

THE

WINTER 2020

TRIBUTER

CORNWALL & WEST DEVON
MINING WORLD HERITAGE
SITE NEWSLETTER

ON THE GROUND AT GEEVOR

PLUS

FEATURE IN FOCUS:
ENGINE HOUSES

DELVING DEEPER
QUESTIONS FOR THE TEAM

INTERVIEW
WITH A MINER

STORIES FROM
THE DIASPORA



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**PHOTO OF
THE SEASON**

Leaves falling in the
Luxulyan Valley
Photo: Ainsley Cocks

Note from the Editor

DEAR TRIBUTERS

A warm hello from the World Heritage Site Team, we hope you are keeping safe and well during these continued difficult times.

We are extremely excited to share our first edition of “The Tributer” with you. This bi-annual newsletter is something we have developed with the help of the talented teams at Cornish company design79 and the Cornwall Council Design Team. We aim to keep you informed of what is happening in the Site, provide some insights into all that it has to offer, and an opportunity to share in our celebration and exploration of our Cornwall and west Devon mining landscapes through photo submissions, questions for the team and articles. We would particularly welcome your stories from around the World Heritage Site and beyond. We aim to create not just a group of subscribers, but a community with a shared passion for our mining heritage.

Alongside this newsletter we are delighted to be launching our new website with a brand-new membership opportunity delivering a dedicated members’ area for our “Tributers” to explore.

It has been a long journey to develop our new website undertaken during the Covid-19 pandemic. We embarked on an extensive procurement process almost 12 months ago, seeing companies from all over the world bid for the opportunity to develop the brand-new site. It was Cornish company Buzz Interactive, however, based in Newquay, who won out with their exciting ideas to fulfil the requirements and express passion for the subject matter.

The Cornish Mining WHS Office has worked alongside Buzz Interactive since the beginning of the Covid-19 lockdown, working through challenges relating to re-deployment to Covid response, and remote meetings and communications. Buzz and their partners have worked hard to deliver a fresh and engaging new website which fulfils a number of objectives for the World Heritage Site.

The project has been carried out completely virtually, despite both our Cornish Mining WHS Team and Buzz being based in Cornwall. From interviews, contract signing, the very first kick off meeting, through design discussions and development, the teams have yet to meet in person.

Buzz Interactive said of the project:

“The working relationship on this project, despite needing to be completely remote, has been a joy from the start - not only do we have wonderful creative concepts to work with from design79, another Cornwall-based company, we’ve also built up a fantastic rapport with the client team. They have been receptive to our ideas and suggestions along the way and it’s been a pleasure to bring their vision for this new website to life.”



ANSLEY COCKS

Man Engine at Geevor 2018

Right: Tin Dressers at Basset Mines c.1900



PADDY BRADLEY

The new website will focus on creating a digital resource for people all over the world to explore and learn about Cornwall and west Devon’s mining heritage virtually. The current Covid-19 situation alongside our aspirations to support environmental growth and reduce carbon emissions, have inspired the WHS Team to focus on accessibility and inclusivity. Cornish mining is a truly global heritage, and the new site will enable improved access to the World Heritage Site from anywhere in the world without the need to travel.

The Cornish Mining WHS Team hopes that our new membership facility and newsletter will give our supporters a new engaging way to support the Cornwall and West Devon Mining Landscape World Heritage Site and learn more about the status and the work we do.

So, we welcome you and hope you enjoy this newsletter and all the fantastic content contributions from our heritage and mining friends from across Cornwall and the world!

Particular thanks are extended to Chloe Phillips of Kresen Kernow, Clint Hosking of Geevor Mine, Lucy Crane of Cornish Lithium, Carrie Blogg of the Tavistock GuildHall Project team and also to all the Diaspora who kindly contributed “Dear Cornwall letters”.

Oll an Gwella / All the best

The Cornish Mining World Heritage Site Team



PADDY BRADLEY

A GROUP OF TIN DRESSERS, BASSET MINES.

Tin Dressers at Basset Mines c.1900

Conservation Projects

WHEAL BUSY SMITHY

The World Heritage Site is made up of a great many features which are internationally important. These features are described by UNESCO as 'attributes of Outstanding Universal Value' and together they make up the distinctive character of the Cornish mining landscape.

The attributes can be found, in different concentrations, across all ten Areas of the World Heritage Site and part of the role of the World Heritage Site Office is to help identify attributes which are considered to be most in need of conservation and to work to secure external funding to enable this.

Many conservation projects have been undertaken within the World Heritage Site since this was inscribed by UNESCO in 2006 and our current conservation priorities are set out in the forthcoming Management Plan (2020-2025).

At the top of our current list of conservation priorities is the former blacksmiths' workshop at Wheal Busy near Chacewater, otherwise known as the Wheal Busy Smithy.

THE WHEAL BUSY SMITHY

The Wheal Busy Smithy is by considerable margin the largest and most elaborate building of its type within Cornwall and Devon and the World Heritage Site and, as such, is a unique survival. As an attribute of Outstanding Universal Value within the Site, its long-term preservation is of the highest priority to the World Heritage Site Partnership Board.

Depicted as a 'Miners' Dry' and 'Pitmans' House' on an abandoned mine plan of the 1860s (CRO: MRO R151A Mine plan), the building appears to have had its origins as an earlier smithy for the mine, dating from the 1840s. The building in its present form dates largely from the 1872 reworking of the mine and it is understood that a steam engine, blast forge, steam hammer, and hand forges were installed at this time, possibly along with extensions to the building's east and west ranges.

Wheal Busy itself is an important name within the annals of Cornish mining. The mining of metalliferous minerals in the area around Chacewater dates from the seventeenth through to the early/mid twentieth century, with the first mention of Wheal Busy understood to date from 1666. In addition to Wheal Busy being a major producer of tin and copper, the site also saw the successive installation of early innovations in steam technology. A Newcomen Atmospheric Engine was at work dewatering the mine by around 1726, a Smeaton improved atmospheric engine by 1775-1776, and, eventually, by a Boulton & Watt separate condenser engine, the first to work in Cornwall. This 30-inch cylinder engine was erected in September 1777, with its installation being personally supervised by its designer James Watt.



Above: The Wheal Busy Smithy photographed in 2014.

WHEAL BUSY ITSELF IS AN IMPORTANT NAME WITHIN THE ANNALS OF CORNISH MINING

Wheal Busy was also a major employer in the area and contributed significantly to the development of the village and new Parish of Chacewater (1828). It also influenced the development of the first rail-based transport network in Cornwall, the Portreath Plateway (commenced 1809), which used a horse-drawn tramroad employing plate type rails for the transportation of copper ores and supplies, to and from the north coast port at Portreath.

Located near the surviving pumping engine house at Wheal Busy, which was conserved in 2013-2015 using Natural England funds, the Smithy building has a large wet-laid scantle-slate hipped-roof with ridge tiles. The two impressive cast iron lintels over the cart entrances to the north and east elevations are some of its most notable features and are understood to have been manufactured at the Williams' Perran Foundry at Perranarworthal. The Williams family of Scorrier House held interests in both Wheal Busy and Perran Foundry in the 1870s and the latter was an obvious choice when selecting a foundry to make goods for the mine. The two castings proudly proclaim: 'Great Wheal Busy Mines 1872' and are testament to the ebullience of the mine's directors at the time. The Williams family, as Williams and Co., held extensive mining interests in Cornwall and beyond during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries.

