



NEWSLETTER

January 2022

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

Email us at
calhnewsletter@gmail.com

Letter from the Chair

Hopefully you will be reading this letter in the first week of January, by which time, depending on Covid rules and regulations, we will have celebrated, or not celebrated, Christmas with friends and loved ones.

We are still living in very uncertain times and I am just relieved that we were able to hold the Autumn Conference 2021 without any problems. As we found with that Conference, trying to keep up to date with safety advice is not easy and many things had to be amended at the last minute such as the 'Lateral Flow tests'. I am sorry if this spoilt the event for some of you but our main priority was to keep us all safe.

Organising that event really brought home to me how useful it is to have members email addresses so we can contact you at the last minute if there is a change in plans. If you haven't already done so, do please let us have your email address or, if you don't have one, could you let us have a contact phone number for you. With Covid, plans are changing all the time, and it is one less worry for those organising events if they can let you know ASAP of any changes.

The reason this newsletter is going out so early in the new year is because we need to let you have the Spring Conference booking form so you can fill it in and get it back to the organiser before the closing date.

To fit in with the Hotel, who have been so helpful to us over many years, we have agreed to hold the Spring Conference earlier this year, hence the early mailing.

Continued overleaf

Spring Conference 2022

26-27 February 2022

Kilbirnie Hotel, Narrowcliff,
Newquay TR7 2RS

40 Years of the Cornwall Association of Local Historians

We have assembled a wonderful group of experts to talk to you about local history in Cornwall, its past and its future.

We have buildings, family history, the Romans, oral history, glebe terriers, music and virtual reality. A rich mixture, indeed!

The booking form giving all the details is enclosed with this Newsletter.

Please fill it in and post it off promptly.

The deadline is **Tuesday 1 February** and there can be **NO LATE BOOKINGS** this year.

Your booking needs to reach Marilyn by 1 February at the latest.

We have worked hard with the hotel to make the conference covid safe.

Those of you who attended the Autumn Conference will know that this did not detract from the day.

We do ask that you give yourselves a covid lateral flow test and get a negative result no more than twenty-four hours before attending.

Continued overleaf

Spring Conference details continued

Whether you pay by cheque or by direct payment, please send the completed booking form to Marilyn Thompson as soon as you can.

There is space on the back of the booking form for any special dietary requirements or for special room requirements if you are staying on Friday or Saturday night.

We look forward to seeing you soon.

*Ian & Marilyn Thompson
Spring Conference Organisers*

Letter from the Chair continued

You will also find a booking form for the May outdoor meeting included with this newsletter. This meeting was originally planned for June 2020, but had to be cancelled, again due to Covid.

We plan to try again this year but this time in May, and as there will be no mailing before the Spring Journal comes out in May (too late for sending in booking forms), we are letting you have the form now.

If you want to come but feel it is too far ahead to book at present, you can be assured that, as with the Autumn Conference, anyone paying by cheque will not have their cheque paid into our bank account until just before or just after the event. In the event of us having to cancel yet again, the cheques can be torn up and put on my Raeburn, thereby giving me a bit of free heat!!! and saving CALH the job and cost of sending out refund cheques.

Again, if you pay by Bacs (or whatever it's called), Hugh assures me he can easily get your payment back to you. So, don't be afraid to book early and, fingers crossed, our trip to Looe will finally take place this year.

Also, don't forget to re-read the article I put in the 2020 Journal about what to look out for on the rail trip down to Looe from Liskeard. Sadly, we won't be arriving by steam train.



Photo: Steam train, Looe Station c1950

This will be the last newsletter to be edited by Marion, whom I have known for well over 50 years, and I would like to take this opportunity to thank her for all her hard work over the past few years.



Photo: Carole & Marion collecting seeds from Carole's poppies (2011)

With your help and support the newsletter has become a really interesting read and I hope this will continue in the future. But I must point out that there will be no August 2022 newsletter if someone doesn't step up and offer to take over as editor from Marion. (*Editor Marion's note: I am willing to provide assistance during the transition.*)

Booking forms for summer outings, as usual, will be sent out with the Journal in May but unless there is an editor for the newsletter, all you will get in August will be the booking forms for the September outing and the Autumn Conference, assuming that event goes ahead.

Continued overleaf

Letter from the Chair continued

There is real uncertainty about the Autumn Conference, although we have made a provisional booking with the hotel. But unless someone steps up to organise the event, we will have to cancel the booking.

Maybe someone would like to take it on just for this year to see how they get on. I stepped up to the mark last year when Joan retired but only on a temporary basis. Maybe one of you would like to take it on for just one year and maybe we could make this a regular thing with members of affiliated groups organising the event for one year only. The committee are all ready to help with ideas and the format is in place so it's just a case of organising speakers and taking bookings etc., and if I can do it anyone can!!!

