



Newsletter

Cornwall Heritage Trust

Helping to Safeguard Cornwall's Heritage

Newsletter 40 April 2010

CONGRATULATIONS

TO

CORNWALL HERITAGE TRUST

ON ITS

25TH ANNIVERSARY

From the archives we can find a record of “the first regular meeting of prospective trustees held on 19 November 1983.” These were the founding members of the proposed new trust – Cornwall Heritage Trust – to be set up “due to mounting concern in recent times throughout the length and breadth of Cornwall of the almost casual way in which the County’s treasures have been disposed of.”

Much work had been done before 1983, and much more was to follow over the next two years until on Friday 26 April 1985 the Cornwall Heritage Trust was launched to the general public. It was incorporated as a private limited company and registered as a charity.

Today – 25 years after it was launched, Cornwall Heritage Trust continues to grow and expand in its role helping to safeguard the heritage of Cornwall, working with other organisations active in the heritage sector, and helping to educate the public, but in particular the young people of Cornwall to understand and appreciate the importance of their heritage.

From The Archives

Friday 26 April 1985 – Cornwall Heritage Trust is launched.

Western Morning News



*the first meeting of the newly formed Cornwall Heritage Trust in November 1984 – prior to the launch in '85
The High Sheriff, Mr Robert Lyle, The Bishop of Truro, the Rt Rev. Peter Munford, Lord St Levan, Mrs June Lander, The Hon. Robert Eliot (Chairman), Mr James Penrose and Major Tony Hibbert*

Protecting Cornwall's Heritage by James Mildren

The strain of keeping together the accumulation of treasures in a stately home is difficult enough in these times; preserving the patrimony of a country like Cornwall might be thought perfectly impossible.

But a newly-launched group which laments the loss and damage to Cornwall's heritage is determined to stop the rot.

The Cornwall Heritage Trust, backed by an imposing list of Patrons, and supported by banks, businesses and Cornwall County Council, has launched itself into the battle to protect Kernow from further predation.

Far from being rivals to like organisations whose aims might be seen to move in the same general directions, the new body clearly intends to make itself an indispensable ally. And to add punch to patriotic favour, it will shortly appeal to the Cornish to dip generously into their pockets to provide a substantial cash sum to protect a unique heritage.

There has been mounting concern in recent times throughout the length and breadth of

Cornwall of the almost casual way in which the County's treasures have been disposed of. The Heritage Trust cites the concern over Land's End and Lamorna Cove: the sale of the Newlyn School paintings from Penzance: the fate of such buildings as Stuart House in Liskeard and the deterioration of Truro's Old Mansion House.

Deplorable though many Cornish people may think certain changes may be, there has been up to the present, no single Cornish based organisation with the financial resources to provide an effective answer in a free market economy. But the Cornwall Heritage Trust is determined to change that. Trust organiser, Mr Bill Gregory-Meakin, of Kernock House, Pillaton, said: "We have got to be ready when a situation, an emergency, blows up, and we all know only too well how quickly they can occur. We must be ready to act if places of natural beauty or important buildings are threatened, or when there is a risk that some valuable document, historic picture or piece of furniture might be sold and removed from Cornwall."

The Trust already has the blessing of both the Cornish Assembly – from which it may be said to have sprung into existence – and Cornwall County Council, which has donated £5000 and offered a further £25,000 as a revolving fund.

Heritage Champion 2009

It was the proposal to sell off Lamorna Cove, said Trust Secretary, Mr J G Menhinick, which spurred the Cornish Assembly, of which he was then a member, to action. But its radio appeal fell far short of the target required, and it was then that the Assembly recognised the need to take a long-term look into what Cornwall needed if it was to adequately protect its heritage.

Mr Menhinick sent out letters to people he thought might be interested in such a plan and suggested to a subsequent meeting that they should concern themselves with two pertinent questions – was such an idea viable and, if so, should they set up a charitable trust?

