



Newsletter

Cornwall Heritage Trust

Helping to Safeguard Cornwall's Heritage

Newsletter 39 January 2010

Dear Members

My congratulations to John Cuthill on becoming our first Sir Richard Trant Heritage Champion. It is a sadness to record that shortly after the very happy presentation of this award Ralph Bird passed away. Ralph made 29 gigs in his lifetime and is credited with setting the stand by which all gigs are made. He measured the Treffry gig and used those measurements for his building. These original measurements are now used for every gig constructed. Each gig is checked three times during construction and only those made to these exacting measurements may enter competition. It was recently stated by an ex—Grand Bard that gig rowing and Surf Life Saving were two activities which had gained heritage status in her lifetime.

The Treffry viaduct/aqueduct is receiving close attention due to both vandalism and leakage in one or two of its pillars. A monument of this size and its national and, indeed, international importance has insured that English Heritage has become involved in the surveying of the structure to assess the remedial work necessary to maintain the structure in good condition. Its involvement has been the granting of a substantial sum of money for the survey, which the Trust has entrusted to Cornwall Council.

In earlier days, when working, the aqueduct was 'washed through' by holding a large volume of water on the upstream end and then flushing it through. This helped to reduce the volume of clay which built up in the under-rail channel. This has not been done for a number of years and is no longer allowed. Consequently there is a large and growing

build-up of clay which by some means will need removal. We look forward to the surveyor's report with some trepidation and trust that we will be well supported in our attempts to keep this monument in fine condition.

But we also have good news – specifically about Castle an Dinas. Professor Bernard Wailes, who excavated 'Castle' in 1962/3 has agreed to return the finds from that excavation to Cornwall. These finds will be re-examined by specialists before being deposited in the RIC Museum in Truro. Much has been learned about pottery and other artefacts since 1962 and it is hoped that we may learn something more about the early days of the hill, its users and uses.

However that is not the only good news about 'Castle' - in late 2010/early 2011 English Heritage surveyors will spend two to three weeks surveying the hill and the outer fields, if we can get permission, to produce the most accurate survey ever – which should increase our knowledge of the hill and improve the accuracy of past surveys by a suggested factor of four. I have already walked the hill with the head of surveying and he is really excited about what might be revealed by his state-of-the-art equipment. We must thank Graeme Kirkham of the Historic Environment Service of Cornwall Council for his part in arranging this.

So, we enter 2010 with great enthusiasm that the Trust will continue to improve both the maintenance and the interpretation to the public of our sites both owned and managed.

But first it is time to wish you all a happy festive season and thank you for your continued support.
Very Best Wishes

Tony Blackman
Chairman

Sylvanus Trevail, Cornish Architect and Entrepreneur

by
Hazel Harradence

Sylvanus Trevail became a renowned architect, not only in Cornwall but other parts of the country as well. His work was exhibited at the Royal Academy and in Paris, Melbourne and Sydney, where he received a medal and diploma for a design, which was later adapted to become Fowey Grammar School. He served two terms as President of the Society of Architects, 1901-03, and his buildings can be seen in Devon, London and Dublin as well as Cornwall.

He was born 31 Oct 1851 to John and Jane Trevail at Carne Farm, Luxulyan. His younger sister Laura was born in 1858. Father John ran a good farm and was able to pay for Sylvanus to go to school in the village, where he excelled in the reading, writing, arithmetic and drawing he was taught. As a small boy he would spend weekends at his grandmother Trevail's house making railway lines with trucks on slopes like the incline with wire ropes in the valley nearby.

The first building work he was associated with was a pair of cottages on his father's estate; the date stone of 1864 has his initials on it. After spending some time at Dr Drake's Academy in St Austell and rubbing shoulders with the sons of clergymen, solicitors and government officials, he went to London and spent three years working for architect Henry Garling in Bedford Row.

While he was there the first of the Education Acts was passed; school boards were being established and new schools were required in great numbers. Before he was 21 years of age, Sylvanus set about designing a new school for Luxulyan, big enough to take all the village children. Although Mount Charles claimed to be the first Board School to be built under this scheme, Luxulyan was the first school but built by a building committee from voluntary funding. Uncle Joseph Trevail was the Chairman of this committee.

