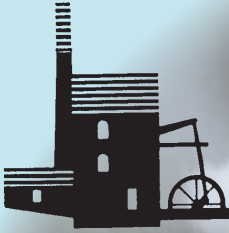


NEWSLETTER 138 DECEMBER 2007

THE TREVITHICK SOCIETY



Established 1935



Reg. Charity No. 246586

CHAIRMAN'S ADDRESS

The Concise OED says that society is 'an organization or club formed for a particular purpose or activity' and, 'the situation of being in the company of other people'. Summed up as 'a company of people formed for a particular purpose or activity', the Trevithick Society is all of that.

The society should now be stronger than at anytime in its 73-year history but strength is not measured in bank balances or numbers of publications. Any community or society depends upon the participation of its membership.

Cornwall provides rich pickings for the industrial archaeologist and much of the hitherto unresearched and undocumented resource lies in the east of the county. Many members will know that, during the past year the society has received many enquiries concerning interesting sites and artefacts in east Cornwall.

The society is very conscious of its responsibilities towards Cornwall's industrial archaeology and believes it is qualified and able to fulfil many tasks that cannot be undertaken by others.

Cornwall is a big place and in these days of increasing travel costs,

it is important that we should establish a strong representation in the eastern region. The strength of the society lies in the ability and willingness of its members to take on the very rewarding tasks associated with its existence.



This page in the newsletter has previously been used many times to plead on behalf of the small handful of members who respond to the enquiries that are received. Elsewhere, Kingsley Rickard details some of the activities taking place in east Cornwall and calls for members to take responsibility for their society.

Kingsley and I will also give a lecture to the Liskeard OCS before you receive this newsletter and we will make this plea there. However, east Cornwall is a big place and, to do the society's work in a responsible manner, we look for people throughout the area. Please ring Kingsley on 01209 716811 and make 2008 a year in which we can develop the East Cornwall branch of the Trevithick Society.

Philip M. Hosken.

EDITORIAL

The printing of this newsletter, which should have been sent out in December 2007, has been delayed to enable it to be sent out with the journal and subscription renewal notices to members.

In order to produce this newsletter in colour a new Desk Top Processing package has been used and it has been a steep learning curve to get it produced within a reasonable timescale. I have tried to keep to the same general format as before, and may be more adventurous in future issues.

The next newsletter should, touch wood, appear in March and so please send me your contributions by the end of February.

Colin French



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

I write to give an update on the British Steam Car Challenge to which I drew attention in the July 2006 issue of the newsletter.

Following the death of Frank Swanston the steamcar team have regrouped and are intent on carrying on with the project to see Frank's work taken to the Salt Flats of Bonneville in 2008.

The Silverstone-based Delta Motorsport has been engaged to design the centre section of the car and have completed initial packaging work.

A boiler cassette has exceeded its required steam production for the first time in the project. This means that a viable boiler assembly can be designed. 12 boiler cassettes, each producing > 3.3 litres of steam will feed the turbine with the required 40 litres per minute of steam.

Don Wales has been confirmed as the test driver and the team has a great deal of work to get the car ready for testing next summer.

Further information can be obtained by contacting the British Steam Car Challenge, PO Box 293, Lymington, Hampshire. SO14 5XQ or www.steamcar.co.uk

John Dickinson

Dear Editor,

I attach a reprint (see overleaf) of a paper reported in the "Science and Art of Mining" Vol.XXXVII 1926/7 to have been given by A.K. Hamilton Jenkin M.A., at a meeting of the Old Cornwall Society.

The Science and Art of Mining was a very old established paper, published I think every two weeks by Thos. Wall & Sons Ltd., Rowbottom Sq., Wigan.

My interest was aroused because it was principally orientated towards the coal mining industry and was centred on a good deal of the work of lecturers at

Wigan and District Mining and Technical College. This college offered courses for the University of London External Degree in Mining Engineering as well as diplomas and the various certificates required under the Mines and Quarries Acts. In fact many well known and respected mining personnel, both at home and abroad, had passed through the college over the years, owing much to it.

