



Perran-ar-worthal Local History Group

People & Places that make Local History.

Carole Vivian, Chair of the Cornwall Association of Local Historians, gave a very interesting talk to the Perranarworthal Local History Group at their February meeting.

She has extensively researched her local area focusing in particular on Trelawne House & the surrounding area. Built circa 1450 it became the home of the Trelawney family.

Carole's explained how she used different research archives to find her information. Old maps showed changes made to the property, including the Trelawney "modernisations" of the gardens, replacing the Elizabethan formal gardens to provide a more open landscape with carefully planted clumps of trees. Some of these trees can still be seen today as can a sunken lane that allowed farmstock to be moved, out of sight of the family.

Examination of old properties can show intriguing finds. Carole showed the group examples of "Baltic Timber Marks" (relating to when the timber was felled or the importer) & ritual burn marks on lintels & "daisy wheel" (thought to protect against fires or witchcraft).

Old photos are another valuable source showing evidence of alterations & additions to a property.

Carole urged researchers to keep their eyes open, sometimes artefacts are still lying about, remember you should report any find to the landowner and an appropriate archaeologist.

Lakes Parochial History is a useful Pre-Victorian source, also Tithe maps, census returns, letters & diaries. Compare different copies of the Tithe maps as these can often contain different information. Other sources are newspapers,

medical & sanitary reports & books on vernacular architecture. Sometimes it is necessary to research outside your own area. Carole had found that some children from the Trelawney family were christened in Cheshire which led her to that area.

The Cornwall Association of Local Historians has an excellent website <http://calh.co.uk/index.php> with a comprehensive list of resources.

Carole bought many fascinating items for the group to browse after her talk.