

BRITISH MICROMOUNT SOCIETY



NEWSLETTER NO. 45 OCTOBER 1996

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BMS SYMPOSIUM 1996

What was on show?

As usual there was an interesting variety of the new and the old (but very nice) on display this year, and again covering the whole of England and Scotland.

Chris Jewson had a number of micro jeanbandeyite specimens from Hingston Down Quarry. These were collected in November 1994 and recently identified (XRD) by David Green. Chris is taking orders.

Peter Wallace had a new mineral from Penberthy Crofts, confirmed by X-ray as mansfieldite. This material looks quite similar to some scorodite habits from that locality. John Betterton reported that another mineral from Penberthy that looks very similar to plumbogummite from some areas of the Caldbeck Fells is in fact hidalgoite, again X-ray confirmed. Richard Belson had some chalcomenite from Wheal Cock. His wife Bridget found this earlier this year but unfortunately only one rock containing chalcomenite was found and a subsequent trip failed to unearth anymore.

Not new but certainly worth seeing was the specimen of cuprite from Wheal Drey found by Martin Gayle and the star shaped brochantite crystals Isobel Geldart found at south Wheal Basset. Finally from Cornwall, Dorothy Merritt had an interesting and unusual siderite from Kelly Brae.

Norfolk is not a county well known for its diversity of minerals but Ian Lindsey and Peter Smith had quite a lot of slag material containing thiosulphates etc. from West Runton beach; Very interesting and reminiscent of Richard Lambs presentation at the symposium a couple of years ago. Whilst on the subject of slags Andy Castleton had a magnificent suite of slag material on display from Stoneycroft smelter in the Newlands Valley, Cumbria.

Mike Leppington once again has come up with good Caldbeck Fells material. This time a suite of manganese minerals (as yet unidentified) from Burdell Gill and some senarmontite and selenite from nearby Wet Swine Gill.

Perhaps however the most interesting material to be found in reasonable quantity recently in the Lake District is the pyromorphite from Force Crag. The buff coloured lustrous crystals are similar to those found at Frongoch in mid Wales and those from the classic locality of Bad Ems in Germany. David Green has shown it to be the pyromorphite end member of the series, and he had specimens on show and for sale.

Richard Bell was displaying good barite collected recently from Florence mine at Egremont, demonstrating that this locality is still producing excellent material. Richard also had some mattheddleite and lanarkite from the Susanna mine at Leadhills and some excellent hemimorphite on quartz from the Straitstep vein at Warlockhead. Further north Isobel Geldart has found some lovely pale pink smithsonite at the Blackcraig mine near Creetown.

Epistilbite is reputed to be a relatively rare zeolite from Skye however David Green has demonstrated that it occurs more readily than has commonly been accepted. He had a number of specimens on display from several sites on the island. David has also been visiting Wales and had a good example of wulfenite from Pandy Mine near Machynlleth. Also from Wales, I was lucky enough to find a rich specimen of synchisite from Manod Quarry at Blaenau Festiniog in August this year.

George Fletcher received permission recently to visit Coldstones Quarry and found a number of cinnabar specimens.

Finally it is worth mentioning that the Isle of Man produces mineral specimens and Ray Starkey had some stibnite on show.

Mike Rothwell

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF
THE BRITISH MICROMOUNT SOCIETY.
LEICESTER UNIVERSITY ON SUNDAY 22ND SEPTEMBER, 1996.**

The Chairman John Pearce opened the meeting at 10 a.m. There were 65 members present. Secretary Shirley Adrian.

1. Apologies for absence.

Apologies were received from Doug Morgan, John Nowak, Bob Snowball, Alan Dyer, Oneta Wilson, John and Daphne Hall, Kemp Meikle, Phil Jackman, Kevin Tiltman, Joyce and Harry Day, Trevor Bridges and others.

2. Minutes of the 1995 AGM.

The Minutes having been published in the Newsletter were taken as read.

3. Matters arising from the Minutes.

The Chairman said that all relevant matters had been discussed at the Spring Committee Meeting.

4. Membership Secretary's and Treasurer's Reports.

Sidney Freeman gave both reports.

