



August 2020 News sheet

Coronavirus Edition

Your committee is thinking of you! We met 11th August to discuss the challenges of running a meeting and have agreed that we will, provisionally, run the Members Medley in the Survey Office itself on 8th December. Social distancing, face masks and a cushion are mandatory. There will be a further committee meeting on 6th October and this will inform the newsletter to be published in early November.

There will be no 2020 AGM; 2021 AGM will be a combination of the two. The committee has supported the appointment of Derek Stonley as Vice Chair and Tony Brooks has agreed to chair for an additional year.

The Society's balance is similar to last year at £3605 however this will be improved when the remaining 40 members pay their subscriptions to Jon Nurhonen! See separate panel.

David Burkitt

Provisional programme

Members Medley 8th December

National Explosives Works at Upton Towans 1887 to 1920
Jean Charman 19th January

Unseen mining photographs
Tony Brooks 16th February

Industries of the St Austell Granite
Ivor Bowditch 16th March

Tin and Copper on the Godolphin Estate. Steve Polglase. 20th April

Followed by a field trip; date to be confirmed.

RASHLEIGH COLLECTION UPDATE.

Despite lockdown and the impact of COVID 19, the Royal Cornwall Museum will be re-opening in September 2020 following completion of the extensive repairs to the roof. The new Director, Jonathan Morton, is now in post, and it has been announced that the Heritage Lottery Fund has awarded the Museum a match-funding endowment grant of £500,000, conditional on £500,000 being raised locally in donations by May 2021. The endowment campaign is ongoing, and if successful will resolve funding issues at least for a time.

The Rashleigh Collection remains in the same location, and efforts to achieve Designation Status for the mineral collections are continuing. However, it is unclear how a change in status will fit with the intended strategy of "re-booting" the Museum or what the Cornwall-wide public consultation process might be suggesting. Once the Museum is open again, it should be possible to gain a clearer understanding of what the future of the mineral collections might be.

Derek Stonley



www.carnbreaminingsociety.org

The best place to keep in touch with the society as Roger will post news, especially concerning changes to the programme. Additionally, there are 230 contributors to the Facebook page, mainly photographs. We hope that some will become society members!

30th June 2020 was the 46th Anniversary of the founding of our society. I am sure that Lawrence would have reminded us in person, given the chance!

Not too late to contribute!

Cornish mining world heritage site board are asking for comments on their draft management plan by 31st August. It may take you until then to read the eight sections and three appendices. They are especially interested in feedback on the policies on renewable energy and protecting biodiversity. See cornishmining.org.uk

Redmoor

No fresh activity has been reported. There is no ready access to establishing the financial condition of Cornwall Resources' parent company, Strategic Minerals.

Outstanding Subscriptions

To Jon Nurhonen, Pelistry,
8 Tolroy Road, St Erth Praze,
Hayle. TR27 6EZ

(please!)



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"A CORNISHMAN'S LETTER HOME" contributed by LRH

(Letter from James Jenkins of Truro, Cornwall, 1851. Printed in the Burra Record, 24 October 1890)

"After a long voyage we arrived at Adelaide on Tuesday July 29th 1851. When we got to the port, we found there was no such call for miners as was reported at home. A great number have left this place to go to the Sydney gold-fields and were it not so, I believe that hundreds would be out of employment and not have a day's work. I believe that our vessel was almost the first to come into port (i.e. following the first news of gold) and I do not know that we should have been wanted had it not been for the gold in Sydney.

Many who came out with us wish they never saw the place. When people come out to Australia, they have no depot to go to and blessed is the man who has plenty of money or a friend to go to when he lands. We were allowed to stop 14 days at the port but we went off to the city 8 miles off. The miners took houses for their wives and children and started off for the Burra Mines, 100 miles from the city. Those who have the money ride up and those who have none are obliged to walk.

In walking the 100 miles through the bush there are many things to see which cannot be seen in England. Parrots, cockatoos and trees that cast their bark instead of the leaf. The heart of the tree rots before the outside and the bark is from half an inch to three-quarters of an inch thick. Many other things are curious. I believe that a man who had four or five hundred pounds and were to get out on a section he would do well, but if anyone comes out here, he must not think of going into a trade at once.

At the Burra Burra Mine are to be found shoemakers, tailors, painters etc. some working for the mines. The Burra is a very barren place, very little land cultivated but there are some lovely spots for farmers in the country. The natives are very quiet, they will not interrupt anyone. They came to our doors and looked for 'tuck-out' that is, something to eat. Miners' wages are 30/- per week, smith 6/6 per day, carpenter 7/- ditto, shoemaker 7/6 ditto.

PORT ADELAIDE, 1848

By 1848 Port Adelaide was no longer being called a 'dismal swamp'. Sailing ships now tied up at wharves. Many of the ships were bringing migrants and back loading with copper ore for the Swansea smelters in Wales".

(The above is an extract from the book 'Australia's Early Mining Era – South Australia 1841-1851')

Lithium

Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Local Enterprise Partnership has announced that the Government plans to invest in the construction of Europe's first geothermal lithium recovery pilot plant at United Downs.

This investment supports a £4m collaboration between Geothermal Engineering Ltd and Cornish Lithium.

The trial is of Direct Lithium Extraction technology, probably using nanofiltration rather than evaporation.

Cornish lithium has raised a further £826k for further exploration in both hard rock and geothermal waters. Forty-one shallow drill holes at Trelavour Downs are "highly encouraging" but there is no assay data from here or from the waters at United Downs.

Geothermal Engineering

Final testing is about to begin to prove that sufficient water can be pumped at the required temperature to supply the power plant. See their Twitter feed for more details.

Crofty

Strongbow has announced a 2km drilling programme to test the extension of the high-grade tin mineralisation beneath the No4 and No8 lodes. Drilling in the 1990's identified an average grade of 2.17% Sn over a 2.54m width. No new news on the underfunded dewatering programme.