

NEWSLETTER

August 2022

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Chairman's Report

Well, summer is here, or so they tell me. Personally, I still find the evenings quite chilly but that may be because I have let the Raeburn go out. It is lovely not having to carry coal every day and no layer of dust over everything, but I really miss the warm feeling of coming down stairs at 6am to a cosy kitchen. Also the butter is hard to spread and, if it is wet, there is no way of drying the washing. No wonder past generations kept their range going all year round, they have so many uses apart from cooking.

Since the January newsletter we have slowly got back to a more normal way of life, although I don't think things will ever be quite the same as pre-Covid days.

The Spring Conference went off very well, but there were not as many people attending as I would have liked to see. With this in mind the committee are thinking of ways of encouraging people from our affiliated societies, and also non-members, to attend meetings and conferences. As was reported in the 2022 Journal, this year's conference ended with a celebratory cake to mark our 40 years as a society. The conference is fully covered in the 2022 Journal so I won't add anything here except to say a big thank you to the organisers, Marilyn and Ian, and also to all the speakers.

CALH has certainly played its part in promoting Local History in Cornwall over the last 40 years, let us hope it can play a similar role during the next 40 years. This will only come about if we get some new blood on to the committee so please think long and hard about offering your services as, without your help, I am afraid the society may well fold in the next few years.

Don't let CALH sink!



For CALH to continue it is imperative that more of us lend a hand as committee members, if only for a short time and it doesn't have to be a big commitment. carol.bunbury@yahoo.co.uk

Find out more – contact one of the committee members – have a chat.

It's fun!

The train trip to Looe finally took place this May, having first been scheduled for summer 2020. What with train time-tables and ticket prices not being sorted out until close to the event, a late, inflation related, rise in the cost of pasties, and the venue for lunch changing hands and not being available to us, things were somewhat fraught for me as organiser, but it all worked out OK on the day and I think everyone enjoyed themselves in the end. Having said that, my heart sank when I arrived at the station car-park to find that not only had the price for parking gone up in the last week but they had also changed the ticket machine to one that required a degree in computer technology to work!!! Thank goodness I had Molly Boxall's son

in the car so I could play the 'helpless female' and let him get the ticket for me.



There is a report on the Looe day elsewhere in this newsletter.

After the trip to Looe I sent a picture and short text to our local newspaper, the Cornish Times, and I am pleased to report that, within a couple of weeks it had appeared in the paper. To get new members we need to advertise ourselves and what we are about. Getting a report published in a local newspaper is a good way of doing this.

I am happy to report any CALH events that take place in East Cornwall but we need people to take on the job of 'Roving Reporter' for other areas of the county. Certainly the Cornish Times seem to like a photograph and short piece of text rather than a long article, so it's not too difficult to do.



How about offering to take on the job when CALH visits your area? We could do with reporters in each of the areas we visit each year and also someone to put a report in the local Newquay papers regarding our indoor conferences.

Although you will be reporting on what has already happened you can, like me, mention forthcoming events, and at least it gets our name out there. With this newsletter you will find your booking forms both for the September outing and also the October one day conference. I do hope I will see lots of you attending, and please remember you can always book for friends to come with you. The next newsletter will be published at the beginning of November so if you have any events you want to promote do let Carol Bunbury know in good time. And talking of Carol, may I take this opportunity to welcome her as our new editor of the newsletter and to thank her for volunteering to take the job on. To begin with she said it would only be for one year but I hope she will stay in the position a little longer. It is up to you to make her life as easy as possible by getting text to her in good time. In that way it may encourage her to stay on as editor a little longer.

At this point I stopped writing this letter with a view to finishing it after we had attended the visit to St Just at the beginning of July. But health matters rather took over my life and after 10 days in Derriford Hospital being treated for AF and Heart Failure plus a dose of pneumonia that the hospital gave me, I am now back home feeling pretty washed out. I will have to step back from CALH activities for the time being but hope to be with you at Newquay in October, if not before. In the meantime your committee has stepped up to the mark and things may even run smoother without me keep chipping in with ideas etc. I know they can rely on you, the members, to help in any way you can. Have a good summer and see you soon.

Carole Vivian

Thank you, Marion

Marion Stephens has been editing the CALH Newsletter from Canada but now, as President of the Toronto Cornish Association, she finds she no longer has time to continue. CALH is grateful for all the work she did.

Carol Bunbury has taken over the job and will be pleased to hear from you

carol.bunbury@yahoo.co.uk 01566782440

CALH visit to Looe 12th May 2022



We were given a talk at Liskeard station by Mark Camp. He spoke of the history of the line – the fact that it was on the Beeching plan to be axed but that Barbara Castle, the Minister for Transport, said No! Mark pointed out where an early line curved round to connect our line to the main line. The journey was spectacular, greenery surrounding us almost all the way. During the journey Carole pointed out the river, the locks and the road crossings – where seen! There were tiny bridges crossing the river to houses on the other side.