On 16th September there were 188 single members and 29 family memberships, a total of 217 persons. During the year there had been 2 non-renewals, 2 deaths and 10 new members, a net increase of 6.

Sidney referred members to the Receipts and Payments Account for the year ended 31st May 1996. He pointed out that there was a surplus of £344 over the previous year. Compared with 1995 badge sales had fallen, presumably because most members now have one. There are still some in stock at £1.80. They may be obtained from Pearl Freeman. There had been a surplus for the 1995 Symposium and the Auction then had raised a further £196 for the Society. Of the payments he highlighted the grant of £20, which was to cover the rental of a hall to facilitate the formation of a BMS Branch in the Midlands. The Society had had a good year financially. He thanked Mike Leppington for his prompt and efficient audit of the accounts.

Sidney then read Harry Day's summary of costs of the Database Project:-

Development of the Database including an honorarium to Mr. T. Pink for writing the computer program, stationery, photocopies, etc., amounted to £297.18. Development of the System Handbook cost £18.88. Production of the hard copies came to £148.08, bringing the total cost for setting up the complete system and issuing copies to each branch to £458.14. The production of the Computer Package for sale to members cost £114.24. The expected return on these should be in the order of £500.

Harry estimated that for continuing to update the database with additional data, and issuing updates to branches on an annual basis we should budget for an expenditure of about £100 per annum, which hopefully will be covered by sales revenue.

The disk and handbook are now on sale at £10, or £11.50 by post. Updates will cost £3.50 inclusive of postage. Up to three Site printouts could be purchased for 75p. Max Wirth said that this represented extremely good value for money.

5. Chairman's Report.

John was sad to report the deaths during the year of Colin Horstmann and Maurice Grigg. Maurice had only been a member of the BMS for a short time but had been a friend to a large number of members for many years. At last year's Symposium Maurice had won the first Micromineral Competition, and Chris Jewson and Barry Gamble had made a Trophy for future winners as a tribute to Maurice Grigg. Chris Jewson said that Maurice had been really delighted with his win last year and it had seemed a fitting memorial to have a "Maurice Grigg Trophy".

John said there had been steady progress through the year. He was pleased that our fifth branch had been established, with Dick Smith as Representative. However he had thought he was about to encounter a problem when two committee members had told him they were unable to

carry on, -Muriel Swindell as Archivist and Malcolm Southwood as Newsletter Editor. But before he had even thought about arm-twisting Alan Edwards had volunteered to look after the Archives and two or three people had shown an interest in helping with the Newsletter. Malcolm had agreed to carry on for the time being to ease the transition. The Newsletter is obviously a very important point of contact for a scattered society such as ours.

John reminded us that one of the Society's aims is to promote Mineralogy in the UK. With that aim in mind he felt that the Society should support the UK Journal of Mines and Minerals which had an important role in that respect. The Journal has attained a high standard of content and presentation. The Society had marked its 10th anniversary by sponsoring the Journal's 10th issue. For our 15th anniversary it had been decided that we should sponsor 2 colour pages. We are also attempting to co-ordinate our support for the Journal with FLAGS. David Green said the Journal was now in the hands of a very small team of two or three, and that they very much appreciated our support. The donation would go to the colour photos for Steve Rust's article on Frongoch.

John Pearce then went on to say that he was now starting his fifth year in office and intended to stand down at the next Symposium. He would like members to consider their options during the coming year. He thanked the Committee for their work, Mike Rothwell for his continuing "reproduction" service, and Mick Wolfe for undertaking the Directory update so essential to inter-member communication. He also gave special thanks to Elsie Hansford for organising the BMS stand at the GA Reunion and for making a superb carousel of micromounts for the raffle.

6. Other Reports

Newsletter Editor.

Malcolm Southwood thanked contributors for their articles--more would always be welcome. He assured us that it was not a bad job, taking up about 2 hours a week for the four weeks before an issue, and about 1 hour a week the rest of the time. He regretted having to give it up but was having to spend a good deal of time abroad. He proposed to work on the next 2 issues in tandem with those who had shown an interest, and see how things worked out.

