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cornish mining

newsletter of the Cornwall & West Devon Mining World Heritage Site

Autumn 2009

Tramroad bicentenary
celebrations at Portreath

Mineral Tramways Mining
Trails celebrations

The St Agnes Miners and
Mechanics Institute

Prehistoric discovery at
Poldark given national
monument status

WHS Cultural Events

CORNISH WRESTLING TROPHY DISCOVERED AT TUCKINGMILL



Samuel Ham with Cornish wrestling trophy

WELCOME

Welcome to the autumn edition of the newsletter of the Cornish Mining World Heritage Site which focuses on projects and events relating to our globally important mining heritage.

Included in this edition of Cornish Mining are the recent celebrations to mark the 200th anniversary of the commencement of the Portreath Tramroad, which took place at Portreath in August, and those marking a major milestone of the Mineral Tramways Mining Trails project - the completion of an additional 25km of multi-use routes through the Central and Gwennap Mining Districts of the World Heritage Site.

We also take a look at a fascinating discovery in Tuckingmill relating to mining migration to South Africa, and the St Agnes Miners and Mechanics Institute, a Grade II Listed Building at the heart of this historic mining parish, which has just undergone a major grant-aided conservation and refurbishment programme.

The long history of tin mining in Cornwall is highlighted through the recent granting of statutory protection to a prehistoric feature at Poldark Mine near Wendron, and we look at the latest performance in the WHS Cultural Events Programme.

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Left to right: Mrs Nicola Finn (Head Teacher), Mr Bill Finn (Head Teacher), Mr Bill Dodge (Portreath Bicentenary Committee), Mrs Doris Butler (also of the Bicentenary Committee), Deborah Boden (World Heritage Site Co-ordinator) and Karen Willows (World Heritage Site Administration Officer) with pupils of the school (Dan Jones © Cornwall Council)

TRAMROAD BICENTENARY CELEBRATION AT PORTREATH

Crowds gathered on Saturday 1st August to mark the 200th anniversary of the first above ground iron tramroad in Cornwall, linking the copper mines of North Downs and Poldice with the north Cornish harbour of Portreath.



The reconstructed copper ore wagon at Greenfield Gardens built by students at Pool Business and Enterprise College

The introduction of the Portreath Tramroad, or Poldice Plateway as it is also known, was to greatly ease the transport of copper ore to the port for transshipment to the smelters in south Wales, a process which had relied formerly on the use of a great many teams of pack mules contracted by the respective mines. The growing quantities of ore being transported in this manner took a significant toll on the condition of the roads of the time, many becoming waterlogged and deeply rutted, particularly during winter months. The success of the many miles of tramroads then in use within the Welsh coal fields, however, cannot have failed to come to the attention of those Cornish entrepreneurs whom had controlling interests in the Swansea smelters, and most probably led to their adoption in Cornwall.

The Portreath celebration commenced with the arrival into the harbour of a Cornish lugger, the *St Ives*, symbolically representing the many barques and schooners which plied the seas between Cornwall and Wales during

the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. One of the event's guests of honour Stephanos Mastoris, Head of the National Waterfront Museum of Swansea, attended in period costume to make a symbolic presentation of Welsh coal to a similarly attired Richard Williams, of Scorrier House. The Williams family were influential in much of the mining commerce of the area during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries and were to benefit greatly from the construction and operation of the tramroad. Mr Williams gratefully received the fine specimen of coal and reciprocated with a similarly fine gift of Cornish copper ore.

The event also included a grand procession through the village led by Portreath's Jenna Hawkey, European Surf-Ski champion 2003 & 2005, and culminated in the unveiling of a full-scale reconstructed ore wagon, skilfully crafted by students of Pool Business and Enterprise College. The wagon, permanently located in the village's Greenfield Gardens, will serve as a fitting reminder of the role of the tramroad, copper ore and Welsh coal in the fortunes of Portreath as an industrial village. Also to



mark the event the Cornish Mining World Heritage Site presented 300 specially minted Cornish copper pennies to the Portreath Bicentenary Committee, and a number of these were handed out to the village children on the day by Mr Williams.

Stephanos said, "Today marks the celebration of our two premier Celtic nations and the significant contributions that we collectively made to global industry. There are a whole host of fascinating parallels between our two regions - a heritage of experiments and inventions that have shaped the world that we live in today - and it is fantastic to see and feel this being marked and celebrated."