In the following six years Sylvanus designed 39 schools, throughout his career the total reached 55, including Grammar, Technical and Art Schools.

There were also a dozen hotels or large additions to hotels; and when financial backing was lacking, he floated his own hotel companies to fund them. He was also responsible for the design of 11 churches or chapels; 28 large houses and 4 major add-ons; 11 banks; 8 libraries & institutes in conjunction with John Passmore Edwards; 5 hospitals & nursing homes, 14 commercial premises or developments, 17 public rooms, clubs, post offices etc, 10 housing developments and estates, and several sets of workingmen's dwellings.



St Mary's Vicarage, Par 1882

He worked initially from his father's house at Carne, and later at Tywardreath but moved to Truro in the early 1880's where he spent the remainder of his working life. We have an impression of a man who was a very upright, honest, business-like person, always willing to help others, not afraid to speak his mind and continually working for the good of the County.

He helped many of the chapel congregations raise sufficient funds to finish their buildings; after his tour of Europe in 1878 he toured the County giving picture shows and lectures, raising money for reading rooms or coal funds for the poor.

Public health in Truro and other places concerned him; from 1874 he kept a note in his diary of all deaths attributable to sewage pollution. He also kept records of all local men serving in South Africa, whether they were killed, wounded or pensioned and whether they and their families were able to cope. He worked very hard to ensure that the railway reached the north coast, needed by market gardeners, fish merchants and shipping agents, and incidentally his new hotels as well.

By way of thanks the County in 1896 presented him with 500 guineas worth of silver.

He was active in local affairs for 17 years; elected to Truro Council in November 1886, he was Mayor 1894/5 and continued as a Councillor until 1903. He was elected a member of the newly formed Cornwall County Council in 1889 and continued until 1901. He drafted the Council's Standing Orders and was Chairman of the County Sanitary Committee, where he campaigned vigorously to improve the public health of Cornwall. He was appointed to the prestigious and lucrative post of Architect to the County Lunatic Asylum.



*Helland Wesleyan Chapel built in 1878
still in use*

From the late 1890's onwards, his bad health forced him to winter abroad for several weeks, probably for a drier climate, but in 1898 an internal problem sent him to Marienbad looking for a cure with the waters. In early 1902 his mother died, followed later the same year by his father. Wishing to do something for the parish of his birth and the villagers who were so kind on the death of his mother he undertook to replace three cracked church bells with a peal of six in a strengthened tower, replaced the top of the churchyard sundial and erected a beautiful memorial cross to his mother.

Continued illness, the loss of his parents, a favourite Uncle and also his closest friend within a short space of time, together with pressure of work meant that, when in May 1903 as President, he attended the annual dinner of the Society of Architects; one diner expressed his shock at the mental and physical change in Silvanus. In a railway carriage on 7th November 1903 Silvanus shot himself. At the

inquest the verdict was that his mind was 'unhinged'; he was buried in the family plot under the Celtic memorial cross.



*St Just Board School opened 1894
now retail premises*

After Trevail's death, his assistant Arthur Cornelius carried on the Truro business until his death in 1964, when Alec Wells brought the practice from the Cornelius' widow. In a locked attic he found the legacy of over thirty years of extremely hard work, and the basis for all our research.* The archive is now lodged at the County Record Office in Truro, but there were not copies of all his buildings.

Already in the Record Office we found Luxulyan School with the parish papers, farm cottages in the Clifden papers, some Truro building plans were under Carrick Sanitary Committee. The Indian Queens school plans are missing, as are nearly all the St Austell School Board plans, there are no plans for Helland Church tower – and so the list goes on. So far we have identified about 300 commissions, and if you know the whereabouts of any, the Silvanus Trevail Society will be delighted to hear from you.