I passed through the degree course at Wigan in the early 50s, and now at 4 score years, look back with great affection at the three years I spent there as a mature student.

During my tenure at the college the "Science and Art of Mining" became part of my life and I was given three early copies of the Transactions of the Wigan and District Mining Students Association for 1921/2 and 3. However, recently a colleague of mine came across 3 annual volumes 1926/7 and 8 of the "Science and Art of Mining" at his local church fete in Coalville, the centre of the Leicestershire coalfield. Looking through these volumes brought back many memories, but my interest was greatly aroused when, as a member of the Trevithick Society, and an old student of Wigan I found the report of the paper given by Hamilton Jenkin in Penzance. It is no doubt in the records of the Old Cornwall Society.

John Dickinson

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Coalville,
Leicestershire.
LE67 4DP

dicksonjh.coal@btinternet.com

Dear Editor,

I suggest that you quote the number of the registered charity in the newsletter; it will make it easier to leave us a legacy.

R. F. Allen

6 Lyndhurst Gardens,
Hampstead, London.
NW3 5NR

EARLY CORNISH MINING

“Cornish Mines and Miners” was the subject of a paper by Mr. A. K. Hamilton Jenkin, M.A., at a recent meeting of the Penzance Old Cornwall Society, in the course of which he said: The builders of the Temple of Solomon went far in their search for materials; nor did Lebanon alone supply their needs, since the tin for the making of their brass work is said to have come from these very Cornish hills with which so many of us are familiar today. Of the coming of the Phoenicians to Cornwall, or of the later Romans and still later Saxons, I am not prepared to say anything definite. We can picture, if we like, the arrival of some proud galley into the entrance of a Cornish bay, where the deep blue waters might remind the sailors of their own home beside the sunny Mediterranean. We may picture, too, the bargaining for the silver blocks of tin which went on between them and the native Cornish. But such, unfortunately, is only fancy. So likewise are the tales of Joseph of Arimathea showing the Cornish how to work tin, or of St. Paul coming to preach to Cornish tanners, and his actually buying tin from Creegbrause Mine. I can, however, say this much definitely: Only the summer before last, some scientific excavations were made in the famous hill castle of Chun, near St. Just, in the course of which were discovered three early forms of smelting furnaces and a lump of half-smelted tin slag. The occupation of the castle is dated as from 200-300 B.C., which is quite conclusive proof of the antiquity of Cornish mining and quite early enough as a starting point for a lecture. It is, of course, a complete error to suppose that these early tin workers were in any sense miners or men engaged in underground labour. Nothing can be further from the truth. For centuries after this, the search for tin was entirely confined to the alluvial deposits or rich stream tin which, torn from the hillsides - as the tanners believed, by Noah’s flood - had been deposited throughout ages of time in the low grounds, marshes and moors at the foot of the granite hills. Here

the tanners laboured, as their descendents in the new tin countries like the Malay States and Nigeria labour to-day - in the open air, turning over the ground for the sake of the tin beds lying beneath the later imposed silt. Only, the Cornish tanner, labouring with pick and “showl” instead of huge mechanical dredgers, worked more slowly, and the exhaustion of the Cornish alluvial grounds was proportionately delayed. For the space of two thousand years, at the very least, men have been digging for tin in the Cornish “bottoms” and moors, and even within last year a dredger has been set to work to pick up the valuable stream tin which the old men have left.

NEW YEAR’S HONOUR

Pete Geddes M.B.E.

The Society wishes to congratulate Pete Geddes of the Isle of Man on his being awarded the M.B.E. in recognition of his services to industrial heritage on the island. Pete was the chief engineer for the restoration of the Gawn’s Wheel, now renamed the Lady Evelyn, at Laxey. I.O.M., the waterwheel given to the island by the Society. The “Isle of Man Examiner” newspaper invented the pun headline “A Wheel Honour!” He has also been very much involved in mine exploration with the Laxey Mines Research Group. When visiting us in September 2007 he delivered his illustrated presentation at King Edward Mine on the restoration project telling the remarkable story of the joys and frustrations involved. The honour came as so much of a surprise to Pete that he initially thought it was a leg-pull. Previous newsletters covering the Society’s involvement in the Lady Evelyn restoration are numbers 122, 123 and 133



