

THE

SPRING 2022

TRIBUTER

CORNWALL & WEST DEVON
MINING WORLD HERITAGE
SITE NEWSLETTER



WOMEN IN MINING

FEATURE IN FOCUS

PLUS

ON THE GROUND:
HEARTLANDS

DELVING DEEPER
QUESTIONS FOR THE TEAM

INTERVIEW
WITH A MINER

STORIES FROM
THE DIASPORA



IN THIS ISSUE

03 Photo of the season – Kennall Vale by Ainsley Cocks

04 Message from the Team – The latest news from the World Heritage Site Team

06 Education and Events – Cornish Caretakers

08 Delving deeper – We unearth the answers to your burning questions relating to the Cornwall and West Devon Mining Landscape World Heritage Site

10 Stories from the Diaspora – Research on the migration of Mine Managers

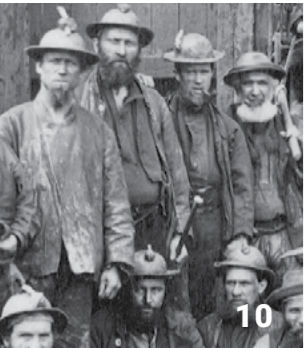
14 Interview with a miner – Hear from former miner and now guide with Geevor Tin Mine, Mike Sampson

15 Feature in Focus – Women in mining

22 On the ground in the World Heritage Site – Heartlands

26 News from the Archives – Kresen Kernow

27 Way Back When – Welsh Slate Visit 2013



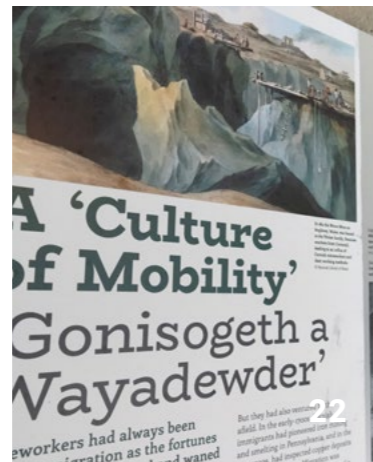
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[www.cornishmining.org.uk](http://whc.unesco.org/en/list)

<http://whc.unesco.org/en/list>

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Cover image: Spallers at Dolcoath Mine posing for the camera of Camborne photographer J C Burrow, around 1893 (J C Burrow)

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Design Concept Design79



PHOTO OF THE SEASON

Kennall Vale
Photo: Ainsley Cocks

Message from the team

DEAR TRIBUTERS

The Cornwall and West Devon Mining Landscape World Heritage Site team has undertaken a number of projects in the last year including the production of a new online learning platform by Palores Productions and a research study of personnel working in UK Mine Management in the nineteenth century. The team also has an established role in protecting the World Heritage Site and, to this end, has reviewed some 949 separate planning applications made across the ten areas of the Site.

The Cornwall and West Devon Mining Landscape World Heritage Site Partnership Board have also elected a new Chair; after serving his maximum term as Chair Cornwall Councillor Julian German was succeeded by Cornwall Councillor David Crabtree. The Cornish Mining World Heritage Site Office welcomes Councillor Crabtree into his new role and looks forward to working alongside



Right: World Heritage Site Partnership Board Chair and Cornwall Councillor, Dave Crabtree

him protecting, conserving and celebrating our internationally important cultural heritage and landscape.

The new World Heritage Site Management Plan for the period 2020-2025 has been launched and has been celebrated by UNESCO and numerous other organisations. It has been hailed as a ground-breaking example of incorporating a climate emergency response into heritage management.

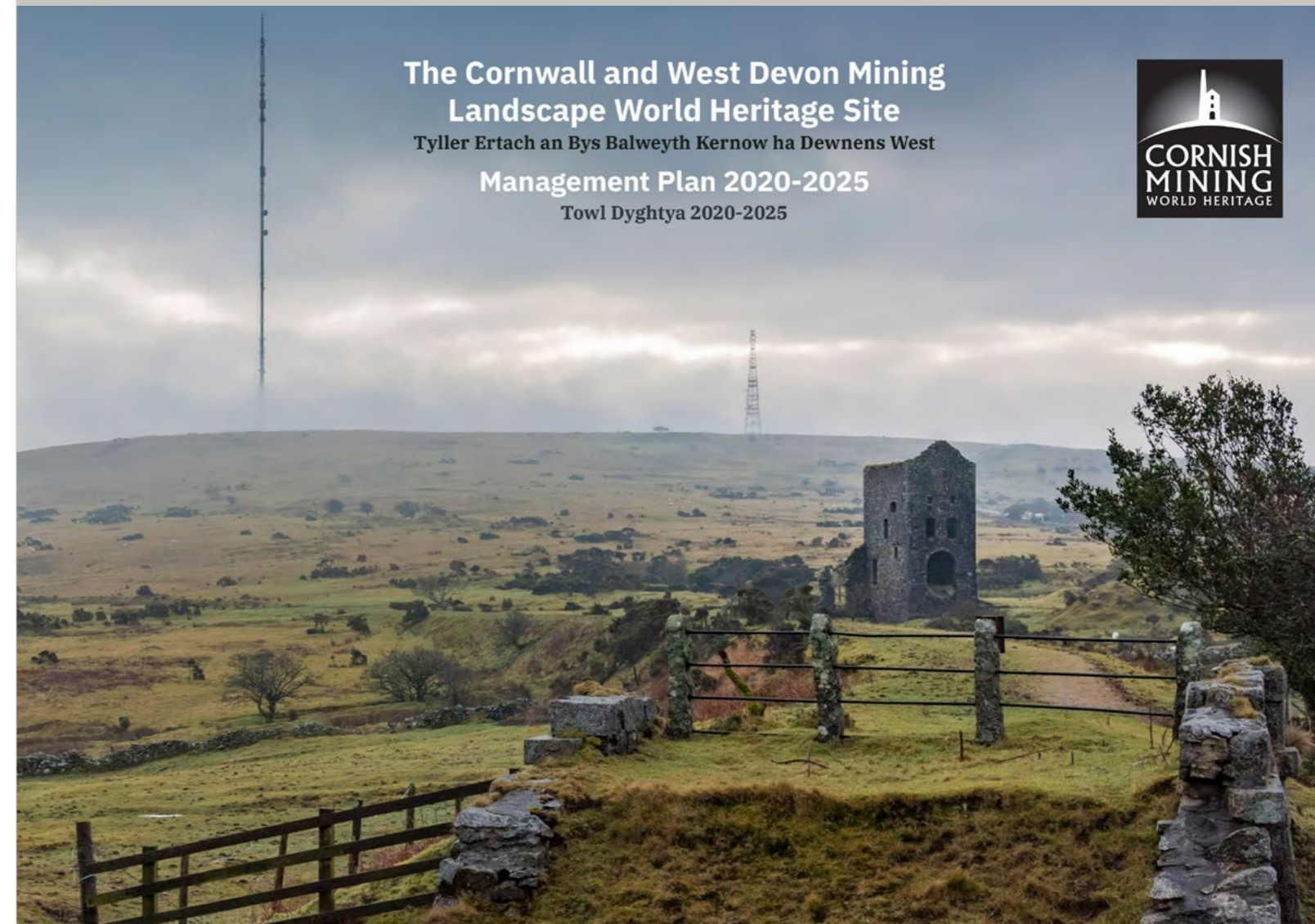
The Office has welcomed Sally Weston into an interim position as WHS Co-ordinator, after Deborah Boden's departure following seventeen years' service to the WHS. The Office wishes Deborah the best in her next steps, she will be greatly missed. Sally comes to us following 6 years working with the Cornwall Record Office and Local Studies Library collections and teams during their transition to the new Kresen Kernow site.