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\* For a full account see a new book by Ronald Perry and Hazel Harradence :-

*Silvanus Trevail Cornish Architect  
and Entrepreneur*

Published by Bootle in 2008 price £20 + p&p  
[www.francisbootle.co.uk](http://www.francisbootle.co.uk)

Our thanks to Hazel Harradence for this article.

This book has been reviewed by Trustee Donald Rawe - see page 6

## What's in a Word – Issue 38

by Dr Mike Ripley

This article attracted a number of responses which will be printed in subsequent issues as space allows.

The following is a reply from member Joanna Raymond-Barker of Camelford.

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In the September newsletter, Dr Ripley writes that he cannot find the origin of the expression “crib break” – which – as he says, means ‘a rest period in a shift when one eats one’s crib (or meal)’.

He says the shorter Oxford Dictionary has over a dozen different meanings for the word ‘crib’, none of which has anything to do with meal breaks or eating. Well, my Collins English Dictionary lists twenty two meanings for ‘crib’ – as a noun and as a verb – most of which seem to me to be related to and lead by association to its Cornish meaning of a packed lunch.

The nub of the meaning appears to be a ‘small confined space’. Hence ‘crib’ can be used for a child’s bed with slatted sides, a cattle stall, a grain bin, a small room or even a cottage, a wicker basket, a timber framework used in mines, or, most pertinently, a fodder rack or manger. Through this association of ideas which is so common in the development of word meanings, ‘a small space’ may be a container, often one used for food, and hence the word ‘crib’ is used for the food itself.

Thus a miner’s – or any other workman’s ‘crib’ is a container of some sort, whether wicker basket, tin, or even plastic box, plus the food contained in it.

Joanna Raymond-Barker

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The Cornish Pasty – Issue 38

In the last newsletter I wrote a short article about the Cornish Pasty – taking information from various sources including books and the internet.

A few days after the newsletter had been sent out I had a phone call. “I don’t know who put that article together” said the caller “but whoever it was certainly wasn’t Cornish!”

Well – no, I’m not Cornish, but the information was taken from published articles and expressed a range of views previously aired. Apparently, I was told, “no one would make a pasty from rough puff pastry and there is no such thing as top crimping!” Well – so be it; I can agree that ‘top crimping’ isn’t actually crimping – it is just a means of holding the pastry together, but I am assured that some people prefer to use rough puff pastry for their pasties. HOWEVER – I did get a reaction from readers – and that is a good thing!

I had various comments – someone said “it was a jolly good article” and I have also had a great email from New Zealand, from Neil & Melanie Macarther who I referred to in the article.

They left Redruth four years ago to live in Cambridge, New Zealand and because they could not find anything to equal the pasties they had been brought up on in Cornwall, decided to make their own. The business has grown in a bakery built in the back garden to be very successful. Neil has given up his career as an aircraft engineer to work in the business and they both now work full time supplying the people in the area with their scrumptious pasties.

Check out: www.cornishpasties.co.nz

SM

Castle-an-Dinas

Many thanks to all the visitors to Castle-an-Dinas over the years who have put donations, however small, into the cairn at the site. These small donations have added up and reached a total of just over £1000 to June 2009.

As they say ‘every little helps!’

Carl Roberts
Trustee

The Sir Richard Trant Memorial Award Heritage Champion 2009

As Members will recall, the Trust decided to institute an award to honour the memory of Sir Richard Trant who dedicated much of his life to helping to secure and preserve Cornwall's heritage and to recognise others who were making similar contributions. I was pleased to be asked by our Chairman, Tony Blackman, to oversee the organisation that would lead to the selection of the 'Heritage Champion'.

Our first task was to ensure that knowledge of the award was disseminated across Cornwall. To this end a poster was devised with all the relevant information and then a list of venues, museum, libraries, art galleries and the like, was made as to where we wished to advertise. The remit was wide and organisations working in any sector of Cornwall's heritage were invited to put forward nominations. While we were awaiting the applications, I approached a small number of Trustees and invited them to join a sub-committee that would select the Heritage Champion. In addition, we were delighted that Tink, Lady Trant, who was keen to be closely involved in the process, agreed to be a member of the sub-committee.