Richard Williams said, "Today is such a significant day and to know that my Great, Great Grandfather was responsible for the creation of this tramway is humbling indeed. To be sitting in the carriage today and seeing the village come alive as it would have done in his time, two hundred years ago, has been a wonderful thing."

Above: Richard Williams of Scorrier House (left) and Stephanos Mastoris, Head of the National Waterfront Museum of Swansea, exchange samples of copper ore and Welsh coal. Top right: Richard Williams presents specially minted Cornish Pennies to Portreath school children.

The Saturday also saw the official opening of the 'Portreath and its tramroads' exhibition which took place in St Mary's Church from the 1st to the 8th August. The exhibition focused on the history of the village, 'Bygone Portreath', and included artefacts, a working model of the Portreath Incline of 1838, demonstrations, a book signing, and a selection of work by local children.

The World Heritage Site Office warmly congratulates the Portreath Bicentenary Committee on the success of the celebration and thanks all those who kindly contributed to the staging of the event, which highlighted the significance of an important aspect of our mining heritage.

Above: Deborah Boden, World Heritage Site Co-ordinator, presents a Cornish Penny at Portreath School. (Dan Jones © Cornwall Council)

The bicentenary celebrations were also part of the Mining Villages Festival, a nine-day programme of events organised by villages in and around the Central and Gwennap mining districts which are linked by the Mineral Tramways trails network.

On September 24th, as a follow on to the tramroad bicentenary celebration, children who did not receive Cornish pennies during the August celebrations were given the chance to collect theirs during a special presentation by Deborah Boden, World Heritage Site Co-ordinator,

Below: Stephanos travelling in the processional coach with the Cornish lugger 'St Ives', right rear.



and Karen Willows, Administration Officer. As replicas of the Dolcoath Pennies originally minted in 1811, these were struck using copper salvaged from the wreck of the SS St. George, which foundered 18 miles off Portreath on November 26th 1882. Deborah and Karen were joined at the presentation by Mrs Nicola Finn (Head Teacher), and Mr Bill Dodge and Mrs Doris Butler, both of the Portreath Bicentenary Committee.

Deborah Boden said "We think it's vital that children are given the opportunity to learn about their local heritage. The Portreath event was a unique and incredibly poignant reminder that this port was once a thriving hub for the Cornish copper industry. The tramway linked the inland mines with the sea, enabling huge growth in the trade in copper ore and Welsh coal. The Portreath Bicentenary Celebration Committee



Above: a proud owner of a brand new Cornish Penny! (Dan Jones © Cornwall Council)

decided that giving Cornish pennies to the schoolchildren would be a fitting legacy that they can treasure for generations to come, and we were delighted to organise this for them."

Bill Dodge, Chair of the Portreath Bicentenary Celebration Committee added, "The students from Portreath, and indeed those from Pool, who made banners for the procession and a replica ore-wagon, played an invaluable role in the Bicentenary event. There was a real sense of community spirit and it was charming to see them learn more about the history of their home. These coins from Cornish Mining World Heritage are a wonderful reminder." ■

For further information on Portreath and to view the newsletter 'Parish Tram', please see: www.parishtram.co.uk



The winning trophy presented to Sam Ham for Wrestling Cornish style in Jeppestown South Africa, probably around 1910.

CORNISH WRESTLING TROPHY DISCOVERED AT TUCKINGMILL

In July, contractors working on a highway scheme at Tolvaddon Road, Tuckingmill, discovered an artefact which sheds light on a fascinating part of the Cornish Mining story.

Paul Richards, an excavator operative with Cornish highways contractor Cormac, discovered an engraved presentation trophy while working on road improvements at the site at Gas Lane. Paul was engaged in the removal of excavated material as part of the development and noticed an object glinting in amongst the heap as material was being transferred between vehicles. The discovery was at the site of the former North Wheal Crofty, near Sump Shaft, in an area which had been used in part for landfill after the closure of the mine. While appearing to have suffered a few dents from mechanical handling, the trophy

proved to be in surprisingly good condition considering that it had been under around two metres of waste fill for several decades. Paul considers that it was most probably discarded following a house clearance in the area.