Our new membership scheme has continued to grow, and we have added more materials to our custom-built "Tributer" area on our new website. We look forward to welcoming even more "Tributers" in the new year and further developing our membership offering.

One of our main goals in the immediate future will be implementing our internationally praised Management Plan, which incorporates the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and focuses on building ecological resilience.

Oll an Gwella / All the best

The Cornish Mining World Heritage Site Team



Above: Management Plan cover

Education and Events

CORNISH CARETAKERS

In early 2020, fresh from attending a BAFTA awards ceremony, Edward Rowe, aka the Kernow King who played the lead role of Martin in BAFTA winner Mark Jenkin's double BAFTA nominated film *Bait*, was straight back into Cornish Primary Schools teaching them about their Cornish mining heritage. At his first school visit, Newlyn Primary School, he received a round of applause from some very excited pupils.

Edward Rowe developed an immersive learning experience called the Cornish Caretakers where he explored different characters from Cornish history or culture as part of an interactive performance. The Cornish Caretakers show has previously educated school children on the work of Cornwall Heritage Trust and Kresen Kernow; both shows were excellently well-received across Cornwall, even having showings at Royal Cornwall in Cornwall Heritage Trust's tent. In the version developed for the Cornwall and West Devon Mining Landscape World Heritage Site, Cornish Caretakers explored six characters from the area's mining history to teach the children about how the World Heritage Site is special.

It was all hands-on deck in the development of the mining show. Mr Rowe called on Cornish engineering and carpentry students from Cornwall College, St Austell, asking them to create a replica of the famous 'Puffing Devil'; Camborne inventor and engineer Richard Trevithick's first steam powered road vehicle. Edward had already worked with the College on a similar project for his 'Trevithick' show.

The show, created by Palores Productions and Cornish Director Simon Harvey, not only starred the 'Puffing Devil' replica but the World Heritage Site team provided a selection of Cornish mineral samples for the children to handle and learn how particular metals are used in items such as electronics, machinery and rechargeable batteries. Some of these samples are so rare that single locations in Cornwall are the only place they are found, anywhere in the world.

Edward also worked with the World Heritage Site team to produce a, one of a kind, mining inspired board game 'Mines and Ladders', specifically for the project. The board game takes the children on a journey across Cornwall, with real life mining highs and lows moving them forward and back.

The production toured primary schools throughout the World Heritage Site and beyond in Cornwall and west Devon and was fantastically received throughout.

Following the great success of the tour, Palores have developed an exciting online platform allowing the children to continue their learning digitally. The World Heritage Site team have worked along with Edward Rowe to help him create a ground-breaking online platform; created for children by children.



Above: Play is an important part of the learning experience delivered by Cornish Caretakers



THE GAME TAKES CHILDREN ON A JOURNEY ACROSS CORNWALL, WITH REAL LIFE MINING HIGHS AND LOWS

Above: School children at Ponsanooth School enjoying the Cornish mining inspired board game 'Mines and Ladders'

The 'Cornish Caretakers' evaluation highlighted demand for affordable local heritage learning support. The project received a 100% satisfaction rating and teachers reported that children developed a sense of place and pride in their area learning how local mining communities impacted the world. The children also found it inspiring how the mining of tin and copper in their homeland has the potential to play a part in the world around them. The World Heritage Site team and Palores are currently building on this success and the relationships developed. Through a partnership of schools and heritage and arts practitioners we aim to deliver a free, widely accessible, facility to primary schools in Cornwall, Devon, and beyond. This has the potential for added importance given the impacts of Covid-19.

The project is currently working with three schools in the World Heritage Site, in order to take them into the mining landscape and create content for the learning platform. This involves the pupils learning illustration, performance, directing, filming and digital skills, then putting these skills into practice to create the content for their peers, thereby increasing

understanding of the mining heritage. Pupils will have the opportunity to engage with, and be inspired by, their industrial heritage and environment.

As an immersive digital learning experience, the project will develop a free digital platform with interactive videos of key World Heritage Site mining landscapes, supported by learning activities and materials. Pupils are creating the digital content that will explore each mine site in turn and are creating content which will immerse users in the mining landscape.

Through this experience the pupils will learn about the mining culture which shaped the landscape alongside the environmental and cultural legacies, while developing creative and digital skills. We will equip them with the skills to develop creative, heritage and digital careers, and inspire the next generation of creatives and heritage caretakers who can protect, preserve and interpret our living landscape into the future.

Despite Covid related delays the project is expected to launch free to schools and home-schooled children in spring 2022.



Questions for the Team

DELVING DEEPER

In this section we encourage you to send in your burning questions relating to the Cornwall and West Devon Mining Landscape World Heritage Site. The team will then select 3 questions and unearth the answers for you in each edition of the newsletter.



WHAT IS THE WORLD HERITAGE SITE ROLE IN PLANNING MATTERS?

The World Heritage Site Office is a non-statutory consultee with regard to planning policies and decisions and it influences the planning process in the following ways:

- 1 Assistance in preparing Local Development Frameworks with Local Planning Authorities (LPAs) including district wide strategy and planning policy development.
- 2 Prepares the Management Plan for the World Heritage Site, which sets out a range of planning related policies that Local Planning Authorities will consider when determining a planning application in the World Heritage Site or its setting - the surroundings in which a place is experienced, its local context, that will include present and past relationships to the adjacent landscape.
- 3 Provides specialist advice to LPAs on individual planning applications within the World Heritage Site and its setting.



