

ROYAL GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF CORNWALL 1814-2019
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Saturday 16th February 2019, 2.00 pm,
The Alverne Room, St John's Hall, Penzance
The President, Dr Chris Page BSc, PhD, F.L.S., took the chair.

1. Brief Health & Safety Statement: by Loveday Jenkin

2. President's Welcome: everyone was welcomed to the meeting by the president, both new and old members. Everyone present was requested to sign the attendance register.

Present: B.A. Kerno Plummer, Loveday Jenkin, June Markham, Jacky Urquhart, Linda Beskeen, Rosemary Stone, Miriam Stone, Linda Blackhall, Roger Holmes, Dawn Walker, Jim Eggleton, Colin Bristow, Adrian Spalding, M. Atkinson, J. Taylor, Chris Page, E. Whittaker, Ross Whittaker, Tony Bamford, David Holt, Claire Page, Sid Geake, Keith Plummer, Delia Holt, John Grimes, Pat Grimes, Tim Grimes, Frances Wall, Brian O'Connell, Peter Robinson, Caradoc Peters, Nick Farrell.

2a Members Stood in Remembrance of John Shrimpton and Charles Smith

G. John Shrimpton was a past president and long standing member of the society, a stalwart supporter of meetings and activities. He served as a member of the RGSC Council from the 1970s and was editor of the journal for many years as well as being a significant contributor to academic papers submitted to the RGSC Journal. His contribution has been immense and we are truly grateful for his loyalty and commitment.

Charles Smith: was a long standing member who had been in ill health recently. He had intended to be present but has sadly died.

3. Apologies: Marion Smith, was intending to attend the AGM but sadly she lost her husband, so we remember her as well as her husband.

Lesley Allen, John Dewey, Karen Harrowing, Vanessa Stone, Jackie Cacklais, David Freeman, Adrian Roberts, Dr P Hackett, Mark Beckett, Barry Gamble, Hilary Mitchell, Russ Winn, Sue Short, Marion Smith, Horace Stone.

Acting Secretary in the absence of Neil Plummer is Beatrice Kerno

4. Receipt of the minutes of the last AGM, 2018: (previously circulated & available at the meeting). Proposed by Roger Holmes, seconded by Loveday Jenkin, supported and signed.

The President thanked all members of the Council who held the society together and enabled the long list of activities, then added comments regarding the current situation.

David Freeman, curator, has been in bad health. He is a font of knowledge for the collection and had intended to visit Nottingham to catalogue and check the items moved there, but was taken ill and unable to complete this task.

Neil Plummer has been in hospital since 1st Dec 2018. He has been heavily relied upon by the president, including shouldering the burden of the lecture & meetings events schedule.

We owe a lot to each of them and wish them both well

Beatrice Kerno Plummer has kindly shouldered the additional responsibility of acting secretary with the two advantages being that we have been able to keep the show on the road whilst Neil has been in hospital and she has also gained access to Neil's work and prepared for the coming year. The President offered grateful thanks to Beatrice for her work as treasurer, acting secretary and organising the AGM.

Beatrice responded: thanks especially to June Markham who went through reams of notes and research of Neil's work and neighbour Janet Wynne who has got into the website and placed some information onto the website regarding forthcoming events.

The President reiterated thanks and necessity of skills of keeping society going.

5. Matters Arising: none

2019 New Business

6. Secretary's Report: (Beatrice Kerno representing Neil Plummer[NP]) The list of meetings and events for the past year has been circulated. This included nine talks at Allett and four external visits/field trips. Neil Plummer organised these and was particularly keen to organise field trips. NP cannot lead walks for at least the next year, and if possible, please complete the list of ideas of things to see & do and volunteer to lead.

Nick Farrell arrived and agreed to lead an excursion.

NP had waited all year to hear from a delegated member whether today's proposed speaker was available but had not heard.

However NP had approached John Grimes who had replied in the positive, so we are looking forward to hearing from John Grimes later today. John has been a member for many years, so we welcome him as our speaker on this occasion .

The Next Weds lecture at Allet is the 'The Angry Earth' lecture by Tony Bamford, who has spent a career in well geology and engineering.

