

# Cornish Buildings Group 'Buildings at Risk' Project

caring for Cornwall's heritage

## Newsletter No.17

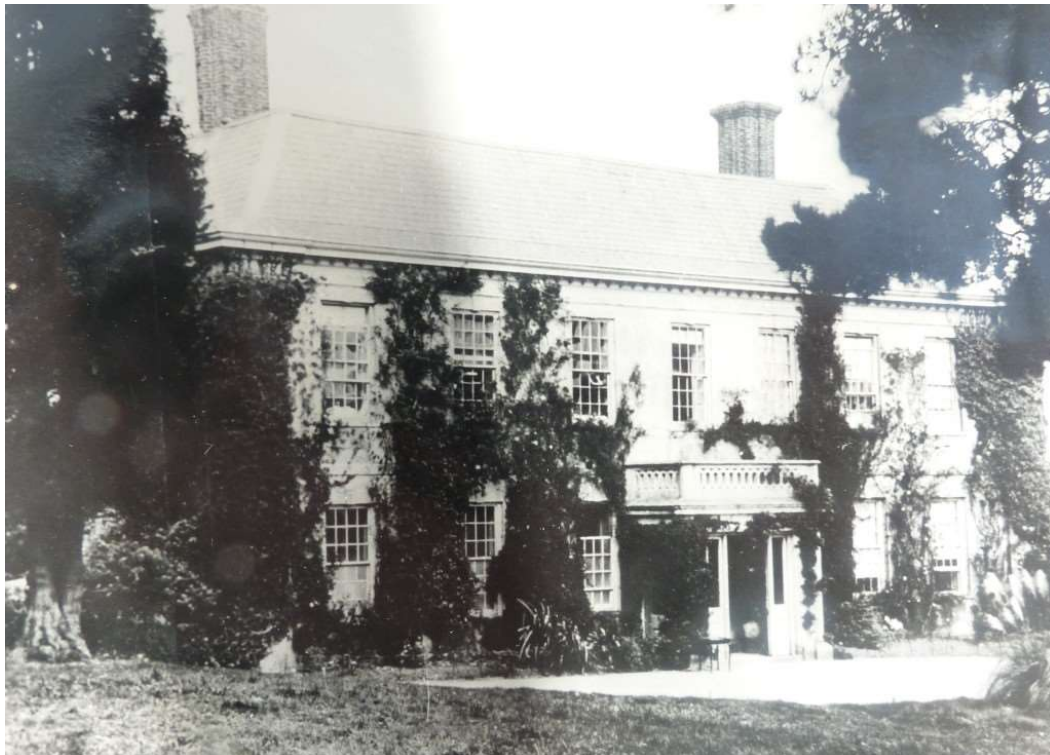
A three-year project led by the Cornish Buildings Group and supported by Historic England and the Cornwall Heritage Trust, commenced in September 2020. The funding supports a case officer in order to help identify and monitor buildings at risk and seek solutions for neglected, redundant or derelict listed buildings and unlisted buildings.



### Two Buildings at Risk for Sale

Two historic properties have recently come onto the open market. These cannot be reasonably described as previously having 'one careful owner' rather it would be fairer to say that they are 'ruins'. That said, with a bit of imagination, and some modest financial investment...