Now we come to the problem of our Treasurer's retirement. Over the years I have served CALH as treasurer on two separate 3-year stints and again, if I can do it anyone can. I liked being treasurer as, on the whole there was only a bit of work in January when subs came in and needed checking and for the rest of the year it was only a matter of dealing with events income and expenses and a few running costs of the society to see to. But that was back in the days when analysis books were the norm and the members addresses were all kept in an old-fashioned address book. Now I am told, things are very different, and it can be kept on computer and the information comes up on the screen at the touch of a button.

Hugh plans to continue until the AGM in 2023, so he will be able to show a replacement treasurer the ropes during the present year. Catherine Lorrigan was an out of County treasurer and did a very good job so you don't have to live in Cornwall, and indeed Hugh has now moved to Nottingham.

Also, you don't have to attend committee meetings if you are unable to come, just email your report to the secretary and she will read it out. Finally, there are no rules in the constitution that the Treasurer has to be a member of CALH, so have a think if you know anyone who would take the job on.

If we don't get a new Hon. Treasurer to understudy Hugh in the next few months, then I don't think CALH will be able to continue as a society after the 2023 AGM. IT REALLY IS THAT SERIOUS.

I have yet another plea. Our Journal editor, Jeremy, plans to start work on the Journal in January and would like to have all articles etc. on his desk by **1st March** at the latest. The journal is only as good as you, the members, make it by writing articles and snippets etc.

If you are a member of a local history group that meets in your town or village, why not let us have an article about your group, what you are doing and what you have found out about your area. Let us know what you have been doing during Covid restrictions and how you have been holding meetings and or doing research.

All these things are usually discussed when we meet up throughout the year and it is part of the policy of CALH to get people from different areas talking to each other and swapping news and information. But thanks to Covid we have not been meeting up as usual, so maybe you could put your local news and gossip into an article for the journal instead.

We often look back and wonder how our ancestors managed during times of plague or previous epidemics, and search long and hard to find original accounts of what life was like back then. But surely it is also our responsibility, as local historians, to record what is happening during these strange and frightening times so our descendants will get an idea of what we went through when Covid arrived in our town or village, and how we adapted to the New Norm.

After all, history is what happened yesterday, we surely don't have to wait 100 years for it to be of interest to historians. How about a study of 'Face Mask' fashions!!!

Sorry this newsletter has been full of requests for volunteers and little else. Hopefully, with your help, the August newsletter will be a very much more upbeat affair.

*Your Chairperson, Carole Vivian
Tel: (01503)272309*

Committee Vacancies

In order that we can all continue to enjoy our membership of CALH, we must continue to operate the key administrative functions. Failure to do so will have consequences on our future and the activities we provide for members. We currently have the following vacancies:

Honorary Treasurer

Hugh Hedderly has been our Hon. Treasurer since 2012, and whilst he intended to continue despite moving to Nottingham, his health has deteriorated and he has regrettably decided he must give notice that he will step down at our 2023 AGM. This delay will give us time to find a replacement and for Hugh to work with them over the coming year, ensuring a smooth transition in 2023.

Members should be aware that the Hon. Treasurer is a key member of the committee and unless a replacement is found, it could place the future of CALH at risk.

Interested? Please email Hugh on calhtreasurer1@gmail.com

Autumn Conference Organiser

This year, Carole Vivian stepped up in order that we could hold our 2021 Autumn Conference, however there will not be a 2022 Autumn Conference unless a member is willing to take on this role.

The Committee will of course provide support and guidance, including suggestions on topics and speakers, etc.

Members should be aware that unless a replacement Autumn Conference organiser is found, we will not be holding an Autumn Conference in 2022.

Interested? Please email Marilyn on i.thompson029@btinternet.com

Newsletter Editor

Our current Newsletter Editor, Marion Stephens, is stepping down due to an increase in the demands on her time in other areas of her life. Each year we prepare three Newsletters, and the Newsletter Editor receives articles and news items from various sources by email, and then assembles them onto a preformed template. The Newsletter Editor must have Microsoft Word and access to email. Marion will be happy to provide formatting support during the transition.

Members should be aware that unless a replacement Newsletter Editor is found, the Newsletter might not be published.

Interested? Please email Marion on calhnewsletter@gmail.com

Committee members (Without Portfolio)

The number of committee members is steadily reducing. Two years ago, there were twelve members but the number of members of the current committee has now reduced to nine. Of these nine, seven have specific roles on the committee so we therefore need more general committee members to contribute to our discussions.

We are therefore seeking the support of members who are willing to join with and work with the committee to contribute to the future development of CALH.

Interested? Please email Lesley on calhsecretary1@gmail.com

New Year Greetings from Toronto Cornish cousins! (T.C.A)

