

Carn Brea Mining Society

News Sheet

Editorial – From the edge looking in

I joined Carn Brea Mining Society in 2013 and will always remember fondly the welcome received and support given by fellow members. There has been time to (try to) understand relationships between organisations and between individuals but not to develop loyalties or join cliques, hence the title.

Carn Brea Mining Society (CBMS) does not have the profile of the Trevithick Society but it is focussed on what matters to the membership and has strong local roots. We have excellent well attended meetings, stimulating newsletters and news sheets and, the jewel in the crown, our own mine. Our society continues to survive whilst other NAMHO member groups struggle. The clouds are on the horizon and they are not new; two are chosen, demographics and economics. The continual loss of local expertise with first-hand experience will make it progressively more difficult to obtain speakers. We may need to turn to professional lecturers and accept that they will expect to be remunerated. The membership is not in the flush of youth and (surprisingly) we do not seem to attract the younger generation. This does not bode well for the society in the long term. We have a good informal relationship with King Edward Mine Ltd. and are grateful for its practical support in our endeavours at Great Condrurrow,

and allowing us to use the lecture room and fledgling library, all free of charge.

The individuals who have feet in several camps have provided links to ensure the system does not fail and it may be argued that it is not broken so why fix it? It could fail however, primarily because King Edward Mine Ltd. will be subject to closer external financial scrutiny. CBMS would struggle to survive if it had to pay its way and I would expect the membership to decrease if the subscription was increased significantly.

So what are we to do, if anything? Increase membership? We advertise in a newspaper, on the radio and with monthly posters; we have a website and a Facebook page yet few guests seem to be tempted to attend as a result of these significant efforts. Should we formalise a relationship with King Edward Mine Ltd. to try to maintain the status quo? A recruitment drive? We can part the clouds and your committee will do whatever is necessary to ensure the survival of the society but would appreciate your input. The writer would be happy to receive emails but feels it would be best to have the debate in public by asking you to write to the new editor with a view to having your thoughts included in the next newsletter.

David Burkitt. Editor of the day

Life isn't about waiting for the storm to pass, it is learning to dance in the rain.

Titbits

Dr Keith Russ has kindly agreed to become the Editor of the news sheets and newsletter. Kindly forward your contribution to:- Keith.Russ@wum.com

Around one third of the membership have been prepared to share their email addresses with the committee. If you are prepared to do so, please forward to burkitt962@btinternet.com This will allow us to inform you of late changes. I can assure you that the address will not be forwarded to a third party.

What's on in the society?

20th September Keith Russ Mines of Cornwall and West Devon.

24th September 10 00. Great Condrurrow open morning. Please ring Jon Nurhonen on 01736850643 if you wish to attend.

18th October Bernard Ballard. Wheal Jane, now and the future.

15th November Steve Polglaze. When the sea ran red.

6th December Members Medley

All meetings are in the Lecture Room at King Edward Mine at 7:00p.m.

The next Newsletter is due to be published in early December 2016. The latest date for articles to the Editor is Saturday 18th November at the very latest.

(This is **your** Newsletter, so please send in a contribution.)

NAMHO Conference 2017

“Achievements and Challenges”

The meeting next year will be hosted by Wealden Cave and Mining Society and held from Friday 23rd to Monday 26th June 2017. Further information at www.nahmo2017.info

Conference report

Celebrating the Tinworking Landscape of Dartmoor in its European context.

Tavistock May 2016.

Being told “you would have really enjoyed it” is not helpful when you will not have another opportunity, but you would have! The lectures ranged from 12th Century to 20th Century, from academic to practical, from Penwith to Germany, Spain and the Czech republic. Should you visit the latter, the ancient Hieronymus Mine is a must!

(www.omks.cz/an/jeronym.html)

The highlight was the field trips to places such as Outcombe tin mill and beamworks (SX58016860),

Upper and Lower Merrivale (SX55197664), Vitifer

(SX682810) and Hexworthy (SX656708). Our guide was Tom

Greeves. His enthusiasm and knowledge combined with his ability to share it ensured the visits were well received. Tom has

written extensively on the subject, his most recent book being

“Called Home – The Dartmoor tin miner 1860 – 1940: Photographs and Memory”. He co-organised

the meeting with Barry Gamble to celebrate the 25th Anniversary of the Dartmoor Tinworking

Research Group (www.dtrg.org.uk).

Anyone interested in exploring this fascinating area can contact me and I can show you the conference booklet which contains excellent field notes and photographs.

David Burkitt

Help wanted – intellectual only!

If any members are able to provide any information as to the likely source of the engine that was purchased by Lincoln waterworks in the 1847/8 period from any records that they may have, I would be most grateful.

It was manufactured by Hayle's foundry in 1836 generating some 33 horsepower. This was the original compound engine made on the Sims' principle and had two cylinders, 25 and 50 inches, the stroke being 8 feet. The plunger pump was 12 inches in diameter and had a stroke of 7 feet. The engine was purchased from a Cornish tin mine by the Lincoln waterworks.

The manager of the waterworks was Henry Teague, born in Redruth and brother of William, mentioned in the article on the sale of shares in Tincroft (Newsletter 76). It was obviously the link between the Teague brothers and the need for someone to operate the beam engine that resulted in my great great grandfather John Gonian Varker, who had previously operated the engine at Wheal Prosper, moving to Lincoln. Any information or helpful suggestions would be appreciated.

David J Froggatt
Lincoln

(Responses to David Burkitt, please)

From Botallack to Broadway

'Botallack O'Clock' is a funny and thought provoking journey/play through the creative mind of Roger Hilton. Hilton moved to Botallack Village in 1965 where he painted, but he was addicted to alcohol and his life deteriorated and he died in 1975. The play is written by Eddie Elks and Roger is played by actor Dan Frost. Elks wrote the play while staying in Cornwall and immersing himself in the Cornish countryside. The play had its premiere in 2011 and was short listed for 'Time Out Fringe Show of the Year'. It played in the UK and transferred to Broadway. It has recently played at 'The Old Red Lion' Theatre, London.

Lawrence Holmes

Exodus

West Briton 17th May 1867

During the last 12 months, Cornish miners to the number of 7,380 have left the county. 1,155 of whom have settled in America, 670 in Australia and New Zealand, 450 in California, while the iron mines of Scotland and the coal and iron mines of the North of England have absorbed 1,090; 1,300 have left the district of Redruth and Camborne; 880 the districts of Gwennap, Stithians, Illogan and Phillack; 1,590 the districts of Lelant and St. Just; 80 the district of Wendron and Sithney; 205 the district of St. Agnes and Perran; 200 the district of St. Austell; and 1,200 the districts of Liskeard and Callington. The returns from other districts are not so correctly ascertained, but must fall little short of 2,000.

“Field” trip to Royal Cornwall Museum 9th April 2016

Proof of attendance! Thanks to Sara Chambers and Sarah Lloyd-Durrant. It was fascinating, informative and fun!



The fledgling library

The society is very grateful to its members who have contributed mine plans, maps, books, journals and personal research. I have a spreadsheet of many of the items and with the help of Barbara Tripp, have longhand lists of the library's previous contents. The challenge now is to find a way to preserve safely the items and to be able to find them on request! At present, it is not possible to store objects or geological collections without additional space but as Peter Harris has suggested, this should be our longer term aim.

David Burkitt