves away from such a beautiful spot on another beautiful day, but Joanna Mattingly was ready with the history of St Symphorian Church at Veryan, where we also saw the longest grave in England, and the Homeyard Homes (1956).

Another owner to be congratulated is Neil Mundy at Trenethick Barton, where he has re-roofed the 16th century house and stabilised the gatehouse, assuring the future of this very important grade I listed building. He was very generous with his time and hospitality and dealt very speedily and sensitively with the situation when one of our number passed out on his drawing room floor! In the morning we had visited the Folk Museum at Helston, which is full of interest. We were also given a tour of the nearby Passmore Edwards Science and Art Institute by Teresa Gleadowe and architect Alison Bunning. We were all most impressed with the brave plans to save this massive building for artists' studios, preserving Passmore Edwards' original intention for educational and community use.

Our annual party – this year held in the Barn at Trelassick, preceded by a tour of the mansion was a great success.

Many thanks to everyone, especially the owners and guides, who have helped to give us so many interesting outings in 2014.

JENNY GASON

### 2014 AWARD DISPLAY

The 2014 Awards display timetable.

*Against each library the weekday closures are shown.*

DISPLAYS CHANGE AROUND THE 1st OF EACH MONTH BUT CHECK DATES WITH THE LIBRARIES BEFORE MAKING A LONG JOURNEY.

month	library	closed on:
March 2015	Bodmin	Tu, Th, S (p.m.)
April 2015	Saltash	W, F, S (p.m.)
May 2015	Liskeard	M, W, S (p.m.)

Venue for the 2015 Awards displays will be on the website from May 2015

# ANNUAL AWARDS SCHEME 2014

The Cornish Buildings Group Awards Scheme is the county's most prestigious architectural prize celebrating excellence in areas of architectural design and applied conservation and restoration work. Every year the Council of the Cornish Buildings Group considers a broad range of project types ranging from housing estates to bus shelters; informed historic conservation to radical modern design and independent craft skills to small and large-scale repairs and renovations. Previous winners of the scheme can be seen on our website.

Our judges offer wide ranging experience in many aspects of Cornish architecture and architectural practice including conservation, design, environment, heritage, planning and research. When judging we evaluate the quality of design or conservation philosophy, assess the suitability of materials, appropriateness of the solution to context and the overall impact of the building. We value entries that build on Cornish precedent or take such precedents forward in a courageous and aesthetically pleasing manner. This lively and vigorous process ensures that the Cornish Buildings Group award scheme maintains its position as a true mark of excellence.

This year the Council has taken the difficult decision not to present our highest award. Rather we are awarding commendations to three very worthwhile projects. The citations that follow reflect our conclusions, commending some excellent work, while on others constructively offering thoughts on what might have been done differently.

## COMMENDATIONS

### Headland Hotel, Newquay

LILLY LEWARNE PRACTICE

Silvanus Trevail's flamboyant late-19th century Baroque terracotta confection has been subject of a series of sensitive upgrades in recent years. The latest inserts a sophisticated modern spa into former service space in the basement. Much of the work is invisible from the exterior, but what can be seen is a good blend of strong modern design with fine detailing, including accurate reproductions of original terracotta work.

Although the spa's interior was, inevitably, a complex series of dark spaces, the scheme has considerably improved the external appearance of the building, particularly from the seaward side, whilst also improving its commercial potential.

Rostronguet Barton, seen from the road; the whim house is off picture to the extreme right.



### Rostronguet Barton, Chyvounder

ARCO2 ARCHITECTURE

This is an accomplished conversion to two dwellings of a linear group of three extremely run down 17th century farm buildings. A 19th century shippon links the cottages to a threshing barn at the east end with an open sided polygonal whim engine house to the south. The conversion tastefully respects the original wall openings and uses traditional methods and materials. It is regrettable that cat-slide dormers have been introduced to the front elevation and, while the reuse of Delabole slate is laudable, it is disappointing that the opportunity was not seized to reinstate the thatch with eyebrow dormers.

Of note is the bold new green oak glazed corridor/garden room extension with sedum roof and a subtle glazed opening introduced within the exposed gable. The patrons must be

congratulated for restoring the engine house and returning its whim engine to working order.

### Rosemerryn Cabin, Lamorna

MATT ROBINSON

Sited in an enchanting early twentieth century garden, this distinctive low carbon house is a welcome new interpretation of the timber framed house. The architect has created a series of spaces which connect naturally with the landscape, whilst demonstrating considerable inventiveness in the construction of the timber of frame. Although some of the detailing is over mannered, it does create visually stimulating rooms. Incorporating green energy technology, such as solar panels, in a visually pleasing way, is difficult and the judges thought that the house's appearance would be improved by a more subtle arrangement of the roof solar panels.

## 2014 AWARDS

COMMENDATION Headland Hotel, Newquay.

COMMENDATION Rostronguet Barton, Chyvounder.

COMMENDATION Rosemerryn Cabin, Lamorna.

Lilly Lewarne Practice, Architects

Arco2 Architecture

Matt Robinson



above: View from the sloping garden and steep rockery to the main south elevation to Rosemerryn, Lamorna  
right: an interior view showing the timber frame construction



far left: The new seaward side entrance to the Headland Hotel, Newquay  
left: the new swimming pool, part of the extensive spa making a new use of the basement level

## SHORTLISTED ENTRIES

### No. 1 Falmouth Road, Truro

VIV HENDRA

The attractive double fronted early 19th century town house had been crudely converted into flats and neglected. Great care was exercised in restoring period features whilst introducing new services and creating new spaces. Restoration included an external stucco decorative band and unusual wall decoration in the drawing room as well as reconstruction of the lower part of the staircase, destroyed when the house was divided.