The trophy is around ten inches in height and bears the engraved inscription: 'Wrestling Cornish Style won by Sam Ham, Manor House, Jeppestown, S. A.'. Wrestling in Cornwall is of a distinctive kind whereby a wrestling jacket has to be worn, and this is used to grip the opponent when attempting to bring him or her to the ground. Wrestling, along with other Cornish traditions were



Bottom left: The programme for the Cornu-Breton wrestling tournament held at Redruth, at which Sam was a 'stickler' (umpire) in 1933 (© Cornish Wrestling Association)



Above: Sam Ham poses for a studio portrait.

Below: Sam with T. Pearce engaged in a studio bout for the camera (© Cornish Wrestling Association)

Bottom right: Mrs Doris Butler proudly displaying another of Sam's cherished trophies (© Angie Butler)

exported to many mining fields around the globe as mining migration took hold during the early-to-mid nineteenth century.

Research initiated by Wayne Wilford, a Site Agent for Cormac, has revealed that the Manor House was formerly a hotel at Jeppestown, now a suburb of Johannesburg in South Africa. This South African city was a very important destination for mineworkers migrating from Cornwall at the turn of the twentieth century, all eager to take up employment in this important area for gold mining. While today it is a design and furniture outlet, the Manor House was a hotel and sportsmen's bar of some regard during the early years of the city, a favourite gathering spot for many and one of the main venues for boxing.

Upon recognising the importance of the find Wayne fortunately contacted Cornwall Council's Historic Environment team with the view to finding the trophy a suitable home. After it was subsequently brought to the attention of World Heritage Site Office, the Cornish Wrestling Association was contacted with a view to learning more about Sam Ham and his wrestling background. Gerry Cawley, the Archivist with the Association, proved to be most helpful and provided a copy of an Association programme from the 1930s covering

a tournament of Cornu-Breton wrestling which took place in Redruth on Saturday, August 26th 1933. This indicated that Sam was acting as a 'stickler' - a Cornish Wrestling umpire - at the contest, who was invigilating alongside fellow sticklers Mr A. Pinch and Monsieur Le Corre.

Further research by Truro based genealogist Steve Colwill revealed that the UK Census returns for 1881 record a Samuel Ham living at Condurrow near Camborne, with his parents William and Elizabeth, and sisters Ellen, Edith and Elizabeth, and brother William. William senior is shown as having been born in Grampound around 1845 with his occupation given as 'sawyer', perhaps working in connection with one of the major Central mines active at the time. His partner Elizabeth is recorded as originating from Camborne and all the children were to be born there also. In the 1901 Census both William senior and junior are shown as tin miners with Sam, at the age of 21, recorded as a farm labourer, a common occupation at the time.

In March 1906 a passenger S. Ham, aged 25, is recorded as having arrived back in the UK on the "Walmer Castle", docking at Southampton having sailed from Cape Town, South Africa. Again in October 1913, Samuel Ham is noted as disembarking from the "Dunluce





Castle" at Plymouth, his port of embarkation recorded as Cape Town. His occupation on both passenger lists is shown as 'miner', indicating that he probably gained mining experience with his father and/or brother prior to his original departure. Mineworkers from Cornwall, known as 'Cousin Jacks', were in high regard at this time, benefiting from a well established reputation of being pre-eminent in the field of hard-rock mining. Sam would have gone, like thousands of others, to seek his fortune and would no doubt have been encouraged by the knowledge that an established Cornish community awaited his arrival in Johannesburg. A report in the Cornishman newspaper for the 15th September 1910 also gives more information on Sam's achievements as it records him as the Middleweight Champion of South Africa at this time with a W. Littlejohn of Gunnislake as Heavyweight Champion.

Since news of the trophy's discovery was made public in September the WHS Office has received further information from members of the public, who were inspired to get in touch. Mrs Doris Butler of Coverack, who is a stepdaughter of Sam's, contacted the WHS team and very kindly forwarded a picture of herself with another cup in her possession. Doris and other family members are understood to have two of the four

or five trophies thought to have been in the family's possession originally, with one of these being currently in Australia. A home will now need to be found for Sam's Jeppeshtown trophy and it is hoped a suitable location for public display will be found in due course.

Deborah Boden, the World Heritage Site Co-ordinator said that "The fortunate discovery of this trophy highlights a particular aspect of the story of Cornish Mining, specifically the role of mineworkers from Cornwall in living and working overseas. Cultural traditions including Cornish Wrestling, Methodism and the pasty were transferred to many mining areas around the globe and these traditions maintained as part of daily life. The story of Sam Ham is part of the rich legacy of Cornish Mining and the World Heritage Site is delighted to have been able to help bring this to a wider public."