John Pearce thanked Malcolm again and there was applause from the meeting.

Curator.

Max Wirth thanked Dorothy Merritt for her assistance with records and postal requests. He reminded members that they could borrow up to 25 or 30 specimens at a time. Thanks to negotiations between Chris Jewson and John Jones we had acquired between 20 to 30 of Maurice Grigg's micromounts of minerals from the china clay pits.

John Pearce thanked Max and Chris.

Archivist.

Muriel Swindell said that the Goldschmidt volumes were available at the Symposium but that the Rashleigh was out on loan.

John thanked Muriel for looking after the archives for the past 9 years.

Branch Reports.

South-East. Austin Lockwood reported a local membership of over 50, with about 30 attending the quarterly meetings where they are joined by members from Norfolk. An additional meeting was held jointly with the S-E branch of the Russell Society on the subject of Computers. Peter Wallace acts as Treasurer and also reports on any interesting specimens brought to the meetings. June Lockwood organises refreshments and last November made a celebration cake to mark the 50th meeting. Austin thanked them both. He was pleased that there had been a good number of entries for the Micromineral Competition, and that with the establishment of the Maurice Grigg Trophy it would be an annual event. He thanked Peter for administrating the competition and the four judges, one from each of the longer-established branches.

Austin reported that Elsie Hansford and Peter Wallace would once again be mounting a stand on behalf of the BMS at the GA Reunion to be held at University College London on Saturday November 2nd.

North. Jean Spence reported that with members being widely dispersed attendance figures were variable and the meetings informal. A field trip to Ecton had unfortunately had to be cancelled, but it was hoped that another trip could take place in November.

Norfolk. Kevin Johns reported that 8-10 members attended their monthly meetings.

Warrington . Isabel Geldart reported that the group consists of 10 keen members who meet once a fortnight.

Midlands. Dick Smith reported that after some canvassing and a false start, 8 people had convened in July and decided to form the Midlands branch. They plan to meet 3 times a year in Solihull. The next meeting would be on November 16th. A map and details can be sent to anyone who is interested in joining them. Dick thanked John Pearce for his support, including financial backing from the BMS, which had enabled them to get started.

Projects.

Occasional Papers.

David Green took the opportunity to blame Peter Braithwaite for the appearance of Number 9 before Number 8! Number 8 and two or three other Papers are in hand. Malcolm Southwood said that the South African Micromount Society wanted to purchase a set.

Database.

John Pearce reported that Harry Day was in Colorado. The paper copies were now with each branch. The computer copies became available a month later. John said that the Database was a magnificent achievement, and suggested that to show our appreciation of the enormous amount of work that Harry had put into the project a bouquet should be sent to Joyce. Everyone was in favour of this idea.

Matters for consideration in connection with the Database.

a) **Who may purchase a copy.** John Pearce pointed out that now that the Database had been produced its contents would no longer be confidential. Any UK resident could join the Society and become eligible to purchase it. Registered buyers will be able to ask for up-dates as these become available. Various opinions were aired as to possible categories of purchasers and prices. It was decided to limit purchasers to members resident in the UK for the time being.

b) **Validity of new data.** John said that up to now entries had been restricted to items extracted from the literature and to others that had undergone special identification. Obviously therefore the Database in its present form was not comprehensive. Roy Starkey thought it was important that sources of information should be cited, and any XRD numbers noted. Mike Rothwell said that the database should be as accurate as possible, so that it should be recorded which of the included items had only been identified visually. Martin Stolworthy pointed out that items in the 'literature' had not always been authenticated. Harry Day had suggested to John that perhaps six or so experienced members should be asked to feed in information in the first instance, with unusual items requiring authentication, and it was agreed that this was a good way forward, with a review of the situation again in 12 months. John Pearce considered that it was important for a large number of members to use the program to spot errors and omissions and provide feed-back. Volunteers were needed to scan the literature. He was talking to David Green about obtaining information from museums. Martin Stolworthy had agreed to take on a major role in the Project and to co-operate with Harry. John felt that we should be proud of the progress that had been made. There is still some way to go but the Database is starting to develop well.