Although the judges were very impressed by the restoration, they were concerned at the scale of the new conservatory and felt that replacement of all multi paned sash windows would have improved the main front's appearance.

### Cosawes Barton, Ponsanooth, Truro

LILLY LEWARNE PRACTICE

Both inside and out, the stock yard conversion struck the judges as a most competent job to which in previous years we might have given an award. We liked the treatment of the yard itself and the front elevations which were handsomely finished in an appropriate 'estate' colour. The interiors were pleasing and competently done.

The judges thought that the whole work owed much more to the fine original architecture of the stock yard than to the conversion itself and that the conversion, although well executed, could not rank as architecturally outstanding in its own right.

top: An unusual back view of Richard Lander's statue, through the window on the restored stairs at No. 1, Falmouth Road, the subject of a much needed restoration



### Nancarrow Events Barn, Truro

MATT ROBINSON

This impressive new barn is the showpiece of an environmentally friendly rural events venue, at the heart of an organic farm. The aisled barn, to be used for weddings and conferences, has been sensitively designed with a green oak frame and is well located with reference to an attractive mill pond and complex of old mill and farm buildings. Whilst the judges liked the overall design and setting, they felt that the barn design drew too



above: Two views of Nancarrow Events Barn  
right: The Town Museum with flats above, in Wadebridge.

below: Another THI scheme, in Trelowarren Street Camborne  
below right: The extensive complex restoration work under way on the whim engine at Restroguet Barton

much on generic national models. They would have preferred a design that evolved historical forms to make more of advances in timber framed construction and Cornish idioms.

### No. 43/45 Trelowarren Street, Camborne

THI SCHEME/CORNWALL COUNCIL

Another splendid effort by the Townscape Heritage Initiative team. Although these THI schemes focus on energy efficiency, the use of suitably detailed windows, insulation &c, they always look to authentic and accurate restoration projects, based on historical photographs wherever possible. The restoration of the upper floor and roof is well done, and the shop front is a well-proportioned and well-mannered piece of street architecture, undoubtedly a huge improvement on what was there. The judges thought that the detailing could have been more accurate which would have raised the building towards the former glory of its Victorian predecessor.



### Cross Street, Wadebridge

TREWIN DESIGN

This new residential development on the site of the old Wadebridge Town Hall incorporates two flats and a new local museum. It is located on a prominent site at the junction of three roads and responds well to its location with a good overall shape and thoughtful fenestration, creating interesting outlooks from within and an interesting building at a key focal point.

The overall pleasing impact of the building was impaired by the choice of a very brown Killas for the natural stone parts of the building; whilst some of the detailing, particularly interaction of fenestration with other details, could have been improved.



right: The two-storey barn at Cosawes Barton illustrates the success of a light-hand in such work!

## PEVSNER REVISITED IN CORNWALL

PETER BEACHAM REASSESSES HIS ACHIEVEMENT AND THE REVISED EDITION

Published in 1951, Cornwall was the first of what eventually became the 46 county volumes of Nikolaus Pevsner's monumental work *The Buildings of England*. He had visited Cornwall in the spring of 1948, his researches restricted by a relative dearth of published information about the buildings of the county apart from its churches, as well as petrol rationing and the erratic behaviour of an unreliable car lent by the publisher, Allen Lane. When a modest revision was produced in 1970 (limited to obvious corrections and some additions sent in by correspondents), Pevsner freely acknowledged that the book had been an experiment – 'we were all beginners at the job then', he observed – but nevertheless it set the pattern for the 45 volumes that followed before the coverage of all England was completed in 1974.

The publication of a comprehensively revised edition 66 years after Pevsner undertook his fieldwork has necessarily required taking account of the subsequent burgeoning of architectural history. The perspective of history has also allowed a clearer assessment of the architecture of the later Victorian and 20th-century periods; in 1948 Pevsner was, it is worth remembering, nearer the end of the Victorian age than we are to the 1960s. So the revision has afforded opportunities both to celebrate Pevsner's achievement and also to explore new areas of interest, some of which – like vernacular architecture or the buildings of industry, both very significant in Cornwall – were hardly recognised at the time the series originated. Critics who have pointed to the limitations of the first editions cannot have read his own modest assessment of his achievement when, in completing the series with Staffordshire in 1974, he concluded that 'The more of the revised volumes I shall see the happier I shall be. Don't be deceived, gentle reader, the first editions are only ballons d'essai; it is the second editions which count' (Some words on the completion of 'The Buildings of England' in Staffordshire, 1974).

**10** In assessing his achievement it must be remembered that although he was working from files

prepared by his researcher, he only spent a few weeks in the county. Cornwall in the late 1940s was still remote, so the fact that he nevertheless managed to visit every church was remarkable in itself. His accounts of the medieval churches, one of the glories of Cornwall, have more than stood the test of time. His underlying narrative of the development and architecture of the medieval Cornish church remains convincing. Only in one significant respect, the continuation of the rebuilding of churches well into the 16th century, even sometimes beyond the mid-century, is the dating sequence better understood. And always in his descriptions there is the eye of the man who has seen so much that he can easily make references that would elude most of us. Thus at Holy Trinity, St Austell he observes of the curious doorway to the south porch with its openwork tracery that it is 'an ogee arch inserted into a round one (cf. Mylor and St Just-in-Roseland), a motif originated at Gloucester and found, for example, in tomb canopies at Tewkesbury'.