HOLMAN SLIDES

The scanning of the Holman slide collection continues by Denys Bryant. Since the last newsletter an additional thousand slides have been scanned. The photographs mainly consist of machinery or drills made by Compair Holman, or parts thereof. The drilling rig above was probably taken in the Holman Test Mine at Troon, which is now used by the Camborne School of Mines to teach their students underground mining techniques. The vast range of mining equipment made by Holmans in their 200 year history is truly amazing, and the Society is privileged to possess such a large archive of photographs showing the activities of Holman Bros. during the 20th century.



SOUTH CROFTY REVIVAL

After years of false dawns and a myriad of behind the scenes shenanigans by various agencies, South Crofty mine finally looks as if has overcome all the obstacles and will re-open. A £50 million, privately-funded, investment programme has started, which is designed to bring the mine back into production within two-three years and so create 200, much needed, highly skilled, well paid, jobs.

This welcome boost to the local economy has come about through years of preparatory work by Baseresult, coupled with the sustained rise in the price of tin over the last few years, which has justified the investment. The tin price has reached a level significantly above that needed to ensure profitability, largely as a result of the huge demand for raw materials by the Chinese economy, and with reserves said to be sufficient for a century, the future suddenly looks rosy again.

Changes in environmental regulations mean the mine will not be

able to operate as it used to, and so it is proposed to drain the massive Dolcoath workings to provide space to dump all the waste underground, and presumably, in so doing, to open up additional reserves within the Dolcoath sett. It is also proposed to exploit the ore reserves in a more mechanised, and larger scale, fashion to previous, more reminiscent of the way Wheal Jane was worked, hence the need to dispose of much larger tonnages of waste rock.

The resumption of tin mining in Cornwall always was a certainty, because it is rare rare metal in the earth's crust, which is little recycled and so is in constant demand, especially for electrical goods. It is a metal that mankind needs and will continue to need for a long time into the future, and Cornwall remains one of the few places where it occurs in significant quantity. Thus, it is especially good that mining will resume, whilst the mining skills are still readily available, so securing the continuity of mining expertise into the future.

CNF.



PUBLICATIONS OFFICER

The post of Publications Officer will be vacant in 2008 as the current holder of the position, Vernon Baldry, is retiring. Vernon has held the post for several years and his tenure has seen dramatic changes in the way the Society handles its book sales. This aspect of our Society produces significant income, acts as an important outlet for low volume technical and historical publications, encourages Society members to publish their researches and advertises the Society far and wide.

The only qualification required is common sense. A commercial background would be useful but not obligatory. Vernon will be happy to guide the new incumbent through the initial steps in this rewarding position. With the existing publications management regime it is useful, though not essential, to live in Cornwall. Most of the necessary contacts with the others involved can be effected electronically.

In the first instance any member, or non-member of your acquaintance, who is interested, please contact Kingsley Rickard on the Society Chatline 01209 716811.

SOCIETY MANAGEMENT

The management of the Society is painfully short of active volunteers and the current team are under pressure. It is your Society and it cannot operate without manpower. If you can see a niche you can fill or have ideas towards running the Society then please contact us.

We desperately need a Secretary and a Programme Secretary and also a Publications Officer as mentioned elsewhere.

THESE ARE IMPORTANT POSITIONS WHICH MUST BE FILLED.

The Chatline, 01209 716811, is ready and waiting for your important call. We promise you will not find yourself listening to Vivaldi or being told "For Trevithick Society press "1", for Kingsley Rickard press "2", for marijuana press "hash"!



KING EDWARD MINE

Great news on two fronts this quarter. Kerrier District Council, who lease "our" part of the site from the owners, have, after deliberating for over three years, finally shown an interest in acquiring the site. Up till now they have paid us a management fee to operate the museum which has meant KEM Ltd. has not been able to have a lease and consequently this has curtailed our proposals for development. We use the other parts of the site on a grace and favour basis. The owners, very sensibly, take the view that if the buildings are used they are less likely to deteriorate or be vandalised.