Workshops.

Peter Wallace reported that a workshop on identification of minerals using electron microprobe and X-ray diffraction techniques will take place at the Royal Holloway College, Egham, on Sunday October 27th. David Alderton will 'zap' previously submitted specimens, and after listening to the theory involved members will be given the printouts of their specimens and try to work out the constituents from reference charts. The cost will be about £5. Anyone living 'north of Watford' who is able to help with arranging a similar workshop for northern members should let Peter or John know.

Symposium Organisers.

Richard Belson said that among the 82 delegates listed there were several new members. He asked whether those present were happy with the balance of lectures, workshops and swap-time and said that they were always pleased to get feed-back from delegates.

Kevin Johns reported that 79 delegates were actually at the Symposium. He hoped that delegates would agree that the price for the weekend still represented good value for money. He explained that all items used now had to be hired individually. The Organisers had built up a good relationship with the University. He thanked the Geology Department for their help, particularly Roy Clements who always comes in to check that there are no problems. In fact 3 University personnel had visited the Symposium. The Raffle had raised £148 and the Auction £219, both more than last year. New for this year had been the use of the overhead TV screens. Hire of these had cost £50. Sidney Freeman asked whether it was worth it. The meeting felt that it was. Roy Starkey said that it was a good facility, of which more use should be made. Members' specimens could be seen by a much greater number of delegates in this way. Kevin thanked the speakers, David Green, Dr. Geoff Warrington of the BGS, and Mike Rothwell, Richard Bell and John Dickinson who had organised the workshop on collecting in North Wales. He also thanked Ken Luff for his Quiz, Mike Edwards for the microscope clinic, Roy Starkey for acting as Auctioneer at short notice, Peter Braithwaite and many other helpers. The provisional date for the next Symposium is the weekend of 20th/21st September 1997. John Pearce thanked all three Organisers, and said that their advance visit to the University during the summer to check the rooms and equipment had paid off.

7. Founder's Cup.

The Chairman said that the Society was in the healthy position of having a reserve stock of strong candidates as evidenced by the discussion of potential winners at the Spring Committee meeting. Someone who, on retirement from office, was replaced by more than one person, obviously merited consideration! This year's winner had served the BMS as Symposium Organiser from 1990 to 1992, was Chairman of FLAGS and also of his local group, the Sidcup Lapidary and Mineral Society and exhibited an exemplary degree of democratic crowd control at his after-dinner quiz sessions.

John Pearce then presented the Cup to Ken Luff.

Ken thanked the Chairman and said he was surprised to hear that the quizzes had been enjoyed and was not sure he was worthy to join the illustrious names engraved on the Cup.

8. Election of Officers.

In the absence of any nominations, and the present holders being willing to serve a further year, the Chairman requested that they be elected *en bloc*. This was proposed by Peter Harrison, seconded by Dorothy Merritt and carried unanimously.

The Chairman said that the remaining committee members were automatically co-opted again, with Alan Edwards replacing Muriel Swindell as Archivist.

9. Any Other Business.

Mike Leppington addressed those members who also belonged to the Russell Society and pay their subscription by a standing Banker's Order. He asked any of them who also pay Income Tax to consider signing a deed of covenant, so that the Russell Society which is a registered charity can claim back the tax.

Malcolm Southwood said that those members with access to the Internet might be interested to know that the French Micromount Society had an excellent web site.

Austin Lockwood reminded the Chairman that the Accounts had not been formally accepted. Their acceptance was proposed by Peter Wallace, seconded by Peter Reynolds and carried unanimously.

The meeting closed at 11.35.a.m.