His coverage of the greater houses of Cornwall was much more succinct in comparison to the generous space he devoted to medieval churches, but it was still an authoritative assessment of what was known at the time with the vital dimension of relating Cornish architecture to the national picture. He was one of the first, for example, to realise how remarkable the north front of Godolphin is, a daring example of Renaissance planning and architecture so far west, showing the Godolphins' connections with the Stuart court. Similarly, his appreciation of the combination of the military innovation and architectural symmetry of the Henrician fort at St Mawes makes for one of his most memorable passages of architectural description.

And, given how close he was to the end of the Victorian period, his take on 19th-century architecture is pioneering too. Here one can sense the great champion of the modern movement growing in his respect for some (though not all) of the 19th-century architects working in Cornwall as he recognises how surprisingly rich the county is in the work of some of the

most important: it was, after all, in Cornwall that those pioneers of the Gothic Revival, George Edward Street (1824-81) and William White (1825-1900), built their first churches and carefully restored many more. At Ladock, Cornwall has the first collaboration between Street and William Morris with the finest display in the county of Morris & Co. glass.

John Dando Sedding (1838-91) is also well represented; he too started from a Cornish base with his elder brother Edmund Sedding (1836-68) and later Edmund's son Edmund Harold Sedding (1863-1922). All three were highly skilled in Arts and Crafts Gothic and worked on 63 churches, either new builds or major restorations. Pevsner finds his best prose to describe the crowning glory of the Gothic Revival in Cornwall, John Loughborough Pearson's Truro Cathedral. He skillfully deploys his knowledge of European architecture to source the resonances of both Normandy Gothic and English Gothic in its exterior, while his description of the interior conveys a feeling that this was a building which, architecturally speaking, moved him profoundly: 'The Cathedral interior, of soaring height and ever changing vistas, is in many ways a beau ideal of the E.E. style, perfected as against the proportions of, say, Salisbury and purged of the loveable irregularities of other E.E. churches. Truro is vaulted throughout. Pearson knew better than any other architect of his generation how necessary stone vaults are to Gothic perfection and here he offers a master class in their design and variety.'

There were, therefore, sure foundations laid by Pevsner on which the revision could be built. Specialist contributions have been added on building materials, the prehistoric to early medieval landscape, vernacular building, and the industrial archaeology of Cornish mining and transport. There was a need to recast many of the descriptions, especially of Cornwall's greater houses, where the vast amount of new research has greatly enriched and sometimes altered the narrative and added much valuable detail. The National Trust's Cornish estate offers an exceptionally good range from Tudor Cotehele through Elizabethan Trerice and the Renaissance north front at Godolphin to the



An 1818 watercolour of the East front of Trerice, by George Sheppard. The National Trust

extravagant late 19th-century aggrandisement of St Michael's Mount and Lanhydrock. In each of these places the new descriptions have also been able to capture something of the historic entity of house, setting, ancillary buildings, gardens, park and landscape.

Much fuller accounts of the pre-19th-century building range can now be offered – for example, the emerging understanding that the great medieval castles at Launceston, Restormel and Trematon fulfilled other functions than the purely defensive: all three were also adapted for pleasure as hunting lodges in extensive deer parks. But the single most significant additions are the buildings of the later 19th century to the early 21st century. The phenomenal growth of the county's copper and tin mining during the first half of the 19th-century generated huge wealth before the rapid collapse of copper and the slower decline of tin. Mining funded a building boom right across the architectural range. The great mining magnates like the Boscawens at Tregothnan, the Treffrys at Place, Fowey, and the Agar-Robartes at Lanhydrock enlarged and embellished their houses on a prodigious scale; but even more modest houses were made over, as with George Wightwick's accomplished Palladianism at Pencarrow and his classical re-working of Tregrahan. One of the most enjoyable aspects of later Victorian and Edwardian architecture, public and commercial buildings, is to be found in Cornish towns; most, a good range, are still miraculously intact, many by local architects – Wightwick at Helston, James Hicks at Redruth, Henry Rice at Liskeard, Otho B Peter at Launceston and, most prolific of all, Silvanus Trevail at St Austell, Truro, and all over

the county.

Another significant element of the revised edition is the opportunity it provides to present a fuller picture of the vibrant religious culture of 19th- and early 20th-century Cornwall. The dynamism of Methodism at this period is reflected in an explosion of chapel building with nearly 900 at its peak around 1900, with the Classical-inspired style of pre-1850s chapels increasingly replaced by a version of 18th-century Picturesque Gothic without its whimsical detail. But the single most significant architectural theme of the second half of the 19th century in Cornwall is the role of the Gothic Revival in the Anglican church's energetic attempt to re-invent itself, pioneered, as described above, in new churches by Street, J D Sedding, and White, and in Pearson's new cathedral. White also built the elegiacally beautiful Romantic Gothic rectory at St Columb Major (currently in a scandalously sad state of disrepair) and a bank in Venetian Gothic at the centre of the same town. A longer historical perspective has also allowed the new edition to make a kinder reckoning of the vast amount of church restoration that was carried out in later 19th-century Cornwall, where J P St Aubyn was cast as the chief villain: his restoration work (he undertook



12 Proof that Gothick is not quite dead in the county; during the Group's visit to the Farmhouse of our members Vaughan Upson and Abi Evans, your editor spotted this ingeniously detailed, traditional slate-hung chicken house. Built by Vaughan, c. 1995, it seems this was somehow omitted from the description of Halbothick in the new Pevsner.