The Smithy has unfortunately suffered from slow deterioration over the decades, but this has greatly accelerated in recent years due to storm damage. The condition of the walls and roof structure are now such that urgent consolidation is required to maintain the structural integrity of the building and avoid a major collapse. The Smithy has been a conservation concern since well before the inscription of the World Heritage Site, but the team have worked to secure funding for this since 2015 when the conservation of the pumping engine and boiler houses was completed.



Above and below: The Wheal Busy Smithy as surveyed by architectural students Marina Dunbar, Callum Coats, and John Adams while on their summer break in 1961.



WHEAL BUSY IS VERY WELL LOCATED FOR COMMUNITY USE AND HAS GOOD LINKS WITH CHACEWATER

Currently the World Heritage Site team are pursuing further funding for the Smithy from Highways England and specifically its Road Improvement Scheme 2 fund (RIS 2). Discussions between potential project partners are ongoing but it is hoped that emergency stabilisation funding will be secured to make the building weathertight as a precursor to the building having a community use in the future. Both Chacewater Parish Council and the Mining Villages Regeneration Group are supportive of this in principle and it is hoped that with the co-operation of the building's owner, the Tregothnan Estate, this will be delivered.

The Smithy has recently been the subject of a series of site investigations commissioned by Highways England to determine the precise historic form of the building and to devise the best means of undertaking its conservation. This work has been greatly aided by the

and the Smithy. The Smithy drawings have proven invaluable in informing the planning permissions required to conserve the building and we thank Mr and Mrs John and Marina Adams for very generously donating these for use.

Wheal Busy is very well located for community use and has good links with Chacewater. The village is connected to the mine by the former mine track and public byway known as Wheal Busy Lane and there is significant scope to highlight this half-mile off-road link within the Chacewater streetscape enhancement programme also being considered by Highways England. Wheal Busy is also situated on a loop of the popular Mining Trails network that connects with the well-used Coast to Coast multi-use trail that links Devoran with Portreath. An estimated 22,000 people pass along the trail at the nearby Scorrier Wood annually, which highlights the importance of such routes to the public and the potential for the Smithy as a community asset.

Julian German, Chair of the World Heritage Site Partnership, commented that *"The Wheal Busy Smithy poses a significant conservation challenge, but it is hoped that Highways England will continue to support the emergency stabilisation of the building which is a highly regarded feature of importance both locally and internationally."*

The World Heritage Site team hopes to continue to work with Highways England, the Tregothnan Estate, and community interests to deliver the much-needed conservation of this unique aspect of Cornwall's mining heritage.



Above: One of the two impressive cast iron door lintels of the Smithy, manufactured by Perran Foundry in 1872.

availability of a number of survey drawings of the Smithy undertaken in the early 1960s. We are particularly fortunate that three architectural students, Marina Dunbar, Callum Coats and John Adams, visited the site during the summer of 1961 and over a number of days produced 23 drawings of the various mine buildings, specifically the pumping engine and boiler houses, the Brunton type calciner,



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 MINERALS WERE MINED FOR IN CORNWALL AND DEVON?

Around a dozen metallic ores have been produced in Cornwall and Devon but the 'big four' were tin, copper, arsenic and lead. Iron ore, manganese, barytes and pyrite have also been mined in large quantities.

WHEN IS MINING THOUGHT TO HAVE BEGUN IN CORNWALL AND DEVON?

Prehistoric artefacts found in former tin stream excavations indicate that mining for tin was taking place in Cornwall at least 4,000 years before present.



WHAT WAS THE IMPACT ON THE ENVIRONMENT OF CORNISH MINING?

The early production of tin from moorland and valley tin stream sites required the use of much water to wash away the lighter waste minerals, or gangue, from the much heavier tin ore – cassiterite (SnO₂). An environmental impact of this was that this wash-water was returned to rivers and streams carrying enormous quantities of silt which would accumulate downstream, often to the detriment of coastal communities. The Par Estuary, near St Austell, was completely blocked by such silt and estimates of the depth of this at Polmear, adjoining Par Beach, are thought to be in the region of 75 feet (23m).



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Stories from the Diaspora

A GLOBAL HERITAGE

DEAR CORNWALL AND WEST DEVON - PART ONE

To celebrate the launch of our brand-new website we sent a call out to our Cornish Diaspora family asking them to write letters to Cornwall and west Devon telling us about themselves, where they live, and their connection to Cornwall.

At the start of the 19th century, Cornwall's mining industry was thriving. The industrial revolution and the development of high-pressure steam power meant Cornish mining was becoming world-renowned for its sophistication. Cornish miners travelled across the world, initially recruited for their perceived skill and experience and later due to necessity as mining declined in Cornwall and jobs became scarce. These "Cousin Jack"

miners moved and often settled, taking their family with them or making new families where they landed, resulting in much of our Cornish Diaspora community.

Our call out resulted in a fantastic response from a range of Diaspora locations, these Cornish descendants offered us amazing and personal stories, poetry, photos and memories to share on our website. We hope you enjoy reading about these wonderful Cornish characters as much as we have.

A huge thanks to all who took part and put so much effort into your wonderful responses. Part Two of the letters will be shared in the next edition of the Tributer.



CHRIS ENSOR

Val at the Levant Tin Mine

CHRIS ENSOR, KENT WASHINGTON STATE USA

Dear Cornwall and west Devon,

I live in Kent Washington State USA and I'm 71 years old. was born in England. I moved to Washington State in the USA in 1996. My mother was Scottish while my father had an Irish father and Cornish mother. My grandmother Florence Teague (maiden name) and great grandparents Pomeroy Teague and Elizabeth Daniel were all born and raised in the parish of Madron, just outside Penzance, Cornwall. As far as I know the family had no direct mining history.

My American wife Val and I spent a week in Cornwall in October 2019. We stayed 3 nights close to Bodmin and then by Cape Cornwall. During our time at the Cape, we visited the National Trust Levant Tin Mine in its spectacular cliffside setting with stunning views. We also saw the giant beam steam engine in operation.



Beautiful Cape Cornwall!



Chris walking the Southwest Coast Path near Cape Cornwall

What we learned at the mine and in the fishing towns we visited showed us what a hard life many Cornish men and women (including the teams of “bal maidens”) had in times past.

