



The Newlyn Archive

Review 2015-2016

The archive went from strength to strength in 2015. We opened every Friday morning, except for public holidays in the Mount's Bay room at Trinity Centre. Our fantastic Friends continued to give their time to research, develop and catalogue the archive, and to help with the four Open Days which attracted a staggering 668 people, including local people, visitors, older members of the community and children.

By the end of 2015 there were 305 Friends of the Archive.

Each open day is unique, but we have some regular activities such as a display of photographs and material which tells the story of the topic of the open day. There is also a collection of display files to view which contain the archive collection on the subject of the Open Day. There is always a selection of wonderful old film footage for people to see and committee members are on hand to field enquiries, provide information and receive any information or artefacts people have to donate to the archive.

The Archive relies on the good will of its Friends who give their time to its many activities and provide material to update the collections. These collections cover the Newlyn, the West Cornwall Art and the Lamorna archives and are constantly growing.

The Archive also relies on the generosity of its sponsors to finance the Open Days and enable the purchase of materials to display and store the archive.

In 2015 we were most grateful to secure funds totalling £1040. These came from the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation (£600), the Lamorna Society (£100), Penzance Town Council (£240,) and Cornwall Council (£100).

Fund raising is also an important activity for committee members. Money-raising activities include the sale of second hand books at Open Days, organised by David and Diane Tredinnick and Andrew Gordon; Amanda Thompson's mouth-watering cake sales; the raffles run by Jean and Tom Lodge with prizes kindly donated by Friends of the Archive; and lectures given by Pam Lomax. In 2015 we raised almost £700!

Right: Diane Tredinnick talking to some likely customers for second-hand books. In 2015 this activity raised £123 for the archive.



Contact us at <newlynarchive@aol.com> or on 01736 364537

Love and Marriage in a Fishing Village Saturday February 7 2015



Left: Diane Donohue, our expert on family history, chatting with Friend of the Archive, Douglas Williams, whose family have a long history at Newlyn

With Valentine's Day approaching, the Open Day could not have been more appropriate, attracting 122 visitors. Focusing on Love and Marriage in a small fishing village, it delved into the romantic stories about how love survived during long periods of absence when fishermen were at sea. Fishing boats were named after wives, sons and daughters and had romantically ascribed names such as 'True Love' and 'Ben-my-Chree'.

Farming the Forgotten Trade Saturday April 11 2015

It is difficult to imagine that farming was once as important as fishing at Newlyn. In days long past, cattle made their way from Farmer's Meadow, through School Lane and the Fradgan and down the old slipway to the shore at Newlyn where there was enough grass for them to graze. Those with knowledge of the Cornish language will know that Fradgan means 'ox road' and Street-an-Nowan means 'street of the oxen'. Less well known is that the early artists who came to Newlyn whose paintings of fishermen are so well known also painted the countryside and the farms around. When Stanhope Forbes arrived, the Curnow family from Orchard House in the Fradgan owned orchards that stretched from the Fradgan to the Norrad Slip. Market gardening was an important occupation at Newlyn into the twentieth century, when gardeners like Charley North were often seen with their horses and wagons around the village delivering fruit and vegetables.

129 visitors attended this open day, including many local people with farming connections.

Right: Visitors at the Open Day included Mary Warren and Sally Corbett, both with family connections to farming. Mary and her brother John farmed Trembath Farm until recently.



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When the Quarry Guns Sounded **Saturday July 18 2015**

176 visitors attended this day, the largest number yet for a one-day open day. Local people remember the 'Quarry Guns' at 12 noon and 4.30 pm signalling that blasting was about to begin at Penlee Quarry. The people on Skilly beach made a run to the shelter when the siren sounded and saw stones fall into the sea

Right: Visitors to an Open Day captivated by the old film footage being shown.



Where the artists lived and painted **Friday and Saturday October 2-3 2015**

There were 105 visitors to the exhibition on Friday and a 117 visitors on Saturday. The exhibition told the story of the artists who came to Newlyn in the late nineteenth century and the movement of a large part of this colony to Lamorna before world war one. The exhibition focused on the houses in which the artists lived, some of them once the homes of the gentry and others simple fish cellars converted for the artist migrants.

Below: On Friday pupils from Newlyn School had a quiz organised by Friend of the Archive Margaret Follows This involved some serious searching of the display folders and interrogation of the display boards. The children were also able to help create a 'tissue' stained glass window with reference to some of the Newlyn School paintings suggesting 'hope'.



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The photograph shows Margaret Follows, Sue Hampshire (Chair of CAHG), Anne Forrest and Julia Nash (Friend of the Archive) at the presentation of the award for Inspiration to the Newlyn Archive on July 15 2015.

Most Inspirational Archive and Heritage Group of 2014

2015 was a special year because the Community Archive & Heritage Group gave an award to the Newlyn Archive for being the 'Most Inspirational Archive and Heritage Group of 2014'.



The award celebrated the Friday morning openings at Trinity Centre where visitors share information, donate material or consult the archive; the website <http://newlynarchive.org.uk/> which encourages information to be exchanged by email, letter or telephone so that the resources of the archive are shared with the widest community possible; the books on local history themes that are periodically published by the archive; the popular Open Days held 4 or 5 times each year when one might see Ann Pilcher helped by Judith Porter and Ruth Simpson on the door; Jean Lodge running the raffle, Andrew Gordon selling second hand books, Diane Donohue helping with family research, Denny Harvey showing amazing film footage, Pam Lomax sorting out archive queries, David Tredinnick, Linda Holmes, Tom Lodge and Ron Hogg helping visitors around the space and secretary Amanda Thompson organising the day.

Two of our committee members from further afield went to London to pick up the award. Anne Forrest made the presentation for the Newlyn Archive which included a slide show; as chairperson of the Lamorna Society, she has been closely involved with the integration of their archive with the Newlyn Archive and has personally been responsible for new research and bringing new material (and new Friends) into the archive.

Supporting Anne was Margaret Follows who is the Newlyn Archive's link person with Newlyn School and Julia Nash.

The award was presented for the work done for the Open Day 'When Newlyners Walked to Lamorna'



Winner of the 'Most Inspirational'
Community Archive and Heritage Group of 2014

The Newlyn Archive

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Sue Hampson', written over a horizontal line.

Sue Hampson
Chair, Community Archives and Heritage Group
July 2015

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