78 churches in all) soon becomes wearisome, but he was a skilful deployer of Gothic when building his 20 new churches.

The first half of the 20th century saw flashes of modernism here and there, but not the sustained campaigns that might have been expected in a county marketing itself as 'The Cornish Riviera'. Penzance has some good examples; most spectacular is the Art Deco Jubilee Pool (the town also has a whole suburb of lovely early 19th-century terraces and gardens that has been little celebrated).

The second half of the 20th century saw some bolder modernist architecture, including Team 4's Creak Vean, but more significantly, the work of the County Council Architect's Department, culminating in New County Hall. Towards the end of the century and into the 21st century European funding helped bring major architectural practices here to design important new buildings like Evans & Shalev's excellent Tate St Ives, Long & Kentish's National Maritime Museum, Cornwall, and Nicholas Grimshaw & Partners' Eden Project. And in Newlyn and St Ives the evidence of the artistic communities of the later 19th and mid-20th centuries is still tangible, most powerfully expressed in Barbara Hepworth's garden and studio at St Ives.

But perhaps the most pervasive of all the themes to enter the new volume is its emphasis on context and the sense of place. Pevsner himself remarked in the first edition that in Cornwall the setting was often as memorable, or more so, than the architecture. Yet partly for reasons of space and partly because he felt he had no skills in conjuring up the genius loci in words (and maybe also because he was up against Betjeman's incomparable descriptions in his Shell Guide), Pevsner rarely attempts to convey character and atmosphere. The new edition attempts to express something of the distinctiveness of places, a small contribution to ensuring that Cornwall, still a land apart, remains unique.

right: Described as 'a pioneering high-tech structure' in Pevsner now, but built 20 years after publication of the first edition. John Miller's Pillwood House remains an outstanding early example of its genre, without equal in Cornwall.

On a CBG visit in 1983 but still crisp and modern and simple unless you favour pastiche Cornish cottages. Of my choice of three, this is the only one Listed - so far!

## THE 20TH CENTURY

For those of us chiefly interested in the 20th century the new Pevsner volume is welcome for the improved coverage of the pre-war years as well as the inclusion of much built in the period since the first edition.

It should also act as a stimulus to an increasing concern over the level of Listing protection given to the comparatively scarce good later 20th-century buildings and their more general appreciation amongst councillors, planners and the general public. Design styles in all fields are usually derided by the next generation but the Listing system should assume a degree of protection to prime examples of buildings from comparatively recent years, at least until a reassessment is possible with the "perspective of history" referred to by Peter Beacham on page 10. This applies to buildings that represent the whole range from mainstream commercial architecture to those illustrating some briefly popular but ultimately dead-end style. The latter do, after all, add immeasurably to the rich variety in our evolving townscapes - with their often rather eccentric features! After all Chapel Street in Penzance would never be the same without the Egyptian House!

The Victorians' dislike of that awfully plain Georgian style could have deprived us of the best of Bath - and no doubt Lemon Street, had the speed of urban redevelopment been as hasty as it is today.

Surely we can't see the best of the 20th century

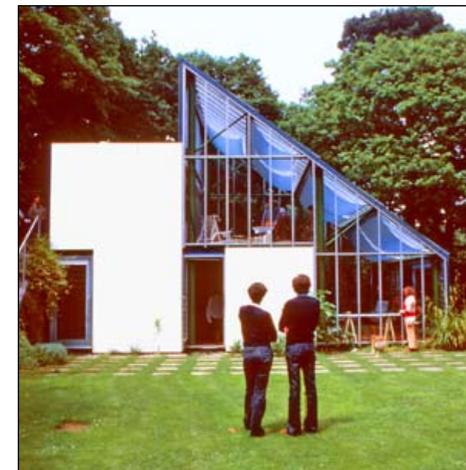


photo: John Crowther

swept away, to deprive our county of arts and crafts and art deco houses, a few modernist buildings, and the outstanding postwar schools, libraries, and housing - even New County Hall?

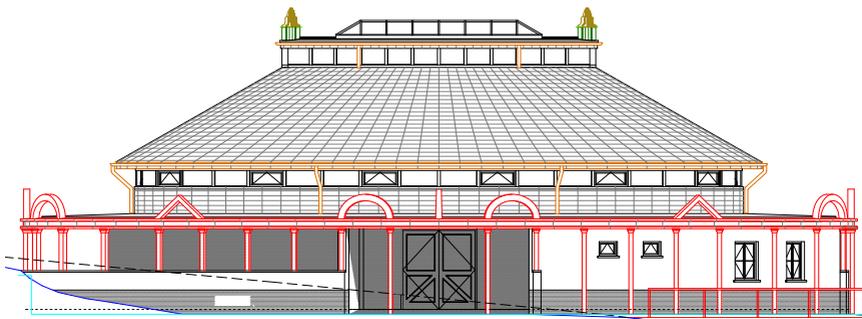
So what has been added to Pevsner? Amongst many, here are some of my personal favourites.