At Looe station Mark gave a talk on the history of Looe, how it was two small villages originally, Looe and Shutta, He also explained where the early line continued on towards the sea, the station also being longer. There was always rivalry between the two villages – no different to many others including East and West Looe! We continued as far as possible beside the river to the War memorial, being given more history – we could see the old mill and boatyard on the other side in West Looe. We walked to the Guildhall for hot pasties, chocolate biscuits, with teas and coffees. The stained-glass windows were extremely interesting because the pictures they showed were cut to size to fit the windows – did they come from another building? Our historian hopes to find out. Next stop the Lifeboat Station. We were split into two groups to be shown by a couple of volunteers the clothing worn and the boats, all extremely informative. We walked through the town via narrow alleys to the museum. Back to the station via the Globe Inn! A very pleasant day. Thankyou Carole.

Judith Mark

NEVER THE FULL PICTURE



This picture of my brother and myself was taken during the Coronation celebrations in 1953. We had seats in a stand in the forecourt of the Houses of Parliament and we had a long wait until they all came out of the Abbey again. I do remember we ate smoked salmon sandwiches to while away the time, but I suspect we were also taken for a walk round the area to burn off some excess energy.

I presume this picture, I think it's the Royal Coach, was taken at that time, and it has led me to think. What became of all the horses used to pull the coaches, whilst the ceremony was taking place in the Abbey? There were certainly none attached to this coach at the time. And also what became of all the mounted soldiers and police, did they have temporary shelter where they could leave their mounts for a couple of hours? And why has it taken me 70 years to think of this practical problem!!

I wonder if a documentary has ever been made about the logistics behind putting on an enormous event like the Queen's Coronation.

Carole Vivian

Visit to St Just in Penwith and the Methodist Miners Chapel, Saturday, 2nd July 2022

In rainy conditions, 10 intrepid travellers met in St Just in Penwith, driving from all quarters of Cornwall. This was the first visit organised by Lynn May and it was a great success. Our destination was the Methodist Miners chapel and our host was the very capable and knowledgeable Doug Luxford, who related the history of Methodist chapels in the 18th and 19th centuries and our chapel was built in the same style as that of Charles Wesley's chapel in London.



Sadly, this is not the CALH members visit!

It was impressive with the vast pipes of the organ high atop, reaching the ceiling, the surrounding gallery on three sides with its boxed pews, able to hold three large choirs easily and downstairs rows and rows of wooden pews capable of holding about 1600 worshippers. Despite the damp the chapel remains a great testament to the glory of Methodism.

Doug also illustrated the alterations made to the chapel to reduce its size. Alterations were needed due to factionalism after the deaths of the Wesley brothers and the emergence of Primitive Methodist and Bible Christian chapels and the Methodist Free Churches, its congregation declined. This fall was also exacerbated by the increasing emigration of miners after the closure of mines.

After the talk we were also able to listen to the organ, played by Roger King an organist who plays at the Free Church chapel in St Just. Although not played regularly now it has been tended carefully and the recital gave us a glimpse of its glorious past. After being shown round the chapel, we stopped for a pasty lunch and then went for a walk around the town for a Wesley trail, first stop St Just parish church - a glorious building. The plaster had been taken off the majority of the walls, so one was able to

see the intricacy of the stone work. Two wall paintings had been revealed and also of interest was the Selus memorial stone, commemorating Saint Just's brother, Selevan. It dates from the late fifth or early sixth century, is associated with a holy well and a medieval playing place for Miracle plays, the Plain an Gwarry.

Next was the old Methodist Society house in North Row, the Plain an Gwarry in Bank Square, the old Wesleyan Sunday School at Cape Cornwall road before returning to the Miners Chapel for tea and a slice of Cornish heavy cake.



The Plain an Gwarry

After the wet start, the day was blessed with beautiful weather ...a perfect outing!

Barbara Brown

CALH 2023 AGM and Spring Conference

Saturday 25 and Sunday 26 March

Put the dates in your diary now!

The theme for next year's Spring Conference will be

'Here Comes the Bride'

Behind the celebrations lie other matters: dynastic imperative, scandals and lies.

We lift the lid on one of the oldest institutions and reveal: Love, loathing and extravagance!

News from around Cornwall

Feock Parish Council Walks

Royal Cornwall Museum and the Courtney Library

We have devastating news. We were informed that Cornwall Council has cut all its funding to the museum. This decision will directly lead to the imminent closure of Royal Cornwall Museum and the Courtney Library. We are still in the process of understanding why, and the decision is even more disappointing considering the great successes we have had over the past two years.