The World Heritage Site team would very much like to thank Paul Richards and Wayne Wilford for bringing the trophy to our attention, Gerry Cawley for valuable information from the Cornish Wrestling Association Archive, Mrs Doris Butler for additional information, and especially Steve Colwill for his detailed research of Census and shipping records which has shed so much light on Sam's itinerant past. ■

The Manor House, Jeppeshtown Johannesburg; views of the Manor House building on Hanau Street including many interior details which survive from the hotel and bar's heyday in the early 1900s. Bottom: could this be the room where Sam won his wrestling trophy? (© Michael Shain – Madeira Cane & Decor)

For further information on Cornish wrestling, please log on to: www.cornishwrestling.co.uk



Above: Wendy Houvenaghel, Olympic Silver Medallist at Beijing and Double Team World Champion in 3000m track cycling, greets the crowds at the Mineral Tramways Mining Trails Celebration. (Mary Neale © Cornwall Council)

MINERAL TRAMWAYS MINING TRAILS CELEBRATION

Eager crowds gathered at Cambrose on Saturday 26th September for the official opening of the extended Mineral Tramways Trails network. Since work commenced in the early 1990s the Mineral Tramways Project has worked to create a total of 56km of multi-use trails for the benefit of walkers, cyclists and horse-riders. Using former tramway and railway routes, the trails link the major mining areas of Camborne, Redruth and St Day with the mineral ports of Portreath and Devoran, on the north and south coasts.



Above: walkers on the Great Flat Lode at Pascoe's Shaft engine house, with naturalist Rory Goodall (far right)

The celebration day commenced with an official ribbon-cutting ceremony at the Bike Barn, Cambrose, at the Elm Farm Coast to Coast Cycle Hire Centre. Wendy Houvenaghel (right), Olympic Silver Medallist at Beijing and Double Team World Champion in 3000m track cycling, was on hand to do the honours, and led a guided cycle ride along the trail network.

In addition to a number of cycling events, King Edward Mine, Troon, held a free open day where the public could discover the techniques of Cornish mining and mineral processing, and the significance of the Great Flat Lode. Sparnon Silver Band entertained the crowds during the afternoon and walkers joined naturalist Rory Goodall on a much appreciated guided walk of the Great Flat Lode, during which he highlighted the varied ecology which exists alongside the impressive mining heritage.

At 3pm Wendy was again on hand at King Edward to light the first of a number of mine chimney fires, which in doing so simulated how the landscape would have appeared during the area's tin mining heyday in the latter nineteenth century. This event followed on from the hugely successful Smokin' Chimneys day in June 2008 which saw around twenty chimneys in smoke along the full 6km extent of the Great Flat Lode.

Events also taking place on the day included a book signing by local mining historian Joff Bullen, face painting, live music, barbecues, cycle demonstrations, a mountain bike assault course for children and other two-wheeled events, many at the Bissoe branch of the cycle hire centre, Bike Chain. Over 1,000 people are estimated to have enjoyed the new trails over the weekend.

The 25km of trails recently completed as part of the Project also link with existing routes specifically the Coast to Coast and the Great Flat Lode Trails. Being mainly traffic-free, these offer improved and safer access to schools, places of work, local facilities, historic settlements



and visitor attractions. The trails also offer a unique opportunity to access a landscape which is rich in metalliferous mining heritage and part of the UNESCO World Heritage Site. The network is also very popular with horse riders and a guided horse ride was held along the Tehidy Trail, commencing at the Gwel an Mor Holiday Village, Portreath.

In addition to the creation of trail routes the Mineral Tramways Project has undertaken major conservation works on twelve historic mine sites in the area, preserving these for future generations and improving access for education and enjoyment. Also thirteen mining villages within the project area have had streetscape improvements made and new interpretation materials produced

Top: Wendy cuts the ribbon to commence the celebrations.

Above: Smokin' Chimneys at King Edward Mine and Great Condrurrow / Condrurrow United Mines (right rear).

which tell the exciting story of an area that was at the forefront of the production of industrial minerals, principally copper and tin, for much of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries.

