

ROYAL GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF CORNWALL 1814 – 2022
PRESIDENT'S REPORT FOR THE AGM FEBRUARY 2022

This year has flown by – and I have an impression of several of exciting projects started – but still lots to do to bring them to fruition. I wonder how much members see of some of this work, which is the necessary 'behind-the-scenes' activity that is needed to ensure that the Society will thrive in the future. Should we tell you more about this at the monthly Zoom meetings? Or maybe by Facebook or website blogs?

Our sad news this year, that you will be aware of, was the passing of (Joseph) Neil Plummer in April. Neil was at home with Beatrice, and as many will know, had been poorly for some time. Several RGSC Council members, including Loveday Jenkin, joined Beatrice Kernon joined a large congregation for the funeral procession and service in Stithians. Neil's contribution to RGSC over the years was immense, not only in working to ensure the Society could continue after all the arguments about its future, but in taking multiple roles over the years including Secretary, President, convenor of meetings and fieldtrip leader. Neil was honoured with the Bolitho Gold Medal of the RGSC in 2019. Perhaps the existence of the Society is itself the greatest memorial – so let's make sure we grow and thrive.

The other part of the Society that members will have certainly seen, and some good news is that online talks, with speakers sitting in places ranging from Cornwall to California, have continued to be well-received. Council has acted on the request at last year's AGM that we continue at least some lectures in this format even when it is easier to plan ahead to meet in person. At the time of writing, it seems rather fortunate that our talks for the beginning of 2022 were planned as online events.... I would like to thank the University of Exeter who via the Head of Camborne School of Mines (Professors Kip Jeffrey and now Stephen Hesselbo) allow us to use the University Zoom platform for our meetings.

Projects 'on the go' include the digitisation of the RGSC Transactions and archive collections, for which Council has taken the advice of a professional digital collections specialist and is very grateful for the help of Charlie Moon who is working through the Transactions to create digital versions that we can put online on our geologycornwall.com website. Volunteers interested in working on other archive materials would be very welcome.

RGSC Council member, Hilary Mitchell has been busy going through RGSC paperwork with great care and attention to detail to prepare the documents for the process to create and transfer to a new RGSC CIO. We are very grateful to Colonel Edward Bolitho OBE who kindly supported our submission to the Cabinet Office to continue to use the name 'Royal', which has now been approved.

Do checkout and use the RGSC Geology Cornwall Facebook page, for which Nick Farrell and Loveday Jenkin do sterling work on administering and posting. Whilst on social media, may I give my thanks Janet Wynne who is our ultra-reliable webmaster.

Something exciting for the forthcoming year is that a new volume of the Transactions is well on the way to publication. Alongside the resurgence in interest in geological resources in Cornwall, early career geologists, Alexandra Sweeney and Rowan Halkes have been editing a volume featuring articles from the region's exploration projects, together with an introduction to the geology of Cornwall and guides to three coastal visits to learn more about the geology that creates the tungsten, tin and lithium deposits. We are grateful for the support of all the companies: Cornwall Resources, British Lithium, Tungsten West, Cornish Metals, Cornish Lithium, Cornish Tin and Geothermal Engineering Ltd who have provided articles. The plan is to provide a pdf copy to all members and we are discussing if we can also produce a hard copy printed version for sale.

I hope we will also be able to have news about new premises in 2022. We are in talks with Cornwall Council, led by Loveday Jenkin, to find alternative and more suitable premises than the Old Fire Station.

Through the efforts of Frank Howie, who currently chairs the CGG and attends RGSC Council meetings, we maintain a close link to the Cornwall Geoconservation Group. We also send details of talks to other local societies and schools and welcome these kinds of collaborations.

I would like to thank the Officers and Council for their excellent work on behalf of the Society through the year – Linda Beskeen (the fastest minutes secretary in the West), Loveday Jenkin (our well-connected Vice President), Beatrice Kerno (who knows all our members), Nick Farrell (valiant battles with the banking system for us), Hilary Mitchell (knowledge transfer from accounting and birding!), Caradoc Peters (geology to archaeology).

All of us on Council welcome member's comments about what activities and visits would be of most interest in the future. If you might be at all interested in getting more involved, just give us a hint 😊. There is lots to do.

Meeting outdoors might still be easier than indoors this coming year – and we have a programme of fieldtrips well on the way – so I look forward to seeing you out-and-about in 2022 enjoying the spectacular geology in our region.