Above: The imaginary village of Bal Moor was created in map form for the Planning Toolkit in order to illustrate a range of World Heritage Site Attributes (or features) which are of Outstanding Universal Value (international importance) within the mining landscape. Please see the World Heritage Site Planning Toolkit, here: <https://www.cornishmining.org.uk/conservation/planning-within-a-whs>



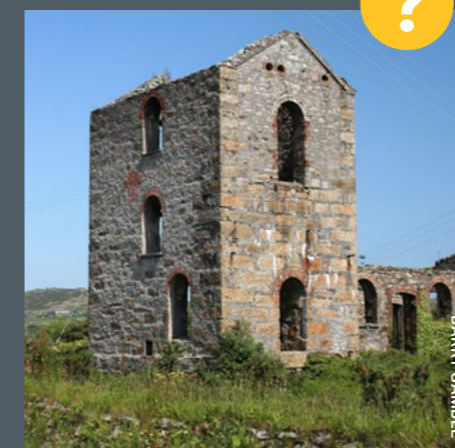
EMMA PARKMAN

Above: Butterfly and heather on arsenic waste at Devon Great Consols Mine, Tamar Valley

WHAT WAS THE DEEPEST MINE IN CORNWALL?

Dolcoath in Camborne was known as being the deepest mine in Cornwall at the end of the nineteenth century, at 2,718 feet (828 metres).

This figure was later exceeded by South Crofty Mine at nearby Pool, whose workings had extended to a depth of some 3,000 feet (915 metres) by the 1990s.



BARRY GAMBLE

Above: New East Shaft Dolcoath Mine



ARE THERE RARE PLANTS/ANIMALS AT MINE SITES IN CORNWALL AND WEST DEVON?

An example of this is the Cornish Path Moss which is, internationally, extremely rare and understood to be found only at certain mine sites on and around Caradon Hill in east Cornwall. The Cornish Path Moss is a bryophyte, which is a traditional name for any nonvascular seedless plant - that is, it lacks conducting channels for transporting water and nutrients. Mosses, hornworts, and liverworts are all nonvascular plants.

One of the objectives set out in the current World Heritage Site Management Plan (2020-2025) is to undertake a comprehensive ecological and climate audit across the World Heritage Site to identify the value, vulnerability and resilience of landscapes and features at a Site and individual community/business level. This should lead to a better understanding of environmental, ecological and biodiversity value to inform the operations of the Site's local authority partners.

To find out more go to: <https://www.cornishmining.org.uk/conservation/maintaining-a-whs>



Stories from the Diaspora

WHS MIGRATION RESEARCH

World Heritage Site Tributers can now access recent research commissioned on behalf of the Cornwall and West Devon Mining Landscape World Heritage Site addressing the migration of mine managers from Cornwall and Devon throughout Britain in the 1800s.

The skilled metalliferous mining workforce of Cornwall and Devon were in considerable demand across the globe in the nineteenth century and it is estimated that between 1815 and 1915, up to 500,000 people sought employment elsewhere. About half of these are understood to have migrated within the UK. Whilst mining migration from Cornwall particularly has received significant academic study in the international sphere, addressing disparate destinations such as Ireland, Spain, Mexico, South Africa and South Australia amongst others, much less is known of mining-related migration from Cornwall and Devon within Britain.

The advent of online genealogical research platforms such as Ancestry.com and Find My Past has enabled mining migrants, and

specifically mine management personnel, to be identified through the use of wildcard search terms such as 'Mine Agent', 'Mine Manager' and 'Mining Engineer', and this approach has underpinned the recent work. Fortunately, mine managers and those with similar descriptions from Cornwall can also be identified through their distinctive Cornish surnames, and the knowledge of this in combination with the facility of the various websites has enabled the production of a dataset of 540 individual mine managers, born predominantly in Cornwall or Devon.

The research has been undertaken by genealogist and Cornish historian Stephen Colwill who has over thirty years' experience of researching the family histories of individuals in Cornwall and elsewhere in Britain. Stephen's in-depth knowledge of Cornwall, Cornish surnames, and where these originate in Cornwall, has also proven invaluable in delivering this study.

The new research shows a complex map of mining destinations to which mine management personnel from Cornwall and Devon travelled in the nineteenth century and, in many instances, personnel are recorded as having moved from area to area and mine to mine over time. This can be confirmed through the recorded births of their children in different localities, as noted in the decennial Parish Census Returns which commenced in 1841. The study has shown that mine managers were active throughout England, and particular concentrations have been recorded across mid and north Wales, in Shropshire, Lancashire and Cumberland, and in clusters in Scotland and on the Isle of Man.

IN THE NINETEENTH CENTURY IT IS ESTIMATED THAT BETWEEN 1815 AND 1915, UP TO 500,000 PEOPLE SOUGHT EMPLOYMENT ELSEWHERE



Miners at the Foxdale Mines, Isle of Man, 1899.

*(<https://www.imuseum.im>
Collection: Photographic
Archive ID number: PGN 04348)*

The research outputs include a bespoke Microsoft Access database, containing 878 records which relate to the 540 individual mine managers previously mentioned. These were recorded at sites across 282 Ecclesiastical Parishes in England, Wales, Scotland and the Isle of Man. The disparity between the number of records (878) and the number of discrete personnel (540) is due to many individuals being included across multiple decennial Census Returns, i.e., for 1841, 1851, 1861, 1871 and 1881. The total of 540 individuals is derived primarily from adding only those with different forenames, surnames and dates of birth.

The 540 individual mining personnel captured in the Mine Management database can be allocated by birth as follows.

- 419 born in Cornwall
- 94 born in Devon
- 27 born in other counties (with Cornish or Devon parentage)

The total number of 878 entries were distributed geographically as follows.

- 446 in Wales
- 361 in England
- 48 in The Isle of Man
- 23 in Scotland



The preserved Cornish-type pumping engine house at Minera Mines, Wrexham, Wales. A tangible reminder of Cornish involvement at mines across Britain in the nineteenth century

OVERALL, THIS RESEARCH HAS SHED MUCH LIGHT ON MINE MANAGEMENT ELSEWHERE IN THE UK

Examples of two recorded individuals are included below, one born in Cornwall and the other in Devon. It can be seen that the entries include full details of the spouse and children also. This detail will be particularly important for potential future research as the birth locations of the latter indicate well the movements of families over time.

Name of Street, Place, or Road, and Name or No. of House	Name and Surname of each Person who abode in the house, on the Night of the 29th March, 1851	Relation to Head of Family	Condition	Age in Years	Sex	Rank, Profession, or Occupation	Where Born
St. Andrew's Church	William Phillips	Head	M	34	M	Miner	London
	Mary Ann	Wife	F	30	F		London
	Elizabeth	Daughter	F	15	F		London
	William	Son	M	10	M		London
	Thomas	Son	M	7	M		London
	James	Son	M	4	M		London
	John	Son	M	1	M		London
	Robert	Son	M	10	M		London
	William Phillips	Mining Agent	M	36	M		Devon

A Census Return sheet for part of London dating from 1851 which records the details of William Phillips, Mining Agent, born in the Parish of Shaugh (Prior) in Devon in 1809.