He was agreeably surprised – and rewarded for long hours of work and study – to find that the meeting decided upon a positive answer to both questions. Support, moral and financial, has come from other bodies such as the Federation of Old Cornwall Societies, the Cornwall Buildings Preservation Trust, the National Trust, Lloyds Bank, the National Westminster Bank, Television South West and Ranco Controls.

“I cannot emphasise the importance of the Heritage Trust for the people of Cornwall,” said Mr Menhinick. “We have come into being for them, for their heritage. We really have lost so much these past 50 years. Enough is enough. We now want to try to stop further losses.”

The mining depression of a hundred years ago scattered Cousin Jacks over the face of the earth. Yet each, it seemed – as history itself has been an able witness – took with them an unforgettable picture of their homeland stored firmly in their memory.

Cornwall is, to this day, written in the margin of the lives of those who have never witnessed her green and silver magic. Grand Bard of the Cornish Gorsedd, Mr Hugh Miners, will be distributing appeal leaflets to the exiles in Canada and Australia on his travels shortly.

The Hon. Robert Eliot, chairman of the Cornwall Heritage Trust, asks through that appeal: “Can we afford to stand aside any longer and allow Cornwall’s heritage to disappear before our very eyes?”

(report ends)

In the winter edition of the **TORCH** magazine, the journal of the RAEC and ETS Branch Association and the Educational and Training Services (Army) there is a section about Honours and Awards. Featured is the following article:

“Maj (Retd) J A Cuthill

Congratulations to Maj John Cuthill on receiving the Sir Richard Trant Memorial Award – Heritage Champion 2009 from the Cornwall Heritage Trust. John received the award in recognition of his service as Chairman (and member for 50 years) of the Newquay Rowing Club, his passion for Cornwall and the sea, and his commitment to the Club which takes an active part in the Cornish gig racing calendar, maintaining three pilot gigs built in the 19th century.

It will no doubt be recalled that General Sir Richard Trant was closely connected to the RAEC, having been Colonel Commandant of the Corps from 1979 to 1986. After a long career in the Army, Sir Richard, himself a Cornishman, dedicated the rest of his life in helping to secure and promote Cornwall’s heritage. After his untimely death in October 2007, the Trust decided to set up an award in celebration of his life by honouring others in the same way.

John Cuthill was commissioned in 1959 and retired from the Corps after 17 years’ service in the Army. How memorable it should be that the first recipient of the Heritage Award should be a former RAEC officer – a fact which undoubtedly would have made Sir Richard proud.

The Pilot Gigs of Newquay Rowing Club

In the year 1812, Napoleon’s guns boomed and blasted around the beleaguered city of Moscow; in the same year, in a Cornish boatyard on the other side of the world, a remarkable vessel was being lovingly fashioned from Cornish elm. Napoleon’s guns have long since fallen silent and returned to dust, the vessel *Newquay*, continues today in active use at Newquay Rowing Club.”

- ❖ More recently a very generous donation of £10,000 has been made to Cornwall Heritage Trust by a very close friend in memory of Sir Richard Trant; the Trustees are considering suitable projects to make a lasting tribute in memory of Sir Richard.

Details for the 2010 Competition on p 10

In 2010 the Trust has an exciting and dynamic Outreach Education Programme

The Education Programme

For the past three years the Trust has been actively developing its education outreach programme, which involves both the production of teaching resources but also the leading of activities for schools at Trust sites.

This has been made possible mainly because, as an Advanced Skills Teacher, the government pays my salary for one day a week to work with other schools and bodies involved in education and much of this time is devoted to the work of the Trust. I have as a result been able to work with a number of newly-qualified teachers across the county to develop teaching materials for the sites that the Trust owns and manages.

In addition, the Trust was fortunate two years ago to receive a significant donation (£50,000) from the **Piet Mendels Foundation**, to fund aspects of this work. This money is used to pay for teacher release from schools, travel costs of school groups visiting our sites and for other educational resources to support the education programme.