After the closing date members of the selection committee had the opportunity to review the nominations and then we arranged a meeting to decide a winner. We tried to define what we meant by 'heritage' and then carefully discussed the merits of each candidate. The task to select the winner proved very difficult as, without exception, all those who had been nominated had made a significant contribution to some aspect of Cornwall's heritage and would have made a worthy Champion.

After several hours of discussion, we came to a decision and agreed that the first 'Heritage Champion' should be Mr John Cuthill, a Cornishman with a Cornishman's passion for the sea; he is also Chairman of Newquay Rowing Club.

The Club at Newquay takes a very active part in the Cornish gig racing calendar which is becoming an increasingly popular sport.

The Club maintains three pilot gigs, built in the nineteenth century, the *Newquay*, the *Dove* and the *Treffry* which form a tangible link with Cornwall's history and are the keystone of Newquay's maritime heritage. John has been an enthusiastic member of the Club for 50 years and his nomination stated that 'the success and stature of the Club may be attributed to the dedication and unflagging energy of one man, John Cuthill... his commitment to the Club and to the safekeeping, preservation and continuing use of its heritage pilot gigs all continue unabated' and John works 'unrelentingly to promote the interests of the Club and to raise it profile'. In addition, we were very interested to note that the Club has a strong junior section which allows the younger members to become involved in the sport of gig racing at an early age.



*The Newquay heritage gigs
Newquay – 1812
Dove – 1820
Treffry – 1821*

We had hoped to make the presentation to John at the Trust's AGM on 3rd October but he and his wife, Jenny were out of the country. In his absence, Lady Mary made an interim presentation to Barbara Gordon, a member of the Rowing Club who had written the nomination and who represented John for the occasion. It was later arranged that Tony and Dot Blackman, Philip Hills and I would meet John and his wife Jenny at the Newquay Rowing Club later in the month to make the formal presentation. We were made very welcome and had an enthusiastic crowd of club members for our audience.

Tony and I both said a few words about the reason why the award had been instituted and why John had been chosen the winner for 2009. We then presented him with a cheque for £500 and a crystal rose bowl engraved with the words *The Sir Richard Trant Memorial Award. Heritage Champion 2009*. John responded with thanks and recalled with great fondness and appreciation the connections that both he and the Club had had with Dick Trant.

With typical generosity, John has decided to donate his cheque for £500 to the historic gigs fund. We hope he will derive pleasure from the knowledge that the money will contribute to the continuation of the gig tradition and that the crystal bowl will be a lasting reminder of his sterling service to this aspect of Cornwall's heritage. We hope and believe that Dick Trant would have approved of our choice.



*Heritage Champion 2009. Mr John Cuthill
l to r: Catherine Lorigan, John Cuthill,
Tony Blackman*

This award will be made annually so if you know of an unsung 'Champion' who you believe should be recognised for his or her achievements, please consider making a nomination for the award of 'Heritage Champion 2010'. Full details will be found in the Trust's Newsletter in due course. The award is open to all.

Catherine Lorigan
Trustee

Book Review from Don R. Rawe

SYLVANUS TREVAIL
Cornish Architect and Entrepreneur.
(1851 to 1903)
by Ronald Perry and Hazel Harradance
Francis Boutle, £20.

Sylvanus Trevail was without doubt the most famous and accomplished architect at work in Cornwall during the latter half of the 19th century. A legend in his own lifetime and a tremendous workaholic, the list of his buildings is amazing. His style could be majestic and even flamboyant, or restrained and utilitarian. He was in great demand and

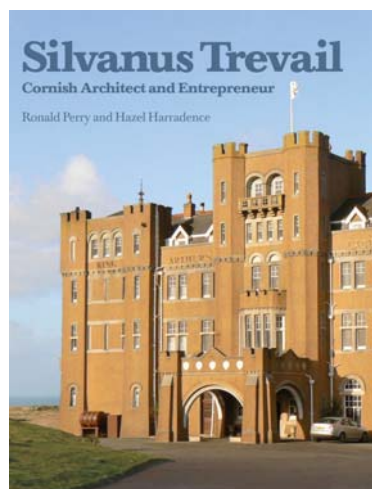
at his peak was an investor in his own projects (for instance Housel Bay Hotel at the Lizard).

