

Carn Brea Mining Society

News Sheet

42nd AGM

Tuesday 19th April 2016

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 talk by Tony Brooks on 'My Life in Mining'

The Agenda for the evening is :-

1. Present/apologies for absence.
2. Minutes of the last AGM held on 21-4-15 (available at the meeting).
3. Matters arising.
4. Chairman's Report.
6. Treasurer's Report.
7. Great Condurrow Mine Report.
8. Botallack Trust Report.
9. Election of Officers.
10. Election of Committee.
11. Any other business.
12. Date and venue of next AGM. (Proposed date 18th April 2017)
13. The meeting is closed.

Note :- If you require a copy of last year's Minutes beforehand, please apply to the Minutes Secretary, Peter Harris, on Tel No 01872-271217.

The current committee is :-

Chairman	Frank Kneebone
Vice Chairman	David Burkitt
General Sec.	David Blight
Treasurer	Jon Nurhonen
Member Sec.	John Jenkin
Minute Sec.	Peter Harris
Prog. Coord.	Maureen Gilbert Lawrence Holmes
News Editor	Vacant

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

General Committee (Not more than 7 members) :-

Tony Brooks (Mine Manager), Kevin Baker, Roger Jelbert (Web Manager)

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 both Frank

Kneebone and David Burkitt 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.

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.carnbreaminingsociety.org.uk

15 March 'Early Mining and development of Mineralogy' by Richard Edwards, former lecturer at CSM

9 April 10:00 to 12:00. Field trip to Royal Cornwall Museum, Truro. Numbers are limited. Members only. Kindly express an interest to David Burkitt by leaving a message on 01872 270292 or by sending an email to burkitt962@btinternet.com

19 April AGM followed by more 'My Life in Mining' by Tony Brooks

17 May Battle beneath the trenches – The Cornish Miners of 251 Tunnelling Company, Royal Engineers. A talk by Ken Johns

21 June 'The Wheal Vor Story' by Tony Bennett

19 July 'The East Wheal Rose Disaster of 1846' by Lawrence Holmes. (9th July 2016 is the 170th anniversary)

Subscriptions

Subscriptions are due on 1st April 2016.

Single : £18.00

Family : £25.00.

Junior : Free

Please renew your membership as soon as possible.

PAST MEETINGS

On Saturday 15 August, nine members of the Society travelled to the west Devon part of the Mining World Heritage Site for an interesting guided walk on the extensive area of mine working known as Devon Great Consols. The guide was Rick Stewart, a leading expert on the area and author of "Devon Great Consols - A Mine of Mines" which details the history of the richest copper sulphide mine complex in the Cornwall and West Devon metalliferous mining area. This visit followed his talk to the Society in July 2015.

Unfortunately the joint meeting with the Trevithick Society scheduled for September was cancelled. If you wish to be contacted about any last minute cancellations, could you please send your email address to David Blight at davepz@tiscali.co.uk

Adrian Spalding's talk in October was well attended by 30 members and visitors. His talk was titled 'Biodiversity and Mining in Cornwall' and subtitled 'The value of abandoned mine sites - the triumph of nature over our industrial past' and focussed on how flora and fauna have evolved to establish themselves on metal-polluted land. His studies are on-going and he and his team of volunteers are currently looking at the butterfly population on some of our remaining derelict mining sites.

A good number of members attended the November meeting when Colin Short presented a brief history of lead mining in Cornwall. Prior to 1688 lead mines which produced silver were known as Royal Mines, examples being those in the Tamar Valley and at Wheal Penrose near to Porthleven. Colin went on to look at production in Cornish mines from 1854 to 1933 for which statistical data is available. He emphasised that Cornish production was small in comparison to other sites in Britain, namely the North Pennines. He then went on to tell the assembled members the four stages of ore dressing i.e. Washing, Dry Crushing, Grading and Jigging; the

machinery for this purpose can still be seen at Killhope Mining Museum in Weardale and it is well worth a visit if you are in the area. A brief mention was made of the inconvenience of the presence of silver in the dressing process.

He completed his talk with photos of the main production sites of lead in Cornwall and the location of the lead smelters at Par and Point (near Devoran).