Finally, the Trust has received generous financial help from **The Tanner Trust**, again specifically to support school visits to Trust sites.

Teaching resources: Treffry Viaduct and Carn Euny

The aim of the programme when it started was to produce packs of education resources for primary and secondary schools, that would be available to teachers free of charge by downloading files from the Trust website. The first two sets of materials, on the Treffry Viaduct and Carn Euny, were published in late 2008 and have been used by a number of schools visiting the sites. These teaching packs are simple pdf files, easy to download, print and adapt to individual school's needs. They include activities based on as wide a range of subjects as possible.

History, Geography, Environmental Science, Creative Writing, Drama, Maths, Design Technology, Art and Science are subjects which the education packs currently support. For example, students from Penryn College have measured the height of the Treffry Viaduct using trigonometry skills; they have mapped Carn Euny using measuring and surveying skills; they have made television news programmes at both sites, explored the ecological diversity of the Luxulyan Valley and written creatively about the fougou at Carn Euny. Maths students from Mounts Bay School have experimented with waterwheel design, using the Treffry Viaduct leat system as inspiration and as a source of power.



Carn Euny Courtyard House Settlement

These materials continue to be used by schools successfully and will form the basis for more work with schools in the coming year. However, as the Trust website is redeveloped, so the existing materials will be adapted to the more flexible and interactive mode of access which a redeveloped website will offer. Similarly, as the National Curriculum loosens its stranglehold on what is taught in schools, and primary schools explore knowledge and skills increasingly through multi-disciplinary project/topic based approaches, so the materials will be reviewed and re-represented in suitable formats. The Trust has already engaged primary education specialists to help in this work.

Teaching resources: The Hurlers

Through its guardianship of the Hurlers Stone Circles at Minions on Bodmin Moor, the Trust became involved in the Caradon Hill Projects

education work in 2008. This initially abortive venture has been revived in 2010 and we should see further developments over the next few months.

Part of our initial involvement was to develop education resources for the Hurlers. This was done through an innovative archaeology project with Year 5 and 6 classes at St Cleer Primary School in 2009. Two school-based afternoons of archaeological inquiry were followed-up by two visits to the Hurlers and two more school-based sessions. Although curtailed prematurely by the swine-flu scare, this project was highly successful, very engaging and established a model of good practice through which a primary school, the Advanced Skills Teacher initiative and the Trust's education programme could work together to provide high-quality learning experiences for Cornish school children. The Trust is actively seeking more opportunities for similar projects with other primary and secondary schools.



The Hurlers

Teaching resources: Carwynnen Quoit

Though not a CHT site, Carwynnen Quoit near Troon, Camborne, has also received our attention in the past twelve months. The CHT made a donation of £2000 and underwrote the purchase by the Sustainable Trust of the Quoit (a collapsed neolithic burial chamber) and, as a donation in kind to help unlock government money, provided my time to write a pack of education materials on the quoit and the people who built it. This is available on both the Sustainable Trust and the CHT website.

As the programme for the re-erection of the quoit moves forward so the CHT will become involved both in the writing of more

materials but more importantly in working at the site with school children in the process of the quoit being rebuilt. This looks like happening in 2013. In addition, the Trust is able, through its Chairman, to offer ideas, support, expertise and contacts to the Sustainable Trust in its re-erection plans; a project of truly international significance.

Such collaboration at all levels is a good example on which to base future CHT work: the Trust's time, financial resources and skills being used to support Cornish heritage projects in a generous, flexible and enthusiastic manner.

Teaching resources: Castle an Dinas

The Trust has determined that Castle an Dinas, "the jewel in our crown", is to be given such attention that it becomes the showpiece site in Cornwall in terms of presentation, access, interpretation and education. The education materials under development will be the best we can produce, matching the status of the site.