We need you to take action and voice your support now more than ever, and we want to make it as easy as possible for you to help out. We have drafted an email or letter template **on our website** which you can download and send to your local councillor and/or the MP for Truro and Falmouth, Cherilyn Mackrory. You will need to replace anything in square brackets with your own details. If you are unsure who/where to send it to, you can find out who your local councillor is and how to contact them here <https://www.cornwall.gov.uk/my-area/>

You can also help out if you use social media by posting messages of support, making sure you copy in Cornwall Council and the museum by using the following tags:

Facebook: @CornwallCouncil

@RoyalCornwallMuseum

Twitter: @CornwallCouncil @Cornwall_Museum

Instagram: @CornwallCouncil @Cornwall_Museum

This should hopefully only take 10 minutes of your time but it could make a huge difference so we would really appreciate if you could do this for the future of the museum.

Bryony Robins, Artistic Director

Jonathan Morton, Executive Director



CALH members may be interested to learn that Feock Parish Council has very recently put together a selection of 9 short walks in and around Devoran, Carnon Downs, Penpol, Point, Feock and Trelissick.

Each is very well described, in detail, in 4 multi coloured, large, fold out but easily manageable brochures compiled by Phil Allen a member of the Parish Council. They provide the walker with considerable information about the relevant history and are accompanied with excellent illustrations and photographs. All in all, they are very attractive and as far as I know free of charge. Mine were! Go to www.feockparishcouncil.co.uk for more information.

Gerald Nicholls

Lawrence House Museum Launceston

Lawrence House is closed for major repairs but the Museum has a Pop-Up Exhibition '**Launceston Buildings**' in the medieval Merchants House at the corner of The Square.



Tours of the Merchant's House which is being beautifully restored can be arranged by contacting Lawrence House Museum Tel: 01566 773277

Or Email: lawrencehousemuseum@yahoo.co.uk

Carol Bunbury

Kresen Kernow



It has been lovely to welcome so many people over the spring to Kresen Kernow to browse the displays, take part in an activity or delve into the collections.

You can just drop in to see the exhibitions and use the library,

Tuesday-Thursday and Saturdays, 9.30-4.00.

At the moment, bookings are still needed for the archive.

In addition, during August artists Jane Darke and Andrew Tebbs will be running a series of workshops, talks, film showings and activities to complement their exhibition 'Habitats as Heritage' now open at Kresen Kernow. They have transformed our Treasures Gallery with a hundred paintings showing the diversity of natural life, inspired by the Marianne North gallery at Kew Gardens.

The project started in St Eval, where Jane Darke is based, and has grown to encompass a diversity of habitats in Redruth as well.

The exhibition also includes work produced by artists and community groups in response to the themes, as well as original documents from the Kresen Kernow archives which include beautiful volumes of pressed flowers and seaweeds.

For more information on visiting or taking part in an activity please see:

www.kresenkernow.org .

Deborah Tritton, Archive Services Manager

Penwith Local History Group

Here is what our group did during 2021 - at first glance, not a lot! But despite the Covid-19 gloom there were plenty of positives.

When unable to meet, we shared enquiries (and answers), news, and recommendations as usual, staying in touch by phone and email; three of us got our books published!**; others arranged exhibitions, devised and acted in an historical entertainment, answered queries sent to our website and continued with their own research.

Fiendish 'homework' was devised to keep us thinking in historical terms, and enthusiastically completed by several members. One task was to send in a photo of a forebear and members had to guess the country, the era and any other information; another was to take a picture of a tombstone, note the details and research what was happening in the wider world on the deceased's birth date. I have to admit that my suggestions were frequently subverted!

Once able to meet again in our home-base, the wonderful Morrab Library, we were hugely [even squeamishly] entertained by Martin Crosfill, retired Consultant Surgeon at West Cornwall Hospital; he brought along his unique collection of historic medical instruments some of which dated back to Roman times.

We stayed together through falls, broken bones, and serious illness other than Covid - and finally all but two of us were able to meet for an excellent Christmas lunch at The Pirate, once a farmhouse dating from the late 1690s and now an inn. 2022 will start with a decision on the theme for our next book. A Happy and Better New Year to all members!

Jenny Dearlove

**Jean Nankervis, *History of Zennor*;

Pam Lomax, *Newlyn when the Artists came*;

Jenny Dearlove, *Women to the Rescue*.

All available at local bookshops,
or for more info check our website:

www.penwithlocalhistorygroup.co.uk

History outside the Kilbirnie Hotel: Lusty Glaze and the St Columb Canal

John Durring

At the CALH Autumn Conference in 2021, I did an exploration of the surrounding area.