Most famous of his edifices are the Headland Hotel at Newquay and the King Arthur Castle Hotel at Tintagel. He designed forty churches and chapels as well as numerous private residences; also no less than 71 schools up and down the Duchy, as was required by the Education Act of 1870. Outside Cornwall he was elected President of the RIBA. In association with the Cornish philanthropist John Passmore Edwards he built many of our libraries, including Truro, Saltash, Redruth and Liskeard.

Born in Luxylyan and famous in Truro, he was elected Mayor in 1895 and was the principal force in reforming the city's appalling sanitation system. He never married and there is some speculation as to his relationships with women. Perhaps he was simply too successful, and drove himself too hard to have time for marriage. He became what would now be diagnosed as manic depressive. At the age of 52 he boarded a train at Truro and between Bodmin Road and Liskeard entered the ladies' toilet, put a revolver to his head and shot himself.

Speculation will always attend his death. But his many buildings have put him permanently on the map. He saw great possibilities in establishing a Cornish tourist trade and was its greatest prophet and proponent.

This handsome volume certainly does him justice, being profusely illustrated and deeply researched: the authors are to be heartily congratulated. Justifiably, this book won the Holyer An Gof cup at the annual Gorseth awards this year.



King Arthur Castle Hotel - Tintagel

The Big Cheese

In 1852 Robert Facey emigrated to Canada with his parents and younger brother and sister from Tredarrup near Lostwithiel in Cornwall.

He received further education in the Ingersoll Area of Ontario and learnt the skills of cheese making at Salford near Mount Elgin from Mr & Mrs Hiram Ramney and James Harris. In 1866 he oversaw the construction of the Harrietsville factory; a three storey building 35 feet by 70 feet which claimed to be the largest cheese factory in the world at that time. At some point later the large factory buildings were torn down and a smaller, more efficient brick factory replaced them.

A highlight of Robert's cheese making career was supervising the production of the Mammoth Cheese in 1866. It was made to combat the monopoly the cheese factories of the USA had on the English market. The timing was fortuitous as the USA was emerging from its Civil War and had difficulty supplying the English Market. In the June of 1866, on the same day, cheeses were made at three different factories owned by Hiram Ramney, James Harris and George Calloway. The cheeses were eventually brought together into one large cheese under the supervision of Robert Facey who was the Chief Cheese Maker.



*The Mammoth Cheese of 1866
Standing on top of the cheese are
9 adults and 9 children!*

The Cheese, weighing 7,300 pounds, measured 3 ft in height, 6ft 10 ins in diameter and had a circumference of 21 ft. It contained 35 tons of milk and took 45 yards of cloth to cover it.

After it was properly cured it was taken by six dapple grey horses through the Ingersoll streets to the Great Western Railway Station. A public holiday was declared and the cheese was shipped on 23 August 1866 to the New York State Fair held at Saratoga. After being exhibited there the cheese was transported to the port of Liverpool for display in England at the British Trade Fair. When the Fair had finished the cheese was taken round on street parades and public parks for people to see the Mammoth Cheese.

Eventually 300lbs were sent back to Oxford County for interested parties to marvel at and presumably eat.

Near the home of James Harris in Ontario – now The Elm Hurst Inn - there is a historical plaque commemorating the creation of the Mammoth Cheese.

Robert Facey was born 27 November 1841 at Tredarrup near St Winnow, Lostwithiel Cornwall.

Died 8 March 1897 at City Hotel, London Ontario.

Buried at Dorchester Union Cemetery, Dorchester, Ontario.

Carl Roberts
Vice Chairman

When it comes to making large cheeses, Canada stands alone! At 57,508 lbs (26 tonnes), Canada holds the record for the world's largest cheese. The chubby cheddar was made by Agropur of Granby, Quebec in September **1995**; it contained over 540,000 lbs (245,000 litres) of milk.