The second piece of news is that the Frue vanner is now fully assembled and working after several years of work. Driven electrically from an overhead motor via a vertical belt, it still has to have its timings adjusted but an overjoyed team celebrated its initial run in early November. David Blight has made and assembled many of the mechanical parts ably assisted by other volunteers and all under the watchful eye of Willie Uren who is our mineral processing guru. Willie spent a lifetime in mineral processing eventually retiring as mill foreman for South Crofty Mine at Pool. We are deeply indebted to Tony Clarke for his financial assistance in obtaining the vanner belt.

There were a number of varieties of vanner of which the Frue is one. Briefly it operated on the principle of a moving belt running uphill on rollers on a slight incline. At the higher end water flowed down the belt washing the lighter grains of unwanted rock off the lower end but the heavier grains of tin stayed on the belt and came off the higher end. To assist this separation the belt was given a sideways jolt by an eccentric at about 180 per minute. To our knowledge we now have the only working Frue vanner in the world in spite of the fact there were many thousands in operation.

Congratulations to all who played a part in this historic restoration. Another first for KEM and Cornwall.

We are now in the depths of winter and site maintenance continues apace. Volunteers have cut back a considerable amount of gorse around "the pit". This provided fuel, along with tree branches from recent storm damage for a seasonal bonfire the Sunday before Christmas. The now traditional mulled wine and mince pies were also enjoyed that day. See what you miss when you are not a volunteer! Internal warmth, external warmth and the warmth of a welcome!

Huw Rowe continues to lead the restoration and installation of the Holman vertical engine in the mill. The heavy work of excavating the hole for the foundations has now been completed and the concrete for the new loading has been poured with the hold down bolts in position ready to accept the cast iron baseplate. Temporary girders have also been rigged above from which to suspend the lifting gear when the engine is assembled.

It was previously reported in this column that the model of the Williams Shaft traversing winder, originally displayed in the Holman Museum at Camborne was to be restored at KEM. The museum was closed by Holman's in 1980 and the artefacts dispersed with the winder eventually finding its way to Poldark Mine at Wendron. It had been moved to our site from Poldark with the restoration in mind and where it was to be displayed on permanent loan. Parts of the machine, including the winding drum, were missing, presumed lost. During a re-wiring exercise at Poldark a small room was discovered, the existence of which was unknown, and, lo and behold, there was the missing winding drum. At their request Poldark now have the winder in their hands once again and will restore it themselves.

Poldark very kindly supported us during the year by incorporating us in their advertisements and we wish them a successful 2008 season.

K.J.T.R.



J. & F. POOL

It is sad to report that J. & F. Pool Ltd. have closed their works at Hayle and transferred the business to Birmingham. In 1848 James "Tinman" Pool set up the business to supply plumbing services, tools and ironware to the local businesses and mines. In 1867 his sons, James and Frederick, as part of their development of the business, installed the first punching machine thus initiating the first step in what was to become their staple product, holes. They became world famous for their trowsers and sorting screens for the mining and quarrying industries. In addition they produced punched plate for many other businesses with holes of any size and shape or pattern. Being general engineers they also had their own foundry and pattern shop. They developed the Cornish Gauge to define screen sizes. This enjoys the same position as standard wire gauge does for wire. 1920 saw them patent the "Perfex" rotary screen machine and subsequently, in 1927 the "Superfex" machine.

Over the years they produced a wide variety of goods – electric bells and fittings, copperware, candlesticks, nameplates, kitchenware, bandsaws and log carriages for the timber industry, and more recently, field kitchens for the forces and ceiling tile panels. Under the "Expandel" label they produced outdoor furniture and office fittings. During both world wars they were engaged in munitions work and largely staffed by female workers, employing up to six hundred personnel. In 1920 they acquired the Cornish Shovel Company at Roseworthy, Camborne and in 1947 set up the Cultivex Company specialising in producing greenhouses and clothes. 1959 saw them acquire Jackson Engineering Bristol Ltd and in 1963, Medina Outboard Motors was bought from Saunders Roe and the same year saw the acquisition of F. Braby Perforating of London. Until 1987 it was a private business then the Pool family sold out to the C.I.Group Plc. who, in turn, passed into the hands of Ash &

