

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

GRANT AWARDED TO CORNISH ANCIENT SITES PROTECTION NETWORK

17 August 2005

Members of the Cornish Ancient Sites Protection Network (CASPN) are celebrating after receiving a grant of £4800 by the *National Lottery's Awards For All* programme and *Penwith Community Development Trust*. The grant will allow the group to continue their work to protect and conserve the ancient sites of West Penwith.

CASPN is a registered trust established in 1997 consisting of representatives from a wide range of organisations with an interest in ancient sites, including Cornwall's Historic Environment Service, the National Trust, English Heritage, Cornwall Wildlife Trust, Madron Community Forum, and local alternative groups such as the Cornish Earth Mysteries Group, Pagan Moot and Meyn Mamvro.

CASPN secretary, Jennifer Gray said: "We are thrilled to get this grant. West Penwith has over a thousand ancient sites, one of the highest concentrations found in Europe, in a landscape that has changed very little since the Bronze Age. But these sites are always under pressure from people and the environment, and there's a lack of focus and co-ordination in their care. Most of the sites are in private ownership where financial constraints mean they are regarded as low priority, and many sites fall outside the direct responsibilities of official bodies such as English Heritage and the National Trust. We've worked hard with CASPN to develop our project and this money means we can continue to care for the sites and safeguard our local heritage for the future."

CASPN will use the grant to employ a part-time project development worker whose activities will include fundraising, education and outreach, and the management of a new membership scheme, called Friends of Cornwall's Ancient Sites (FOCAS). Members of FOCAS receive a regular newsletter keeping them informed of site activities, along with local contacts and free, guided walks with local archaeologists and researchers. Anyone interested in joining can contact FOCAS, 24 Queen St., St. Just, Penzance TR19 7SW Tel: 01736-335322 Email: raven@golowan.com

CASPN objectives are to clear the sites from vegetation, rubbish and debris; erect signage promoting their responsible use (don't change the site, let the site change you); maintain public access to and from the sites; educate and involve local communities; and liaise with landowners and official bodies to ensure coordination of activities. CASPN relies on a network of volunteers, many of whom provide specialist expertise and knowledge, along with hard labour and dedicated support.

Site clean-ups take place every month in the West Penwith area, and are organised by the Ancient Sites Maintenance Co-ordinator, Dave Munday. The next site clean-up is at Caer Bran at 2pm on Sunday 10th September and 16th October. Volunteers are always needed and tools will be provided. If you would like to come and help out please contact Dave on 01736-787230.

For Further Information

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