With this in mind the education team has been strengthened by the appointment of two new trustees. Our starting point was a set of materials largely drawn from the Carn Euny work pack and as a result of our critical review a robust set of criteria for the approach to be adopted now exists:

- Whether the visitor to the site is 8 or 80, all must have equal access to high quality interpretive and educational resources, so plans for on-site signage, interpretation boards and interpretive models of the site on site will be developed hand-in-hand with the education materials so that there is a commonality of purpose, design and message.
- The site is to be extensively surveyed this year. The whole education/ presentation/ interpretation package for the site needs to be informed by this survey.
- The focus of the education pack will be on the Iron Age fort, though the site's existence and use through preceding and subsequent periods will be reflected in some activities.

- The Chairman is adamant that landscapes do not become “fossilised” and the phases of the site’s use by humankind must be reflected in the materials we produce. However, the site’s mining heritage, though fascinating and of national importance, is difficult to use without access to the mine building remains, which are no longer CHT property. As the Chairman stated during a recent visit to the site, “if you want to do (*study*) Cornish mining you wouldn't do it here”. We acknowledge that many people from across the world visit the site because of the mine (which is unique) not because of the hillfort (which is not), but the site offers limited educational value to school students of Cornwall’s mining heritage.

Similarly the sites links to Arthurian legend and later to the English Civil War in Cornwall are tenuous, interesting perhaps as vehicles for creative writing or role-play but not of great teaching value *on site*. They will form part of the education materials but will not constitute a core focus.



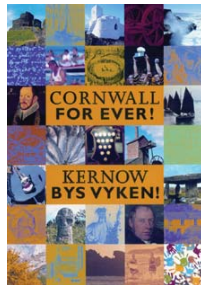
Castle-an-Dinas from the air showing the ditches and ramparts – the ‘Rings’

- On site activities will focus largely on the Iron Age.
 - **History:** the entrance to the fort offers scope for "reconstruction" activities; the banks and ditches offer insights into planning and social structure, as well as reflecting the importance of the need for protection and defence, which offers scope for some activities. The lack of hut circles inside the fort makes exploration of population, lifestyle and architecture harder but not insurmountable. The fact that the Trust owns land next to the fort but not part of the protected area creates scope for some recreative work to accompany a visit: cooking, weaving, dyeing, problem-solving exercises (e.g. building a shelter) could all happen just off-site, in a way that is not possible at Carn Euny. It may be that the site is used more as an open air classroom than as an education resource in its own right, since what it offers is somewhat limited. *This could mean students studying aspects of the history of the Iron Age in an Iron Age setting but not necessarily solely using the extant remains as a source or stimulus.*
 - **Geography:** will focus on landscape, environmental impact of industry, pollution, communication and change.
 - **English:** there is great scope for using the site as a stimulus for creative writing.
 - **Mathematics:** not as much scope as at Carn Euny (fewer extant feature, for example, to map) but the following and more are possible: mapping, estimating, measuring, calculating areas, calculating numbers who could live there, investigating slopes, quantities of materials moved, people-power required for the tasks
 - **Environmental Science:** an historical focus on land use then and now, the changes to the environment and what has caused this, environmental issues (visual pollution, pollution due to extractive industries, air pollution etc.) can all be addressed at the site. Simple work on bio-diversity and food chains is possible (q.v. Treffry Viaduct materials)
 - **Drama** is possible at the site (several natural amphitheatres offer themselves here) as a vehicle for the exploration of other subjects or for Drama itself.
 - **Citizenship** Proposed activities drawn from the Carn Euny pack (the site is to be flattened by a new road or, and much better, the mine is to be re-opened) offer tremendous scope for exploring the nature of democracy, planning processes, stewardship, the “heritage industry” and even such thorny questions as “whose History is it anyway” and how should such sites be treated now and in the future.

- **Business Studies/Design Technology /Heritage studies** could usefully be addressed through the devices of designing a visitor centre/ leaflets/ souvenirs/display boards for the site. These activities have worked very well with both the Treffry Viaduct and Carn Euny sites, in particular (interestingly) as a way of encouraging boys' writing.

