



# CORNWALL ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL HISTORIANS

## Chairman's Letter

As this will be the last CALH newsletter Bob Lyle will be editing I must start by thanking him for all the hard work he has done for our society over many years. He will be sorely missed but I hope he will keep in touch and be able to 'pop over the pond' to join us at some events in the future.

This is a difficult time for all of us who are trying to do local history research with both the Record Office and the Local Studies Library closed until well into the summer (at the earliest). However the CRO staff have been very good at trying to sort out queries and of course we do still have Angela at the Courtney Library. Those of you who attended Todd Gray's 'Desert Island Documents' at Stuart House last summer may remember I mentioned the index cards that are in the Courtenay Library and how useful I have found them over the years. The late Les Douch spent many hours reading through the wonderful collection of old newspapers at the RIC and the result is his card index. The index is mostly sorted into parishes, but does include some random subjects such as education, the cloth and wool trade, and even 'Pickpockets'. If you haven't made use of it I strongly recommend you do. When I was getting together material for a talk on Smuggling in Cornwall I found the index a marvellous help. Les had recorded every mention of smuggling and smugglers, the

## NEWSLETTER February 2019

Our Place on the Internet

[www.calh.co.uk](http://www.calh.co.uk)

paper they are mentioned in and even the page and column. It saved me hours of searching, although as ever when using old newspapers, I did sometimes get side-tracked into reading other articles on my way to the page and column I required. But that's all part of the joy of local history research, you never know where it will lead you.

(Continued on next page)

## AGM & Spring Conference

### The Great War

The Western Front to the Home Front to the Far Side of the World – all with Cornish Connections

*Ken Johns* – **Cornish Miners of the 251 Company RE**

*Carole Vivian* – **Harriet Trelawny's War**

*Ian Thompson* – **Links Porthcurno to Raiders in the Indian Ocean**

*Hazel Harradence* – **The Home Front**

*Marilyn Thompson* – **Personal Collection of Great War Ephemera**

*Dr Joanna Mattingly* – **Links 100 Stories to 100 Faces**

*Cornwall's Regimental Museum* – **Tommy's Uniforms**

*Day-Light Choir* – **Leads Us in Wartime Songs**

*John Joliff* – **A Soldier's Story**

Kilbirnie Hotel

Newquay

Sat-Sun 9 & 10 March

Booking Deadline 23 February

(Continued from first page)

I heard a very good talk at the Liskeard Old Cornwall Society in December about a collection of early photographs housed at Port Elliot. The speaker, David Kilborn, was one of a team who had been indexing the photographs, most of which AMAZINGLY are named. As I sat there, how I wished the 19th century members of the Trelawny family had bothered to name their photographs. I have loads of pictures and no idea who they are of. Later I started thinking, and realised, I am as bad as the Trelawny's in that I have hundreds of family photographs with nothing written on the back. I am sure many of you are in the same boat. So how about spending some of the long winter evenings going through them and trying to identify as many as you can, and asking relations if they can help. Now, a word of warning. I know with modern technology most photographs are now kept on your computer but it is often worthwhile backing them up or better still, printing out the more important ones. I managed to lose a whole lot of photographs off my computer once and although my computer chap managed to get most of them back, the information I had put with each one was lost forever. So I now have a load of early photographs of people and dates I am unsure of. I am quite pleased with my filing system for photos on the computer and can usually find what I want, but I really must get round to typing each picture's description and printing it out, so I have a back-up just in case things go wrong again. You can't beat old fashioned paper and an indexed ring binder!!!!

I look forward to seeing many of you at the spring conference - Cornwall in the First World War. Last year's Remembrance Day service was a very special time for many of us. Some of our beaches were used to draw sand paintings of men who fell in that terrible conflict. At Looe the picture chosen was of Kenneth Grigson, whose father was vicar of Pelynt. The Grigson family lost three boys in the Great War and two in the Second. Another son, father of CALH member Claudia Chilver, died in a flying accident whilst in the Diplomatic Service in 1948. The only surviving son was the author and poet Geoffry Grigson. His grandson joined Claudia and one of her

daughters on Looe beach to look at the picture of their relation.

It is very appropriate that the theme for this year's weekend conference is 'World War One', and I hope some of you will bring along photos and artefacts related to those grim days. It looks like being a very interesting weekend and I look forward to seeing you in Newquay.

*Your Chairman  
Carole Vivian  
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### **AGM Set for 9 March**

The official Annual General Meeting (AGM) of CALH will be held at 10:45 am on Saturday, the 9<sup>th</sup> of March at the Kilbirnie Hotel, Newquay, immediately preceding the Spring Conference. Business will include election of officers and committee members, and any other issues facing the association. All members are welcome and encouraged to attend.

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### **CALH Posts Available**

Robert Lyle is stepping down as our Newsletter and Website Editor, so the positions – either singly or together -- are available for another member to assume.

This copy of our Newsletter will be the last edited by Robert and, unless a successor can be found, future Newsletters might be in doubt. It doesn't take a great deal of time, a few hours three times as year. It only needs an interest in what is going on.

Our website is our window on the world which attracts interest from all around the globe, and its usage continues to grow.

The website is about to be redesigned after the AGM and we will not have a Website Editor. Again, the time commitment is not excessive and only reasonable computer skills are required. If you would like more information please contact Hugh Hedderly on 01503 269185.

## Exciting Line-Up of Days Out

Four interesting and informative visits have been organised for 2019:

22 May (Wednesday) Visit to St Ives. The day will begin at the St Ives Research Centre at Carbis Bay. Then we will catch a bus to St Ives, for a choice of either the St Ives Museum or the Barbara Hepworth Museum. After lunch, there will be a guided tour of the town before catching the bus back to Carbis Bay.

