

## **History Working Party Report 2021 – 2022**

Members: Andy Trudgian; Sue Facey; (Charlestown History Group); Cllr Nick Foster; Cllr Richard Hallows; Cllr Trudy Reynolds.

The following is a summary of the work that the History Working Party has been busy with in the past 12 months.

### **Listings**

Two sites were submitted for listing, The Old Sunday School Room at Porthpean was not accepted but the Rashleigh Arms Car Park has been listed Grade 2. This is the last remaining extensive example of an ore floor in Charlestown, and it is good to see that its' historic importance has warranted additional protection.

Historic England has decided to review the listing of the Harbour as the current listing is outdated and vague. It needs to be updated to be far more specific in line with current listing expectations. It is currently being assessed.

### **South Polmear Mine**

The estimate from the Cornwall Archaeological Unit for a full survey of the surviving features at Polmear Mine is just under £5,000.00. The CHG has explored various funding options but raising the required funds is going to be very difficult. As such it has been decided that the site will initially be surveyed by volunteers.

### **The Battery**

The clearing of the Battery site has started with help from local resident volunteers. Ivy and other vegetation have been removed from the Battery wall and other areas, and a wild-flower area has been planted.

Following two successful planning applications work will continue to help save the site from further deterioration and to open up the area for more locals and visitors. The ongoing work involves some further tree felling, reinstating the flagpole and installing a replica cannon. The aim is to tie-in the re-opening of the site with the bicentenary of Rashleigh's death in March 2023. The CHG hopes to obtain National Lottery and other funding to help with this.

### **Other Projects**

The CHG has been working on a pilot Local Listing Project run by Cornwall Council. This will list local assets which are of historical importance to the village such as the water niches and the clay chutes and will work alongside the list of Locally Important Heritage Assets in the Neighbourhood Plan. It is not formal 'Listing' but would still have to be taken note of when Planning Applications are assessed.

The deterioration of the leat system continues to cause concern. Councillor James Mustoe is working with Cornwall Council to work out where any operational liabilities lie.

A presentation was given by the Cornwall AONB about their project 'A Monumental Improvement' and it is hoped that the Parish Council and HWP will be able to support this work at Black Head.

Future HWP projects will focus on an Information Board for Charlestown incorporating a QR code system. This will provide information to users and benefit their understanding of the village, the harbour and the changing industries through Charlestown's history. We have also begun to develop the idea of creating walking booklets for walks around the parish.

Finally, we are looking for a volunteer to join the group from Duporth, Porthpean or Trenarren to increase representation of those areas. Please contact the clerk for further information.

Cllr Nick Foster, St Austell Bay Parish Council