WILLIAM KITTO (BORN IN CORNWALL): RECORDED ON THE ISLE OF MAN, 1871

William Kitto (42) born in Rose, Perranzabuloe, Cornwall. Recorded as a 'Mine Agent' in 1871 at the Foxdale lead mines. William resided at Kionslieu Road, Foxdale, Isle of Man

Database notes field entry:

'Baptism - 22 Jun 1828 at Perranzabuloe, son of Richard (Miner) & Sally of Rose. Marriage - 18 Feb 1845 at Perranzabuloe to Grace Davis. William a Mine Agent (CON OPC DB). Wife - Grace (38) born CON. Children - Emily (16), William H (15) (Lead Miner), Clara (14) all born Rose, Perranzabuloe, Edith (11) born CGN, Albert (10), Laura (8), Mona (6) all born IOM - Castletown, Octavia (4) born IOM - Douglas, Nono (2) born FLN & Decima (5m) born IOM - Foxdale.'

WILLIAM LEAN (BORN IN DEVON): RECORDED IN WALES, 1871

William Lean (36) born in Bere Alston, Bere Ferrers, Devon. Recorded as a 'Mine Agent' in 1871 at the Holywell Mine in Flintshire. William resided at Claremount Cottage, Holywell, Wales.

Database notes field entry:

'Marriage - 21 Dec 1854 at Callington to Mary Ann Lobb, William son of Thomas (Miner) & Mary Ann daughter of James (Yeoman) (CON OPC DB). Wife - Mary Ann (37) born CON - South Hill. Children - Elizabeth (15) born Callington, Emeline (13), William (10), Thomas (7) born Pensilva, James (4) born FLN - Trelogan(?) & John (1) born FLN - Holywell. Gave evidence in a Court Case at Holywell in Nov 1873 concerning Medical expenses incurred by Captain William Sandoe, stated that he had managed Holway Mine for 7 years also managed West Billings, Halkin and Pantypydew Mines (see CAP00531).'



Above: Mineworkers at Stank Mines gathered at the shaft head probably around shift change. How many of these are Cornish? (Cumbria Archive Centre)

The project has also produced a report which sets out the research methodology, the principal outcomes along with individual case studies, and suggestions for potential future study. Overall, this research has shed much light on mine management elsewhere in the UK in the 1800s and illustrates something of the considerable extent to which mine managers from Cornwall and Devon were influential in shaping metalliferous mining in Britain.

The World Heritage Site team wish to thank Stephen Colwill for all his considerable efforts in undertaking this challenging research and for delivering considerably beyond the terms of the commission.

The Mine Management research project report is only available to members and can be found on the Tributer's Research page - please follow the link below.

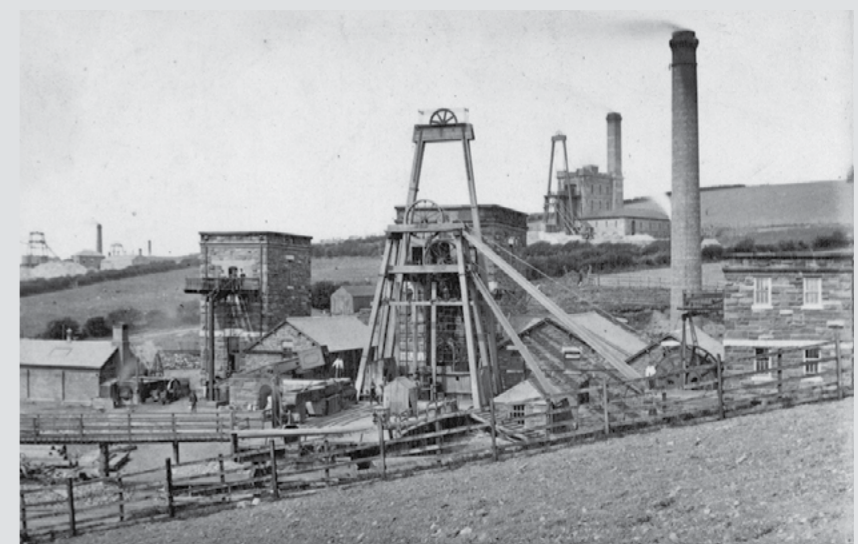
<https://www.cornishmining.org.uk/members/research>

The Mine Management dataset is also made available for Tributeters as a PDF file to accompany the report.

The dataset records details under the following data field headings.

Surname, First Name, Age, Born, Condition, County/Country of Birth, Parish/Town of Birth, Place of Birth, Occupation, Year, Country, County, Parish, Place, Mine, Mineral, Notes, Source, Image Ref (i.e., relating to scans of individual Census pages).

For convenience Chapman Codes are used throughout the database, which are the standard 3-letter codes used in genealogical research to identify the administrative divisions in the United Kingdom, Ireland, the Isle of Man and the Channel Islands, e.g., country, county etc. A full list of the Chapman Codes is contained within the report.



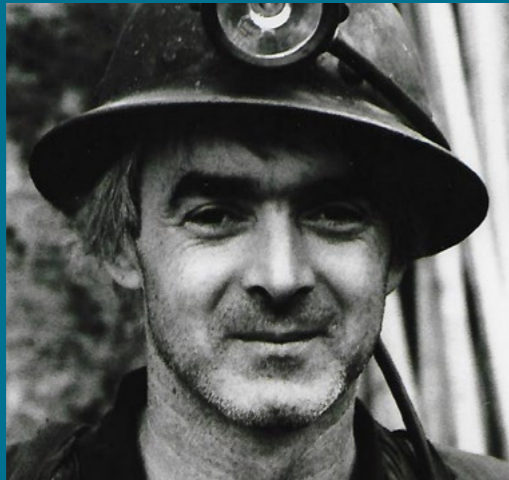
The Cornish-type steam beam engines at Stank Mines, Barrow-in-Furness, Cumbria, in 1879. Cornish mineworkers were a significant presence at this major iron ore mine (Cumbria Archive Centre)

Interview with a Miner

MIKE SAMPSON

In this section we call on our friends in the wider mining, culture and heritage industries to share the background of what their roles entail and what it took to get where they are today. Here is a profile on someone who works in Cornwall/ West Devon/ a Cornish Diaspora location to give you an insight into the people who keep our culture and history alive today.

If you would like to be included or have a person in mind who works in one of these sectors who you think would make a great profile please email us on emma.parkman@cornwall.gov.uk



NAME?