16 June (Wednesday) – Visit to Stratton and Poughill. Three experts will lead this visit based on the two churches: Dr Joanna Mattingly will tell us about Stratton Churchwardens' Accounts; Dr Todd Gray will talk about the impressive collection of bench ends and Alan McIntosh will lead a tour of historic Stratton. All three will go with us to Poughill for our afternoon visit.

13 July (Saturday) – Visit to St Neot. The St Neot History Group will host our visit. There will be a guided tour of the church and churchyard, then a tour of St Neot village. The St Neot and Warleggan archive rooms will be open during the lunch break. In the afternoon, there will be a visit to Lantewey, an historic private house, and an underground tour of Carnglaze Slate Caverns.

8 October (Tuesday) – Visit to Fowey. The day will include a talk and guided tour of historic Fowey and a visit to the Fowey Museum. An afternoon visit to the Italian-inspired Trenythron Manor hotel for tea is planned.

Booking forms will be sent with newsletters and the journal and will also be available under the Events tab on our webpage.

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## Courtney Marking 200 Years

The Courtney Library & Archive in the RIC is celebrating its 200<sup>th</sup> year. As part of the event, a new showcase will feature treasures in the archive. The Library is closed for renovations until 5<sup>th</sup> February at 10 am.

## Kresen Kernow Moving Ahead

Work is progressing rapidly on the Kresen Kernow building. All the scaffolding has been taken down and the exterior of the building is fully visible now. The environmental controls in the strongrooms have been tested and the 14 miles of new shelving are being installed. The timber flooring, carpets and reception desk are being fitted in late January and the final snagging undertaken.

In the current buildings, staff and volunteers have made great progress wrapping thousands of rare and fragile volumes and preparing other items in the collections to be relocated to their new home.

Two of the three volume rooms have been completed – a total of 5,000 volumes – and we are well on our way to finishing the third.

Over 1,500 rare books are being protected for the move.

The move starts in February and will take several months, but updating the database with all the collection's new locations will take much longer (currently, we have around 7,500 different locations.)

During the moving and resettling time, copies and research services will be suspended.

Kresen Kernow will open this summer and researchers are advised to keep an eye on the website for further details. The team are looking forward to welcoming everyone to the fantastic new building!

Be sure to find us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram @kresenkernow to keep most up-to-date with Kresen Kernow as it progresses.

*Deborah Tritton*  
Kresen Kernow Project Lead  
[Deborah.tritton@cornwall.gov.uk](mailto:Deborah.tritton@cornwall.gov.uk)

(To see a video of the history of the site:  
[www.facebook.com/forCornwall/videos/180623478619641/](https://www.facebook.com/forCornwall/videos/180623478619641/) )

## CALH Calendar of Events

9-10 – March (Sat-Sun) – **AGM & Spring Conference – The Great War** – AGM open to all members starts at 10:45 am – Kilbirnie Hotel, Newquay. Booking form on line. Booking Deadline is 23 February.

11 April – (Thurs) – **CALH Committee Meeting** – St Augustine of Hippo, Woodland Rd., St Austell – 4:45 pm

22 May (Weds) – **Day Out Visit to St Ives Archive** – Day will include visits to museums and a train ride from Carbis Bay. Booking form with this newsletter and on line.

19 June (Weds) – **Day Out visit to Stratton and Poughill Churches** – Led by Dr Joanna Mattingly, Dr Todd Gray and Alan McIntosh. Booking form on line.

13 July (Sat) – **Day Out Visit to St Neot** – Tours of the church and village and access to the St Neot and Warleggan Archive. The day will also include an underground tour of the Carnglaze Slate Caverns. Booking form on line.

18 July (Thurs) – **CALH Committee Meeting** – Location to be decided, possibly Kresen Kernow - 4:45 pm

3 Oct (Thurs) – **CALH Committee Meeting** – Location to be decided - 4:45 pm

8 Oct (Tues) – **Day Out Visit to Fowey** – It will include a talk and guided tour of historic Fowey and a visit to the Fowey Museum. In the afternoon, you will visit the Italian inspired Trenyhton Manor Hotel. Booking form on line when available.

12 Oct (Sat) – **Autumn Conference** – Theme to be determined. - Kilbirnie Hotel, Newquay

16 Jan 2020 (Thurs) – **CALH Committee Meeting** – Location to be decided – 4:45 pm

7-8 March 2020 (Sat-Sun) – **AGM & Spring Conference**. Theme to be determined.

## Cornish Record Office & Cornish Studies Library

Both facilities are closed as all of the more than 1.5 million documents, maps and records are moved to the new combined facility in Redruth. The new archive is expected to be opened mid-year.

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### RIC Has Full Calendar

21 February (Thurs) – **The Married Widows of Cornwall: The story of wives ‘left behind’ by emigration** – A talk by Dr Lesley Trotter based on her doctoral thesis on the experience of the wives “left behind.” – Tickets through the museum.

21 March (Thurs) – **Albert Reuss in Mousehole, the Artist as Refugee** – A talk by Susan Soyinka on the Jewish émigré artist who fled the Nazis, moving to Mousehold in 1948. His style changed dramatically once there, reflecting the trauma he had suffered. – Tickets through the museum.

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### Fed. Of Old Cornwall Societies

23 February (Sat) – **Spring Meeting of FOCS** – 2 pm, Lys Kernow

6 July (Thurs) – **Summer Festival at St Just.**

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### Cornish Buildings Group

22-23 March (Fri-Sat) – **What is Unique about Cornish Buildings?** – A 2-day conference with presentations by Peter Herring, Daniel Radcliffe, Jacky Nowakowski, Joanna Mattingly, Nick Cahill and Paul Holden amongst many top experts. Tickets are £55 from Paul Holden, Flat 20, Queen St., Lostwithiel, PL22 0AD.

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