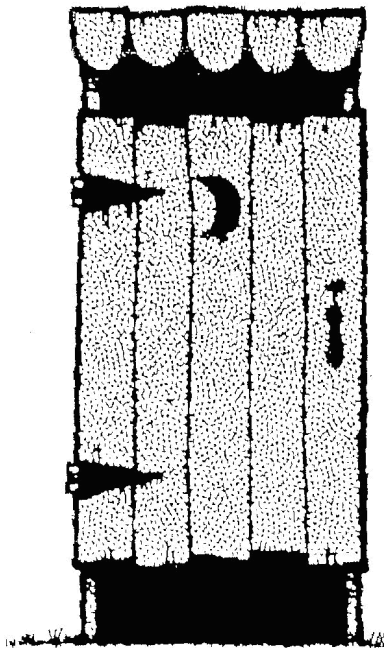
Lacy in 1995.

The bulk of the company records have been deposited at the Cornwall record Office, Truro, however, recently the Society has been given a large box of photographs, some paperwork and records and the brass "Registered Offices" plate from the office at Perfex Works. The registration plate reads "Registered offices of J. & F. Pool, Ltd., The Cornish Shovel Co. Ltd., South Gunheath China Clay Co. Ltd., Goonamarth China Clay Co. Ltd., and Recreation (Hayle) Ltd." Does anyone have any information of the last mentioned company, Recreation (Hayle) Ltd?

K.J.T.R.

FAMOUS PEOPLE ON THE TOILET

THOMAS NEWCOMEN



"Who needs high pressure when atmospheric will do"

EAST CORNWALL BRANCH

As members will know the East Cornwall Branch has been suspended during the last year as we have had no volunteers to run it. To operate successfully it requires a Chairman and Secretary who preferably live in the area and consequently have their eye on local affairs and events. Any additional support required can be provided by the Society Council. Work has been going on behind the scenes to re-establish the branch, and through the efforts of members John and Cheryl Manley, a lecture has been arranged for Wednesday, February 13th. 2008, 8pm., at the Quay Sailing Club, St. Germans. The subject will be "Lime Kilns" and will be presented by Ken Isham who wrote the first book on the subject covering Cornwall. In an effort to gauge the feeling in the area concerning the reforming of the East Cornwall Branch we will hold an open discussion after the lecture, at which light refreshments will be available.

Please come along and support your Society.

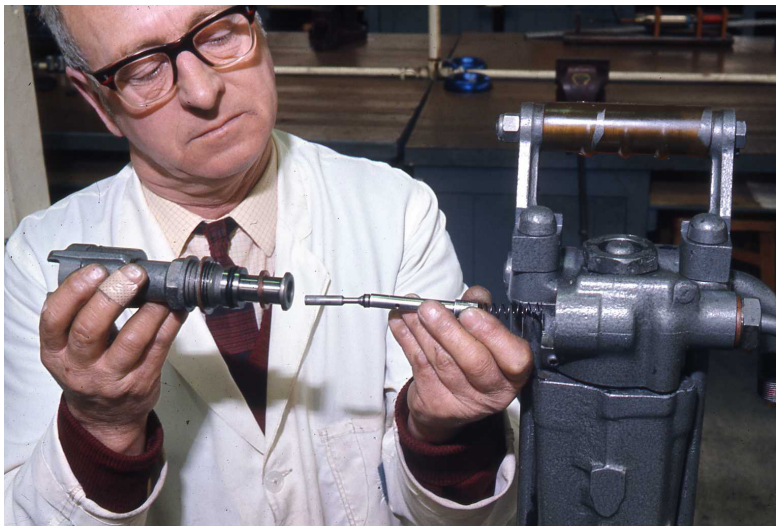
K.J.T.R.

PUTTING NAMES TO FACES



The gentleman featured on the cover of the last newsletter (see above), where we posed the question "Does anyone know him?", has been identified as Tom Prisk. He was, at one time, the foreman at the Holman Test Mine.