Champion cyclist Wendy Houvenaghel said: "The Grand Launch of the Mineral Tramways Network of Trails is an excellent initiative by Cornwall Council which will allow the beautiful Cornish countryside to be explored by those who are interested in the outdoors. The trails will provide a fantastic off road alternative for



'Smoke gets in your eyes' – the winding engine house at Fortescue's Shaft, Grenville United Mines

Top: Cornwall Councillor Mark Kaczmarek, Chair of the Mineral Tramways Partnership, and Wendy Houvenaghel cycle the Mineral Tramways route; and Wendy opening the trails. (Mary Neale © Cornwall Council)

individuals and families who enjoy cycling, horse riding, walking and running whilst having the opportunity to appreciate the mining history associated with the Trails. It was great to be involved in the formal opening of the Trails and to take part in Saturday's action packed event."

Cornwall Councillor and chairman of the Mineral Tramways Partnership Mark Kaczmarek joined Wendy at the official opening. Mark said: "I am delighted that the creation of the 56km network of trails offers people a unique opportunity to access a wide area that is rich in mining heritage. The project has combined better access to the carefully conserved buildings and the landscape of our proud mining past with spectacular views, exceptional wildlife diversity and the health benefits of getting out and using the trails."

The Mineral Tramways Heritage Project is a £6 million Regeneration Project, managed by Cornwall Council and funded by Objective One, the South West Regional Development Agency, the Heritage Lottery Fund and Parish and Town Councils in the Project area. ■

For further information please see: www.cornwall.gov.uk/mineral-tramways

THE ST AGNES MINERS AND MECHANICS INSTITUTE

The Miners and Mechanics Institute (MMI) in the centre of St Agnes has long been regarded as a fine historic building and an important part of the mining heritage of the area and Cornish Mining World Heritage Site. On September 18th the community were able to appreciate the building afresh following the completion of a major building refurbishment and development programme.

The work was achieved using a total of over £970,000 of investment from the Heritage Lottery and Big Lottery funds, with additional generous support from the Rural Renaissance Scheme and many others.

The MMI was constructed in 1893 following a generous bequest by John Passmore Edwards (1823-1911), the well-known London newspaper proprietor and philanthropist, who gifted many similar institutions and public libraries in Cornwall around

the turn of the twentieth century. Born within St Agnes Parish at the village of Blackwater, two miles to the south, Edwards is known to have funded 72 public buildings, many in Cornwall, and in doing so was instrumental in bringing opportunities for education to the working classes of the day. Dedicated to the memory of his late brother, William P. Edwards, John was to lay the date stone commemorating the start of construction on June 7th 1893.

In recent years the institute had suffered to a degree from neglect with the later extension to the rear of the building being particularly affected. The St Agnes MMI Trustees Committee was fortunately able to address the situation and gain significant funding and local support to make the building suitable for public use once more.

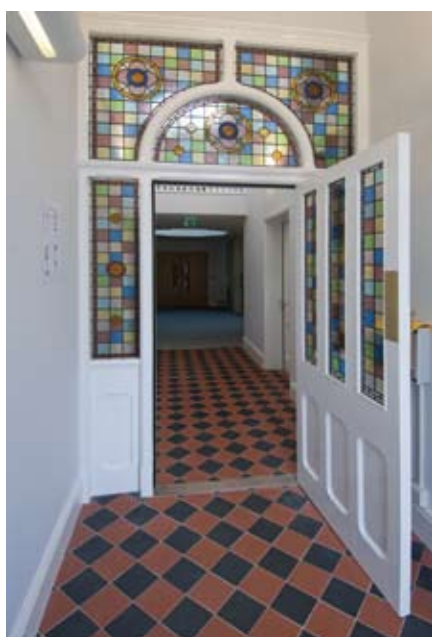
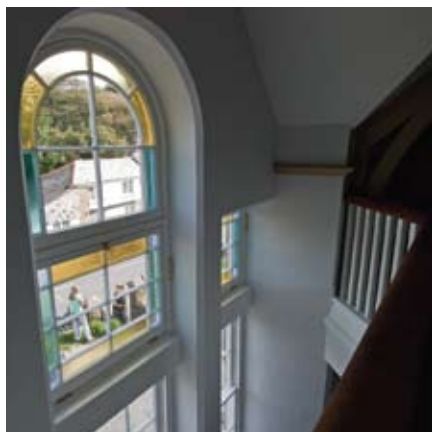
The recent renovation work has preserved all of the historic character on the Victorian building



Above: the commemorative foundation stone laid in 1893.