MINERALISATION AT ALDERLEY EDGE, CHESHIRE (Lecture to the 15th BMS Symposium, Leicester: 15 September 1996)

**G. Warrington PhD, C.Geol., FGS
British Geological Survey, Keyworth, Nottingham NG12 5GG**

The Cheshire Basin, which underlies north Shropshire and much of Cheshire is occupied by a thick sedimentary succession of Permian, Triassic and Early Jurassic age. The succession includes the Sherwood Sandstone Group (SSG), a mainly sandstone unit which is of Permian to Triassic age and is overlain by the Mercia Mudstone Group (MMG), a younger Triassic unit which consists largely of mudstone but includes thick beds of halite (rock salt). A low-grade polymetallic mineralisation, chiefly of copper, but including lead, cobalt, nickel, manganese, vanadium, arsenic and other elements, is hosted by the SSG at two localities in Cheshire and at others in north Shropshire. The mineralisation is generally developed in the highest beds of the SSG where these are overlain by the MMG, or where the latter has been faulted down against the SSG.

The Alderley Edge district, near Macclesfield in north-east Cheshire, is the best documented and largest of the metal mining sites in the Cheshire Basin. The main host rocks are 'red-bed' sediments of the Helsby Sandstone Formation (Mid Triassic; c. 245 million years old) at the top of the SSG. Metallic ores occur, largely as disseminations, in fluvial and aeolian deposits at three main levels in a 100m-thick succession. The Alderley Edge site, an SSSI, is the only one in Britain where extensive mine workings afford access to an ore deposit of this type. At least 12km of workings, most of which are accessible, underlie an area of c.1.5 sq. km. The mines

display to advantage, in unweathered sections, characters of the host rocks and features of the mineralisation, such as the form of the ore bodies and their relationship to structure (faults) and features of the host rocks, which are not apparent at outcrop. The ore-bearing sandstones occupy the core of a 'horst' or uplifted fault block which is flanked by, and was formerly overlain by, the MMG. Ore deposition may have begun as early as the Late Triassic (c.220-205 million years ago). An epigenetic process is favoured. Recent petrographical, geochemical and isotopic studies support a proposal, made by the writer in 1977, that the mineralisation involved chloride-rich intrastratal brines, rather than fluids of magmatic origin, and that these fluids migrated into the structural trap formed by the Alderley horst where precipitation of the metallic ores was influenced by hydrocarbons that utilised the same fluid migration pathways within the SSG. Over 60 minerals, mostly secondary species, have been identified from Alderley Edge.

Mining was in progress at Alderley in 1693 but may have begun in Roman or even earlier times; activity there ceased in 1919. Production was mainly of copper ore, with a small amount of lead ore. Cobalt ore was discovered at Alderley before October 1806 and was sent initially to a pottery at Ferrybridge, Yorkshire, and then to a works at Seacombe, on the Wirral. The most productive phase was between 1857 and 1877, when about 250,000 tons of copper ore were mined profitably by a company controlled by investors from Devon and Cornwall and with miners from those counties forming part of the workforce. The success of this operation resulted from the use of an efficient acid leaching process on disseminated carbonate ores containing c.1.5% copper. In 1865 Roscoe recognised vanadium in material at a similar process works at the adjacent Mottram St Andrew mine and used that material in his study of the element; in 1876 he named the mineral mottramite ($\text{PbCuVO}_4(\text{OH})$) after this site.

Sources for further reading:

- Braithwaite, R. S. W. 1994. Mineralogy of the Alderley Edge-Mottram St Andrew area, Cheshire, England. *Journal of the Russell Society*, **5**, 91-102.
- Warrington, G. 1965. The metalliferous mining district of Alderley Edge, Cheshire. *Mercian Geologist*, **1**, 111-129.
- Warrington, G. 1980. The Alderley Edge mining district. *Amateur Geologist*, **8**, 4-13.
- Warrington, G. 1981. The copper mines of Alderley Edge and Mottram St. Andrew, Cheshire. *Journal of the Chester Archaeological Society*, **64**, 47-73.

NEWS ROUND-UP

Hilton Mine, Scordale, Cumbria

Alan Edwards writes:

Hilton mine is within the area used by the army as a firing range. It can only be visited on a Monday, when no live firing is carried out, and has to be accessed on foot, which entails an hour's walk from the car park. The army is no longer immune from prosecution and they have therefore had to tighten up their rules for entering the site and collecting on the mine dumps.

