

# Carn Brea Mining Society

## News Sheet

### 39<sup>th</sup> AGM

Tuesday 16th April 2013

This year's AGM will be held in the main Lecture Room at King Edward Mine at 7-00pm prompt. After the AGM there will be a showing of 'Special Mining Films' presented by George Wilson. These will include 'The Battle to save Wheal Jane' and the 'Shell Cornish Engine' film.

The Agenda for the evening is :-

1. Present/apologies for absence.
2. Minutes of the last AGM held on 17 April 2012 (available at the meeting).
3. Matters arising.
4. Chairman's Report.
5. Great Condurrow Mine Report.
6. Treasurer's Report.
7. Botallack Trust Report.
8. Election of Officers.
9. Election of Committee.
10. Any other business.
11. Date and venue of next AGM.  
(Proposed date 15 April 2014)
12. The meeting is closed.

**Note** :- If you require a copy of last year's Minutes beforehand, please apply to the Minute Secretary, Tony Rule, on Tel No 01326-561164.

The current committee is :-

Chairman	Lawrence Holmes
Vice Chairman	Kevin Baker
General Sec.	David Blight
Treasurer	Jon Nurhonen
Member Sec.	John Jenkin
Minute Sec.	Tony Rule
Prog. Coord.	Maureen Gilbert
	Lawrence Holmes
News Editor	Vacant

Although not on the committee, CBMS member Peter Benbow is appointed as Society Web Manager.

Lynne Nurhonen is not on the committee and is acting News Editor.

### General Committee (not more than 7 members) :-

Tony Brooks (Mine Manager), Frank Kneebone, David Maddock, Dan Dinneen, Ellie Dew.

### Election Procedure :-

Rule 11 of the Constitution states that normal service for an officer will be two years but may be extended with the agreement of the relevant post holder and at the discretion of the membership. An exception is the Vice Chairman who, after serving in that post, will offer him/her self for election as Chairman. Members of the general committee may serve for an unlimited time. Under Rule 11 Lawrence Holmes will be stepping down as Chairman and Kevin Baker will be elected as new Chairman. A new Vice Chairman will thus be required. Some other officers have served for more than two years but can continue with their agreement and at the discretion of the membership at the AGM. Most post holders have indicated that they are willing to serve for another year and offer themselves for re-election, but a new Programme Coordinator and a new Editor are required. Nominations are welcome for any post from ordinary members either before or at the meeting. There are vacancies on the general committee and members are urged to offer themselves in this capacity.

### Future Meetings

**19 March** "Great Condurrow Mine, Past, Present and Future" by Tony Brooks.

**23 March** (Society Members only) Saturday Field Trip to Great Condurrow. Meet at 10.00am at the mine.

**16 April** Society Annual General Meeting followed by a showing of special films from the Holman Archive presented by George Wilson

**14 May** 'Exploring for Economic Tin Deposits in the North St Austell

Granite Area' by Mark Thompson of Treliver minerals.

**18 May** Saturday Field Trip to Wheal Martyn, St Austell with talk by Colin Bristow on 'Mining and Streaming Tin at Carclaze and Happy Union Stream Workings'. Members only, who will be admitted free to Wheal Martyn. Talk at 11:00hrs, then lunch. Trip round Wheal Martyn in the afternoon.

**18 June** 'My Life in Mining' by Mike Shipp, former mining surveyor who worked in ironstone in the Midlands and also at Wheal Jane. Mike is a partner at Rosevale Mine.

**16 July** Field trip to explore the Industrial Archaeology of Hayle, Foundry End. Leader Georgina Schofield. Meet at 7.00pm in Foundry Car Park behind Lloyds Bank. OS Explorer 102 GR 558372.

**August** – No meeting.

**13 Sept** Friday joint meeting with and arranged by the Trevithick Society at 7-30pm. Talk on 'Jonathan Couch, Surgeon of Polperro' by Jeremy Rowett.

**All meetings are in the Lecture Room at King Edward Mine at 7- 00pm unless otherwise stated.** If in doubt, please consult the Society web site for contact details or additional meeting information.  
[www.carnbreainingsociety.co.uk](http://www.carnbreainingsociety.co.uk)

### Subscriptions

Subscriptions are due on 1 April 2013  
Single : £18.00  
Family : £25.00.  
Junior : Free

Current membership is 94. Please renew your membership as soon as possible and help to keep membership at this high level

### PREVIOUS MEETINGS

At the September meeting Peter Joseph gave an illustrated talk entitled 'Sark's Hope Mine' explaining the discovery, development and sociology of this unusual mine. Sark's Hope Mine is located on Little Sark,

which is part of the Channel Island of Sark. This mine worked from 1833 to 1845 and employed some 80 miners many of them Cornish. Mining for silver, lead and copper took place on Little Sark and there were several mines.