Stephen Lay has agreed to come in March to talk on the 'Modern Day Cousin Jack'

April - Derek Stonley, 'In the Footsteps of Fleming -The Diamond Smugglers'

May – Prof. Dianne Edwards, Cardiff Univ.'The Green Revolution, Plants invade the land'.

June - tbc..

Publicity – The President showed the advertisement flier about the society which has been circulated to advertise our activities and will be adapted in fure for further circulation.

David Freeman was intending to go to Nottingham to update the catalogue, but ill health has prevented this. Neil Plummer, after much sleuthing, located the missing whalebone humerus within RIC searches. He contacted Michael Howe in Nottingham who was pleased to hear about the holding of the humerus which NP was hoping would possibly going to be part of a transaction. Michael Howe used the information of the whalebone humerus in his lecture shortly afterwards in Bath. Colin Bristow heard this and commented that he had been given the impression that the BGS might assume that they had ownership of the RGSC collection, rather than temporary care.

Morrab Garden stable project: This is almost complete. Neil P had been in correspondence with Melissa at Morrab Garden Stable project, looking at the possibility of working together in some way, possibly to enable corporate membership of the library. That would open up doors for research for members. See notes on the update report about the project. We have the little fire station as an office and there is a possibility for extending links with a society that has already managed to work to gain development and approval.

7. Treasurer's Report & annual accounts: (Beatrice Kerno)

All receipts and expenditure accounts are shown on the appended list.

To be added is annual membership of the Geologist Association - £40

Subscriptions are due on 1st April. Direct Debit makes it easier for the treasurer, please see forms available at the back.

8. Brief update statement of accounts :

The Current account closing value in March 2018: £25,454.26p

The current account value at the start of 2019: £26,685.40p

All accepted that the president sign and accept these accounts as given.

9. Presidents Report:

The President wished to mention the many things which indicate a dynamic society.

9.1. **Personnel:** Thank to Beatrice Kerno, June Markham, Janet Wynne for producing the papers for today & keeping the society going. Also additional four volunteers who will be presented for cooption to the management, see below..

The President expressed his good wishes for recovery and health to members who have become incapacitated. As many members are older, we do need to keep bringing in younger as well as older people into the society. We have something to offer all.

9.2. Existing activities: It is good to see a number of lectures planned ahead and we wish to look outwards as well - looking at a wider spectrum of topics from which we can learn elements of topics that may be relevant to geology and applied geology. Welcome is extended to the input of the members and links from them to suggest other lecturers to approach will be appreciated.

Reference was made to the next lecture in February. Tony Bamford described briefly his subject - he has run a certification scheme for competence in well blowout and worked in well design. Technical aspects and well design importance will be included.

9.3 Publications: RGSC Transactions are the oldest continually published transactions on geology in the world. We have a desire and duty to continue and hope to return to the pattern of keeping them onto the right tracks and take them forward.

We are looking for papers to re-launch the transactions and recently had an excellent paper, successfully peer referenced, which is due for imminent publication and hope to produce the next issue to endorse the fact that we are still in operation. If we present the journal as a continuous run, then the Transactions should be accepted into libraries as a continuation. If anyone knows someone who can and will produce papers of suitable content, both inward and outward looking, then we can keep the journal in good condition.

Mark Beckett's publication on fossils has been refereed, one referee added a few suggestions for additional points which are now being included and we hope to reproduce it.

BK added that Neil Plummer had been in correspondence with Mark Beckett until 15th Nov.

He is not familiar with integrating all references within text. Adrian Spalding has offered to help with footnotes, a much appreciated gesture.

9.4 Council: see later

9.5. Future development: Hope was expressed that we can work toward restoring the original museum facility. The rock collection was & is the heritage of Cornwall. We used to have room to display the material when we were joint owners of the West Wing of St John's Hall. A large part is in The Geological Society store in Nottingham which maintains it and prevents deterioration. All is in good professional hands. There are many who would like to see this mineral display in Cornwall. Prof Frances Hall held a meeting at CSM to discuss the future of fossil collections in Cornwall which had a positive outcome. All present felt they had a similar objective of getting a mineral museum back into Cornwall, but no concrete idea of location.

There was feeling expressed from the floor that we need to be better represented in Geology & Earth Sciences than we are already as this represents a significant aspect of Cornwall's heritage and we are a World Heritage Site for our mining landscape.