As usual, the December meeting gave Members of the Society the opportunity to talk about their projects, research or other work of their choice. This year's medley was again well supported by Society Members. The evening was introduced by vice chairman David Burkitt, and those present enjoyed the three following items:

"The Great Nigerian Sweepstake" or "The Rise and Fall of Calloose Tin Mine and Alluvials Ltd." was presented by Lincoln James. It was about an attempt in 1919 by an Australian entrepreneur, Albert Calvert, to reopen the Calloose Mines near Leedstown.

This was followed by a presentation by Kevin Baker about St. Barbara's Day in Poland, celebrating the country's mining heritage.

The evening finished off with David Burkitt giving a short talk about a recent visit by the Great Condurrow Mine Working Group of CBMS to the C.S.M. mine at Carwynnen. This mine had started off as a granite quarry and then become Holman's test mine where mining equipment produced by the company was put through its paces.

In January more than forty members and guests attended a talk entitled "South West Mineralisation 2016 – Old and New" which was given by Dr Robin Shail. The south west of England is one of the most mineralised areas of the UK, with a huge variety of minerals occurring. Theories of how this mineralisation happened have been debated for over 200 years. Dr Shail presented an overview of different opinions, both past and present.

Ideas for future talks and field trips are always welcome. Any members who have any such suggestions please contact a member of the committee

NEW MINING FILM

"THE 33" Director Patricia Rikken. Starring Antonio Banderas, Rodrigo Santoro, Juliette Binoche.

In 2010, the eyes of the world turned to Chile, where 33 miners had been buried alive by the catastrophic explosion and collapse of a 100-year-old gold and copper mine. Over the next 69 days, an international team worked around the clock in a desperate attempt to rescue the trapped men as their families, friends, and millions of people globally, waited anxiously for any sign of hope. But, deep beneath the surface, in the suffocating heat and with tensions rising, provisions and time were quickly running out. Based on the gripping true story of survival filmed with the cooperation of the miners, their families, and their rescuers – 'The 33' takes us to the Earth's darkest depths to reveal the actual, never-before-seen events that unfolded and into the psyches of the men trapped in the mine.

By Lawrence Holmes

GREAT CONDURROW MINE

The surface work party has been concentrating their efforts in getting the skip up and running so that we can hoist the waste rock from underground. Huw and Frank have taken off the old skip wire and replaced it with new which was not the easiest of tasks. The refurbished skip has been connected and the capel fitted. We are now waiting for Bob le Marchant to come along with the wheels for the skip. Once it is ready for use, a system of bell signals will be introduced so that clear communication between the skip driver and the underground banksman or lander can be made. Another bell push has to be fitted at the top of the shaft for the surface banksman / lander, so that the skip can be discharged accurately. As you can imagine all this takes time and the burden falls on the same volunteers. Other members of the surface group have been busy maintaining the site by cutting the grass and controlling the weeds when weather permits.

Underground the volunteers continue to clear parts of the western end of the mine to make them more accessible and this produces a large amount of waste rock for hoisting.

The rock drills are run regularly, usually to coincide with visitors, so they can have a fuller underground experience.

It was decided to relocate the underground workshop to the first aid 'room' which is larger and drier. This task is almost complete and is just waiting for some new lights to be connected.

Future tasks are dependent on the skip being tested and operational. Then training will be needed for safe use of the skip. This will be followed by rebrattising of the shaft and subsequently hoisting.

By Jon Nurhonen

Society Members are always welcome to visit Condurrow Mine. If you would like to go underground, please telephone Jon Nurhonen (01736 850643)

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

30th April Trevithick Day, Camborne. Model Exhibitions, Vintage Vehicles, Steam Engines and Stationary Engines, The Trevithick's Dance, The Steam Parade

1st May King Edward Mine Open Day (To be confirmed)

6th - 11th May Conference celebrating the tinworking landscape of Dartmoor. All bookings must be received by 30 April 2016. The full Conference Programme and details about booking are now available on the DTRG website: www.dtrg.org.uk

17th - 19th June NAMHO Conference "Mining and Social Change" The conference is being arranged by the Mining Heritage Trust of Ireland (MHTI) and the conference venue will be the Dublin City University. The theme of mining and social change will cover matters like regional identities, migration, urbanisation, industrial housing, education, gender issues, self-improvement societies, industrial action, mines and quarries during conflicts, and changing attitudes towards the mining industry.

The next Newsletter is due to be published in early June 2015. The last date for articles to the Editor is Saturday 14th May at the very latest.

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

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