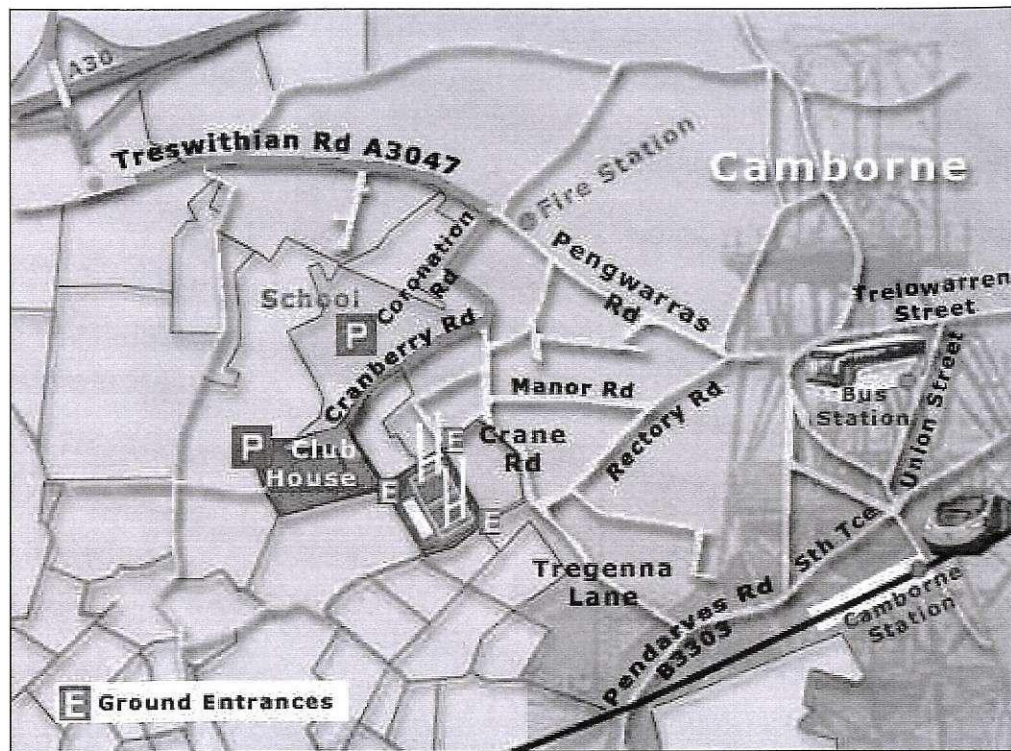


THE 2011 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING THE CORNISH MINERS ASSOCIATION

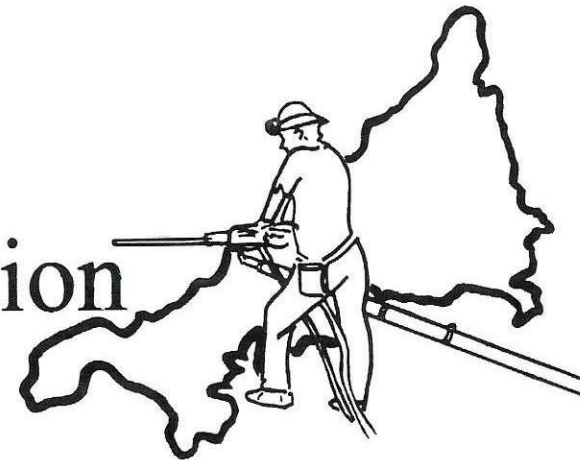
This year's AGM will be held at Camborne Rugby Club at 8pm on Wednesday 22nd of June 2011. We encourage all to attend and enjoy a drink and chat with former workmates. We hope to show a film of interest to miners and mine workers. We apologise for the later date this, year, as it has been unavoidable.



(map courtesy of CRFC)

See inside for directions.

Cornish Miners Association



**NEWSLETTER No. 19
of the Cornish Miners Association**

May 2011

CORNISH MINERS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER No.19. May 2011

Chairman's Comments.

For our members, the last few months have progressed without too much change. Once again, we had a very enjoyable time on the last Friday in November 2010, when we met up for our annual drink at Illogan Football Club. There were a few new faces, that had not previously graced us with their presence, and, inevitably, there were a few missing who are no longer with us. We do appear to be a diminishing group nowadays, as *tempus fugit* takes its toll.

At South Crofty, nowadays known as Western United Mines, which is concentrating its efforts in the old Dolcoath sett, there has been some progress. More investment has resulted in some optimism there, so that with the increased activity with respect to diamond drilling, new lodes are being discovered or rediscovered on a fairly regular basis. Let us hope that talk of indium and gold, and other mythical bonanzas, will soon be consigned to the rubbish bin, and replaced by realistic aims and objectives. That having been said, however, the discovery of a valuable deposit of Websterite (*stercus canis*) may well turn out to be the mineral 'find' of 2011.