There was so much to for us to see in addition to Cornwall’s mining history. As well as learning about Cornwall’s important mining history we loved the spectacular Cornish coastline:

Here are just a few examples of Val and I enjoying visits to some of the many wonderful places Cornwall has to offer:

- *We visited the Eden Project near St. Austell.*
- *We enjoyed the bustling town centre of St. Ives and the nearby cliffs and beaches.*
- *We also walked part of the Southwest Coast Path.*
- *Cideries: We are home cider makers, so we visited two excellent Cornish cideries where we did some tasting and bought bottles to go.*
- *The Screech Owl Sanctuary at St. Columb.*
- *The Bodmin and Wenford Railway.*
- *Tintagel Castle on the coast south of Newquay and home of the King Arthur Legend.*
- *As Doc Martin fans, we had to have a guided walking tour of Port Isaac.*
- *Being National Trust of Scotland members, we visited Lanhydrock House, a historic National Trust mansion and estate near Bodmin.*

Friendly Locals: *All the local people we met were friendly and helpful. I had visited Cornwall several times many years before as boy and young adult on holiday and had loved the country. Returning last year was a way I could show off Cornwall to my wife, share my Cornish heritage with her and feel close to my Celtic roots again. On our return to the US, we joined the Pacific Northwest Cornish Society. We hope to forge links with others who share Cornish heritage in this part America.*

Wish to Return: *We has a wonderful time and would love to visit Cornwall again, see more sites, discover more history and meet more local people in this wonderful country once it’s safe to travel. Until then we treasure all we saw in Cornwall and in particular the wonderful sunsets we were privileged to see at Cape Cornwall:*



Autumn Sunset at Cape Cornwall

WE HAVE AN ACTIVE GROUP OF FOLKS WHO MEET SOCIALLY TWICE A YEAR

GORD'N PERROT, SEATTLE WA USA

Dear Cornwall and west Devon,

I am replying to your request for information about those of us with Cornish ancestry outside of Cornwall.

Where do you live?

I live in Seattle WA USA

What you know about the Cornish community in your Area?

We have an active group of folks who meet socially twice a year. There is very little mining history here, most of our ancestors moved here from a place with mining.



View of Mt Rainer from Raven Roost



What is your personal connection to Cornwall/west Devon?

My great grandparents emigrated from New Portholland to Montana early in the 1900s, they moved to Seattle after WWII. I knew my Great

grandmother before her passing in 1973. On my British father's side, his parents had a summer home in Cornwall and moved there full time upon retirement.

Do you have any Cornish Mining connections?

My Great grandfather worked coal mines in Montana until his lungs got too damaged to keep working.

What does Cornwall and west Devon mean to you?

I love Cornwall. Many fond memories of holidays there. I keep up on Cornish news online as well as seeing photos. I was raised Methodist from my Cornish side and still attend a Methodist church.

Please include photos of you and your landscape alongside anything else you would like to share.

I've attached a picture of myself in Seattle as well as a view of the tallest mountain in Washington State, Mt Rainier (Tahoma is its Native American name)

Thank you

Gord'n Perrott
Seattle WA USA



Jan, Peter and Karen,
Xmas Adelaide,
December 2014

KAREN HALL MT GAMBIER SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Dear Cornwall and west Devon,

I received notice from Noel Carthew from the South Australian Cornish Association (of which I am a member) about information you asked about regarding any connection I had with Cornwall.

My name is Karen Hall and I live in Mount Gambier, South Australia, I was born in Adelaide SA, capital city, about 500 kms north of here, and have lived here for nearly 50 years. I worked in an Office at a local Hospital for many years and retired a few years ago. The area is made up of agricultural land, dairy farms and is best known for pine forests and a timber industry.

Mt Gambier has a population of about 27,000 people and is located in the South East area of the State about half-way between Adelaide and Melbourne. This was a Volcanic area and we have a number of Crater Lakes, the main one being the Blue Lake just on outskirts of the town which is the source of the town's drinking water. It changes each year to a brilliant blue colour usually around November, lasts for a few months, then changes back to a less vivid shade for a few months (see photos above). These are photos I took myself, I am quite happy to send them on to you to do with as you will.

One of the photos includes my brother Peter and my Sister Jan (I am on the right of the picture). This is the last time we were all together, as Jan passed away from Cancer in March 2015. Since I moved down here, we did not have lots of chances to get together and have hardly any photos of us as a group, so really treasure this one.

I am sure I have a reasonable amount of information on my Cornish connection to South Australia as I have been researching my Cornish family history on and off for quite a few years. The first person I know that arrived here was my maternal Great Grandfather Nicholas Dunstan. He was only 19 when he arrived, and as far as I can tell he came out on his own. I have details of ship and dates he arrived, his marriage, death and burial details. He moved around quite a lot in Australia and died in Broken Hill, a big mining town in outback New South Wales, and I have visited his grave there. I don't have a lot of information about his parents but think his father died at some stage, before he left for Australia, and presume his mother stayed in Cornwall, though not sure about that.

One of his 3 sons, my grandfather, George, was born in Thames, New Zealand and he married a girl from New Zealand who was born in London. I have been to Thames as well, a gold mining town and a lovely place.

Another son, Thomas, finished up being quite a well-known politician in Queensland.

On the Hall side of my family, I have a convict connection - he was born in London. His wife was born in Scotland, and one of my in-laws on this side of the family in a later generation was born in Northamptonshire UK, so I have a fair bit of the Commonwealth covered in my family tree.

I have been to the Cornish Festival, the Kernewek Lowender on Yorke Peninsula in South Australia a couple of times, have some cousins and friends who live over that way, and my Dad was born in Moonta, which is in that area, so I have a bit of a Cornish connection on both sides of my family.



SOUTH AUSTRALIA HAS ALWAYS BEEN KNOWN TO HAVE A BIG CORNISH HISTORY

Above: Blue Lake, Mt Gambier

Recently there have been 2 different surveys on Cornish Immigration to South Australia. One is for the South Australian Genealogy Association, the other one for the Victorian branch of the Cornish Association. (Cornish history must be flavour of the month right now!) I am surprised the South Australian group had not done this before now, as South Australia has always been known to have a big Cornish history. I am at a bit of a standstill once again with my own links to Cornwall. I have got back to the late 1700s, but a lot of their generations called their children by the same name, and mostly with no middle names, so it gets very hard to work out who belongs where in the end.

Since learning of my connection with Cornwall, I have been quite fascinated with the place and it sure has some spectacular countryside. I visited the UK on a 5-week Guided tour about 7 years ago and paid a very short trip to St Ives and to Lands End. Unfortunately in both locations it poured with rain, so my time there was very limited, but what I did get to see was lovely. I did manage to try out some Cornish pasties which were delicious. My Dad was a baker by trade so have always loved any sort of pasty and both me and my siblings are not bad at making them. I would love to get back to visit Cornwall one day and especially to visit Stithians where my ancestors lived.

Hope this information makes a bit of sense.

Cheers and best wishes

Karen Hall



Above: Me with homemade pasties at California Cornish Cousins pasty luncheon, Mokelumne Hill, California

Above right: Main Street in Placerville, California

Below: Empire Mine in Grass Valley, California

KITTY QUAYLE, CALIFORNIA

August 2020

Dear Cornwall and west Devon,

I am writing to you from the Gold Rush era town of Placerville in the heart of the California Mother Lode in the foothills of the Sierra Nevada mountain range. It was to this area that so many Cornish came in the latter half of the 1800s, seeking gold and a better life than that which they had left behind in Cornwall.

Placerville (place rhymes with "Class"), named for the placer gold found lying about on the ground in the early days, was a hub during those wild times, supplying the miners with necessary supplies such as tools, clothing, whiskey and foodstuffs. It was here that both Studebaker made his name with the wheelbarrows used to trundle the ore to the creek for sluicing and Levi Strauss with his sturdy denim jeans so favored by the miners for durability. The town earned its early name of Hangtown for the swift justice meted out to those thieves who would part a hardworking miner with his gold.