Mike Sampson

WHAT IS YOUR PROFESSION/VOLUNTEER ROLE?

Guide/Custodian.

WHERE ARE YOU BASED?

Geevor Tin Mine.

TELL US A BIT ABOUT YOURSELF?

A former miner starting in Wheal Jane in 1973 before working in gold mines in South Africa in 1975. Returned to Cornwall in 1978 at Wheal Jane and in 1979 moved to Geevor until 1986. Also worked at Pendarvis South Crofty when it was owned by Western United Mines.

WHEN DID YOU FIRST DECIDE YOU WANTED TO DO THIS ROLE?

Another former miner and guide suggested Geevor. I had taken tours at Crofty and had had enough of mining and travelling.

DID ANY OTHER MEMBERS OF YOUR FAMILY WORK IN MINING AND IF SO WHERE AND WHEN?

Great grandfather worked at Dolcoath and, of course, myself.

DID YOU HAVE TO UNDERTAKE ANY QUALIFICATIONS TO DO YOUR ROLE AND IF SO WHAT?

No.

WHAT DOES A STANDARD DAY IN YOUR ROLE LOOK LIKE?

Speaking to visitors and general maintenance and restoration.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE PART OF YOUR ROLE?

Speaking to people and restoring machinery.

ANY TRICKY PARTS OF THE JOB?

Restoration of the shaking table and equipment.

PLEASE SHARE WITH US WHAT MAKES YOUR ROLE/ORGANISATION IMPORTANT?

Passing on the history and memories so that they are not lost.

ANY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR SOMEONE WHO WOULD LIKE TO FOLLOW IN YOUR FOOTSTEPS?

Enjoy it!

ANY OTHER COMMENTS?

Thank you so much! 🙌

The CMWHS team would like to sincerely thank Mike for taking the time to take part in Interview with a Miner.

For further information or to make a booking visit Geevor's website at <https://geevor.com> or telephone reception on 01736 788662

If you have any questions regarding our offer for schools you can contact the Learning Team via e-mail at learning@geevor.com

Feature in Focus

WOMEN IN MINING



Feature in Focus

WOMEN IN MINING

Some of the most important underpinning features of our Cornwall and West Devon Mining Landscape World Heritage Site are the people and culture that shaped it.

Stories are often told of the men and even children who walked miles to work, worked long hard hours in dangerous conditions at great risk to themselves and then walked home. However, one story which is perhaps less well known is that of the women of mining, who played a huge role in the success of the metalliferous mining industry in Cornwall and Devon. These women were known as bal maidens, from 'bal' meaning 'mining place' in our Cornish language Kernewek.

Women played a vital role in the mines at surface level and were required to be skilled in identifying ore within the rock hauled to surface. Although women are not reported as working underground, young women took work as bal maidens, dressing ore at surface. Using special hammers, they would carefully select and crush the ores to a manageable size before further processing.

They were employed in particularly large numbers from about 1770 until 1860; from then their numbers declined the last being laid off in the early 1920s. They were employed throughout the mining industry; in the production of copper, tin, lead, manganese, uranium, antimony, arsenic and zinc mines, as well as at the china clay works and tin smelters.

Their job was by no means light work though, bal maidens were responsible for the processing of the ore, this meant skilfully sorting ore and wielding heavy 'bucking' and 'cobbing' hammers to break the rock before further processing. This required particular techniques to effectively separate the ore from the waste mineral (known as gangue). Teams of women and girls were also employed in barrowing ore around the dressing floors. They worked in pairs using hand barrows, often carrying over 68kg (more than the weight of an average man) between them.

Working on the mine dressing floors was hard, physical work which soon took a toll on their health and appearance. Even though they took pains to protect the faces from the sun, wearing cardboard hoods (gooks) to shade their complexions, contemporary writers noted their rough, chapped hands. Bal maidens often bought fancy gloves, which weren't a luxury for these women, but a way of trying to stay young and attractive.

They were also by no means a rarity, bal maidens were found in great numbers at mines across Cornwall and Devon. A famous bal maiden named Grace Briney was even known for carrying out 'kibble (ore bucket) landing', a physically intensive job mainly carried out by men. Quite an eccentric character, Grace also was known to smoke a pipe and dress as a man.

Ore dressing was not the only task that females undertook at the mines in the South West. On most mines there was also at least one 'counthouse woman' who was responsible for the cleaning, cooking and laundry at the mine counthouse (office). There were also some female waggoners, assayers' assistants, whim horse attendants and even the odd 'kibble' lander. In the mid-19th century, a few even became mine or clay works managers. Some women also took over 'men's jobs' at the clay works in World War I.

Women and girls were also employed in the gunpowder mills, safety fuse works and dynamite factories. They often constituted the majority of the workforce, and were at continual risk, as is evidenced by the high proportion of females amongst the accident and fatality statistics.

WORKING ON THE MINE DRESSING FLOORS WAS HARD, PHYSICAL WORK



A group of workers on the ore dressing floors of Dolcoath Mine, Camborne, circa 1900. Their Cornish shovels are well displayed.

WOMEN PLAYED AN INTEGRAL ROLE AT THE HEART OF MINING COMMUNITIES

WORK AT HOME

Not only did women play a key part in the physical work of the mines, but they also then played an integral role at the heart of mining communities and in the home life of many male mineworkers. It is often reported that miners kept clean and efficient homes influenced by Methodism, as noted by the author Lesley Trotter in her work "Married widows of Cornwall". Research in recent decades has shone a light on the extent of the bal maiden's work and the impact of this on mining society. Women kept the homes and smallholdings running whilst raising families alongside taking in extended family members, all while working at the mines themselves.



Above: Mine surface workers at East Pool and Agar Mines, Pool, circa 1910. Men, women and children were employed in landing the ore at surface and the crushing and concentrating of this for sale.

Mining was a dangerous occupation resulting in a high number of widows both young and old. Census records reveal that when a sister, sister-in-law, auntie, mother or grandmother became widowed, she would often move in with extended family. This in addition to undertaking the physical labour of being a bal maiden, and taking care of their own immediate family, women would often have extended



SPALLING .

Above: bal maidens engaged in ore spalling as depicted in James Henderson's 'Methods of Tin and Copper Dressing In Cornwall', 1858

bereaved family members to care for and/or extra children to clothe and feed.

Records from the time also show that miners' wives did not only work as bal maidens, but also as part time farm workers on the smallholdings kept by the mineworking family to supplement its income. This meant taking care of children, extended family and husbands, making sure these were well presented and well fed, and living in a tidy if small home. These women were, therefore, often also tending the family's smallholding alongside their immediate responsibilities in the household and at the mine.