Steve Polglase explained the geology, development and working of the fascinating mines which occur in and around the Godolphin Estate at the October meeting. Godolphin Mine is one of the oldest Cornish Mines of which records exist. The mine sits in the great mining area north west of Tregonning Hill surrounded by other mines such as West Godolphin, Tindene and Great Work.

In November "The Slide Show on the Mines in the St Just Area" was cancelled and Vice Chairman Kevin Baker gave an interesting talk about the National Association of Mining History Organisations (NAMHO), of which he is a former chairman.

In December, 23 members were present for the Members Medley which was introduced by Vice Chairman, Kevin Baker.

The first item was entitled "Beneath the Smoke" and given by Frank Kneebone. The subject was about exploring the inner-most reaches of the flue of the boiler house at King Edward. Accompanied by a series of photos, theories were expressed as to how the boiler had been fitted and the flue used. It was estimated that this was the first time the inner part of the flue had been visited since 1938.

Next came an item about the Keweenaw Peninsula in Michigan, USA, presented by George Wilson. Unfortunately the Power Point presentation was not compatible to the KEM system and George, being the consummate professional, gave us an outline of the content. His daughter has been doing some archaeological research in the Keweenaw area, where a number of Cornish Miners emigrated in the nineteenth century and she had wanted to show a comparison with the remains there to those in Cornwall. This was a topic worthy of a longer exposition, so hopefully George can be persuaded to do it again.

Under the guises of a WORD SEARCH, Peter Benbow quizzed members on their knowledge of Smelters marks and names. This was

generally a light-hearted topic, with several references to High Tide mark at Bissoe. It seems that rising sea-levels were a problem even in ancient times.

The evening was rounded off by a comprehensive pictorial display of a Society trip to the Lee Moor china clay works in 2007 by Steve Barber. We were shown slides of the extraction process through dry mining and its subsequent refining process. This was another item worthy of a longer session, especially as production has now ceased.

Clive Benney, a noted historian on many aspects of the Cornish village of St Agnes, gave a talk on "The Harbour and the Ship Building of St Agnes" at the first meeting of 2013. As well as describing the history and development of St Agnes, he spoke about the impact of ship building on the village and local mines and mining activity and their relationship to the once busy harbour of St Agnes.

In February Allen Buckley, a noted mining historian who has researched and written a book about the mining around Chacewater, described the mining of ore in the Chacewater area. There were numerous early mines around Chacewater, but the two survivors were Killifreth and Wheal Busy. Allen described these mines up to closure in 1927.

## BOOK REVIEWS

### So Very Foolish

A History of the Wherry Mine, Penzance By Peter Joseph £4.99

Through the long history of the Cornish minerals industry, mining was undertaken in some remarkable locations but none was stranger than the Wherry Mine at Penzance. With its shafts some 200 yards offshore in Mounts Bay linked by a timber trestle to its machinery on dry land, the Wherry Mine resembled more a seaside pier than a working industrial site.

The unique nature of the workings meant that contemporary travellers in Cornwall took note of the Wherry Mine and some recorded their impressions, but curiously, until now there has been no attempt to record its full history.

## 'Mining Walks in Cornwall and West Devon'

by Peter Hancock

44 pages with many photos and route maps. Price £4.99.

This small 5 inches by 6 inches book contains ten walks through mining areas from Devon Great Consols, Great Flat Lode to Wheal Prosper and Rinsey. Most of the walks are about 4 to 5 miles long although one is 9 miles! Terrain, parking, refreshments and gradients are all defined and each walk is lavishly illustrated with small photos.

The book will easily fit into a pocket. This excellent book is available at KEM shop where members can get 20% discount. (Lawrence Holmes)

## OTHER MINING NEWS

### 1. Saturday 27th April 2013

Trevithick Day in Camborne.

10:15 Bal-maidens and Miners dance with almost 250 local school children taking part.

14:30 Trevithick's Dance

15:15 The Steam Parade

### 2. Sunday 28th April 2013

The annual open day at King Edward Mine. There will be free entry to the museum. Further information at [www.kingedwardmine.co.uk](http://www.kingedwardmine.co.uk)

### 3. 28th June to 1st July, 2013

#### NAMHO Conference

A three to four day conference is to be held at Aberystwyth University looking at the multiple legacies of historic mineral extraction with the opportunity for field visits to relevant mining sites in the Ceredigion uplands.

Members wishing to receive meeting reminders and a publicity poster by email, please send your email address to Tony Brooks at:

[t.pbrooks@talktalk.net](mailto:t.pbrooks@talktalk.net)

**The next Newsletter is due to be published in early June 2013. The latest date for information to the Editor is Saturday 18th May.**

This is your Newsletter, so please send in an article to the Editor