The President felt that we had collective strengths and if linked to a more Cornwall-based museum group would have greater strength. Location discussion ensued - CSM and RIC do not have enough space. The idea is to look for somewhere fresh within the Cornwall. Several potential geographic areas have been suggested.

Of the individual areas suggested council members were designated to speak to people specifically to form links with other suitable potential partners.

The links are not to be mentioned yet as discussion is ongoing, but positive reactions have been received so far. It is important to find a place to store, display and make the collection available for research as well as an inspiration for younger people for the future.

The Museum group is evolving and ideas being presented.

Frances Wall was invited to add to this, she has said that she has had conversations with other museums and interested parties. She would like the museum group to think about how to interest a group of potential partners and visitors.

One idea is to have a major museum with attractions that is a large operation

Another is storage - possibly an equivalent of the CRO for objects -

3rd - outreach - how do we get the maximum number of people interested in seeing and doing activities with fossils & rocks - could do this anywhere at any place that could run activities if we had an initiative to work on this? KEM was suggested.

She would like ideas for activities which can capture money and that can be used for outreach. Frances goes to Keyworth and will be there in April and sees RGSC material on display.

President: other organisations have responded with a lack of vision about the interest of a rock & fossil collection. One suggestion is to look at a whole earth science museum, fitting in

with a wider area of interest, especially if we can look at earth, environment, space in the context of Cornwall.

More can be said when Council has considered this and more ideas are collected. This will be presented further as information is available.

Comments were opened to the floor:

Colin Bristow- has attended meeting of the History of Geology Societies in Bath, based on SW England where attendance was mainly from professional curators, where a paper was read on the RGSC collection, but giving the impression that the collection was now in ownership of the Nottingham Centre. The RGSC was not consulted prior to this. Frances Wall noted that Karen Bell attended this - we needed to ensure that RGSC is properly represented at events like this.

Tony Bamford asked if there are any geological museums that make money?

Colin Bristow has seen one in Kimmeridge, focussing on The Jurassic & dinosaurs; Caradoc Peters has visited the Kimmeridge museum & it is very successful. He recommends visiting it. President - another idea might be to link with a London Museum as an outpost.

Roger Holmes: Cornwall has a great Geological background, but is not isolated. We ought to be making more long lasting contacts with other museums or organisations.

Linda Blackhall recommended an excellent museum in Dakota which had a story which was very engaging and drew people in, including specimens of the Geological timeline.

10. Election of Officers:

Chris Page remains president for the following year

All officers present are prepared to go forward & agreement was given for this if well and able to:

Beatrice Kernö as Hon Treasurer

Neil Plummer as Hon. Secretary (Beatrice Kernö Plummer is acting secretary)

Council members: Loveday Jenkin, June Markham, Caradoc Peters, Adrian Spalding.

4 new names co-opted by the Secretary through the President - proposed President, seconded Loveday Jenkin, acceptance by the floor with no objectors.

a. Jackie Urquart:

b. Hilary Mitchell:

c. Linda Beskeen:

d. Nick Farrel.

All are invited to consider anyone to nominate as an additional member over the year.

It was announced that the existing Council plus these 4 serve for the coming year.

11. Council recommendation of the next AGM: to be on 15th Feb 2020 was agreed.

12. Urgent Matters Required by Council:

12.1 Fire Station: Loveday Jenkin has taken over from Neil Plummer in liaising with Cornwall Council re. the Fire Station. It is almost complete. Some issue found with the post office joining wall where water ingress had caused some damp, work is underway; a toilet, small kitchen and Committee Meeting space are included. Once signed off then we can have full use for the building for work. Loveday Jenkin is trying to include council internet within the lease to provide wifi. Slow progress is being made, and visits available today if wished. BK noted that the promise from Cornwall Council to pay our legal costs has been met and we have shelving and boxes.

We will need a working group to move things at some point.

12.2 Transactions – fossils article covered in Mark Beckett discussion, point 9.3.

13. Closure of the AGM: The meeting closed at 4.00pm

14. AGM Annual Address: ‘Subsidence within the Gunnislake Mining Area’ by Dr John Grimes, BSc., MSc., PhD., CEng., FICE., FGS., IMAPS.

15. Departure for the Queens Hotel, Promenade, Penzance at 5.50pm