Flushed with the success in getting Tom Prisk identified, does anyone recognise the engineer below:



BRIDGNORTH BI-

The year 2008 marks the bi-centenary of 'Catch me who can', the world's first steam railway locomotive designed to haul passenger carrying vehicles. This was designed by Richard Trevithick and built by John Urpeth Rastrick and the workers of the Hazledine Foundry in Low Town, Bridgnorth.

The Trevithick 200 group, formed in Bridgnorth, are building a full size, standard gauge working reconstruction of 'Catch me who can'. The group plan to have the replica ready for a celebratory steam rally on July 19/20th 2008 in Severn Park.

Attending the rally will be various traction engines and steam rollers plus an organ. It is also hoped to have other Trevithick replicas on show, and the Trevithick Society will have a presence.

The Hazledine Foundry was situated at the edge of Severn Park, where Trevithick worked with Rastrick mainly to produce stationary engines. For further information please contact Brian Jones on 01746 769374.



TREVITHICK AND MASTERMIND

Members may recall that, back in 2005 Peter Richardson bravely sat in the BBC Mastermind chair to answer questions on his chosen subject, Richard Trevithick. He was successful in winning his heat and much of that was due to his painstaking research into the life and happenings surrounding the Cornish engineer.

Peter has kindly allowed the society to illustrate and format his eighteen pages of closely typed notes into a booklet for publication. This work has been undertaken by our curator, Pete Joseph,

with the assistance of a bequest from the estate of the late David Jenkin.

Peter's research has provided us with a thoroughly enthralling read. It is also an educational publication that will dispel many of the misunderstandings connected to Trevithick and form the basis for school and community quiz events. Further details will appear when the book is published.

P.M.H.

DEAR JOE

The following letter came from Dr F. D. Trevarthen of Welwyn. It was written, in immaculate copperplate handwriting, by his great-grandmother and gives an insight into the living conditions of many thousands of families who remained at home in Cornwall whilst their husbands were working in the mining fields abroad.

*Praze St Erth
July 20th (1871?)*

Dear Joe,

I received your very welcome letter last Sunday morning. I was greatly surprised to hear from you. I really did think you had forgotten us but now I can say you are a friend in deed and not in word. Please to accept My Dear Joe our thanks for the five pounds you sent us for it has given me almost a new life. You can't think what an affect your letter has had on me when I think you sent all that money to the poor children and said you were sorry it was not more. If it was only one pound think what help that would be to me at this time. I have a few friends with fair promises but nothing else to part with. Dear Alfred's death is come an old thing to many but the children is no nearer rear than a year ago but you Dear Joe who I repeat it never promised me anything sent all that money in the very time I so much needed it. We have short of meat sometimes

this summer. I never said anything to anyone nor allowed the children to. I thought certain people might guess without it. I think most of my two youngest Lizzie and Alfred. Two so pretty little children as you ever saw. Alfred is thirteen months old. He can run as fast as the rest so I suppose you would like to hear how we are getting on. I think to me we shall do bye and bye. I do belong down to Melanear mine in the account house got one pound a month. William Roberts is working on the flours [sic] for ten shillings a month. He is nine years old, is a very good boy, is always ready every day to work. He has not lost an hour since April. He is very small. He was for years always sick but is very well now. He never complains, is as cheerful as a lark. You said you suppose Nell had forgotten. Joe you are told of scores of times. They are both going to meet you when you come home. You have been daily expected ever since Jimmy is come. They can't think how you might not come too.

Nell have not laugh nor done so much else but moped like everyone in a bad temper ever since her poor father is dead. I have to go to work from seven to five so she has to stay at home with baby and Lizzie and do what she can while William R. and I go to work. I did fell to go every

day from baby while he was so young altho I was very glad to have it to do. I would rather work as hard as I do than apply to the parish for relief. I have not done yet and no one knows how hard I have had it. All say how well we are getting on and I am proud to hear it.

Laura is with Mother still as you know. She has been freed from many hardships on that account. They say they will keep her longer. She is very comfortable there.