The following procedure has to be followed: 1. Write in advance to Major Miles, Warcop Camp, Kirby Stephen, Cumbria, requesting permission to visit. 2. On arrival, report for a briefing meeting. This will cover inter alia, all the various dangerous pieces of ordnance you may see or find, the dangers these could represent and the limitation of the liability of the army. 3. You will be asked to sign a liability declaration after the briefing.

During a recent visit, Major Miles informed us that if these procedure are not followed, people will not be permitted to visit the site. People who have entered without permission will be asked to leave.

Bardon Hill Quarry

Malcolm suggested that the following reference may be of interest to members:

"Mount Bardon Volcanism (Bardon Hill Quarry and Charnwood Forest)" M J le Bas - Transactions of the Leicester Literary and Philosophical Society, August 1996, Volume 90.

On a lighter note?

A report in the Canadian MicroNews refers to an 8' long double-terminated quartz crystal weighing some 17,662lbs having been collected in Namibia. (The thought of taking a large crane some 50 miles through the bush to recover it made me realise why I prefer micros.)

And from various sources on the Internet comes a story of a cluster of emeralds said to have been recovered from "a large black rock" found in Madagascar. After a week of cleaning a cluster of 127 green emeralds weighing 167lbs is said to have emerged. No-one has explained why the original rock weighing in at over 300lbs was collected in the first place so believe it if you will.

INTERESTING ADDITIONS TO THE BMS COLLECTION Nos. 1751-1800
Max Wirth - October 1996

In case you had not noticed, I have not yet issued a listing for specimens 1701 to 1750. This will follow later when all the minerals have been identified in the mean time:

Chalcopyrite is unusual in the Shap granite quarry, although it has been reported as coating joints (Young's Glossary). I found just one neat little specimen (1751) covered in covellite (confirmed by Mike Rothwell). I also found rutile at Carrock (Mo vein), again unusual there but said to be common in the gabbro wall-rock contact.

Richard Bell has denuded Skye to contribute fine examples of zeolites (1753-1773) to the collection. This would be an ideal set for novices (if any) to recognise the habits of zeolites. The locations are Moonen Bay, Oisgill Bay, Earlish road cutting, Storr, Floddigarry, Glen Eynort and Dunvegan. Offretite, cowlesite and gyrolite are perhaps the most interesting ones.

Richard Bell also found lanarkite (with susannite) and mattheddleite (1775 and 1776) at the Susanna mine near Leadhills. From Arkengarthdale he contributed barite and the elongated calcite crystals mentioned in UK Journal of Mines and Minerals (No.16,p.4).

You may think I am biased in favour of Richard, but then he did hand over to me sixty specimens at our Leicester meeting. There is a rare specimen of spangolite (dark green) and parnaute (caledonite-blue) (1797) from Halletts shaft in Cornwall, wavellite from Hensbarrow Pit (1799) and finally mahlmoodyte (1800 and 1801) from Kerriak Cove near Porthowan. Mahlmoodyte is a zirconium phosphate, so I was told by David Green who identified it, a first for the UK. Oh! by the way, yes, it is small.

1751	COVELLITE	Shap granite quarry	Cumbria	Wirth, M.
1752	RUTILE	Carrock, Mo vein	Mosedale, Cumbria	Wirth, M.
1753	ANALCITE	Oisgill Bay	Skye, Scotland	Bell, R.
1754	CHABAZITE	Oisgill Bay	Skye, Scotland	Bell, R.
1755	OFFRETITE	Oisgill Bay	Skye, Scotland	Bell, R.
1756	CHABAZITE	Earlish road cut	Skye, Scotland	Bell, R.
1757	CHABAZITE VAR.	Earlish road cut.	Skye, Scotland	Bell, R.
1758	LEVYNITE	Storr, Trotternish	Skye, Scotland	Bell, R.
1759	CHABAZITE	Storr, Trotternish	Skye, Scotland	Bell, R.
1760	THOMSONITE	Storr, Trotternish	Skye, Scotland	Bell, R.
1761	COWLESITE	Storr, Trotternish	Skye, Scotland	Bell, R.
1762	STILBITE	Storr, Trotternish	Skye, Scotland	Bell, R.
1763	THOMSONITE	Floddigarry	Skye, Scotland	Bell, R.
1764	CHABAZITE	Floddigarry	Skye, Scotland	Bell, R.
1765	STILBITE	Floddigarry	Skye, Scotland	Bell, R.
1766	LAUMONTITE	Floddigarry	Skye, Scotland	Bell, R.

