

# Carn Brea Mining Society

## News Sheet

### 40<sup>th</sup> AGM

#### Tuesday 15th April 2014

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 special showing of BBC film 'The Levant Mine Disaster'. Kevin Baker will introduce this film and conduct a short discussion at the end.

The Agenda for the evening is :-

1. Present/apologies for absence.
2. Minutes of the last AGM held on 16th April 2013 (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
- (1) Constitution change - Maureen Gilbert has proposed that the number of committee meetings each year is cut from four to three.
11. Date and venue of next AGM. (Proposed date 21st April 2015)
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	Kevin Baker
Vice Chairman	Frank Kneebone
General Sec.	David Blight
Treasurer	Jon Nurhonen
Member Sec.	John Jenkin
Minute Sec.	Tony Rule
Prog. Coord.	Maureen Gilbert Lawrence Holmes

#### General Committee

(not more than 7 members) :-

Tony Brooks (Mine Manager), David Maddock, Dan Dinneen, Elly Dew.

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.

#### 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/herself for election as Chairman. Members of the general committee may serve for an unlimited time. Under Rule 11 both Kevin Baker and Frank Kneebone will be serving for another year. Many of the 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. All other post holders have indicated that they are willing to serve for another year and offer themselves for re-election. However, 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.

#### ANOTHER CROWST HUT CHRISTMAS



2013 saw the Condurrow regulars gather to enjoy their traditional Christmas get-together. A happy team enjoyed a selection of snacks washed down with mulled wine, whilst cheerful chatter flowed as easily as the wine.



Santa is to the left, just out of picture, in this second shot!

(Photos by Keith Rundle)

#### FUTURE MEETINGS

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)

**18 March** "Cornish Estuarine Sediments: Human Impact versus Natural Processes" by Duncan Pirrie  
**15 April** AGM at KEM followed by a showing of BBC film 'The Levant Mine Disaster'

**20 May** "Mines of the St Just Mining Area" by Geoff Treseder

**17 June** "History and technology of the mineral Shaking Tables" by Tony Clarke

**21 June** Saturday Field trip to the Luxulyan Valley. Leader Geof Purcell  
**15 July** Mineral Processing' by Nigel McDonald

#### Subscriptions

Subscriptions are due on 1 April '14.  
Single : £18.00

Family : £25.00.

Junior : Free

Current membership is 99.

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

#### NOTE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Members are reminded that Newsletters are compiled by our volunteer Editor. For this to be achieved WE must ALL take responsibility for providing the articles and news snippets needed

## PREVIOUS MEETINGS

At the September meeting (which was held jointly with the Trevithick Society), Jeremy Rowett gave an illustrated talk entitled "Jonathan Couch, Surgeon of Polperro". Jonathan Couch was born in 1789 at Polperro and worked as a surgeon in the hospitals at Guys and at St Thomas's in London. When he returned to Cornwall he became the village doctor and advisor. He was a great naturalist and an expert at local antiquaries, works, customs and remains. All of his sons became surgeons and one was the famous Richard Quiller Couch.

In October Hazel Harradence gave a talk entitled "The Luxulyan Valley and its Friends" in which she spoke about the history and remains of the valley. The Luxulyan Valley contains a major concentration of early 19th century industrial remains, and was designated as part of the World Heritage Site in 2006. Most of the industrial remains in the valley are the results of the endeavours of Joseph Treffry who owned Fowey Consols Copper Mine which was booming in the early 19th century. There are leats, a large water wheel, an inclined plane, tramway and an evocative Aqueduct across the valley for all to see.

The Friends of the Luxulyan Valley are involved in preservation and protection, and assist in the management and the promotion of education concerning all aspects of the valley.

In November Tony Brooks, a noted author on mining subjects in Cornwall and a Carn Brea Mining Society member for over 35 years, gave an illustrated talk entitled "Underground Mining Techniques in Cornwall." He explained various methods used in the extraction of metal ore in Cornwall.