A new website

From an education perspective the **CHT website has to be the focus attention this year**. The current site is very dated and at the moment only permits the download of simple pdf files. It needs to become much more interactive and flexible, an access point for **information, sources, images, teaching materials, information and opinion by people of all ages**. It could and should be developed as a hub that links to related sites, acting as a primary route into Cornwall's Heritage and History. It might develop a forum function through which people including visitors to our sites communicate, record and discuss their ideas and concerns; it could include an area on which visitors to the site can post their photographs. This interactivity could be a powerful tool in our protection and advocacy work.



Cornwall For Ever! Kernow Bys Vyken!

All of the education materials will eventually be presented via the **revamped website**, through a menu of choices (**Background Material, PhotoPack, Teaching Materials for Key Stages One and Two, Teaching Materials for Key Stage Three**). Under the latter two there will be further menu choices **including: Topic Frameworks, History, Geography, English, Mathematics, Environmental Science, Drama and Citizenship etc.**

The section **Background Material** will contain more generic information about the History of Cornwall as it relates to the sites accessed through an interactive timeline of Cornish history. Material on **Life in the Iron Age** will be placed there, linking both to Carn Euny and Castle an Dinas and similar materials will be prepared on **Cornwall and the English Civil War** (linked to Castle and Dinas). **Victorian Cornwall** (linked to Treffry Viaduct) and so on. The Chairman's has suggested a digitised version of **Kernow Bys Vyken** to come to fruition; this would be an obvious home for that work.

The newly revamped CHT website should also become a **hub** for links to other useful sites: English Heritage, Cornwall Council, Trevithick Society, World Heritage Site and other Trusts, newspapers, societies and resource banks that offer materials related to the sites we manage and own.

Publicity for the education programme

We will offer teacher in-service training on the use of our sites with schoolchildren. We will link the launch of the teaching materials to events at the site which are well publicised and highly **"incentivised"**. We will continue to have a presence at training events for Cornish teachers and seek other avenues for advertising and promotion. This may even include the publication of hard copies of teaching resources, sent free to schools.

John Welham
Vice Chairman and Education Trustee. March 2010

A TRUSTEE OF PROPERTY

In our 25th anniversary year it is perhaps a good time to bring you up to date with what we do and how we go about it with regard to the properties that we maintain for English Heritage and those that are owned by the Trust. I, as the Property Coordinator Trustee, am responsible to the Executive Committee for the overall management and maintenance of all these sites. I took over from Dr Mike Ripley in June 2008 as I was coming to the end of seven years of my retirement learning to organise Yacht racing and Sailing Regattas for the Royal Fowey Yacht Club. It was a rather steep learning curve as I have no experience whatsoever of Archaeology, Geology or Flora and Fauna all of which I have found would have been very useful to me. However in 2009 I was joined by another Trustee, Gerry Brain, who has since filled that gap of knowledge and between us the task of maintaining and improving the CHT sites is moving ahead.

The properties that we maintain for English Heritage are Dupath Well House, The Hurlers, King Doniert's Stone, Trevechy Quoit, St Breock Downs Monolith, Tregiffian Burial Chamber and Carn Euny. These sites are maintained by Wardens appointed by the Executive Committee and paid through contracts negotiated by Cornwall Heritage Trust with English Heritage. There is an Annual Monitoring Meeting carried out by English Heritage where we meet up in the Penzance area at Tregiffian Burial Chamber and Carn Euny which are both located there. It takes the best part of a day to cover all the sites and we finish up at Dupath Well House which is situated on a farm near Callington.



Trethevy Quoit

With all the English Heritage sites it is the maintenance of the sites which is paramount. However with the sites owned by the Trust it is a different matter. With the exception of Trevanion Culverhouse, there is a lot of planning and work afoot and I will deal with each site separately.

Trevanion Culverhouse is a 12th century Dovecote which is situated on a new estate on the south side of Wadebridge. Last year work was completed to repair part of the roof structure and it is looked after by Dawn Hunn, one of our trustees and her husband Nick who live on the estate. It is a fascinating building which looks as though it could have been built yesterday as it is very well preserved.