1767	THOMSONITE	Floddigarry	Skye, Scotland	Bell, R.
1768	THOMSONITE	Floddigarry	Skye, Scotland	Bell, R.
1769	ANALCITE	Glen Eynort	Skye, Scotland	Bell, R.
1770	MESOLITE	Dunvegan quarry	Skye, Scotland	Bell, R.
1771	GYROLITE	Dunvegan quarry	Skye, Scotland	Bell, R.
1772	GYROLITE	Moonen Bay	Skye, Scotland	Bell, R.
1773	APOPHYLLITE	Moonen Bay	Skye, Scotland	Bell, R.
1774	HYDROCERUSSITE	Glencrief mine	Wanlockhead, Scotland	Bell, R.
1775	LANARKITE	Susanna mine	Leadhills, Scotland	Bell, R.
1776	MATTHEDDLITE	Susanna mine	Leadhills, Scotland	Bell, R.
1777	SPHALERITE	Susanna mine	Leadhills, Scotland	Bell, R.
1778	BIOTITE	Bail Hill	Sanquhar, Scotland	Bell, R.
1779	SMITHSONITE	Arkengarthdale	North Yorkshire	Bell, R.
1780	WITHERITE	Arkengarthdale	North Yorkshire	Bell, R.
1781	CALCITE	Arkengarthdale	Damrigg, Yorkshire	Bell, R.
1782	BARITE	Arkengarthdale	Damrigg, Yorkshire	Bell, R.
1783	SIDERITE	Virtuous Lady	Devon	Bell, R.
1784	WULFENITE	Newhurst quarry	Shepshed, Leics.	Bell, R.
1785	COWLESITE	Oisgill Bay	Skye, Scotland	Bell, R.
1786	AZURITE	Newhurst quarry	Shepshed, Leics.	Bell, R.
1787	WULFENITE	Newhurst quarry	Shepshed, Leics.	Bell, R.
1788	FRANCOLITE	Relistian mine	Gwinear, Cornwall	Bell, R.
1789	AXINITE	Wh Hazzard beach	St. Just, Cornwall	Bell, R.
1790	GARNET	Wh Hazzard beach	St. Just, Cornwall	Bell, R.
1791	COPPER	Geevor mine	St. Just, Cornwall	Bell, R.
1792	PHARMACOSIDERITE	Wheal Damsel	Carharrack, Cornwall	Bell, R.
1793	CONNELLITE	Cligga mine	Perranzabuloe, Cornw.	Bell, R.
1794	CASSITERITE	Cligga cove	Perranzabuloe, Cornw	Bell, R.
1795	CHALCOPHYLLITE	Cligga mine	Perranzabuloe, Cornw	Bell, R.
1796	RIPIDOLITE	Halletts shaft	St. Cleer, Cornwall	Bell, R.
1797	SPANGOLITE/ PARNAUITE	Halletts shaft	St. Cleer, Cornwall	Bell, R.
1798	BROCHANTITE	Gunheath pit	St. Austell, Cornwall	Bell, R.
1799	WAVELLITE	Hensbarrow pit	St. Austell, Cornwall	Bell, R.
1800	MAHLMOODITE	Kerriack cove	Porthowan, Cornwall	Bell, R.

NEWS FROM BRANCHES

South East Branch

Continued healthy attendance at Branch meetings looks like relegating sales tables to a back room in order to accommodate extra tables for microscopes. Branch members have actively supported events aimed at encouraging an interest in minerals among young people.

Midlands Branch

At a meeting in Solihull in early July, attended by eight members, we agreed to establish a Midlands Branch with a plan to hold three or four meetings a year. The next meeting is on Sunday 17th November at 2:30pm with a theme of Central Wales. Meetings are held in St Ninian's Church Hall in Solihull, which is very convenient for Junction 5 of the M42.