Mary your wife was up here last Sunday. I never saw her looking so well in my life, like a girl. She has almost been over carried all this summer with thoughts of your coming to her. I hope to see you soon too. I could talk for a week to you.

I suppose you will not have the patience to read this through. Your family will write themselves. I should be glad to have a letter again. Will you Dear Joe write to me. I remain Dear Joe your affectionate sister Mary Trownson.

It is now half past five. I am in the account house. Jimmy is out in the engine house and William R. on the flours.

THE TAMAR VALLEY MINING DISTRICT IN 1848 CD-ROM

This CD-ROM uses Robert Symons' 1848 geological plan of the Tavistock District as an interactive backdrop to the resources concerning the 191 mines that are listed in the index. Two-thirds of this mining district is within Cornwall and it includes such mines as Drakewalls, Gunnislake Clitters, Kit Hill United, Calstock Consols and Prince of Wales Mine.

The main menu provides a number of ways to access the variety of information concerning this mining district, such as via a tabulated index of the mines or an index of the setts, or alternatively by quizzing Symons' map.

There are in fact two copies of Robert Symons' map on the CD-ROM:

1. The 1848 map. This map is sensitive to the position of the mouse and when it is clicked that portion of the map is enlarged and the new screen also carries a list of the setts shown and a description of that part of the mining district. The enlarged map displayed is still not easily read and so a further mouse click zooms in to a smaller area. From there information about the individual mines can be accessed.
2. The sett map. This is annotated to show the position of all the mineral setts, and is colour coded to show the setts in production, in operation or not operating in 1848. It is a very useful map for orientation purposes and leads onto further details about the mines that worked the sett simply by clicking on a sett name.

The information about individual mines includes a brief history, and such things as pie charts showing production, photographs, the country rock, its status in 1848, and associated mines. The CD-ROM also uses pop ups to display snippets of information about places on the map or

more detailed portions of the map itself.

A tremendous amount of work has gone into the preparation of this CD-ROM and it is particularly pleasing to be able to relate the mining setts in 1848 to the individual mines, and so disentangle some of the complexity of mining operations over time.

Overall this CD-ROM provides an very good introduction to the mines of that portion of the Tamar Valley. The text is fully referenced and there is a glossary of mining terms on hand. In addition to the map the CD contains an useful paper, written by Ian Hodgkinson, summarising the geology of the area.

This CD-ROM was produced for the 2007 NAMHO conference at Morwellham Quay. It is designed like a website and uses the computer's web browser to navigate through the screens, and as a consequence is very easy to delve into. A nice feature is the key pad which accompanies many of the maps, enabling simple access to adjacent areas of the mining district. An added bonus is that the whole thing can easily be installed onto the hard disk of the computer, which speeds up data retrieval.

The system requirements are for Windows 95/98/XP running Internet Explorer 4 or above. The CD-ROM was found to work perfectly on an XP machine using Explorer 6. It does not, however, have complete functionality with Explorer 7, a problem acknowledged within the documentation, and when tested on a Windows Vista machine using Explorer 7, it lacked the full searching facilities and a number of the links on the maps, particularly the sett map, would not work. Fortunately, these limitations are easily got around and so it is still a very worthwhile resource on a Windows Vista PC.

The CD-ROM is produced by John Manley, of Mappa Kernewick, and costs £6 + £2 p. + p. ISBN 0-9550447-2-3. It is obtainable from 28 Fairfield, St Germans, Saltash, Cornwall. PL12 5LR. Email: teammanley@hotmail.com

CNF.

BOOK REVIEW

Calstock Viaduct, 100 years and more. A photographic record of its construction and the story behind it. Calstock Parish Archive Trust. by Vic Harman. 67 bw photos, 67 A4 pages. Cost £10 + £1.50 p. + p.



The Calstock Viaduct is not as iconic as Brunel's Royal Albert Bridge, at Saltash, or the sunken domes of the Eden Project, but, to those who have stood alongside the Tamar River and looked up at its towering arches, it is probably the most impressive of the three, and undoubtedly the least known.