Of the string of towns that are sprinkled north to south along the foothill gold country of eastern Northern California, none has a stronger connection to their Cornish roots than Grass Valley, twinned with Redruth and declared to be "The Most Cornish Spot in North America", the phone book's surnames reading like a Cornish "Who's Who". Grass Valley has a male voice choir, Cornish carol singers, a thriving Methodist church whose ladies make a thousand pasties a month for sale to an eager list of subscribers. The town

does have 2 pasty shops, but their product is disappointing at best. The town of Grass Valley had a population in 1870 that was 70% Cornish, many of the men working in the famous Empire Mine (https://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=499) and Idaho Maryland Mine. Cornish miners were highly regarded and sought after by the mine owners who often asked their Captains if they knew of men looking for work and the Captains always had "my Cousin Jack" to fill the spot. And so, the Cornish came to be known as Cousin Jacks.

I am the Immediate Past President of the California Cornish Cousins (www.californiacornishcousins.org, also on Facebook), a state-wide group dedicated to stimulating interest in and keeping alive Cornish traditions here in the Golden State. Established in 1991, we have in June annual 3-day Gatherings in different places of historical interest to share genealogy and our love of Cornwall. Each Autumn we get together to "pounce on a pasty" at our Fall Pasty Luncheon, for which I often make the pasties, saffron buns and Hevva Cake from family recipes handed down. Our membership spans the State, from San Diego by the southern border to the redwood forests of the far north country, San Francisco Bay in the west to the Mother Lode on the flanks of the mountains to the east. We also participate in the Grass Valley St. Piran's Day celebration in March.

Here in California in the 19th century, as in other places, the Cornish immigrants stuck together, creating communities and often marrying among themselves. Such was the case with my maternal grandparents in the Cornish community that centered around the Shattuck Avenue Methodist church on the Berkeley/Oakland border area east of San Francisco.

Herbert Henry Harry, my maternal grandfather, was the 14th of 15 children (9 achieving adulthood) born to Richard Harry and his wife Mary Louise Rouse Harry. Richard had come from the little village of Godolphin Cross in Breage

Right: Bert Harry, my maternal grandfather, at Half Moon Bay, California, c1917



KITTY QUAYLE

Parish, one of 5 brothers who immigrated. Miners of tin, working from a young age at the surface dressing operations at the famous Great Wheal Vor, they witnessed their father Charles' body being brought to grass after he was killed falling 400' off a ladder at the end of his shift. Richard and his brothers Joseph and James ended up in California (Richard immigrated in 1860) Joseph in Grass Valley, while James became Captain and later Superintendent of the New Almaden Quicksilver Mine south of San Francisco. After wandering around for a few years exploring, Richard also came to New Almaden, met and married his wife, the 15-year-old daughter of one of the mine's blacksmiths, and succeeded James as Captain when his older brother James moved up to Superintendent. The Harry brothers were prized for their knowledge of timbering and for finding the richest veins of cinnabar ore. New Almaden's Cornish Camp was centered around the Methodist church where James taught adult education classes in the evenings, teaching many to read as he knew that literacy was the key to their success in life. The Cornish were the skilled workers there, while the mine employed Latin American labourers and they had their own camp, called Spanish Town, up the hill from the Cornish and centered around their Catholic church. We have a story in our family, passed from Richard to his offspring of having croust underground, the Cornishmen with their pasties and the Mexicans with their spicy chili beans rolled up in tortillas. Over time Richard began to swap part of his pasty for part of the beans and developed quite a taste for the spicy fare. Before long, the wives had exchanged recipes and my family still makes those delicious beans and tortillas. I bet somewhere a Mexican family still makes pasties. When the quicksilver mine closed in the early part of the 1900s, the Richard Harry family moved to San Francisco just in time to be there for the massive earthquake of 1906. Happily, uninjured, they made their way across the Bay and settled along Shattuck Avenue.

Drexel Arvilla Lory, my maternal grandmother, came to the same area with her family in 1914 from Kewanee, Illinois. The Lorys were yeoman farmers, originally from the St. Keverne area on the Lizard in Cornwall. John Lory Jr. immigrated with his wife and children in 1850 from Erisey Manor/Barton, sailing from Penzance and settling in Platteville, Wisconsin to farm. Their youngest son, Edward, moved to nearby Kewanee as an adult where he farmed and was a harness maker, while his wife Miranda ran a millinery and notions shop out of the front parlor. Edward died of consumption when my grandmother, the baby of the family, was just 8 years old and it was soon after that Miranda, who had always wanted to be near the sea, sold up and moved herself and her 8 children to the Shattuck Avenue community. Some years later, Bert and Drexel were married in that Methodist church, bought a home nearby where Bert had a beautiful garden, and where he and Drexel raised three children, my Mother and her two younger brothers. The Harry family men had been miners for generations, but by coming to California, Richard was able to make a good living, allowing all his children to stay in school, rather than having to work, as he himself had had to do, to help support the family as the wages were so low in Cornwall. None of Richard's sons took up mining as their career and Bert became a draftsman for the Southern Pacific Railway. The Lory family, because of being farmers I suppose, had no pasty tradition, so Bert taught his bride to make pasties and wrote out the recipe as dictated by his mother, in his beautiful draftman's hand, a recipe we still have.

Mother was very proud of being Cornish and raised the 8 of us kids to share her love of Cornwall and all things Cornish. We had a framed map of Cornwall on a wall in our home, were taught the correct pronunciation of Mousehole, made pasties and saffron buns and held big family "Cousin Jack Reunions" with all the aunts, uncles, cousins and grands. Mom worked on the family history for as long as I



KITTY QUAYLE

The Harry Lory Family



Far left: Mine Captain Richard Harry, my great grandfather, at the Harry Shaft, New Almaden Quicksilver Mine, Santa Clara, California, c1895

Left: Drexel Lory, my maternal grandmother in Palo Alto, California, c1917

can remember, all before the internet and she and Dad made a couple trips across the pond to facilitate that research. She self-published two books and had an encyclopaedic knowledge.

The first time I went to Cornwall was to scatter some of Mom's ashes on the grave of her grandparents in the churchyard of St. Breaca Church in Breage. As I stood there gazing at the lichened headstone, I realized that I only knew where this grave was, who these people were, and consequently who I am, because of Mom's work, her gift to us of our heritage. At that moment I decided to take up the mantle of Historian for our family and have continued Mother's work along with my sister, Rosemary. She and I have travelled many times together to Cornwall and feel the connection strongly. We may be 3rd generation native Californians, but our roots in Kernow are deep and solid.

