

Grant gives locals chance to protect historic sites

By **JAMES BLADON**

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LOCAL people in Penwith have been given the opportunity to play a bigger role in protecting historic sites with the award of a new grant.

The money from the Cornwall Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Sustainable Development Fund to the Cornish Ancient Sites Protection Network (CASPN) is designed to encourage local management of access to 10 megalithic sites.

Thanks to the grant Boscawen-un stone circle, Tregeseal stone circle, Sancreed well, Madron Baptistry, Mulfra Courtyard House, Nine Maidens Barrows, Treen

circle, Treen barrows, Bosilack barrow and Boswens menhir will receive regular clear-ups of encroaching vegetation and rubbish from CASPN support group Friends of Cornwall's Ancient Sites (FOCAS).

Sites maintenance coordinator Dave Munday said: "These clear-ups are fun and all are welcome to come and help with this valuable work."

The group is also setting up a site monitoring scheme, Adopt-a-site, in which local people are being asked to keep an eye on up to 50 historic sites in the area.

CASPN has also been involved in installing discreet and environmentally-friendly signage on the footpaths to various sites, creating a web-

site with information on the sites and their meanings, and the design of a database so the use and misuse of the sites can be better monitored.

Project manager Cheryl Staffron, told *The Cornishman*: "All of this is designed to help create a better system of looking after and caring for these sites, most of which date back thousands of years and are some of west Penwith's most precious assets."

Anyone who would like more information should contact CASPN on PO Box 274, Penzance TR19 7WW, call 01736 787 186 or e-mail secretary@cornishancientsites.com.

Information is also available at www.cornishancientsites.com