Mining often employed the whole family. In the early 1800s, women and children were working in the mines alongside the men at surface. Young children would be recruited into work at the mine and by eight or nine, a miner's son or daughter was old enough to make their contribution to the family's income. Many boys also worked alongside the men, women and girls at surface, in the dressing of ore and in tending mine horses and machinery. This was seen as an apprenticeship of sorts before going underground when older.

Women have also been recorded as occupying more senior positions in mining. The majority of the managerial positions at mines in Cornwall and west Devon were occupied by men but very occasionally women appear in the mining records. Lydia Taylor is a notable example and is understood to have acted as mine manager at Wheal Lovell, Wendron, in the early 1840s. While little else is known of Lydia's life she is also understood to have been associated with South Wheal Towan Mine, alternatively known as Wheal Lydia.

WOMEN WERE ALSO ACTIVE IN METHODISM - THE 'MINERS' RELIGION'

Fairly unusually for the time women played an active part in religion in Cornwall. Methodism, the 'miners' religion', would often have women holding 'cottage religion'; informal worship in the home in 1780s to the 1830s and allowed women to actively aid the spread of the Methodist message at grass roots level. Over 56 per cent of the west Cornwall circuit (groups of congregations) were women in 1767, showing the significance of their early involvement in its spread in Cornish communities.

Methodism also encouraged pride and thrift, meaning that a miner's home was usually clean, his children as well fed as possible and their clothes, although old, laundered and neatly patched. This took place alongside working in the mines and community commitments within religion and unpaid care work of the extended family. Women worked hard to maintain the household and their families well-fed, all on a small budget.

Women played an essential part in the Cornish mining story, from the mine, to the home to the community, they played an integral role in not only keeping the mining industry afloat but also undertaking unpaid work in the home and supporting communities often affected by the strains and losses of the mining industry. These women are often overlooked when discussing the 'Cornish Miner' however without their hard work and resourcefulness it is hard to see how the mining industry could have been what it was in relation to Cornish and Devonian communities.



Workers on the buddle floors of Dolcoath Mine, Camborne, circa 1910. The female workers appear particularly well dressed in this excellent photograph



Above: bal maidens working in a mine bucking mill as shown in James Henderson's 'Methods of Tin and Copper Dressing In Cornwall', 1858

CHILDREN'S EMPLOYMENT COMMISSION REPORT OF 1842: INTERVIEWS WITH BAL MAIDENS FROM CORNWALL AND DEVON

A growing concern as to the plight of children working in British mines in the 1840s led to a Royal Commission report being submitted to the Government in 1842. Dr. Charles Barham (a mine surgeon) collected evidence for the inquiry from some of the Cornish mines. In the course of this work, he interviewed 22 bal maidens in 1841 and a record of these interviews appears in the appendix of the report. A selection of these is reproduced opposite.

The 1842 report led quickly to the drafting of the 'The Mines and Collieries Bill', which was supported by Member of Parliament Lord Anthony Ashley-Cooper. Ashley-Cooper was a staunch advocate of the Bill and his sustained efforts ensured this was quickly passed by Parliament. The Bill became law as 'The Mines Act' on 10 August 1842 and this prohibited all underground work for women and girls, and for boys under 10.

SUBJECTS INTERVIEWED BY THE PARLIAMENTARY COMMISSION IN 1841

'Mary Buller, 15 years and 10 months old (Fowey Consols, April 2nd, 1841)

She has been working here about six years, generally spalling and cobbing. She has generally had pretty good health. She does not feel the work. She leaves at five on the evening, and never stays later, except once a month. Perhaps once a week she has a task and can get away at three or half past three; 'most of the girls who I know of, and I know a pretty deal of them in the mine, are strong and hearty'. One of them (whose name she mentioned) 'is terribly weak and looks very earthy, though she is 18'. She went to a day school for three years and learnt to read and sew and knit. She has forgotten her reading. She has not had clothes to go to Sunday school. Her mother is a widow and could not afford to keep them at school.'

'Caroline Coom, 11 years old (Fowey Consols, April 2nd, 1841)

She has been here working about two years and is employed picking. She finds it easy and pleasant work and does not feel tired at the end of the day. None of the girls picking complain of anything. They get cold sometimes. She has no tasks and does not leave before five. She has had a fever since she has been working at the mine. She does not know how long. She goes to Sunday school and reads the Testament there. (Reads a little)'



Part of a Cornish mining scene depicted in a nineteenth century painting by the artist known as W.P., held by the Royal Institution of Cornwall. This shows bal maidens using their distinctly shaped cobbing hammers to break up copper ore on simple stone anvils

SHE FOUND SPALLING MUCH HARDER WORK AND STILL FINDS IT HARD. SHE FEELS PAIN IN HER LIMBS, SOMETIME IN HER BACK

'Elizabeth Davey, 17 years old (Charlestown Mines, April 1st, 1841)

She has been here a year and a half and is employed racking. She was in service before she came to the mine. She finds this employment agrees with her better that service but is liable to take cold. (Has good colour but looks rather delicate.)'

'Elizabeth Hocking, 17 years 6 months old (Charlestown Mines, April 1st, 1841)

Her work is spalling. She has been here four years. She has been spalling for three years and was racking before. She found spalling much harder work and still finds it hard. She feels pain in her limbs, sometime in her back. She does not always get rid of it on lying down. She stays up till nine or ten and gets up at half past five. She works an hour or an hour and a half overtime about once a month. She gives her mother all the wages and what she can of extra pay. (A strong ruddy girl)'

'Christina Pascoe, 17 years 4 months old (Consolidated Mines, May 15th, 1841)

She has come to work about five years or rather more. She has always been at these mines. She was for two years employed picking, then she went to the floors spalling and carrying and she had now been cobbing for seven months. This work is not so trying to the body as working out of doors. She was let in because she was not able to continue the work out. She had pains in her back and was falling into a decline by it, her breathe very short, till she took medicine for it. Cobbing is very cold on the legs. The feet get wet with water coming in and the stones are wet when there is rain. She can 'cobbie' six barrows a day for which she is paid 8d. That is all they are allowed to get when they do not stay till eight. She could not do more well, the work is very hard. She can cobbie a barrow and sometimes do overtime. She still has shortness of breath at all times and pain in the back after working a good many hours. She lives a mile

off. She gets up at six and does not get to bed until 10 or 11. Her mother being a widow and there being a household and needlework to be done after she gets home. Her father was hurt in the mine (Wood Mine) and brought up blood and fell into a consumption and died eight months ago. (Complexion indicating venous congestion)'

This article is based principally on research undertaken by Dr Sharron P. Schwartz and includes text prepared to inform the Cornwall and West Devon Mining Landscape World Heritage Site Nomination (2001-2006), that of related academic papers, and data from secondary sources.