If you require further information about meetings, or directions, give Dick Smith a ring on 0121 308 1217. There are only relatively few members in the Midlands so your support would be very welcome.

For further branch news please see the minutes of the AGM, page 6.

THANKS FOR THE HELP Malcolm Southwood

As you have gathered, Mike Dannatt has now taken over the role of Newsletter Editor and this short note is simply a signing off on my part. The Editor's job proved very enjoyable indeed, and finding articles was considerably easier than I expected, largely because of the steady flow of unsolicited contributions. In that respect I would like to say thanks to all of the members (and a few non-members) who have written articles or sent me press cuttings and other material. Please keep them coming, only address them to Mike in the future. Finally, let me wish Mike every success and enjoyment as Newsletter Editor.

EDITORIAL

Mike Dannatt

It seems that one of the privileges of being editor is to be able to read copies of other selected overseas newsletters. Co-incidentally the first of these to come to hand is "MicroNews", the newsletter of the Canadian Micro Mineral Association which is now in its 30th volume. The October issue contains various references to trips to Mont Ste Hilaire which is a long winded lead-in to my word of introduction. At about the time volume 2 must have been in production I went to live in Montreal. My interest in those days was mainly in bird-watching and this was what drew me to a place called Mont Ste Hilaire. For seven years I never knew what was beneath my feet and only recently have I learned what I missed! Am I the only micromounter to have tramped over such a site in total ignorance?

As a relatively new member and a beginner, it is with some trepidation that I follow in the footsteps of Malcolm and his predecessor, Mick Cooper. This year saw my first attendance at the Symposium, which I enjoyed greatly, and this brought home to me how much I have to learn. Indeed I am indebted to Mike Rothwell's article which explained why I never met Chris Jewson's friend Jean Bandyite at the symposium. So why did I volunteer? Well, I'm a bit out on a limb here in the depths of the Peak District and I distinctly heard Malcolm say, at the AGM, that editing the Newsletter was a good way to keep in touch. So, having the technology, I ventured to ask if I could help and I have but the vaguest recollection of subsequent events - it all happened so quickly.

Although I *am* new to the BMS, I was pleased to see so many familiar faces at the Symposium. My interest in minerals led me, a few years ago, to join the small local club, the Peak Lapidary and Mineral Society (PLMS), which organises the annual Rock Exchange in Bakewell. At this year's show I was pleased to see even more faces that I recognised following so soon after the Symposium.

Perhaps I can use this opportunity to reassure those who expressed their concerns about the Database and the Internet. I am one of those who, having purchased a copy, uses it on a computer which I also use to "surf the Net". For any database to be available on the Internet it must be resident on one of the many special "servers" which are more or less permanently connected. There is no way anyone can snoop into a machine like mine which is only occasionally attached to the Internet for Electronic mail or for short accesses to the World Wide Web. I hope that this reassures those members who may still be worried.

Finally, I followed up the lead which I found in this Newsletter some months ago regarding the Russian MBS-10 microscope. As a result I purchased one for PLMS, one for myself and several others on behalf of friends in Derbyshire. With the last order, Educational Supplies sent a spare - in case any one else wanted one. If anyone is interested it is still available, the price they charge is £275 including 6x, 8x and 14x eyepieces (range of magnification 4.8x to 98x), 2 years guarantee and a 10x triplet loupe thrown in!

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NEWSLETTER EDITOR

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Please note that the deadline for articles for Newsletter 46 will be 1st February 1997. Please let me have contributions as soon as possible in order to spread the typing load. Contributions are acceptable in printed form or on a 3½" PC disc in one of the following formats: Word for Windows 2, Word 6, WordPerfect 5.1 for DOS or as an ASCII text file (i.e. a .TXT file). Discs will be returned to the sender on request. Contributors with access to E-mail may find it more convenient to send them to me as part of a normal E-mail message or attached to it in one of the above formats, at <mjd@peakdist.u-net.com>. To put it simply - I'll do anything to make it easier for you to get your contributions to me!