As well as the **1866** Mammoth Cheese written about in this article, The Dominion Experimental Dairy Station made another Mammoth Cheese in **1893** for the Worlds Columbian Exposition in Chicago in April of that year.

Although the **1893** cheddar cheese weighed less than the **1995** cheese, at 22,000 pounds (9,900 kg), it was perhaps a greater feat of cheese making when you consider that it was made before the days of refrigerated trucks.

Cheese making is a science that requires ingredients to be kept extremely clean and at stable temperatures.

The milk to make this **1893** cheese had to be transported by horse and wagon from various dairy farms, making it an amazing display of orchestration. In cheese-making terms it was definitely the big cheese!

SO - go back another 30 years to **1866** and you can see what an amazing achievement it was for Robert Facey, originally from Cornwall, to create the first Mammoth Cheese.
SM

Chairman's Report to year ending 31 April 2009

At the Annual General Meeting of the Trust held 3 October 2009 it was agreed that the Chairman's Report for the 12 months to 31 March 2009 deserved a wider audience than is reached by the Annual Report and Accounts. The Report is shown below in full.

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As will be seen from the attached financial report our finances are in good order. Our investment accounts made a steady income until the collapse of investment interest late in 2008. This has seen a severe decline in interest and the Trustees will monitor the finances of the Trust to ensure its continued financial well-being. Our much respected Hon. Treasurer, Mr Tom Bayley, continues to manage our accounts immaculately and the Trustees continually benefit from his sound financial advice.

The Trust has continued to support the excellent heritage work of other organisations with the giving of small but valuable grant aid. In this year the following grants have been made:

- o £500 - Dehwelans 2008 - publicity/literature,
- o £300 - Digital Archaeology Virtual Environment Project (DAVE) - mining archaeology landscape photography,
- o £1000 - Cornwall Historic Churches Trust - annual donation,
- o £3000 - SMMP - annual donation,
- o made good the pledge of £1000 to VCH of C - Clay Country project,
- o £1000 - Cornwall Buildings Preservation Trust - towards first round application to HLF for restoration of Duchy Palace Lostwithiel,

- o £250 - Restoration Cornwall - competition for gifted & talented pupils competition and provided a judge.

The Trust is delighted to have helped the Sustainable Trust with a £2000 grant for the successful purchase of the Carwynnen Quoit, a Neolithic monument, twice collapsed, in the Troon area. It is now hoped that this monument will be re-erected.

Our properties and those of English Heritage under our guardianship have a new Property trustee supervising their management. Lt Col Philip Hills became a Trustee specifically to take on this task and is doing an exceptional job. There was no lead in time and little training and the principal of 'learning on the job' was never better described. He now has a deputy in Gerry Brain, another new trustee, with a wealth of knowledge in countryside management. They continue to be so well supported by their property team of - Mike Anderson (east Cornwall), Dawn Hunn (north Cornwall), Carl Roberts (central Cornwall) and Jim Daniel (west Cornwall) and, of course, our paid on-site custodians and guardians. The Trustees took a decision that the sites should set an example of excellence in presentation to the public and many hours of planning have gone into developing the programmes to achieve that aim. The Trust must thank Ann Preston-Jones (English Heritage), Dick Coles and Ann Reynolds (Historic Environment Service) for their continued and necessary help.

The English Heritage annual inspection proved very satisfactory and we have completed a Health and Safety Report on each EH site as is now required.



*King Doniert's Stone – site managed by  
the Trust for EH*

The Trust has entered into an agreement to purchase a section of mineral tramway at Buller Hill at the request of, and with financial help from, the World Heritage Site team. This will ensure access to a longer stretch of tramway along the Tramway Trail and should allow the Trust to present it in a much better way than at present and to provide a good historical display in line with its new policy for sites.

Our Education portfolio continues to be in the very capable hands of John Welham who is working with Newly Qualified Teachers (NQTs) and schools to produce education packs for all of the properties under our management. The completed 'teaching packs' are posted on our website and are available at no cost to all Cornish schools. John is also involved in the Caradon Hill Project representing the Trust. This project now has Phase 2 funding which will enable us to consider new presentation and work on The Hurlers, King Doniert's Stone and Trethevy Quoit. This work has been made possible by the Piet Mendels Foundation for which the Trust is truly grateful.