In May of 2019 on our most recent visit 'ome (we had to cancel all our plans for our 2020 trip due to the C-19 restrictions), we decided to try to find the ruins of the Great Wheal Vor Mine, where the Harry men had worked and Charles had died, widowing his pregnant wife and leaving his 6 sons fatherless. Through some research and some luck, we had an idea of where it had been, could see it on an Ordnance Survey map, but had some trouble locating it. Our search turned into a great day's adventure and we were, ultimately, successful. From my journal:

“. . . the stack suddenly burst into view, its ornate brickwork, said to honor Flora Day, still largely intact (a rarity among the engine house stack ruins) thrusting its ivy-covered prominence proudly out of the thick canopy of tangled trees and shrubs into the unencumbered space of the clear blue sky as Rosemary and I stood in silence and took in the fact of this revelation and discovery. We did a bit of bushwhacking and scrambling over sinewy roots weaving in and out of the uneven earth, taking photos of these remarkable remains and musing on

the impermanence of mankind as we climbed through the ruined archways and tumbling walls of the old engine house, floors and ceilings long gone, so full of plant life now, where once the place would have rumbled with the work of men: the throbbing pumps, the churning of the massive beam engines, the relentless pounding of the stamp mills. All was silent now, like the graveyard of a once-great endeavour of men, the sounds of industry now replaced with melodious birdsong and flirty breezes in the treetops as Mother Nature reclaims her own. Mossy, toppled stones partly visible in the undergrowth hint at additional ruins, but the tangle is too dense to allow exploration. Happily, there is no vandalism here, no unsightly tagging, as this place is only seen by those willing to put in a bit of effort.

As we began to retrace our steps away from the mine, we realized that this was our Mother's 100th birthday. How fitting. Happy birthday Mom and thank you for the gift of our family history and the love of Cornwall. Your legacy lives on."

I have contacted a few entities about saving the ruins, but no one seems to have any interest. Sad, considering what an historic mine it is, once the largest tin producer in Cornwall with over 1700 employees and covering over 4 square miles. One person said, "We can't save them all."

Kitty Quayle

As a result of our conversations with Kitty regarding Wheal Vor, we have approached the Cornwall Council Environment Team to address the vegetation growth and the site will also continue to be monitored as part of our condition survey reporting. The World Heritage Site Office prioritises those mining sites and features most in need of attention when applying for conservation funding.



Elizabeth Hocking

LANCE HOCKING, CARRICKALINGA ON THE FLEURIEU PENINSULA SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Dear Cornwall and west Devon,

Greetings from Carrickalinga on The Fleurieu Peninsula, about 45 miles south of Adelaide in the State of South Australia, Australia.

I am 3rd generation Australian on my Cornish line. My great, great grandparents were Richard & Frances Hocking from Lelant and William & Loveday Rowe from Ludgvan. Both Richard and William came from farming backgrounds, but many of their children ended up in mining pursuits in England, America and Australia.

My great grandparents, Edmund Hocking and Elizabeth Hocking, nee Rowe, married on the 25th of September 1865 at the Registry Office in the District of Penzance. Elizabeth's brother, John Rowe married Mary Paynter on the same day in St Ives. Edmund, aged 23 years and Elizabeth, aged 17 years, together with John and Mary Rowe, then 8 days later boarded the ship, Gosforth in Plymouth. They departed 3rd October 1865 for Port Adelaide, arriving on 23rd December 1865. In South Australia they joined John and Elizabeth's sister, Loveday, and her husband, William Phoebe, who had arrived 2 years earlier.

Edmund had signed a five-year contract with the South Australian colonial Government to mine copper at Moonta Mines in the South Australian Copper Triangle. During the term of their contract Edmund and Elizabeth produced four sons, three of whom succumbed to the insanitary conditions and died young at Moonta. When their contract was completed, and likely disenchanted with the local conditions, they travelled overland from Moonta to the alluvial gold fields at Tambaroora, New South Wales, a distance of some 850 miles. Their fourth son died at Tambaroora, also succumbing to the local mining camp conditions.

From here they moved between copper and gold mining localities within New South Wales (Burruga, Oberon, Cadia) where they went on to raise seven healthy children, my grandfather, James Hocking, being their second surviving child and their first surviving son. The Rowe and Phoebe families also moved to the mining communities within central New South Wales, and the three families continued to be closely located to each other.

Edmund was injured in a mining accident at Cadia gold mine in his early 40s and was unable to work again. He passed away in 1902 at the age of 60 years. Elizabeth carried on raising her younger children, and even some grandchildren. She grew vegetables and kept milking goats, also performing midwife duties in her community. She lived to 80 years passing away in 1928.

The legacy of Edmund and Elizabeth is now a large and unknown number of Australian citizens.

I moved to Adelaide with my family in 1989, returning to the origins of our family in Australia. Since living here, I have come to understand just how Cornish South Australia is and how deep the roots of Cornwall still run here.

Regards,

Lance Hocking

Huge thanks to everyone for their stories and we look forward to sharing more letters with you in the next edition of the Tributer!

The CMWHS has commissioned a study to explore the impact of mining related migration on indigenous communities.



Carrickalinga Beach

Interview with a Miner

LUCY CRANE

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?

Lucy Crane

WHAT IS YOUR PROFESSION/VOLUNTEER ROLE?

I am a senior geologist at Cornish Lithium, and I also am involved in business development for the company. We are exploring for lithium and other battery metals in Cornwall.

WHERE ARE YOU BASED?

I am lucky enough to be based in Falmouth! It's so beautiful down here. I grew up in the landlocked Midlands, so I still find being so close to the sea such a treat.

TELL US A BIT ABOUT YOURSELF?

I love being outdoors! Whether that's doing fieldwork with work, going hiking with my dog, camping with friends, or attempting to surf! I am really passionate about the environment, and how we need to be responsible stewards of the amazing georesources and natural capital that we have in Cornwall. I studied for my Masters in Mining Geology at the Camborne School of Mines, and fell in love with Cornwall then. I managed to find an amazing job with

Cornish Lithium which enabled me to move back here in 2017.

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

Growing up, I loved being outdoors and in nature, and I've always been incredibly curious about the world around me and how it works. At school my favourite subjects were science and maths, and so studying geology seemed the perfect opportunity to combine my love of these subjects and give me a tool kit to start to understand the physical world around us. Plus there was the chance to travel to amazing places for fieldwork, which was a huge draw for me! I'm now based in Cornwall, and it's fantastic to work with the abundant mining heritage that we have down here in a modern context: we use so much historic data and information in our exploration programme to help us find resources of battery metals.

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

No, I am the first person in my family to work in mining – everyone else is a medical professional! They thought I was mad when I announced I wanted to go off and study rocks at university!

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

Yes – a degree is really useful if you want to become a geologist as some of the work we do is quite specialist. I have an undergraduate degree in Earth Sciences (geology) from Oxford, which was a great foundation in understanding how earth systems work. I then moved to Cornwall to study for my Masters in Mining Geology at the Camborne School of Mines, which was an excellent introduction to the mining industry and how mineral deposits form and can be extracted responsibly.

THE MODERN MINING INDUSTRY IS A FANTASTIC CAREER CHOICE!



Lucy out in the field.

WHAT DOES A STANDARD DAY IN YOUR ROLE LOOK LIKE?

This is a difficult question as my days are all so varied! Since lockdown we've all been working from home, but this doesn't mean that the variety has gone! I'm involved in collecting and interpreting as much data about the subsurface as possible, so that we can understand in 3 dimensions where the mineralisation can be found underneath the surface in Cornwall, and how best to extract it. In Cornwall there is also the potential for geothermal energy, and I'm involved in exploration for deep geothermal waters that we want to pump up to the surface where we will extract their heat and power, as well as elements such as lithium.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE PART OF YOUR ROLE?