Below: The new atrium and lift.





Above: the fine reinstated Victorian glasswork.

while giving the remainder a light and spacious feel which compliments the former well. Beyond the refurbished entrance hallway, with reinstated Victorian coloured glass, is an impressive atrium with an octagonal opening to the first floor and similarly shaped sky light above. Dawn Brown, Chair of the new St Agnes MMI Committee, commented "The building has been completely updated with a modern look as a place St Agnes can be proud of", while former Committee Chair Mario de Pace added that "people literally do walk in and say 'wow', especially people who remember it from before." The refurbishment has also included a dedicated ramp and lift, which, when completed, will permit ready access for the disabled to the Institute and first floor level.

Nerys Watts, Heritage Lottery Fund Manager in the South West of which £150,000 was donated to the project, commented "We are delighted that St Agnes Miners and Mechanics Institute have been awarded this grant. Not only will it help to restore a Grade II Listed Building but it will increase access and provide learning opportunities for both the local community and visitors."

The World Heritage Site team were involved in discussions with the MMI Executive Committee during the initial stages of the funding bid

Top: MMI Committee members Mario de Pace and Chair Dawn Brown on the day of the opening; above; the new public hire space.

and refurbishment planning, and congratulates them for all their hard work and initiative in conceiving and delivering such a worthwhile project, which has brought a new lease of life to the Institute. The Trustees of the MMI have also committed themselves to support World Heritage Site objectives and have kindly dedicated one of the refurbished rooms, included as the Heritage Room, as a permanent space for this purpose.

Deborah Boden, World Heritage Co-ordinator, commented that "The World Heritage Site team is proud to have played its part in supporting this exciting project, which we regard as an outstanding example of what a dedicated community group can achieve when working with enthusiastic and committed partners with common objectives." ■

For further information on the Miners and Mechanics Institute and the recent renovation, please see: www.stagnesmmi.org.uk, and: www.passmoreedwards.org.uk



Above: close-up of the mortar outcrop which has now received Scheduled Monument status. (© Poldark Mine)

PREHISTORIC DISCOVERY AT POLDARK GIVEN NATIONAL MONUMENT STATUS

Historians and archaeologists have welcomed the granting of National monument status to an ancient hand tin-crushing site unearthed at Cornwall's Poldark Mine, which forms part of the Cornwall and West Devon Mining Landscape World Heritage Site.



Above: Chris Fletcher, Assistant General Manager (left) and Richard Williams, Managing Director, of Poldark Mine with the mortar outcrop. (© Poldark Mine)

The only known evidence of this early practice in the South West, the extremely rare 'mortar outcrop' is a granite slab with at least 17 circular or oval shaped hollows worn into its upper face. Its existence proves that tin was crushed by hand in Cornwall long before the invention of machinery in the medieval period, and, as a result, the site has been officially registered as a Scheduled Ancient Monument.

Although the precise dating of the outcrop is impossible, it is believed to have been used during the latter half of the prehistoric period which ran from approximately 2000 BC to 43 AD. Well-preserved until 2001 by a layer of soil, the feature at Poldark further extends the historical importance of Cornwall as a mining stronghold and sheds valuable light on the roots of our industrial heritage.

"It's an impressive and important discovery and we're delighted that this has now been officially listed," says Richard Williams, Managing Director of Poldark Mine. "We already knew that local areas such as the

Wendron Valley were used as sources of tin during Roman times but this is something even older and it is incredibly lucky that it was found. What makes it so special is that, unlike detached mortar 'stones', which do exist in Cornwall and Devon, the outcrop here is not something that was moved in from elsewhere. It proves, without doubt, that thousands of years ago people were crushing tin by hand right here in this exact spot. It's absolutely fascinating."

