



## March 2020 News Sheet

### 46th AGM

Tuesday 21st April at 7.00pm  
in the Lecture Room at King  
Edward Mine, TR14 9HW.

The **Agenda** for the AGM is:-

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of the 45th AGM – held on 16th April 2019 which will be available at the meeting or by contacting the Minutes Secretary Linda Beskeen
3. Matters Arising
4. Chairman's Report
5. Treasurer's Report
6. Great Condurrow Mine Report
7. Botallack Trust Report
8. Election of Officers
9. Election of Committee
10. Any Other Business
11. Date for AGM 2021:  
21st April is proposed

Your current committee is:-

Chair: Tony Books  
General Sec: David Blight  
Treasurer: Jon Nurhonen  
Membership Sec: John Jenkin  
Minutes Sec: Linda Beskeen  
Programme Coordination:-  
Maureen Gilbert & Lawrence  
Holmes  
News Team:- Tony Brooks and  
David Burkitt

The general committee can have up to 10% of the Society membership:- Currently they are Kevin Baker (NAMHO), David Burkitt, Roger Jelbert (Website), Frank Kneebone and Derek Stonley.

### Election Procedure

Rule 10 of the 2018 Constitution states that:-  
The normal service as an officer or elected committee member will be two years but may be extended with the agreement of the relevant post holder and at the discretion of the membership.

No Vice Chair was elected in 2019 and, subject to approval at the AGM, Derek Stonley has offered to take this on. The current officers and the remainder of the committee are willing to continue but nominations are being sought to join the committee. The future is in your hands.

### Future Programme

21 Apr AGM followed by followed by a selection of vintage films including one made at KEM in the 1930s.

26th April Open Day at KEM

1st May Newsletter deadline

19th May 'Industries of the St Austell Granite' to include

china stone, granite, iron & feldspar by Ivor Bowditch.

16 June Tunnel Alignment, 'Hit or Miss', by Dr Andy Wetherelt (ACSM 1983). This talk will outline the historical and current methods of tunnel survey & alignment which have been and are being used to ensure that tunnels end up where they should be!

21st July Lydford and Stannary Law by Simon Dell

1st Aug News sheet deadline

15th Sept 'Dartmoor Tin Mining 1860- 1930: Photographs and Memory', a talk by Tom Greeves a local historian.

19th Sept Open Morning at Great Condurrow.

20th Oct 'The Red River, from source to mouth and prehistory until the present day' by Prof Paul Williams This talk will trace a lot of the history through many historic and modern photographs.

Check out our website at [www.carnbreiaminingsociety.org.uk](http://www.carnbreiaminingsociety.org.uk)

**Subscriptions** are now due.

Single: £18.00

Family: £25.00

Junior: Free

Early payment is appreciated

Notes from Derek Stonley about  
**The Rashleigh Collection.**

With the closure of the Royal Cornwall Museum (RCM) for repairs, the future of the famous Rashleigh Collection of Cornish minerals has become clouded. On 19-02-2020 the appointment of Jonathan Morton as the new CEO of the RCM was announced. Morton has an impressive track record of increasing visitor numbers and revenue, ([www.cornwallchamber.co.uk/news](http://www.cornwallchamber.co.uk/news)) and will want to repeat this at the RCM. How the mineral collection will be accommodated within the “re-booted” museum, where “the visitor experience needs to be fun and enjoyable”, is unclear.

The Royal Institution of Cornwall (RIC) runs the RCM and owns the mineral collection. Chair of Trustees Julie Seyler said in an RCM email dated 20-02-2020 “We have an aspiration to designate our mineral collection in 2020 and are building partnerships with experts in this field to help us make the case that this collection has National significance.”

“Designated” status will afford protection to the collection and Julie Seyler merits the strongest support from CBMS members, both collectively and individually, in this endeavour. She can be contacted via [enquiries@royalcornwallmuseum.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@royalcornwallmuseum.org.uk)

There is useful data in Tehmina Goskar’s 2018 report on designation of the RCM’s geological collections <https://geocollnews.wordpress.com/2018/06/26/future-of-the-royal-institution-of-cornwalls-geology-collections/> “The collections are integral to Cornwall’s cultural and natural designated landscapes...and to

the Cornish Mining World Heritage Site.”

All hands to the pumps, please.

---

Dear Editor,

It was interesting to read the most thought-provoking letter written by Tricia and Hugh Slater in the September edition of the News Sheet.

This is something that I too believe to be worthy of further investigation, but I also believe that any future discussion/debate should be far more wide ranging than merely between the Trevithick Society and C-B-M-S. There are a great number of “Special Interest” clubs and societies in Cornwall, keeping in touch with our chequered, wonderful and colourful history. I believe that many (if not most) of them would benefit from some form of overarching secretariat and leadership group. The idea of forming a “Federation” might be a way forward so that whilst each group would maintain its individuality it would benefit from being part of a larger caucus and voice within Kernow.

Whilst it will need a visionary to start the conversation and steer it to some form of conclusion, I firmly believe that C-B-M-S should lead the way in a debate which could and should lead to a consolidation of the Society ensuring its stability and growth as we move further into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. Yours truly, Tempus Fugit.....a.k.a...Lincoln James

---

**Books      Levant**

**Edited by Peter Joseph and Graham Thorne** 338 pp SB £25 HB £35

The book is a collection of essays from several authors and brings together lots of new information and previously unknown photographs hence the need for editors. 2019 was the 100 year anniversary of the Man Engine Disaster and the accident report by H. A. Abbott, Inspector of Mines has a dedicated chapter and in itself is a fascinating and informative read. The book doesn't dwell on the accident and delves into the early development of the mine and some of the entrepreneurs involved. It looks at some of the early machinery too. Never recorded before are the last 10 working years of the mine. It also records the restoration of the whim and Engines at Levant

---

Dear Editor

Can any CBMS members help me to complete my electronic collection, please? I am missing newsletter:- No. 75 Dec 2015.

Lawrence Holmes.

---

Noted by Geof Purcell in a Times cutting dated 02/10/2019

A mining company claims to have found enough minerals in Cornwall to make 340,000 electric car batteries a year for 20 years. MetAmpere, which has been drilling near St Austell said that the world class reserves could allow it to start producing 20,000 tonnes of lithium carbonate a year by 2023.

*Ed. Hmmm... MetAmpere is now called British Lithium and is based in Roche*

Deadline for June Newsletter is 1st May 2020