The south drive through to Dolcoath Main Lode, and ultimately to Water Engine Shaft, is almost there, and it is hoped that ventilation will be improved once that objective is reached. At long last, Cornwall Council and the other agencies have decided to cooperate with the mine owners and progress can be made in demolishing the old mill and HMS and the installation of the new one beside the railway. Allan Reynolds Neil Hitchens and

Membership

All well-wishers are encouraged to become associate members. Let us unite to remember the past, celebrate our friends and work mates who have gone, and look forward to a future for a great industry. *Fortun da than bal*.

MEMBERSHIP AND EVENTS: Full members of the CMA must be people who have been employed in a metalliferous mine in Cornwall. **Associate Membership** is open to Mining Students and **anyone** who wishes to support the group, and participate in the various activities and functions that the CMA organises.

The CMA organises get-togethers for former and current employees of Cornwall's mines. Talks will also be given on all aspects of mining around Cornwall. The CMA will, when ever possible, produce a newsletter to inform members and associate members of forth coming events and to let them know what the CMA is currently doing. Local press will also carry details of any planned events, such as miner's re-unions, the AGM (for members) and talks (open to all).

The annual membership fee for the CMA is £5.00, with family membership available for £10.00 (one per household). This is payable on the 1st of April each year. OVERSEAS membership is £7.00 per year for a single person, or £12.00 for a family (one per household).

If you would like to join the CMA, please e-mail the Membership Secretary at:- kpbray@ukonline.co.uk or call on 01209 218831.

**PLEASE REMEMBER TO PAY YOUR
ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FEES**

THE 2011 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING THE CORNISH MINERS ASSOCIATION

This year's AGM will be held at Camborne Rugby Club at **8pm on Wednesday 22nd of June 2011**. We encourage all to attend and enjoy a drink and chat with former workmates. We hope to show a film of interest to miners and mine workers. We apologise for the later date this, year, as it has been unavoidable.

Getting to the AGM in Camborne by Car

Leave the A30 Westbound at the 'Camborne West' junction, take the first left, and left again at the roundabout into Camborne.

Carry straight on for approx ¼ a mile, turn right into Coronation Road (bungalows), opposite and before the Fire Station to be seen on the left, and then right when you reach Cranberry Road.

Don't miss it this year and tell your friends and former workmates to make it an evening we will remember.

See the map on the back cover.

Keith Russ have spent years researching and putting together material to start work on the re-opening project and it looks as though their efforts will shortly come to fruition. We can only hope!

There are currently over fifty employees at the mine, which is a significant number nowadays. Gone are the days when Holmans employed over 3,000, Crofty over 600 and Maxam, Climax and a dozen other factories hundreds or thousands of workers. Perhaps one day the old mine will again be employing hundreds of men – let us hope so!

STORIES & CHARACTERS FROM SOUTH CROFTY

South Crofty and the other Cornish mines had more than their share of 'characters', and certainly many more unbelievable incidents than any other type of workplace. This being the case, and under pressure from several of our members, it is hoped to produce some booklets about these men and the amazing stories with which they were involved. Have you heard about the terrorising of the underground manager by Monty's 'dog'? Did you know about 'Jap' Laity and the nine naked miners running through the snow? Did you know that 380 level was believed to be inhabited by perverts? Have you heard about the man who was locked in a tool box so his mates could have a peaceful croust? Did you know a man was crucified at Crofty? What about the man who sold Christmas Trees or the man who stole milk from doorsteps, or the 360 crusher man who was afraid of the dark, or the 'shit bucket man' who got lost and suffered some foul-smelling accidents, or the trammer who accidentally starred in a 'blue movie', or the retribution visited upon the man who

stole his mate's pasties, or the haunting of 245fm level, or any one of a hundred other stories from Crofty?

We have put together about thirty such stories and once they have been vetted, to ensure that nobody living will be offended (unduly), we might decide to publish them for our membership's perusal. Where necessary we have changed names or otherwise disguised the people involved. We hope the results will satisfy those who feel that such characters and incidents should be recorded for posterity – they are, after all, part of the authentic history of Cornish mining – a part which is rarely recorded for future generations. All who have a story to tell, especially when they were witnesses to the incident, send them to the editor, and we can perhaps produce a series of these booklets.

Obviously, these types of men and incidents were not limited to Crofty. There were just as many of such at Geevor and the other Cornish mines, and so if you have any from these places, send them in. Even the Janers will have a few, as will the men who worked at Wellington, Concorde and Pendarves.

We hate blank spaces!

We are always looking for new articles and stories for the newsletters.

If you have any suggestions please contact us!

This is YOUR newsletter,
so tell us what you would like included.

The CMA has teamed up with the South Crofty Jewellery Collection. All paid up members of the Association can now enjoy a 10% discount on the complete range. Sales will be dealt with direct, but interested members will only get the discount after they have had their membership verified by the CMA. To do this either email cornishminer@homecall.co.uk, or phone 01872 573299.