### Trehane

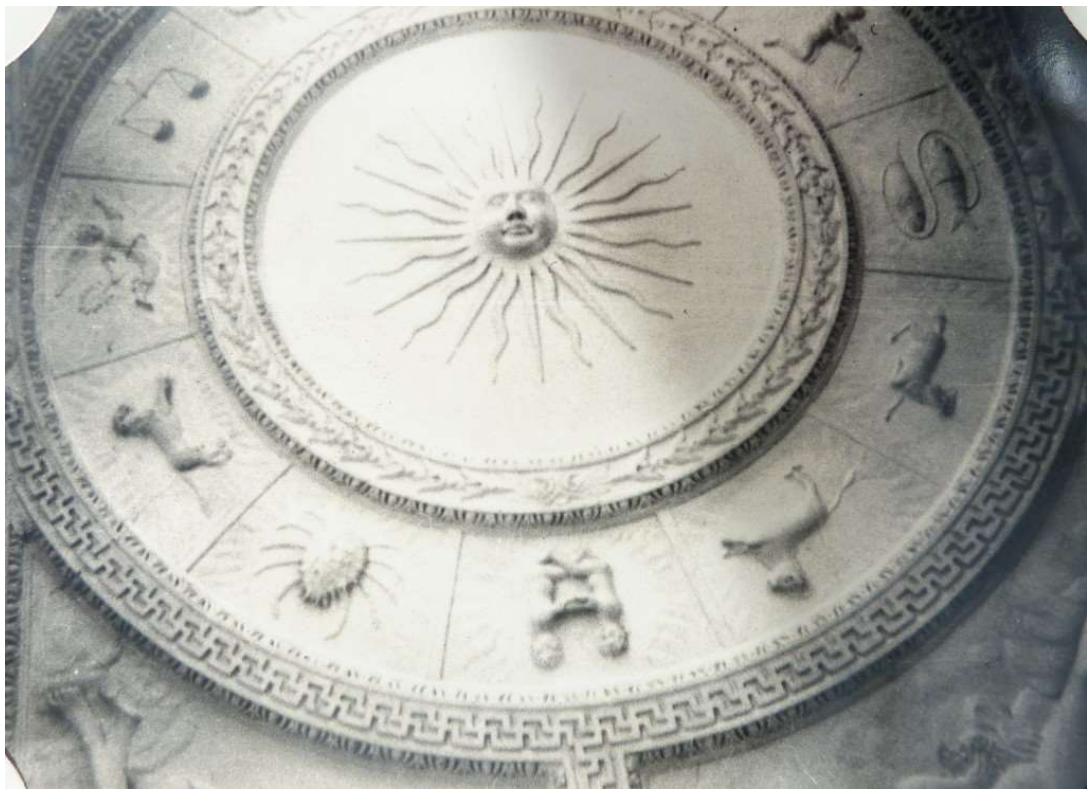


**Trehane, in its 19th century glory.**



In 1830 Gilbert's *Survey of Cornwall* noted that Trehane 'has a large, white front, in conformity with the style of building which prevailed about 100 years ago. It was erected by the Williamses and does not appear to have undergone much improvement'.

Trehane, near Probus, belonged to the ancient Trehane family before passing through marriage to the Scawen's of Molenick. It was later sold to the Williams family who started building a new house in about 1702 (date on rainwater hopper). The Pentewan stone square house, very much in the Queen Anne style, surrounded an open courtyard (with deep well) and once featured an Adam style staircase, high quality English and Flemish bond brickwork and elaborate plasterwork ceilings. The zodiac ceiling in particular was famed for its originality and quality.



**The zodiac ceiling at Trehane, lost in 1946 during the fire**

The house was destroyed by fire in 1946 – the consequence of a unwatched blowlamp. Today, the 7 bayed ruin, with openings where sash windows once stood, dominant chimneys and the remnant of the central porch is Grade II listed.

Lillicrap Chilcott, the estate agents selling the house, describes it as ‘one of Cornwall’s most beautiful minor county seats’ with “south-facing views over formal gardens to miles of unspoilt countryside beyond”. The agents suggest that the ruin and 5.5 acres of land should fetch £600,000.