As usual, the December meeting gave Members of the Society the opportunity to talk about their projects, research or other work of their choice.

The evening was introduced by vice chairman Frank Kneebone, who also gave the first talk entitled (H)Air Restorer(s). The 20 or so society members were given a brief pictorial diary of the restoration of a steam powered air compressor started in 2010 and now on display in the KEM winder house.

This was followed by Peter Benbow's "Sparks will fly between Camborne and Redruth," a brief history of the tramway that operated between the two towns from 1902 until 1927, which was accompanied by a series of "Then and now" photos.

After coffee and biscuits the evening was rounded off with Lawrence Holmes "Prologue", a nostalgic trip to Botallack and The Crowns with numerous examples of how pictures of the famous engine houses have been used to promote Cornwall.

At the January meeting John Potter (a Cornish Bard who has documented numerous aspects of Cornwall's industrial past and present, including mining, quarrying, fishing and farming) showed the DVD which he has recently produced capturing the story of Cornwall's varied mining history.

At the February meeting, Society member Peter Benbow gave a Power Point presentation entitled "The River Cober from Source to Sea." Peter Benbow, who has researched the area extensively, explained the mining, geology and other interesting aspects of the river valley. It is hoped that there will be a follow-up visit to the area in the summer.

## OBITUARY

Hugh Hollingworth, who died on the 17<sup>th</sup> January, was a member of the Society for many years, and served as a very active member of the society's general committee from 2000 to 2002. He contributed to the members medley evening, relating his experiences as a GP with miners affected by working in the local mines. Hugh came to Redruth in general practice in 1968 after a period spent as a medical missionary in Africa. Bishop Peter Stephens who conducted his funeral service remarked that Hugh had a real fascination with mining history, engineering and geology. Patients soon became aware of his interests and through their donations his consulting room became a mineral museum of rock samples and drill cores.

At the Service for Hugh's life held at Redruth Methodist Chapel, the Carn Brea Mining Society was represented by David Blight and Lawrence Holmes. (David Blight)

## BOOK REVIEW

### Devon Great Consols - A Mine of Mines

By R. J. Stewart 436 pp  
Softback £24.99, Hardback £42.99

Author Rick Stewart has been researching the mine's history for some years and has had access to a mass of new information and primary sources. As well as the staggering boom days of the nineteenth century, Devon Great Consols also covers the various reworkings of the site up to the 1970s. A full history of this enterprise has been long awaited and eagerly anticipated by mining enthusiasts who will not be disappointed.

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

### Friday 4<sup>th</sup> April 2014

19:30 at Devoran Village Hall  
Industrialisation and War (1800 - 1950) An illustrated talk by Nick Johnson (Former County Archaeologist) exploring the archaeology and history of Devoran and surrounding area.

Admission - Adults £6.00 / Students £4.00

### Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> April 2014

Trevithick Day in Camborne  
10:15 - Bal-maidens and Miners dance with local school children taking part.

14:30 - Trevithick's Dance

15:15 - The Steam Parade

### Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> April 2014

10:00 - The annual "Road Run" for the Steam Engines departs from the Carn Brea Leisure Centre

The annual open day at King Edward Mine. Further information at

[www.kingedwardmine.co.uk](http://www.kingedwardmine.co.uk)

### 25th-27th July 2014

NAMHO Conference

A two day conference is to be held at Bangor University examining some of the technologies involved in winning material from the ground, plus surface and underground field visits to relevant mining and quarrying sites in north-west Wales.

### Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> September 2014

The 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration of the formation of the Carn Brea Mining Society to be held at 19:00 at King Edward Mine. Further details to follow in the June Newsletter.

**The next Newsletter is due to be published in early June 2014. The latest date for articles to the Editor is Saturday 24th May.**

Visit the Society website on :-

[www.carnbreainingsociety.co.uk](http://www.carnbreainingsociety.co.uk)