JOHN STENGELHOFEN

above: John Crowther's W.H. Smith's Truro branch of 1963, functional, expressing that the owner no longer lives 'above' the shop - now it is either retail areas or storage space, but more usually with bogus mock domestic curtained windows. below: Alverton Court, Truro, the culmination of John Taylor's extensive housing work in the 1960s. Eleven houses, simple but carefully articulated around a communal grass area; Scandinavian influences, well landscaped, cars confined to the garage area. Nothing as good since in Cornwall!

photos below: JS





The South Elevation

## THE DOR KEMMYN SACRED SPACE

Amongst all the dark forces in the World pitting different religious and ethnic groups against each other are some quieter forces trying to break down boundaries and facilitate peaceful cohabitation. One of these projects is happening here in Cornwall: The Dor Kemmyn Prayer Space, a purpose built Sacred space that is the brainchild of Cornwall Faith Forum (CFF).

CFF was established in 2006 to promote dialogue and explore common ground between leaders and practitioners of different Faiths in the county. It emerged fairly quickly that all faiths in Cornwall except the Christian community lack appropriate Worshipping spaces, so what about sharing one (new) sacred space between the different communities? How groundbreaking would it be if Buddhists, Baha'i, Christians, Hindus, Jews, Muslims and Pagans as well as Humanists actively collaborate to build such a space?

It would also be very effective to have one 'Hub' for faith where the educational activities of the Charity could take place or 'Spiritual searchers' might be able to contact people of faith.

**The Design** At its centre, is the Oval shape and pitched-roof of the sacred space surrounded by a flat roofed perimeter that houses all the functional rooms necessary to support the main activities of the prayer space: toilets, ablution facilities, kitchens, offices, stores and smaller meeting rooms.

The elliptical shape of the building has been enthusiastically endorsed by most people – it has geometrical clarity and simplicity, and people can easily envisage worshipping within it. There have been a number of elliptical buildings built recently (eg. 2013 Sterling prize finalist Bishop King Edward Chapel) but all are flat roofed. In contrast, the essence of the Dor Kemmyn building will be its oak framed pitched roof, featuring at its centre a clerestory/lantern in the shape of a Vesica Piscis or Mandorla - a holy shape for many religions. Natural reflected and refracted light will enhance the experience of the space entering the building through the Vesica Piscis clerestory and the eaves windows. I expect 80-90% of the building will be Cornish sourced including a Delabole scantle slate roof, earth bricks made on site, and the oak frame, windows etc.



left: an architectural model showing the roof structure  
above: interior of the model in the Sacred Space

**Facts & Figures** The building will be located near the county's Penmount Crematorium, outside Truro. We have planning permission for the building and are in the process of signing an 'Option to Lease' with Cornwall Council. The elliptical sacred space has a maximum capacity of 170 people and will be a venue for hire to anyone in the county wanting to engage in a respectful activity; this might be a nondenominational funeral service, a wake after someone's funeral, a Yoga workshop, as well as a worshipping space for the plethora of religious groups in the county - literally, a 'Sacred space for One and All'.

The building has been costed at £1.25million and fundraising is underway with our Patron,

Lady Holborow. We need to raise 10% - £125,000 - by summer 2016 and one-third has already been raised. Fundraising projects include making the earth bricks for the internal walls of the sacred space in a poly tunnel at Penmount and an evening meal at Nancarrow Farm Wedding barn, shortlisted in the 2014 CBG Awards.

**MATT ROBINSON**

Those interested further may contact Matt Robinson directly or by email:

mat@build-art.co.uk or 01326 221130

To donate electronically contact [www.dorkemmyn.org](http://www.dorkemmyn.org) or by cheque, payable to Cornwall Faith Forum, to Andrew Yates, Church House, Woodlands Court, Truro Business Park, Threemilestone, TR4 9NH.

## BUILDING AND DECORATIVE STONES OF CORNWALL

A paper describing the geology of the building and decorative stones of Cornwall has recently been published by our member Colin Bristow, in a volume recently published by the Geological Society Publishing House. The paper describes the characterisation and performance of natural stone in historic buildings in Cornwall. Arising mainly from its exceptionally varied suites of igneous and sedimentary rocks, Cornwall has a rich variety of building and decorative stones which were extensively exploited, both for local use and for export, before concrete and brick came to dominate construction in the 20th century. Many of the types of building stone, such as felsitic elvan and sandrock, do not occur outside Cornwall, so local stone provides much character to our local built environment. Importantly (and very often ignored) is the use of waste materials from metalliferous and china clay mining (=minestone) in building. This paper, together with the electronically available supplementary material, provides a fascinating

amount of detail concerning the incredibly varied types of building stones which have been used in Cornwall and the quarries from which the stones came; it clears away many misconceptions about the nature of the stones involved. The paper is essential reading for anyone concerned with restoring old buildings, where stone has to be matched. However, the paper is written by a geologist for geologists, so some geological terminology is necessarily involved. The book containing the paper also includes similar studies on building stone carried out all over Europe and it is clear that this is a rapidly expanding area of scientific study.