Working with the fantastic team we have at Cornish Lithium, and the huge variety in what we do day to day. There's a tightly knit georesources community in Cornwall, and I love working closely with the people within this group (from the WHS team, to the Council, to other companies and the universities).

ANY TRICKY PARTS OF THE JOB?

Not getting out in to the field as much as I'd like!

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

To combat climate change we need to build low carbon technologies such as wind turbines, solar panels and electric vehicles so that we can move away from our reliance from polluting fossil fuels, and towards a low carbon future. However, building these low carbon technologies requires huge amounts of raw

materials – recycling what we already have in circulation simply isn't enough. To put just how mineral intensive this energy transition is in to context, over the past 5000 years we have mined about 550 million tonnes of copper across the globe; the World Bank estimate that we need to mine that much again in the next 25 years, purely for use in low carbon technologies. Cornish Lithium want to make sure that we're sourcing and extracting these raw materials as responsibly as possible, and I see the working in the mining industry and trying to improve how it operates as the best way that I can contribute to this.

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

The modern mining industry is a fantastic career choice! I think there's a real opportunity to build a better, more environmentally friendly future through being involved in the responsible side of the mining industry. A geology or engineering degree is a great place to start. I'd also recommend reaching out to people who have interesting jobs, and asking them for a chat to find out more about what they do.

ANY OTHER COMMENTS?

I'm incredibly honoured to have been asked for one of the first interviews – thank you for having me!

Thank you so much! 🙌

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

Feature in Focus

ENGINE HOUSES



Feature in Focus

ENGINE HOUSES

The Towanroath Shaft (pictured right) pumping engine house at Wheal Coates, St Agnes (Listed Grade II), most likely the most photographed Cornish type engine house in the world.

The Towanroath Shaft pumping engine house at Wheal Coates, St Agnes (Listed Grade II), most likely the most photographed Cornish type engine house in the world.

Possibly the most iconic Cornish building and certainly the best-known feature of Cornish mining. Engine houses still stand majestically throughout the Cornish landscape and in Devon, surviving decades of harsh weather positioned in some extreme spots. Perched on clifftops, standing tall on moorland, and nestled in town centres; society developing around them, they endure providing a striking reminder of our mining heritage.

They are a symbol of Cornish identity and so have been used as logos, clothing patterns, and have extensively inspired art and poetry. These houses which were never built as homes but to house powerful machinery, are an indicator of Cornish ingenuity and resilience, something very much a living feature of Cornwall and west Devon communities today.

ENGINE HOUSES

There are over 300 engine house sites in Cornwall and west Devon, and approximately 200 such sites within the WHS Area boundaries - the greatest concentration anywhere on earth. It is estimated that around 3,000 engine houses were built in total, to house beam engines across Cornwall and west Devon.

As their name suggests they were built as houses for engines not people, so what purpose did they serve?

Most mineral lodes in Cornwall and west Devon stretch vertically underground far below the natural water table, so mining could only go as deep as the drainage technology available at the time allowed. With the development of the high-pressure steam-pumping engine in the early 19th century, ore bodies could

be exploited at much greater depths thereby helping to prolong a mine's productive life.

Pumping engine houses needed to be large to accommodate steam cylinders which could be up to 100 inches (2.54 metres) in diameter and sturdy engine houses were built to contain them. They stand adjacent to where the main mine shafts were and provide one of the most distinctive displays of industrial buildings anywhere in the world.

The Cornish engine house

The main function of an engine house was to provide the framework for the engine it contained. Its basic design was essentially established by Newcomen for his atmospheric engine. The distinctive architecture of Cornish beam engine houses links their landscape context - both in the United Kingdom and overseas - with Cornwall and west Devon mining engineering. More beam engines were installed in Cornwall and west Devon than any other mining region of the world and it is thought that around 3,000 engine houses were constructed in total to house them.

Local stone was used to build Cornish engine houses. This was sourced from quarries, sometimes from mine waste and often from existing derelict engine houses on the same or adjoining mines. Some engine houses were reconstructions of engine houses already existing elsewhere on a mine or at a neighbouring working. Cut granite was always favoured for the cylinder bedstone, the bob wall and corners - the latter known as quoins. Gable roofs were covered with Cornish slate and bricks were brought to construct the top-most section of the chimney stacks and often window and arch details. The necessary strength and size of construction of Cornish engine houses is the principal reason in many instances for their survival.

ENGINE HOUSES STILL STAND MAJESTICALLY THROUGHOUT THE CORNISH LANDSCAPE

AINSLEY COOKS



Marriotts Shaft South Wheal Frances

ON THE WILD TIN COAST, THE FAMED CROWNS ENGINE HOUSES CLING TO THE FOOT OF THE CLIFFS.

The bob wall

Most surviving engine houses are rectangular in plan with a much thicker wall in the front (the bob wall). This was constructed using massive stones (often cut granite) and was perhaps two-thirds of the height of the other walls. It supported the beam (known in Cornish mining as a bob), which transmitted the reciprocating motion of the piston to the pump rods in the adjacent shaft (in the case of a pumping engine) or to the hoisting or crushing machinery. This wall had to withstand both the weight (that might be over 50 tons for a large pumping engine) and the rocking forces of the bob.



Above: Robinson's Shaft (Listed Grade II*). Above right: Botallack (Listed Grade II)

Other design features

The other walls braced the bob wall and helped to take some of the working stresses of the engine. The rear wall (usually with a gable that supported a pitched roof) contained the cylinder opening through which the cylinder, bob, and other large components were brought into the house. There were usually three chambers internally built above a basement area known as the cataract pit.



Associated structures include: boiler houses, which were usually attached to the engine house as a lean-to building; chimney stacks that were either built-in to a rear corner of the engine house or sometimes detached and connected by a flue; and engine ponds (usually upslope), which stored water for the engine boilers and condensers.

BOTALLACK (LISTED GRADE II)

On the wild Tin Coast, the famed Crowns engine houses cling to the foot of the cliffs. Owned by the National Trust, these engine houses are within Area One of the Cornish Mining World Heritage Site and are also a Poldark filming location. The house to the left contained a pumping engine while the other housed a whim, or winding, engine, installed to haul from the Boscawen Incline Shaft, to the right out of picture. This location is extremely well known to landscape photographers and is probably one of the most famous Cornish engine house sites in the world.

<https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/botallack>

ROBINSON'S SHAFT (LISTED GRADE II*)

Set in Pool at South Crofty Mine, the Robinson's engine is one of the crown jewels of Cornish mining machinery having been built in Copperhouse, Hayle, in 1854. The Robinson's Shaft site was closed as recently as 1996 but this masterpiece has been kept in a remarkable state of preservation. It was also the last Cornish Engine to work on an active metal mine in Cornwall when it stopped in May 1955.

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



AINSLEY COCKS

PRINCE OF WALES SHAFT (LISTED GRADE II)

This impressive and highly distinctive engine house was constructed as part of the final reworking of Phoenix United Mine at the Prince of Wales Shaft, Minions, around 1909. This housed an 80-inch cylinder pumping engine constructed by Holman Brothers Ltd. of Camborne and was one of the very last large-cylinder Cornish engines built. Drainage proved difficult at the mine and operations ceased in 1914.