Please note there is no discount on P&P, however orders can be collected from Wheal Jane Offices, Baldhu during office hours.

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OBITUARIES

It is sad to report the passing of three of our former workmates. Tony Lanyon, who died in November 2010, at the age of 67, was for several years a fitter at South Crofty. Although he worked mainly in the fitting shop on surface he also occasionally worked underground. David Buzza died in December 2010, at the age of 73. He worked at South Crofty before moving to Wheal Jane. When he returned to Crofty he worked as a winder driver on the 420fm level, until the mine closed in March 1998. Salvatore Latino, who came from Sicily to work at South Crofty in 1957, died recently at the age of 74. He was one of a group recruited by the mine to supplement the small workforce at the time. About eighty Italians, mostly from Sicily, came to the mine in the 1950s. Salvatore worked mostly as a trammer at Crofty. He also worked for a while at Wheal Concorde. They will be missed by their friends and families, to whom we offer our sincere condolences.

The Tin Price

Tin has been performing very well of recent months, up to over \$32,000 per ton in the early part of the year, falling back briefly to \$28,000 in March and then forging back up to over \$31,000 while other metals like copper have struggled.

Some say that tin prices will continue to rise even further. At the recent Reuters Global Mining and Steel Summit tin was quoted as "the hottest metal for higher prices, above copper, lead and zinc." Some analysts suggested that the price may reach \$50,000 a ton.

THE MONTHLY DRINK

On the last Friday of the month we still meet for a drink in the lounge bar of Tyacks Hotel, Camborne. We are usually there by 7.45pm (remember to check both bars!). Those attending fluctuate in number, but we do occasionally meet old faces we haven't seen for some years. Unfortunately, some of our most regular attenders have either died or are no longer well enough to come. We are a diminishing band. However, any former mine workers, or their friends or family, are more than welcome. We have a drink and a laugh as well as having a brag about what we did – or claim to have done!

CMA Website: www.cornishminers.com

Mike Davis continues to run the website for the CMA. He encourages all the membership to send him information which can be loaded onto the website. Mike's email is: cornishminer@homecall.co.uk

Many interested people have contacted the website and Mike reports some fascinating chats with miners and former miners there. Please, take advantage of Mike's Message Board and talk about the subject which turns so many people on – Cornish mining!

TREVITHICK DAY

The last Saturday in April is, of course, Trevithick Day, and as usual we will be having a stall there. We hope it will be on Trelowarren Street as usual, for if it is in a side street we hardly see anyone. Any member who can help on the stall will be welcome. It's always great to talk to former workmates, as well as to Cornishmen from around the globe who have returned to their roots for the great day. If you have not renewed your membership and paid your dues, Trevithick Day is an ideal opportunity to do so. Every year we meet former miners from Geevor, South Crofty, Wheal Jane, Mount Wellington, Wheal Pendarves, Wheal Concorde and many others.

The parade of the great steam engines is a sight worth coming to Camborne to see, and people literally come from all over the world to see it. No other town has such a parade of steam engines through its streets and it is appropriate that it should be in Camborne where this takes place. Richard Trevithick's family were in Camborne from the 1500s, and although Richard was born at Pool, in Illogan Parish, the family quickly returned to their home parish, living in the thatched cottage at Higher Penponds. Trevithick made a unique contribution to the success of Britain's Industrial Revolution – the first in the world. His inventions and innovations transformed the way power was produced and used throughout the industrial world. His high pressure Cornish boilers, his invention and successful trial of the first road locomotive, and his development of the first railway loco, were just some of his many revolutionary inventions and innovations.

Not only were these inventions brought to fruition in the town, but Camborne people assisted in developing and constructing them. Nicholas Holman, John Budge, Andrew Vivian, James Jeffery and even Lady Basset, helped the great man. Camborne people of yesteryear had much to be proud of, and the present generation of Camborne people can also be proud to be descended from that pioneering generation. So, let us celebrate Richard Trevithick's Day and remember the ancestors of so many who will throng the town that day.

MURDOCK DAY - Saturday 18th June

In June Redruth celebrates the life of that important Scottish steam engineer, William Murdock (born 21 August 1754). He moved to Redruth over 200 years ago and lived in the town, in Murdock House. Murdock was the resident engineer locally for Boulton and Watt, who made the engine parts for James Watt's engines in Birmingham, and sent them to Cornwall for erection by Murdock and their other Cornwall based engineers. Murdock also carried out his own experiments and improved the efficiency of Watt's engines. He 'invented' domestic gas lighting, and his house was the first in the world to use it. He also built a small model of a locomotive, and although it was only a toy, in effect, it demonstrated that with the appropriate power source and engineering, it could work on a practical scale. Of course, it took the inventive brilliance of Richard Trevithick to solve these problems and create a full-size engine, which worked. Murdock is rightly celebrated by the people of his adoptive home town. The CMA will, as usual, have a stall on Fore Street, Redruth on Murdock Day. Come along and support us there.