Copies of the paper may be obtained from the author, Colin Bristow, 46 Chatsworth Way, Carlyon Bay, St Austell PL25 3SN. Please send a cheque for £2.50 to cover the printing cost and p & p, if you require a copy.

BRISTOW, C.M. 2014 *The geology of the building and decorative stones of Cornwall*. In: CASSAR, J., WINTER, M.G., MARKER, B.R., WALTON, N.R.G., ENTWISLE, D.C., BROMHEAD, E.N. & SMITH, J.W.N. (eds) 2014 *Stone in Historic Buildings: Characterisation and Performance*. Special Publication 391, 93-120. Geological Society, London. First published online October 14 2013.

### FROM THE MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

The Membership Secretary would like to remind you that the subscription has long been just £10 single and £12 for a couple, which we consider good value for money.

But, one or two members are still paying various (rather lower) subscriptions . . . Oh Dear. It would be useful if we could keep our records up to date, so, should you move house, or especially if you change your email address please let us know as they are not in the phone book!

Where possible we do use email, since a couple of posted notices and a Newsletter to all members does cost! If you don't use email - don't worry as we will still send everything to you by post.

## CASEWORK UPDATE

### ST COLUMB MAJOR OLD RECTORY

Our Chairman refers to the continuing saga of William White's major work, much admired by Peter on page 12, as well as by those members who recall the absolute revelation on our visit in 1981!

There is still a serious risk St Columb Rectory could be lost. The wide concern for this splendid building has now resulted in an update in Private Eye's Piloti column, following their previous concerns, which concluded: "I hope the Council acts swiftly". That was in September 2011 (No. 1296), so now 40 months on, the cost of repairs have escalated dramatically and English Heritage have withdrawn their original grant offer.

Otherwise nothing much has been achieved.

But there is now a new excuse for delaying action: although agreed by English Heritage and the Victorian Society, the Council now consider enforcement action would constitute a breach of the owner's human rights as from 2012 until very recently, he has been in Swansea Prison serving a sentence for a drug offence!

The CBG will continue to fight for this important work, by a brilliant and significant architect who started his career in Truro, building or restoring a dozen churches, including St Hilary.

Maybe all will come right and we will have another memorable Group visit, but the Council has the legal responsibility; they now need to prove they are actually "fit for purpose".



Transform Scotland\* has nominated two 'standard' footbridges, erected at Perth Station, for a 'car-buncle award' as they "desecrated the largely Victorian station environment". They suggest Network Rail should "be more responsive to local circumstances in its treatment of listed structures". These comments are applicable in the case of St Austell (left) and would have been at St Erth had the Members not overturned their professional advice!  
\* as reported in The Railway Magazine, February 2015

### ST ERTH STATION

Some 6 months ago the planners' ill-informed recommendation was to approve Network Rail's second attempt to ruin St Erth Station. This was overturned by Councillors, with a 9 to 1 vote.

The first scheme for ¼ km of zigzag ramps where trees now stand was revised, using their standard lift towers and bridge, seen extensively elsewhere.

This was considered suitable here – again ignoring the importance of this Listed station, apart from an amending the standard cladding. The planning application showed weather boarding on the lift towers (unspecified, but probably uPVC), with some undefined 'stone' cladding to the lower level; this indicates how seriously they and our planners took local and English Heritage opposition and the refusal of the first attempt!

However, as it appears a new crossing is essential, the best solution could be a carefully designed quality modern, light, glass-clad structure, which would itself be considered for Listing in the future. It needs to be distinct and a design of the 21st century so that it will not detract from those looking at the fine 19th-century Listed buildings.

A separation gap would exist from the new bridge towards the main station buildings should the old bridge be removed to the Helston Railway. It is, after all, a standard GWR type, of which there are still other examples. By contrast the other station buildings are unique, specifically designed for this station, being adapted and extended after the opening of the branch line, 25 years after 'St Ives Road Station' was originally opened.

In the 2011 Newsletter we criticised proposals for Truro East District Centre on chiefly architectural grounds. Now we can judge the extent of this new 'Centre' on greenfield Duchy of Cornwall land. We await the Greek temple, dedicated to retail profits.



We await further developments when, hopefully, some notice will be taken of the fact this is a Listed site of undoubted historic importance. A uniquely complete example of a rural junction station where the branch line is still operating.

### ST AUSTELL STATION

The difference between the Listed 19th century bridges and the new 'standard' type can be seen at St Austell although the future of the old bridge is still undecided. The increased height of the new is obvious here (about 3½m), while the massive steelwork and generally uninspired design can't be said to respect or enhance the surroundings of the Listed buildings! The main station entrance building on the down-platform was replaced in 2001 with a modern design, including large areas of tinted glass and, on the platform side, polished granite cladding. The refurbishment of the small up-platform building is now complete (and very smart!) but this will be the only remaining Listed structure, if consent is granted to remove the 1882 footbridge; yet just 19 years ago the Listing description was "a good example of a complete station in a distinctive company style".

The controversy is not helped when the Council's planning department support the use of this crass standard bridge 'kit'. One is tempted to ask what architectural or design advice is taken by our planners before expressing the County's approval?

There seems a lack of any consistent approach to the undoubted problems of updating Listed station sites; meanwhile, the programme of refurbishing

### PUZZLE PICTURE

... from somewhere in Cornwall:  
An otherwise simple little c1860 Georgian village house like many found up and down the county - except for this strange arrangement over the front door. Can anybody identify this or explain where the idea came from. Is it simply a village builder without a pattern book who had a spare Doric column. Does anybody know a precedent?

stations on the Paignton branch continues, with completion due in May – including the three distinctive foot bridges!

