

Carn Brea Mining Society

News Sheet

41st AGM

Tuesday 21st April 2015

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 an illustrated talk on 'Man Engines in Cornwall' by George Wilson.

The Agenda for the evening is :-

1. Present/apologies for absence.
2. Minutes of the last AGM held on 15th April 2014 (available at the meeting).
3. Matters arising.
4. Chairman's Report.
6. Treasurer's Report.
7. Botallack Trust Report.
8. Great Condurrow Mine Report.
9. Election of Officers.
10. Election of Committee.
11. Any other business.
12. Date and venue of next AGM.
(Proposed date 19th April 2016)
13. 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
News Editor	Vacant

Although not on the committee, CBMS member Roger Jelbert is appointed as Society Web Manager.

Lynne Nurhonen is not a member of CBMS but is acting News Editor.

General Committee

(Not more than 7 members) :-

Tony Brooks (Mine Manager), David Maddock, Peter Harris, David Burkitt.

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 Kevin Baker will be stepping down as Chairman and Frank Kneebone 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. 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.

PREVIOUS MEETINGS

In September, at the joint meeting with the Trevithick Society, there was a special showing of "Trounson Remembers," which was a collection of Jack Trounson's experiences with many Cornish mines over the years. (This talk had originally been given to CBMS in October 1984, when the whole talk had been videoed by Roger Moss.) Jack Trounson spent a lifetime in Cornish mining and was probably the greatest promoter of the Cornish mining industry in the twentieth century. Tony Brooks introduced the video and gave a short review of Jack's life.

Also in September there was the fortieth anniversary celebration of the formation of the Carn Brea Mining

Society. This was a very enjoyable evening and a report on the evening can be found in December 2014's Newsletter.

Kingsley Rickard gave an illustrated talk on "Harvey's of Hayle" at the October meeting, explaining the fascinating history of this great mining machinery enterprise. John Harvey, a Cornishman, started his career as a blacksmith and engineer near Hayle. In 1779 he established a foundry and engineering works at Hayle called Harvey & Co. By 1800 the company employed more than fifty people and continued to grow. Harvey & Co. built up a reputation for world class beam engines designed to pump water out of the deep Cornish tin and copper mines. At one time it was the main mining engine foundry in the world, with an international market served through their own port at Foundry, Hayle. Harvey's of Hayle reached their peak in the first half of the nineteenth century and then suffered a gradual and slow decline. The engineering works and foundry were closed in 1903, although the company continued to trade as a general and builder's merchant, eventually merging with UBM to become Harvey-UBM in 1969.

At the well attended November meeting Lincoln James gave an illustrated talk on "The human consequences of the Wheal Owles disaster." Cornwall's third worst mining disaster occurred at Wheal Owles on 10th January 1893 when a working level accidentally holed into water-filled workings of Old Wheal Drea and twenty miners were killed. Whilst working as manager at the St Just branch of Barclays Bank, Lincoln found the minute books of the disaster fund and used this as the basis for his research and subsequent talk. He has researched this incident from a number of different social and human aspects and he gave an in-depth account of the benefits received by the widows and survivors of the Wheal Owles disaster and the working of the

Disaster Committee and Fund and the administration involved.

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 "Man Power Still Rules." He gave a description of the Conrad Banks drill which was invented in the 1850s and is still being manufactured in Holland. It is used in prospecting operations where mechanical power is difficult to provide.

This was followed by a light-hearted illustrated talk by David Burkitt about his visit to Cligga Mine.

The third talk was by Tony Brooks who introduced his topic "The Great Rock Mine," which was followed by a short film, which some may have already seen on BBC's Inside Out.

The evening was completed by Peter Benbow with "Three Men in a Boat," a story of migrants from Cornwall to the New World.

The National Trust owns a considerable amount of land in the Penwith mining area and much valuable preservation work has been carried out on the mine sites which they own, including Botallack, Wheal Owles and Levant. Jon Brookes has been involved in these works for many years and at the January meeting he was able to give the Society an update of the varied work done by the Trust in the St Just area over the past twenty years.

In February Allen Buckley, gave a different talk from the advertised "Medieval Tin Bounds", instead he spoke about the "Myths and Misconceptions in Cornish Mining History". On certain occasions it would seem that historical facts have been misconstrued or exaggerated and attempts to correct them have been ignored. There is evidence to suggest that a number of facts have come from 'learned' sources and no real attempt was made to confirm their authenticity. So, the advice to budding authors is to research your data and if in doubt ask someone who **does know**.

Any members who have suggestions for future talks or field trips please contact a member of the committee

Subscriptions

Subscriptions are due on 1st April 2015.

Single : £18.00

Family : £25.00.

Junior : Free

Current membership is 100.

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

FUTURE MEETINGS

17 Mar 'Mines in the Newquay area" by Frank Kneebone

21 Apr AGM followed by an illustrated talk on 'Man Engines in Cornwall' by George Wilson.

19 May 'Devoran New Town – Mining and Industry 1750 – 1950' by Nick Johnson.

9 June CBMS Committee meeting at KEM at 7:00

16 Jun 'The Secret Army' by John Joliffe. The story of Churchill's Auxiliary Units in WW2, many of which had underground hideaways.

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



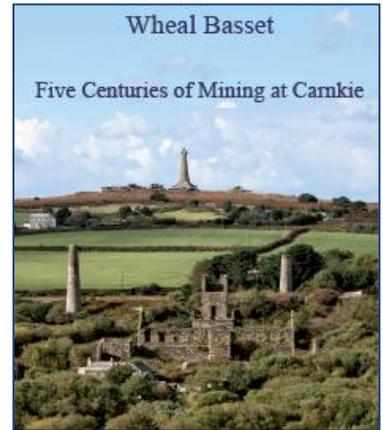
Minions Heritage Centre

The Minions Heritage Centre, within the Houseman's Shaft engine house at South Phoenix Mine, on the outskirts of Minions village on Bodmin Moor has recently reopened following a period of closure. Safety concerns regarding the engine house were first expressed around a year ago when the deterioration of a number of timber lintels was brought to the attention of Cornwall Council's Capital Projects team. Such was the condition of some of the structural timberwork that the building was subsequently closed on health and safety grounds pending repairs.

The centre interprets the history of the landscape from the Stone Age, through the eighteenth and nineteenth century mining to the present day, providing information to

the visitors to the area. The centre is a great introduction to the moor and the Caradon area of the World Heritage Site. The centre is open all year round and admission is free.

BOOK REVIEW



Wheal Basset: Five Centuries of Mining at Carnkie

by Allen Buckley
Softback, 192 pages, £14.99

Despite their significant place in the story of Cornish mining, the mines of the Great Flat Lode have never received the level of attention accorded to those situated north of Carn Brea. Mining historian Allen Buckley has now remedied a part of this omission in his most welcome coverage of the history Basset Mines. His book begins with fascinating insights into the earliest days of mining in the Carnkie area, progresses through the boom years of the nineteenth century, ending with the valiant struggle for survival of Basset Mines Limited, one of the largest mines ever to work in Cornwall, until its closure in 1918.

As well as a mass of historical information, the book also contains a gazetteer of surviving sites, which will be of great value to those who seek explore an area of industrial archaeology, the equal in interest to any in Cornwall. The Trevithick Society is delighted to publish this volume as part of its mission to cover the remaining gaps in Cornwall's mining history.

The next Newsletter is due to be published in early June 2015. The latest date for articles to the Editor is Saturday 16th May at the very latest.

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

Visit the Society website on :-
www.carnbreaminingsociety.org.uk