2008 marks the centenary of the opening of this magnificent railway viaduct, which serves to remind us that a concrete edifice can be a thing of beauty and can stand the test of time.

This timely book mainly consists of a photographic record of the construction of the Calstock viaduct together with a description of the associated trials and tribulations.

The Plymouth, Devonport and South Western Junction railway employed the consulting engineers Galbraith and Church to design the viaduct and railway, to prepare drawings and specifications and act as Engineer under the Contract. T Lang and Sons, a well established local civil engineering firm, was chosen for the building work. Together they toiled, in a far from harmonious fashion, mainly hampered by cash-flow problems resulting from an unrealistically low tender price

submitted by T Lang and Sons. This resulted in a number of delays and some inefficient working practices, but also led to a degree of ingenuity. The two year delay in the completion of the project can only partially be explained by Lang's poor cost estimates, and the book provides a fascinating account of the contributory factors and tensions that existed. Indeed, it seems all the more remarkable that this astonishing engineering achievement was actually completed in four years.



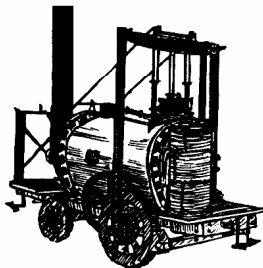
The author is a civil engineer, and so the text benefits from an insiders understanding of the processes involved, and the explanations of these are particularly valued, as are the captions to the photographs.

The photographs were taken by Frederick Paul, an enterprising, technically minded, shopkeeper in Calstock and provide an excellent record of the various building phases and the bridge-building technology of the time. Together with the accompanying text these photographs provide a very worthy account of one small portion of Cornwall's industrial heritage.

Make cheques payable to:
Calstock Parish Archive Trust.

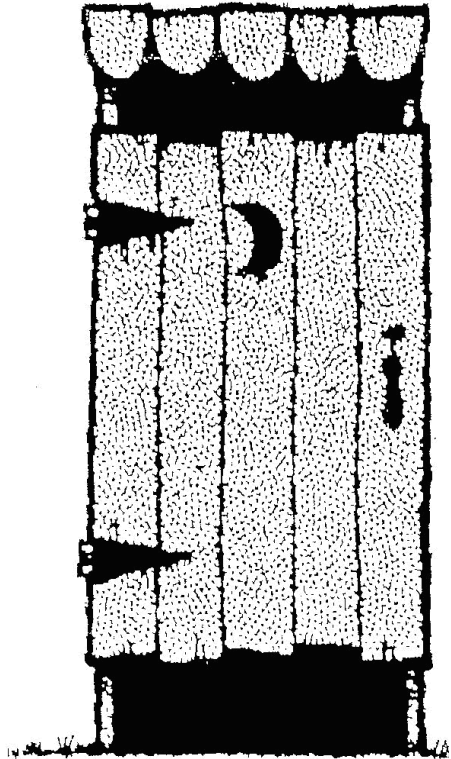
Vic Harman,
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Callington,
Cornwall.
PL17 8BA
01579 351413

CNF.



FAMOUS PEOPLE ON THE TOILET

SIR GOLDSWORTHY-GURNEY



“This is a good place
to avoid the limelight”

TREVITHICK SOCIETY EVENTS AND CONTACTS

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EVENTS

Jan. 24th 2008
Trevithick's Australian Legacy,
by Philip Hosken

Feb. 28th
Railways versus the Secretary!,
by G. Smith-Grogan

Meetings are held in the
Lecture Theatre, Opie Building,
Cornwall College at 7pm.



The Trevithick Society, a registered charity, is a recognised body of the study of industrial archaeology in Cornwall. Membership is open to all who are interested in the region's great industrial past, whether or not they live in Cornwall. The Society takes its name from one of Britain's foremost inventors and pioneers of the Industrial Revolution, Richard Trevithick, a Cornishman whose name is inseparable from the development of steam power. This newsletter is published quarterly and, together with the annual journal, is distributed free to members. Letters and contributions are always welcome and should be sent direct to the editor. The views expressed in this newsletter are those of the authors and not necessarily those of the Trevithick Society.

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