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Bal maidens and Mining Women: <http://www.balmaidens.co.uk/index.htm> 🏠

ON THE GROUND AT HEARTLANDS

The Heartlands Trust unveiled an exciting new exhibition at the Heartlands site which focuses on Cornish mining migration and progress towards the production of technology metals and renewable energy in Cornwall.

Heartlands, which was created around the Grade II* Listed building complex at Robinson's Shaft, South Crofty Mine, is a Key Centre for the Cornwall and West Devon Mining Landscape World Heritage Site. As such, it presents aspects of the Cornish mining story and landscapes which are of international importance.

The exhibition, which is a new permanent feature of Heartlands, is the result of a significant Culture Recovery Grant awarded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund in 2020. The exhibition departs from previous displays in that it highlights the fascinating story of mining migration specifically, which is an important aspect of the social history of Camborne, Pool, and Redruth - also known as the Central Mining District.

Many thousands migrated from Cornwall in the nineteenth century to places as far afield as South America, Australia, India, North America and South Africa. The exhibition shines a spotlight on this and - for the first time - details the true scope of mining migration which saw an estimated 250,000 to 500,000 people leave Cornwall during the century from 1815 to 1915.

The new migration focus complements well the popular Heartlands' Diaspora Gardens and has been created by historian Dr Sharron P Schwartz, who is the foremost authority on Cornish mining migration, and graphic designers Perch & Ponder Limited. It examines the places that the Cornish went to and looks at the profound and lasting effects migration had on individuals and their families, and the towns and villages they left behind. It is a story of true adventure into the unknown and celebrates the pioneering spirit of the Cornish.

Dr Schwartz, who was born and raised in Redruth, has skilfully woven stories of her own family into the exhibition narrative. Like many in the area, she has ancestors which took their much in demand mining skills all around the globe, including to South America and South Africa.

'For years I have longed to see a dedicated exhibition devoted to a story that has indelibly shaped the people and settlements of the area I was born and bred in. Like countless other Cornish people from a mining background in Camborne-Redruth, migration has shaped the branches on both sides of my family tree.

'There are many tales of trials and tribulations, tragedies and triumphs in my family, and one of these concerns Bill Harvey a brother to my great grandmother. In 1907, Bill was killed in an underground explosion in the Dreifontein Mine, South Africa, just weeks after his brother John had died of enteric fever in nearby Randfontein. Both had previously worked in the United States. Bill left four children and his widow expecting their fifth at Penance, while John was survived by two children. After these tragedies, the brothers' wives and their children returned to Michigan, causing yet more heartache as the family never saw them again.





Clockwise from top left:
 The new mining migration exhibition at Heartlands places the efforts of the Cornish very much at the centre of the Heartlands' story.
 H.M. Ambassador to Montenegro, Karen Maddocks, officially opening the new Heartlands' exhibition on Friday 9 July 2021.
 The mining migration exhibition covers the impact of the Cornish the world over.

THE DISPLAYS ALSO INCLUDE MANY NEVER-BEFORE-SEEN HISTORIC PHOTOGRAPHS

Right:
 The exhibition also covers the inscription of the Cornish Mining World Heritage Site by UNESCO in 2006

'Familial experiences and events like this have forged my Cornish identity and cultural heritage and eventually helped to shape my career. As a local girl with an authentic and in-depth knowledge of this truly remarkable period in Cornish history, I was delighted to have been engaged as the consultant to devise and produce the historical content for a 12-minute documentary film and the new exhibition. The displays also include many never-before-seen historic photographs and utilises the most up-to-date maps ever produced to illustrate the global spread of Cornish mining migration. It is entirely fitting that this major new exhibition is sited at Heartlands, the very heart of Cornish mining, engineering and migration.'

Dr Schwartz has also recently launched a new website which explores the migration of Cornish mineworkers and their culture. Currently in development, 'Cousin Jacks World' promises to be an essential source of information and includes a piece on her recent work with Heartlands:

<https://www.cousinjacksworld.com/>

The exhibition space also now includes a step into the future and looks at those companies currently pursuing the resurgence of Cornish mining and sustainable energy sources. Being a collaborative effort with local industries, this aspect of the exhibition is aimed at providing the public with up-to-date information on current progress and the potential to pursue careers in engineering.

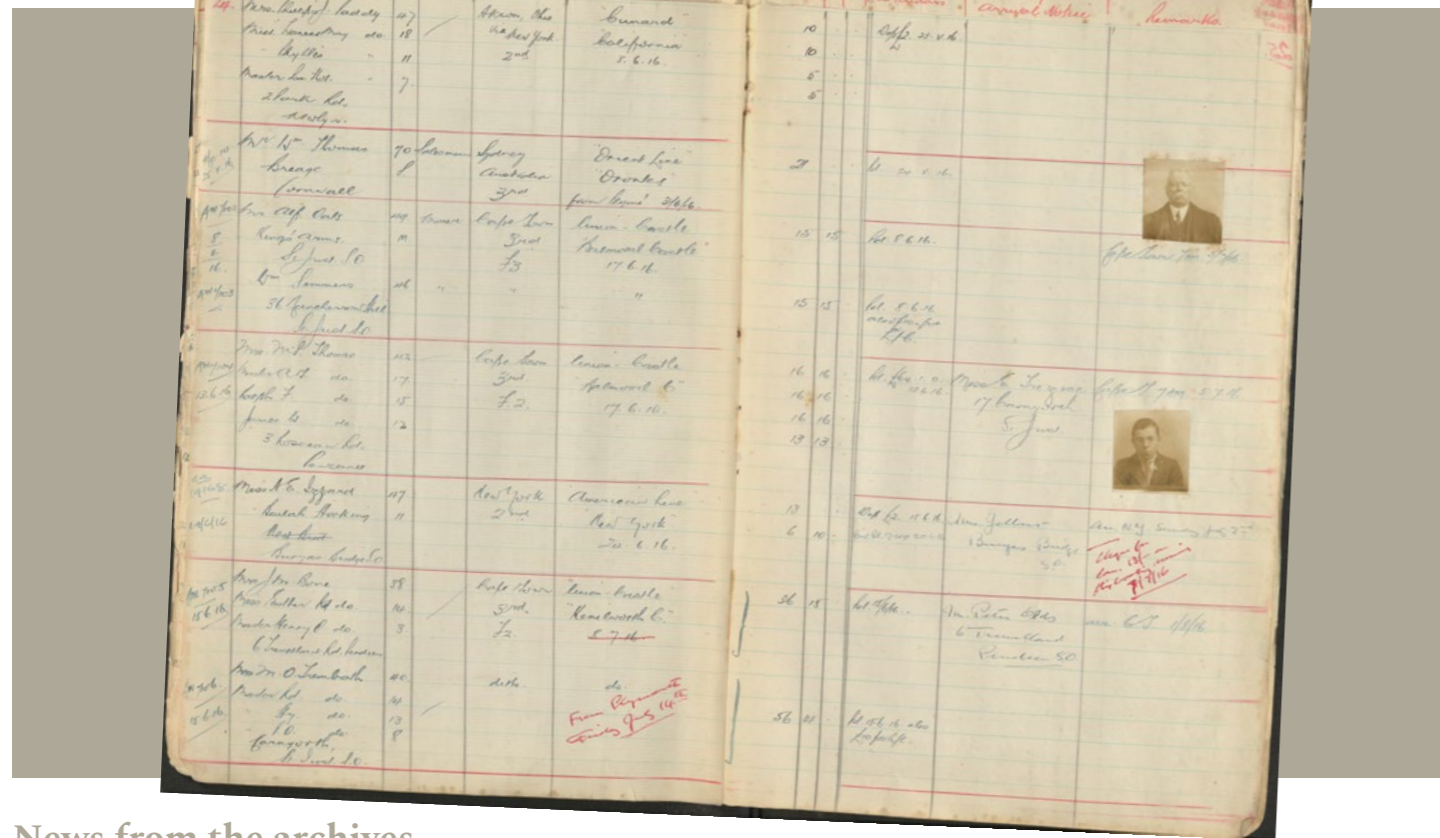
The official opening of the exhibition was performed by Karen Maddocks, H.M. Ambassador to Montenegro, on Friday 9 July. Born and raised in St. Austell, Karen was educated at Poltair School and is an inspiring example to all young people locally.