Across the Narrowcliff, there is a large grassy area known as the Barrow Fields; which is a prehistoric burial site. Its eastern side overlooks Lusty Glaze Beach, where a notice states that it was a starting point for the St Columb Canal. This is mentioned by Charles Hadfield in his *Canals of Southern England* (1955); and more information, derived from his later work, is available online (Wikipedia, and a YouTube video).

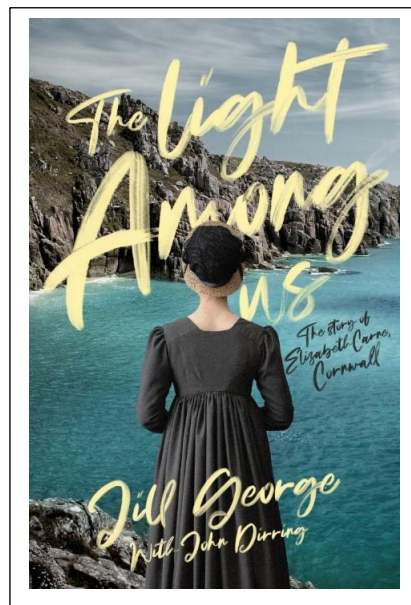
Projected by John Edyvean of St Austell and authorized in 1773 by Act of Parliament, only two parts of the canal were begun. One ran about 4½ miles from Mawgan Porth to Whitewater near St Columb Major; and was possibly the only successfully-completed portion. It was only in use for a few years. The other ran from Lusty Glaze through St Columb Minor to Rialton. The remainder was never started. The traffic was stone in the seaward direction, and coal and shelly sand (used as fertilizer) inland.

At Lusty Glaze, with a drop of a hundred feet to the beach, the boats were discharged by tipping down a chute cut into the rock, with inward loads hauled up it in kibbles by the same horse whim that did the tipping. An online picture of Lusty Glaze shows where this chute is still visible.

The arrangement at Mawgan, where the drop is twice the height, was probably similar. Looking at the OS map shows that both parts of the canal were level, respectively following the 100ft and 200ft contours inland. This was an innovative solution, at the beginning of the canal age, to providing inland water transport in the hilly topography of Cornwall.

The text of the 1773 Act may show the full intentions; for example, how was the difference in levels between the two sections to be overcome if they were to connect? More generally, would the canal have been commercially viable if completed?

Book Review



The Light Among Us : The Story of Elizabeth Carne by Jill George with John Durring

Elizabeth Carne was clearly a remarkable woman whose contribution to Cornish society, geology and the world of banking and commerce has been admirably woven into this well-researched novel. It is an insight to both Elizabeth's life and to those of her contemporaries in Cornwall during the 19th century.

Young, Talented & Cornish! Music College Students



25th-27th August 2022
Wheal Martyn Museum 079519 60647

Buy tickets at:
NOVACLASSICALFESTIVAL.COM

Events 2022

Visit to Hill Fort Castle-an Dinas St Columb Major

On September 22nd 2022

Meeting up in St Columb Major a visit to St Columba's Church starts the day. Stephen Hartgroves will give a presentation on Cornish Hill Forts from the air at the Columba Centre.

Lunch at the Centre.

The afternoon programme Andy Jones will lead a guided walk around the Hillfort at Castle -an-Dinas, one of the most important Iron Age hillforts in southern Britain.

Complete and return the booking form enclosed, or download the copy on the web site. BOOK NOW!

Looking forward to welcoming many members to the visit.

CALH Autumn Conference On Saturday 15th October 2022

PLAGUE AND PESTILENCE

In the light of the recent Covid Pandemic our speakers will be looking at how Cornwall and the wider world coped with previous pandemics. Subjects covered will include the Black Death, Cholera, Smallpox and the WW1 Flu pandemic.

Members are invited to bring along small exhibitions on how their area coped during 'Lockdown'

YOU WILL FIND YOUR BOOKING FORM INSERTED WITH THIS NEWSLETTER.

BOOK NOW!

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Deborah Tritton (for Kresen Kernow)

Sadly, because of ill health, Hugh Hedderly has had to stand down as Treasurer and Jeremy Rogers is expected to take over later this year.

N.B.

Booking forms for the Autumn Conference should be sent to: Barbara Brown, Burrhills House, Carkeel, Saltash, PL12 6NR. Tel: 01752 842170.

Message from the editor

The November CALH Newsletter deadline will be

20th October 2022.

Item for inclusion in the newsletter should be sent to my own email address carol.bunbury@yahoo.co.uk Tel 01566 782440

My apologies if you have sent me items for the August Newsletter on the calhnewsletter@gmail.com address, which for some reason has been cut off.