DRAKEWALLS

Located within what are now the grounds of the Tamar Valley AONB Centre, this engine house at Drakewalls Mine formerly contained a 50-inch cylinder pumping engine which drew water from the 210 fathom (383m) deep shaft in front, now capped. The distinctive tower to the left of the photo is thought to have supported an overhead tramroad conveying ore or waste across the site.

There are references to Drakewalls Mine dating from the 14th century onwards which underlines the importance of metal mining in this part of the Tamar Valley.

<https://www.tamarvalley.org.uk/tvaonb-tamar-valley-centre/> 🏹



AINSLEY COCKS

Above: Drakewalls. Above left: Prince of Wales Shaft (Listed Grade II)

Feature in Focus

TAVISTOCK GUILDHALL

A £1.8 million project to convert Tavistock's historic Guildhall complex into a mining heritage visitor centre is nearing completion, with its public opening scheduled for early summer 2021.

The new centre will serve as the 'eastern gateway' to the Cornwall & West Devon Mining Landscape World Heritage Site. Visitors will be able to discover and learn about the considerable impact that mining had on the development of Tavistock in the 19th century, the people who shaped the town's mining history, and the story of the Guildhall itself as one of England's first purpose-built combined police stations and magistrates' courts.

The redeveloped Guildhall complex will also house the town's Visitor Information Centre, which will become a hub for tourism across Dartmoor and West Devon and will signpost visitors to other places to explore in the World Heritage Site area.

The Guildhall was built in 1848 by the 7th Duke of Bedford as a response to a public order crisis in the town caused by a booming population of miners and other workers. Located in the historic heart of Tavistock, and built on the site of Tavistock Abbey, the creation of the Guildhall was part of extensive re-modelling of the town undertaken by the Duke using the vast profits that he earned from his mines.

The courtroom was last used in 2001, while the rest of the building remained in use as a police station until 2012 when the police relocated to modern premises nearby. The Grade II* listed building, which is on Historic England's Heritage 'At Risk' Register, fell into disuse until



The Guildhall, former Police Station and Trowtes House - at the heart of historic Tavistock

THE NEW CENTRE WILL SERVE AS THE 'EASTERN GATEWAY' TO THE CORNWALL & WEST DEVON MINING LANDSCAPE WORLD HERITAGE SITE

Tavistock Town Council stepped in to purchase it in 2014. The aim was to redevelop the building and bring it back into public use as the location for a World Heritage Site visitor 'Key Centre'. A fundraising campaign was launched, and a major programme of work to repair, conserve and convert the building was finally able to start in 2019.

Despite a few challenges along the way, not least when all site operations had to stop for two months earlier this year due to the coronavirus lockdown, the building works have progressed well. Barring no last-minute complications or further lockdowns, the majority of the building works are due to be completed by Christmas.

As is often the case when redeveloping historic buildings, the building work has uncovered some hitherto unknown aspects of the building's history, including a medieval fireplace. This has been preserved and will form part of the interpretation of the building.

Once the building work has been completed work will start on installing the interpretation displays. This will include a mix of interpretation panels, audio-visual and interactive elements. Highlights of the displays will include a stunning artwork produced by local artist Andy Cairns using recycled materials which reflect on the copper mining history of this area and the extraordinary alchemy of copper.

Right: One of the concept ideas for the interpretation panels, showing some of those who shaped Tavistock's mining past – the Dukes of Bedford, miners, navvies, the police, bal maidens and children



THE PROJECT IS DELIVERING AN EXTENSIVE PROGRAMME OF COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

Right: The magnificent Courtroom – the centrepiece of the Guildhall, which will become an important venue for events and community activities.



As well as the works to convert the Guildhall and create the new interpretation displays, the project is delivering an extensive programme of community activities. These have so far included primary and secondary school projects, an art exhibition featuring works inspired by Tavistock's mining landscape, volunteer research and oral history projects, and a youth project with Tavistock College.

The project is being led by Tavistock Town Council and delivered in partnership with Tavistock Heritage Trust. It is being principally funded by Tavistock Town Council and the National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF) with generous support from other funders, including West Devon Borough Council, the Cornwall & West Devon Mining Landscape World Heritage Site, the HB Allen Trust, the Hobson Charity, the Garfield Weston Foundation and Devon County Council.

The Guildhall and Visitor Information Centre will be run by Tavistock Heritage Trust. Its new Centre Manager, Richard Rundell, started earlier this month. With a background in venue management in the arts and culture sector, Richard is putting together an exciting programme of events including talks, courses, performances, concerts and walking tours alongside schools visits and family day events and functions. Many of these will be run in collaboration with other groups and organisations in the local area. Plans are also being developed to provide virtual tours of the building and webinar talks, courses and demonstrations.



Right: The newly-redeveloped frontage to the Guildhall nearing completion

The Trust already has a 50-strong team of dedicated volunteers who run the town's existing Visitor Information Centre, lead walking tours, undertake oral history and research, and help to deliver learning and participation activities. The Trust is now looking to increase and widen its volunteer team to include room stewards and tour leaders to assist with the anticipated 30,000 annual visitors to the Guildhall Visitor Centre. Anyone interested in volunteering with the Trust, including in roles in the Guildhall when it opens next year, should contact Richard Rundell at richard.rundell@tavistockguildhall.org or visit the Trust's website www.heritageintavistock.org.

The Guildhall Project is part of a £multi-million programme of long-term regeneration and investment in Tavistock's historic town centre. Supported by a separate £2.2 million grant from the NLHF's Townscape Heritage

Initiative Scheme, this has over the last six years seen the restoration of several significant local landmarks including the Pannier Market and Butchers' Hall. Most recently has been the redevelopment of the former car park area in front of the Guildhall, which will provide a stunning new setting for the Guildhall Centre.

**Tavistock Guildhall Gateway Project Team
October 2020** 🏡

For the latest news on the project and activities taking place, visit www.heritageintavistock.org or Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/heritageintavistock>. For background information about the project and the wider regeneration work being undertaken in Tavistock visit <https://www.tavistock.gov.uk/your-council/council-initiatives>

ON THE GROUND AT GEEVOR

Geevor Tin Mine is situated on Cornwall's North Atlantic coast between Land's End and St Ives. The large site enjoys spectacular views and wide open spaces in which to take in the fresh sea air. In the late twentieth century the site was home to some of the last miners to ever work in Cornwall. Many of the buildings and much of the machinery have been preserved from this time giving the visitor a sense of travelling back in time to Cornwall's industrial past.

Following weeks of preparation ensuring appropriate Covid safety measures were in place to be able to open the whole site, Geevor Tin Mine reopened and welcomed visitors back from Sunday 12th July. Geevor has introduced an online booking system for the safety and convenience of our visitors. Safety is our priority however our visitor experience has been minimally impacted by the measures we have introduced.

VISITORS ARE ABLE TO ENJOY

Wheal Mexico mine – Go underground in Wheal Mexico's 18th century workings and explore the conditions Cornish miners of the past would have worked in using only hand tools and candles. 'Wheal' is a Cornish language word meaning 'mine, workings' and Mexico is possibly a later reference to Cornish miners who emigrated to Mexico in the 19th century to work in silver mines.