Deborah Boden, Co-ordinator of Cornish Mining World Heritage Site added, "The mortar outcrop at Poldark is a unique and valuable asset which emphasises the longevity of mining activity in Cornwall. Discoveries like this are incredibly rare and so we are extremely fortunate that it will now be protected for generations to come." ■

For further information on Poldark Mine please log on to: www.poldark-mine.co.uk

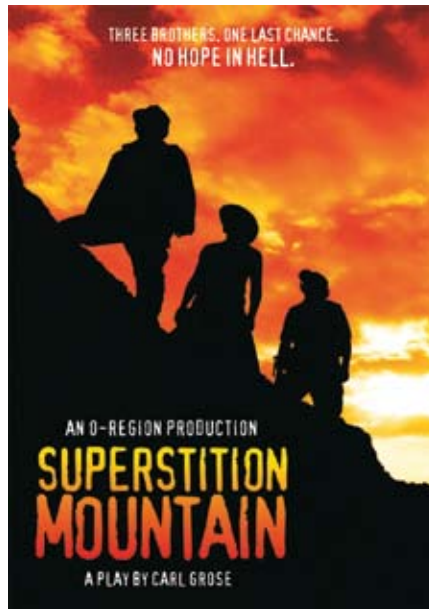
WORLD HERITAGE SITE CULTURAL EVENTS

O-REGION SUPERSTITION MOUNTAIN A BRAND NEW PLAY BY CARL GROSE

'Superstition Mountain' is the latest presentation to be produced in association with the Cornish Mining Cultural Events Programme and like Anita Desai's 'The Zigzag Way', produced as part of the Programme in 2007, uses Cornish mining migration as a principal theme. It is a bold and innovative story concerning three Cornish brothers who set out for Arizona in search of a lost gold mine. Blending film, theatre and music, Superstition Mountain is an explosive performance which has been likened to 'Ken Loach meets Indiana Jones!'

The story focuses on the Gunwallow brothers whose straightened circumstances and difficult love-lives lead them to the deserts of Arizona in a last ditched attempt to make good. They learn of a legendary gold mine lost in the desert but are concerned that no one who has ever found Superstition Mountain has lived to tell the tale. Blending the spirit of a Hollywood blockbuster with epic music, innovative film and powerful performances, Superstition Mountain is a dark comedy adventure exploring the intimate bonds and savage divides of brotherly love.

This daring, hilarious and adventurous new work is being staged by o-region – one of Cornwall's most exciting theatre and film companies. Showing the same wit and theatricality as their 2005 hit show, Laughing Gas, Superstition Mountain



Scenes from o-region's latest production Superstition Mountain. Part of the Cornish Mining Cultural Events Programme, Superstition Mountain charts the trials of three brothers chancing the Arizona desert to seek their fortunes in gold.
(© Oliver Berry / www.oliverberry.com)

also explores the company's passion for film by using moving image as an integral part of the storytelling.

The play is written by Carl Grose best known for Kneehigh Theatre's Tristan & Yseult staged at The National and Cymbeline for the RSC. Carl also co-wrote Laughing Gas with Nick Darke but this is his first specifically commissioned play for o-region which has drawn rave reviews:

'Superstition Mountain is a must-see, and will appeal to those who may think the theatre's not for them. To borrow an oft-used word from the play, you'd be a t*** to miss it!'

- Lee Trehwela, *The West Briton*

'Earthy, muscular, irreverent, fiercely Cornish and very, very funny, o-region's latest production is proof that theatre from west of the Tamar has a unique voice.'

- Simon Parker, *The Western Morning News*



'A 'must see' show if ever there was one. If you haven't already seen o-region's super Superstition Mountain, then I urge you to do so.'

- Frank Ruhrmund, *The Cornishman*

The show stars three real-life brothers which gives it that extra edge of authenticity - Simon Harvey (artistic director of o-region), Brett Harvey (Humphry Davy in Laughing Gas, The Rabbit) and Dan Harvey (The Midnight Drives, Kernow's Kick Ass Kung Fu Kweens).

For further information on o-region and Superstition Mountain, please see: www.o-region.co.uk

Please see the Cornish Mining website for regular updates on World Heritage Site news and events: www.cornishmining.org.uk

See below for details of 'Mine & Yours', the Activity Guide and a great gift for Christmas!

DISCOVER HOW CORNISH MINING SHAPED YOUR WORLD

Imagine British gardens without rhododendrons, camellias, tree-ferns and palms; that's a Britain without Cornish Mining



WHERE CAN I EXPERIENCE CORNISH MINING?

The World Heritage Site has many exciting attractions across Cornwall and west Devon which provide high quality visitor experiences consistent with World Heritage status. For information on great family days out and details of how to obtain a copy of the World Heritage Site Activity Guide 'Mine & Yours', please log on to:

www.cornishmining.com/mineandyoures