Trevanion Culverhouse

Treffry Viaduct which the Trust bought in 1989 is a matter of concern because of the silting up of the aqueduct and subsequent leaks that have appeared over the years. Matters have now come to a head and English Heritage have given a grant for a survey to be carried out to assess the damage and subsequent repairs that will be needed to bring this structure back to a sound working condition. It is hoped that the survey will start in April. As well as being an important part of Cornish Mining History, the Viaduct is an important part of the Pons Mill Turbine Plant providing the water needed in the production of electricity to the National Grid. Cornwall Heritage Trust is in partnership with Cornwall Council and the Luxulyan Valley Partnership in a joint endeavour to repair the Viaduct and improve the whole of the Luxulyan Valley.



Treffry Viaduct

Sancreed Beacon is down towards Penzance and is a stretch of natural moorland with historical remains. Cornwall Heritage Trust has a ten year agreement with Natural England who give an annual grant towards the maintenance of the moorland. We are at present about to re-negotiate the agreement because it has become very apparent that the site is too big to continue with the present plan. I have drawn up a new draft Management Plan for the site and with the agreement of Natural England we hope to make the improvements this year.



Sancreed Beacon

Castle an Dinas is an Iron Age Celtic Fort probably built around the 2nd or 3rd century BC and is regarded as the Flagship of the Trust. Work has been going on since last year to improve the site generally and educationally and Tony Blackman and John Welham are heavily involved in producing artwork and text for new signs which will eventually be placed around the site. We are also hoping to buy a piece of land adjacent to the access road which will be used as a coach park for school visits etc.

Natural England has recently expressed an interest in providing financial assistance in the maintenance and improvements to the surrounding area and we hope to have that funding this year which bodes well for the future of the site.

I hope that in the next two years you will see a visible improvement to our sites which will, I hope, help to stimulate and generate a wider interest in the history and heritage of Cornwall.

Lt Col Philip Hills
Property Coordinator. March 2010

Issue 39 – Silvanus Tревail

My sincere apologies to Hazel Harradence for inadvertently miss-typing the name Silvanus by using a 'Y' in the title on page 2 of her splendid article. Also apologies to Mr Donald Rawe for the same error in his book review on page 6.

Sue Marriott

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Do You Know Where They Are?

Can anyone let me know the current address of :-

The Revd C J K Firth – formerly of Mylor Bridge
and

Mrs J M Roberts – formerly of Trevean Way in Newquay

Please ring the office on 01208 873039

or email info@cornwallheritagetrust.org

Nominations are now being invited for

Heritage Champion 2010

The Sir Richard Trant Memorial Award

Organisations working in any sector of Cornwall's Heritage are invited to recommend suitable candidates to be considered for this award.

Each recommendation should be accompanied by a profile of the individual and not more than 500 supporting words.

The award is open to all organisations in the heritage field from grass roots to County level.

The recommendation should be submitted under a senior officer's signature ratifying the endorsement by the organisation. Nominations will close 31 July 2010.

The Memorial Committee will consider all applications and the Heritage Champion will be presented with the award at the Trust's Annual General Meeting.

The award is a trophy and a cheque for £500 and carries with it the prestige of the name after which it is awarded.

Sir Richard Trant was a Cornishman of extraordinary talents, and after retiring from a glittering career in the Army, he returned to his beloved Cornwall and dedicated his remaining years helping to promote Cornwall's heritage both in Cornwall and much further afield. He was an inspirational Chairman of Cornwall Heritage Trust for 10 years and a leader in many county projects including Cornwall For Ever! – Kernow Bys Vyken! and the Victoria County History of Cornwall.

All nominations should be sent to: Mrs S Marriott, Administrative Secretary, Cornwall Heritage Trust, 16 Trewithan Parc, Lostwithiel, Cornwall PL22 0BD. Closing date 31 July 2010.
Tel No: 01208 873039