### **Poynton’s Piece**



**Poynton’s Piece, St Cleer.**

These two smallholders' cottages, located between the village of Minions and the hamlet of Gonamena, on the south-eastern edge of Bodmin Moor, have been previously covered in previous editions of this newsletter. For the full history refer to

<https://buildingsatrisk.wordpress.com/2021/06/07/pontus-piece-st-clear/>

For details of the auction go to

[https://www.rightmove.co.uk/properties/123181016#/?channel=RES\\_BUY](https://www.rightmove.co.uk/properties/123181016#/?channel=RES_BUY)

## **Listing application put forward for Falmouth Methodist Chapel**



This project has applied to Historic England to list Falmouth's Methodist chapel. An excellent history of the chapel by Andrew Ellis can be viewed at

<https://buildingsatrisk.wordpress.com/2022/05/01/falmouth-central-methodist-chapel-a-short-history/>

## Enforcement Cases Update

We have three enforcement cases lodged with Cornwall Council – EN22/00023 – Criggan Mill; EN22/00079 / EN22/00274 – Land W of Riveira Farmhouse and EN22/00080 – The Manor Workshop, St Day. These were lodged in January 2022.

Cornwall Council have visited each building, created a photographic record and condition report and have started dialogue with the owners. A meeting is now set up with a specialised enforcement conservation officer to discuss the most appropriate way forward. This may consider funding options available to the owners for repairs etc.

We will watch with interest.

## Carlyon Farm China Clay Dry (also known as Trethowel Dry)



**Trethowel Dry. This abandoned Grade II listed china clay dry has been disused since 1968**

An Historic Building Assessment (2008) notes that it was the largest ever built in Europe. The listing entry adds

*...built between 1920 and 1921 by John Lovering under the supervision of W. Mutton junior. The china clay dry at Carlyon Farm survives as a large unroofed stone, block and brick building terraced into a steep west facing slope in the valley formed by the St Austell River. To the west of the building is a levelled terrace which originally supported the railway tracks used to transport the finished clay from the dry. The dry building itself stands on a further two terraces*

*above the original site of the railway. The lower terrace supports the linhay in which the clay was stored prior to removal to the waiting wagons and upon the upper terrace are two separate pan kilns in which the clay was dried. Beyond the pan kilns and separated from them by the eastern wall of the dry are a series of rubble built settling tanks with concrete floors. The dry is essentially two separate kilns connected to each other by a central furnace room which survives as a substantial centrally placed compartment with walls towering above the remainder the dry.*

The dry remained in constant use until the 1960's when new technological advances forced its closure. In December 1984 the roof over the kiln, furnace and linhay was removed and since this time the site has been neglected and increasingly overgrown with dense vegetation. The building was sold by Imerys in 2004 to CR Cornish Buildings who submitted planning applications in 2006 and 2008. The site and the building now appears abandoned and deteriorating.

### **How can you follow the project?**

Our WordPress blog <https://buildingsatrisk.wordpress.com/>

Our website <https://sites.google.com/site/cornishbuildingsgroup/home>

Updates and alerts will be shared via our Twitter feed @CbgCornwall

To keep up-to-date on the project please follow our blog; when we have something to say you will receive an alert. Or you can follow us on Twitter.

### **Please support us**

We welcome any feedback on any aspect of the project and its aims.

You can play your part in this work by volunteering to support our aims. You can do this by reporting your concerns about historic buildings or valued heritage assets in your area which are either derelict or not being properly looked after.

Please contact Paul Holden at [cbgcasework@gmail.com](mailto:cbgcasework@gmail.com)

A form that will help us with some background local knowledge is available on our website

[Report a building at risk](#)



Historic  
England



Posted by buildings at risk 21st May 2022

### **Published by buildings at risk**

Since 1969 the aims of the Cornish Buildings Group have been to stimulate interest, appreciation and knowledge of good building in Cornwall, and to encourage the erection, protection, repair and recording of such buildings. Like any amenities group, we depend on numbers, strength and support of our membership, who provide the force and knowledge that have made us effective for over fifty years. We encourage the protection and repair of historic buildings whether these are listed buildings or simply good examples of traditional building. We aim to encourage good architecture and to raise the general standard of building throughout the county. We hope that our generation may leave behind it buildings which will be looked back on with that same pleasure and enjoyment that we experience when we look at the architecture of past ages. [View more posts](#)