### MARLBOROUGH HOUSE, FALMOUTH

In November last year Mr Barrett, the owner for some years, was evicted in his absence by Baliffs acting for the Bank of Scotland who took possession with representatives of Savills, estate agents. No explanation of these events was disclosed to the press, but it is easy to interpret; so maybe we can hope to see a new owner who will restore the House to its proper condition.

This followed another long period of concern by locals and the CBG, with little signs of action from County Hall, as this grade II\* house began to show signs of serious decay. The splendid house was built in 1810 by the famous Falmouth Packet Captain, John Bull, so it represents a most important and unique chapter in Falmouth's history. It was extensively restored in the 1980s by John Milan, an old friend of the Group and former Council member. EDITOR



## TRELISSICK

First mentioned as Trelesyk in a 13th century Assize roll, very little is known of any house on the site until the mid-18th century when Edward Lawrence leased part of the manor of Trevilla, including Treliissick, from John Williams. Soon after inheriting in 1750, John Lawrence, a captain in the Cornish Militia, employed the 'respectable builder' Edmund Davy (grandfather of the chemist Sir Humphrey) to add to an earlier house adding a two-storeyed south elevation with side wing and verandah overlooking the River Fal. Splendid plasterwork remains in these rooms. After John's death in 1790 his heirs fell into financial difficulties and the villa was let to Francis Pender who, it would seem, continued to develop the estate. In 1800 the Enys papers recorded:

... with the assistance of Mr Gray, the surveyor, has happily succeeded in shewing all the numerous beauties in their most favourable light, and has formed a place, which, for diversity of prospect, is scarcely to be equalled in the west of England.

This villa, which according to the *Royal Cornwall Gazette*, included by 1802 a large walled garden, orchards and an impressive lawned frontage.

Ralph Daniell was the only son of Thomas 'Guinea-a-minute Daniell', merchant and chief clerk to the mining magnate, Sir William Lemon of Carclew. The Daniell family wealth grew extensively after his marriage to the niece of Ralph Allen of Prior Park in Bath and by 1760 he had bought all of Sir William Lemon's mining interests and employed Thomas Edwards of Greenwich to design his town house in Truro called the Mansion House which was built at a cost of £8,500 in 1762 using stone from Ralph Allen's Coombe Down Quarry in Bath. In 1792 James Boswell recorded that John Opie's portrait of a gentleman and a miner was hanging in Daniell's house in Truro.

In 1795, while Sheriff of Cornwall, Ralph Daniell built a fine house on the west bank of the Fal called Newham House (which between 1891 and 1909 functioned as the Truro Grammar School). He also leased the King Harry Ferry from the Lawrence family and later, with other creditors, took legal action against them which eventually forced the sale of the Treliissick estates.

In 1805 Daniell purchased Treliissick for £61,700. While MP for West Looe between 1806 and 1813 he developed the estate and by 1814 Lysons reported that a new house was built on the site most likely for his son, although by 1818 his granddaughter appears to have been the tenant. An 1821 estate plan illustrated the house. Two years later Ralph Daniell was succeeded by his son Thomas who in 1825 commissioned the architect Peter Fredrick Robinson, a pupil of Henry Holland, to add a six columned portico to the south front. The broad design for Treliissick was later published in his 1827 book *Designs for Ornamental Villas*. In 1831 the house was described as:

... designed in the Grecian style of architecture: the proportions of the columns, etc., being similar to those on the Temple of Erectheus at Athens, while the forms and dressings of the windows are from the temple of Minerva Polias.

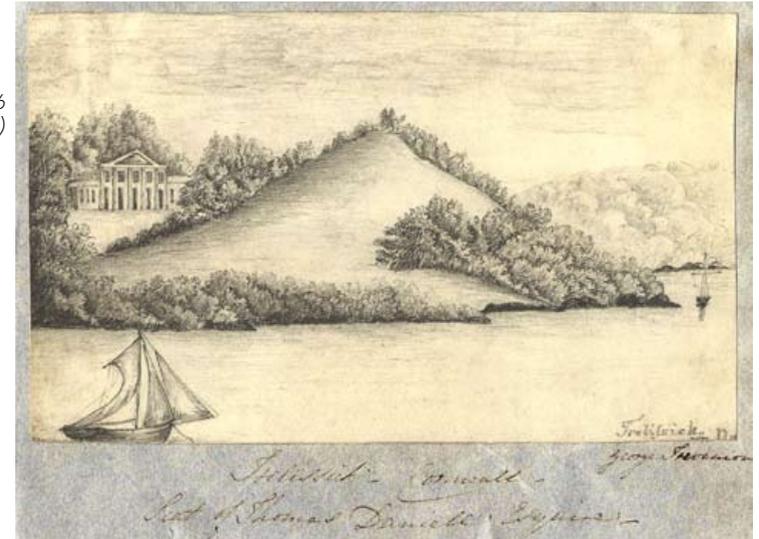
By this time the Greek revival movement was fully established although in Cornwall it would have been quite a curiosity. The heaviness of the Greek Doric orders appears cumbersome close too, yet from the river the proportions even out making the building look temple-like. A complementary lodge also by Robinson was built at about the same time.