Miners' Dry – An atmospheric building where miners left their belongings before going underground. The rooms have been left as they were when the mine was still in operation and have been carefully restored by the very men who once worked at Geevor.

Hard Rock Museum – The story of over four thousand years of mining at Geevor told by the people who lived and worked here. The museum features a film showing Geevor during operation as well as two floors of exhibitions and artefacts on display.

Count House Cafe – With dramatic views of the North Atlantic Coastline Geevor's Count House Cafe is a real treat not to be missed. Excellent locally supplied ingredients provide a tasty experience for visitors. The takeaway menu has been expanded to compensate for reduced seating and Geevor has many picnic tables with stunning views. There is also an undercover lunch room should the weather turn against us.

Geevor Shop – Geevor's shop has a large selection of Cornish books, local mineral specimens, gems, clothing, accessories and jewellery – as well as a variety of pocket money toys and souvenirs.

With the safety measures we have put in place we have successfully welcomed visitors to Geevor in complete safety and we are confident that we have provided the same high standard visitor experience of Cornwall's rich mining heritage.

We have received some very encouraging reviews from our visitors over the weeks since our re-opening.



Geevor Tin Mine



*Clockwise from top left:
The view across Geedor to Levant.
The exhibition space within Geedor's Museum of Hard Rock Mining.
The lower ore dressing floors of Levant.*

AMAZING PLACE FILLED WITH GREAT HISTORY GREAT FOR FAMILIES A MUST SEE IN CORNWALL.

Matthew (visited in Sept)

'The tour is self guided which we prefer as we can look round at our own pace and there are lots of interesting things to see. The COVID arrangements in place were good and we didn't feel like we missed seeing anything unlike other places we have visited, even the underground part was open! Overall a great visit and we'd go back'

Emma (visited in Sept)

'I booked a visit here as it was forecast rain and there wasn't much else to keep my 3 year old entertained. I wasn't expecting much but I was wrong! What a great place.'

Full of nostalgia for the miners, The Dry was amazing! We spent so much time looking here, it was so interesting.

We grabbed a bite to eat at the cafe before we left - GREAT PLOUGHMAN'S! Really recommend this as a family morning/afternoon day out. ..Go visit - you won't be disappointed!'

Radar1612 (Visited in Aug)

'...there's as much to see outside and inside on this wonderful place!! We intended to spend an hour or two but ended up spending over 4 hours exploring all the many areas and buildings. There's exactly the right mix of geology/mining education, engineering history, underground experience, personal and political reflection and so many opportunities for amazing photos. As the tour progresses the story boards come more and more to life and by the time you walk through 'the dry' and union office, the end of such a massive industry and the lifeblood of this proud region becomes very real and quite emotive. It's like this place was simply frozen in time in the day the miners left and having all their faces posted all around makes it all very real.'

The cafe has reduced seating due to COVID so we got take-away hot sandwiches, which were served in a box with some salad and crisps, very nice and great value!!

Enjoy your visit, we did.'

Steve and Zoe (visited in Sept)



Geevor is also looking forward to welcoming schools this autumn term. Our award-winning Learning Team have adapted our workshops to ensure we can still safely provide curriculum-based tours and activities.

Visiting school groups will be able to take part in panning for gems as well as an underground trip. We will continue to provide a guided tour of the surface buildings with a member of Geevor's Learning Team. We are also able to provide lunch and toilet facilities for visiting groups that will be for their exclusive use for the day. All hard hats provided are disinfected before and after use.

Much is happening behind the scenes and we are always looking to improve our offer in these trying times. By following the example of the ingenuity and courage shown by miners of the past Geevor looks forward to welcoming visitors for many years to come. 🙌

For further information or if you wish 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



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.

Among these archive collections are letters, photos and diaries relating to Cornish people overseas. Some moved permanently, others were away temporarily, but all have left a fascinating and permanent legacy in the archive. The collections include the correspondence of Richard Scoble, who moved to Nevada to mine in 1874. These letters detail the trials and tribulations of life on the North American mining frontier including his struggle to find work, the Cornish people he bumped into, as well as lots of detail about his ongoing feuds with family members at home in Cornwall. Richard spent the rest of his life in America and died in Idaho in 1933.

There are also individual letters, tickets, passenger lists, printed adverts and material promoting migration abroad. Jervis Veale's photo albums vividly show life as a mining engineer in South Africa, and the letters of James Keast and the diary of John Polglase also give us a fascinating insight into life there in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

There is material from all over the world, from Gongo Soco mine in Brazil to the goldfields of South Australia, and we're always fascinated to hear about what other records are out there. This autumn Kresen Kernow will be celebrating migration both to and from Cornwall in an exhibition and series of activities so please do keep an eye on our social media (@kresenkernow) and website, kresenkernow.org. You can also search our collections on the website, you could try a place search such as 'Grass Valley', or even try a family name. We're adding items and improving access all the time. 🌟



Right: Illustration from letter from G C Stephens, Placer County, California, April 22 1862, "that is all your uncles own work"

BACK ALONG

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

This time we look back at 2007, to the Cornish Mining Cultural Events Programme. The summer of that year saw the Cornish Mining Cultural Events Programme supporting the Cornish community participation of WildWorks' production 'Souterrain' in Cornwall. WildWorks cleverly used Dolcoath and South Crofty mines as intriguing backdrops to a retelling of the story of Orpheus and Eurydice. Presented as part of the Mineral Tramways festival of arts events, the production was well received with audience figures of over 5,000 and gained national critical acclaim.

The winter of 2007 saw the Cornish Mining Cultural Events Programme stage performances of a new play adaptation by Pauline Sheppard of *The Zigzag Way* by Anita Desai. Directed by Rosie Hughes, it charted the journey of self-discovery of Eric, a young American, as he travelled on a quest for his Cornish roots in Mexico. *The Zigzag Way* is a gripping story which winds through cultures and across time to paint a picture of love, revolution and sacrifice.

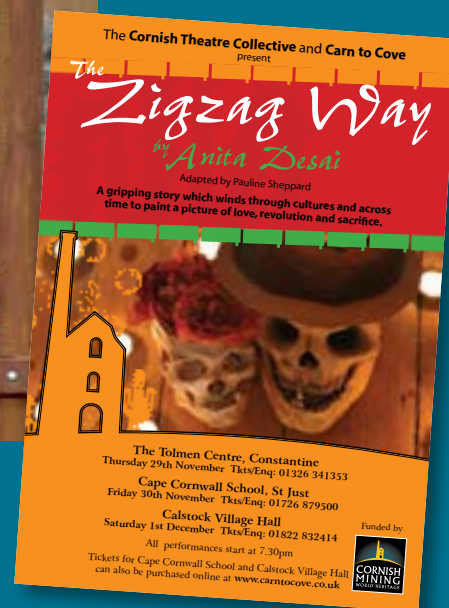
The play was re-staged in 2016 as part of the "Tinth Anniversary" celebrations of the WHS status, as photographed below. 🏴󠁧󠁢󠁥󠁮󠁧󠁿



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Above: *Zig Zag Way* being performed at Wheal Martyn near St Austell

Right: *The Zig Zag Way* event flyer





The Prince of Wales Shaft engine house, Phoenix United Mine

