



## March 2021 News Sheet

### All is not lost!

This news sheet traditionally announced the Annual General Meeting. However this will be deferred until 21<sup>st</sup> September (provisionally!).

The programme is being revised continuously and as soon as we are allowed to meet without social distancing, it will be “oven ready”. The earliest we could meet according to the current advice would be 21<sup>st</sup> June. You will be advised when we have a definite date.

The current officers and the remainder of the committee are willing to continue but nominations are being sought to join the committee. As always, the future is in your hands.

Your current committee is:-

Chair: Tony Books  
Vice chair: Derek Stonley  
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 is Kevin Baker (NAMHO), David Burkitt, Roger Jelbert (Website) and Frank Kneebone

### Future Programme

Please **check before** travelling to KEM for any events.

#### 20<sup>th</sup> July

Lydford and Stannary Law  
Simon Dell

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#### 21<sup>st</sup> September

AGM followed by  
In the footsteps of Ian Fleming’s diamond smugglers  
Derek Stonley

#### 25<sup>th</sup> September

Condurrow open morning

#### 19<sup>th</sup> October

Arsenic in Cornwall  
Kingsley Richard

#### 16<sup>th</sup> November

Red River  
Professor Paul Williams

#### 7<sup>th</sup> December

Members Medley

#### 18<sup>th</sup> January 2022

The National Explosive Works  
at Upton Towans 1887-1920  
Jean Charman

#### 15<sup>th</sup> February 2022

Unseen mining photographs  
Tony Brooks

#### 15<sup>th</sup> March 2022

Industries of the St Austell  
Granite  
Ivor Bowditch

19<sup>th</sup> April 2022  
AGM followed by

Tin and Copper on the  
Godolphin Estate  
Steve Polglase  
Followed by a field trip  
Date TBA

Check out our website at  
[www.carnbreainingsociety.org.uk](http://www.carnbreainingsociety.org.uk)  
and the Society’s Facebook page.

### Subscriptions are now due.

Consideration has been given to reducing the subscription however in view of the fixed costs and the fact that there is a programme for the majority of ’21 –’22 it has been decided to maintain the current level.

Single: £18.00

Family: £25.00

Junior: Free

Early payment is appreciated

### Project Ancient Tin

The thesis of this project is that the tin deposits in the south west of England facilitated the development of the European Bronze age. The methodology is to match the chemical analysis of ores with that of metal artefacts in museums. The writer hopes that the team have overcome the problems encountered in the Bronzeagetin project which produced two papers and cost 2.34 million euros.

[Projectancienttin.wordpress.com](http://Projectancienttin.wordpress.com)

## Book reviews

### Levant

Edited by Peter Joseph and Graham Thorne

Trevithick Society

ISBN 978-0-9935021-7-0  
338pp 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. The year 2019 was also the 100 year anniversary of the Man Engine Disaster. The accident report by HA Abbott, Inspector of Mines has a dedicated chapter which is a fascinating and informative read.

However 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.

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### A History of the Fuller's Earth Mining Industry around Bath

Authors Neil Macmillen with Mike Chapman, Reprint. 152 pp, 170 illustrations £15.00

Lightmoor press

ISBN 13:9781899889327

There is evidence of fuller's earth mining in the Bath area from Roman times and the Industry only finally ceased in 1980. Indeed, this detailed and well-illustrated history of the Bath fuller's earth workings is based on papers which were discovered literally blowing in the wind' a few years ago, having escaped from the derelict works on Combe Down. Although this was the final place where fuller's earth was processed in the Bath area, at one time there were also mines and works at South Stoke, in Horsecombe Vale, at Tucking Mill, at Combe Hay. Fuller's earth is no longer mined and processed anywhere in Great Britain, so this history of the Bath fuller's earth mines and works is timely, documenting as it does another lost industry.

*Ed. Fullers earth, a clay material consisting primarily of aluminium silicates, was used for cleaning (fulling) wool; adsorbing the oils.*

## King Edward Mine Museum

Jeremy Wrathall of Cornish Lithium has offered their resources and expertise to scan the maps, mine plans and lantern slides so that they can be made accessible to the public. The refurbishment of the teaching room is almost complete including an upgrade of the video projector and screen. Staycation holiday bookings suggest a busy summer season so help would be appreciated (a lot!!).

## News

**CSM** Despite petition, Exeter University is going to continue to pause recruitment to the undergraduate mining engineering programme.

**Cornish Tin Ltd.** has been contacting landowners in the Wheal Vor and Wheal Metal area stating they have permission from the owner of the mineral rights to drill and requesting the landowner's permission.

**Ecotricity** has signed a ten year agreement with Geothermal Engineering Ltd to purchase a minimum of 3MW electricity which will be fed into the national grid.

**Cornish metals** news releases in January '21 are about money and not mining. It is appreciated that you cannot do the latter without the former.

**Do we need to mine more copper?** A small electric car has about 40kg of copper compared with about 10 kg for a small combustion engine car. Additionally, the charging infrastructure will need about 250% more copper by 2030. Whilst it may be an infinitely recyclable commodity, this source seems unlikely to be sufficient.

**A good read!** A pictorial excursion of the Redruth and Chasewater Railway called **Upalng and Down** by Eric Rabjohns. It is fascinating and well illustrated. Published by the Trevithick Society.