Of the new building Britton and Brayley wrote: *The wings, or flanks, have only one story above ground, and are appropriated to a dining-room and drawing-room, each measuring 30 by 20 feet, and 15 feet in height; connected with these are a breakfast-room, 30 by 18 feet, and a morning-room, 18 feet square. The entrance is on the west side of the house; the hall is 30 by 20 feet, communicating with a principal staircase, 28 by 17 feet. The library is on the north side of the hall, measuring 30 by 20 feet, and opens onto a gentleman's room, dressing-room, and bath.*

Thomas married and subsequently served lavishly as High Sheriff in 1826. He added extensively to the pleasure ground of which Ackerman wrote in 1827 '... the plantations and shrubberies round the mansion are extremely beautiful, especially the latter, which abound with many varieties of choice shrubs'. Of the house Davies Gilbert had described in 1838, further additions and decorations had been made before Thomas

"Treliissick - Cornwall  
Seat of Thomas Daniell  
Esquire"

by George Trevanion, 1826  
(Private Collection)



Daniell was declared bankrupt. Consequently Newham House was sold in 1831 to the Vivian family while the recently restored Treliissick was bought by the Earl of Falmouth of Tregothan and was left unoccupied until 1844 when it was resold to John Davis Gilbert. Thomas Daniell eventually fled the country dying at Boulogne in 1866.

Before his death in 1854 Gilbert restored the neglected house and pleasure grounds. In November 1858 Marianna Tuckett visited while staying with her uncle at Penjerrick. She wrote 'Trelyssick is a very fine place... the house is large. You enter by a large hall with a billiard table and almost all of the other rooms are en suite, terminating in a conservatory full of beautiful plants'. The estate passed to Carew Davies Gilbert, who employed James Piers St Aubyn to make additions to the house, most likely adding a second storey to the wings, and refurbishing many of the interiors including the west servants' accommodation and the south facing games room on the third level.

After the death of Carew Gilbert the house was let to one time deputy governor of the Bank of England and one of Britain's most distinguished collectors, Leonard Danesham Cunliffe (d.1937) who bought the freehold in 1928 and immediately set to work restoring the gardens. He also employed the architect M Joubert to build the solarium on the south facing river frontage.

When Cunliffe died in 1937, the major part of his vast collection of Renaissance bronzes, Chinese ceramics, Limoges enamels, furniture and paintings, was bequeathed to the Fitzwilliam Museum in Cambridge. He passed the house onto his step-daughter and cousin of Florence Nightingale, one time suffragette, conservative MP, Ida Copeland whose husband, Ronald, was President of Copeland and Spode English Ceramics Company based at Stoke-on-Trent. The couple moved to Treliissick in 1948 and were largely responsible for the design of the gardens as the visitor sees them today. In 1955 the 376 acres of garden were given to the National Trust.

PAUL HOLDEN, FSA



Treliissick, c1820, before the addition of Robinson's portico.



WELCOME  
TO OUR CONFERENCE DELEGATES



**ONLY A CORNISHMAN WOULD HAVE THE ENDURANCE TO CARVE  
INTRACTABLE GRANITE**

*CORNWALL'S ARCHITECTURE AND ARCHITECTURAL LEGACY*

*A Conference to Celebrate the Publication of the revised 'Cornwall', the first of Pevsner's 46  
Volumes of the Buildings of England*

*at the Sunley Lecture Theatre, National Maritime Museum, Falmouth , 6th and 7th March, 2015*

On behalf of the Council of the Cornish Buildings Group I would like to warmly welcome you to Falmouth for this conference. We would particularly like to thank the Cornwall Heritage Trust, Yale University Press and the National Trust for helping us with costs and the National Maritime Museum for facilitating the two days.

The idea behind the conference is to celebrate the best in the county's architecture. In doing so we will explore a diverse and wide range of topics including Romanesque, medieval and Tudor sculpture; historic bridges, cathedrals, churches and country houses; individual architects and builders; the Victorian style and modern day restoration and intervention. I hope that by covering such a wide range of subjects and periods there will be something for everyone.

Please let us know if you have had a good time with us. We are all here to help, so please ask. Again, thank you for coming and we hope that you have a great experience learning more about a county perhaps more noted for its scenery than its architecture.

**Paul Holden, FSA** Chairman, Cornish Buildings Group



**MARGARET POWELL**

Older members will remember Margaret Powell of Trewoofe, a Council member in the early 1980s and a supporter of the Group from the beginning. Her delightful house, at the head of the Lamorna Valley, has been open to members for more than one visit. She wrote *Master of the Sea*, a biography of her grandfather, Charles Napier Hemy. She was also a direct descendant of the Gilbert Scott family and the Penryn granite quarry owners, Freemans.

My last memory of Margaret was of a typically stimulating conversation over lunch at our AGM in 2005 at Tremough!

Margaret died at Trewoofe in November last year, at the age of 91. JS

*When clearing fields of boulders, part of flood prevention works, Margaret Powell wanted to reuse the best stone. The resulting simple seat is built into the hedge. Margaret wrote "As it faces down the Lamorna Valley it is a sun trap appreciated by the adjacent holiday lets for barbecues, backstop for cricket, goal for football and other inventive uses." when she entered this in our 2006 Awards. A much appreciated entry; though not a winner, it provided the judges with some light relief.*

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