The new exhibition places the efforts of the Cornish very much at the centre of the Heartlands' story and is sure to be well received by all those that wish to learn more of the incredible global reach of their ancestors.

The new exhibition is currently open Thursday to Sunday 10-3pm and is achieving an average of 50 visitors per day through the doors with great feedback. Since opening the new exhibition is proving very popular with both local and national visitors. Some have found the site for the first time and have enjoyed walking around the gardens after learning about the Diaspora migration in the museum. Also, a large proportion of visitors have been immediately local to the site and have brought friends and relatives to Heartlands to enjoy all this fantastic site has have to offer.

<https://www.heartlandscornwall.com/>



News from the archives - KRESEN KERNOW



Kresen Kernow ('Cornwall Centre') is home to the world's largest collection of documents, books, maps and photographs related to Cornwall's history. A state-of-the-art archive centre built in the shell of the former Redruth Brewery, Kresen Kernow stores 1.5 million treasured documents covering 850 years of history on 14 miles of shelving.

Kresen Kernow's collections contain many references to migration overseas, and the Cornish diaspora.

A fascinating source for the descendants of Cornish migrants are two account books for tickets purchased to travel to South Africa, North America and Australasia, dating from the early 20th century (reference X605/3-4). The documents arrived at Kresen Kernow with material relating to Penzance, so it's perhaps not a surprise that most of the people mentioned in the account books are from that area and other parts of West Cornwall.

The pages pictured here are unusual in featuring photographs (they are the only pages that do, in both volumes, although some pages also include news clippings and other paraphernalia). They show 70 year old William Thomas from Breage, who was headed for Sydney, Australia aboard the Orient Line ship 'Orontes' in May 1916. The photo further down shows a member of the Thomas family. Mrs Thomas was headed to Cape Town, South

Above: An account book dating from the early 20th century showing tickets purchased to travel to South Africa

Africa in June 1916 with her three sons, perhaps to join her husband. They travelled aboard the Union-Castle ship 'Balmoral 6' and the account book records that they arrived in South Africa in July 1916, with their fares totalling £64 (around £3700 today).

Other Cornish migrants are also listed across this double page spread. Mrs Philippa Paddy and her three children were heading to Akron, Ohio via New York. Mr Alfred Oats of the King's Arms in St Just was travelling to South Africa with William Semmens as were several other people listed on this page. Of course, the volumes do not tell us about what happened when they arrived, or whether they stayed in their destinations or returned to Cornwall later.

The volume covers 1913-1938 and has been fully digitised. It will hopefully be available to view on our website at kresenkernow.org in the future. We are exploring our collections further to discover what they tell us about Cornish interactions overseas. Find out more at <https://kresenkernow.org/our-collections/collections-guides/cornish-overseas/>



WAY BACK WHEN

In this section we look back at what was happening in the Cornwall and West Devon Mining Landscape World Heritage Site "Back Along".

Nine years ago, in April 2013, the Cornish Mining team were delighted to host visitors from north Wales who were on a fact finding visit in advance of a potential bid for World Heritage Site status for the Welsh slate industry. Excitingly, this past year (2021) the Welsh slate team were finally able to celebrate the successful inscription of the Slate Landscape of Northwest Wales as a World Heritage Site.

Wales has long been appreciated as an international centre for world class slate for building and decorative purposes, and the global trade in slate has resulted in many of the world's finest buildings being finished with this attractive and durable rock. Communities in north Wales have long valued the role the slate industry played in developing the region, and interpretation centres have been established to bring this and the international story of slate to a wider audience. The National Museum of Slate at Llanberis has its home within the Victorian quarry workshops and buildings

at Dinorwig Quarry, which closed in 1969. Situated in the shadow of Elidir Mountain the visitor can travel into the past of an industry and a way of life which has done much to shape the spirit of Wales.

The Cornish Mining team congratulates our friends in Wales for all their sustained effort in securing World Heritage status and, in doing so, highlighting another important aspect of Britain's industrial heritage.

For further information on the Slate Landscape of Northwest Wales please visit the following websites.

<https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1633/>

<https://worldheritageuk.org/world-heritage-sites-uk-list/wales/slate-landscape-northwest-wales/>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/welsh-slate-landscape-uks-newest-unesco-world-heritage-site>



Right: The Dorothea Quarry pumping engine in north Wales – an excellent survival of a Cornish-type beam pumping engine within the Welsh slate landscape

Above: The delegation from Gwynedd in north Wales visiting the site of the Holman's No.3 Works, Camborne, in April 2013. The visiting team comprised, from left to right, Dafydd Roberts (Keeper of the National Slate Museum, Llanberis), Roland Wyn Evans (Senior Manager, Economy and Community Development Department, Gwynedd Council), Sioned Williams (Head of the Economy and Community Development Department, Gwynedd Council) and Cllr John Wynn Jones (Gwynedd Council). The group were on a three day fact-finding mission in advance of their bid for World Heritage status for the north Wales slate industry, which was successful last year.



ANSLEY DOCKS



Dog walking on the Treffry Viaduct, Luxulyan Valley



www.cornishmining.org.uk