*Trethevy Quoit – site managed by the Trust for EH*

The Trust has awarded bursaries to post graduate students studying Cornish themes as follows:

**Jane Costin** - £300 - Significance of place of work - D H Lawrence based around Zennor,

**Fiona Flemming** - £200 - Iron Age Settlement patterns within Cornwall,

**Samantha Penny** - £200 - Mermaids in Cornish Mythology

**Hilary Orange** - £300 – Publics perception of Cornish Mining Landscapes.

The Trust has launched the Sir Richard Trant Memorial Award – Annual Heritage

Champion which is being managed by new Trustee Catherine Lorigan.

The money to support this award has come from a donation from the collection at Sir Richard's Memorial Service, donations from CHT members and a large donation from Hunting Defence, the company which Sir Richard was chairman of for several years following his retirement from the army.



*Sir Richard Trant 1928 - 2007*

The Trust is represented on both Heritage Kernow and Bewnans Kernow, two Cornwall Council organisations which are two of the eight represented on the Cornwall Cultural Partnership. It is this organisation which will advise Cornwall Council and membership will be necessary to access grants in future.

Once again we must thank the Council of Management for the direction and guidance it has given to the Trust's Executive Committee which has managed the day-to-day business of the Trust, and Mrs Sue Marriott who continues to run the Trust's office most effectively and upon whom we all rely, and who has kept us all up to the mark.

The Trust has an enviable, and growing, set of trustees whose knowledge base is second to none and whose commitment to the work of the Trust continues to be likewise ranked.

Tony Blackman  
Chairman

(line drawings by kind permission of Lady Diana (Tink) Trant)

## Postcard from Malta

Well – after working hard in the office it is time to take a holiday – and I am here on Malta for a few days of sun, sightseeing and exploring the island.

We checked into our hotel – looking forward to sitting out on the balcony and enjoying the view having requested a ‘high floor’. We were shown to our room – on the ground floor!! Opening the patio doors we found we had a terrace – not a balcony; it was big enough to throw a party on – BUT – it faced North East. So we never saw the sun from our room, there was a strong north east wind blowing all week and we never sat out all week!

The hotel had a policy. They are supporters of the Malta Heritage Trust and asked all visitors to (voluntarily) contribute €1 per day on their bill which would be passed on to the Trust – an independent non-government body, self funding, and restores and runs various heritage projects.



*looking across the water to Valletta*

Good idea? Just imagine what Cornwall Heritage Trust could do from a similar levy on tourists to Cornwall!!

The capital of Malta is Valletta and it is a UNESCO designated World Heritage City. It's not hard to see why. The old city is stunning in its architecture, churches, palaces, its streets, its style of buildings and the massive fortifications.

Built during the rule of the Knights of St John (the Knights Hospitaller) in the 16<sup>th</sup> century, it was named after Jean Parisot de la Vallette who succeeded in defending the island from an Ottoman invasion in 1565.

Just outside the gateway to the old city is a massive roundabout which is the bus station for the island and is a hub of intense activity. The buses on Malta are very special. They are all single deckers and splendid in their colours of orange, red and white, and they range from ancient examples of very early design right up to modern day streamlined elegance.



*route 18 looking splendid*

One day – walking through the streets of Valletta – we came upon a small bakery and take-away shop. Pies are a popular item in Malta – especially pea pies and cheese pies. They are as readily available as pasties are in Cornwall.

But what caught our eye was the sign:-

**KORNISH**

€1.60 take away

Well – who could turn down an offer like that!



*Kornish €1.60*

We took them to Fort St Elmo – looking out to sea – and tucked in. The filling was a mish-mash of beef, vegetables and ham and quite the worst we have ever tasted!

365 churches, Mdina – the silent city – and much more to explore next time we touch down in Malta.

Sue Marriott  
St George's Bay