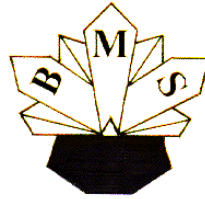


BRITISH MICROMOUNT SOCIETY



NEWSLETTER NO. 51 OCTOBER 1998

Chairman	Mike Rothwell	14 Kingsway Gayton, Wirral Merseyside L60 3SW
Secretary	Shirley Adrian	An Feóran North Connell Argyll PA37 1RD
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Treasurer	Sidney Freeman	12A Allingham Court Haverstock Hill London NW3 2AH

CONTENTS

Minutes of the AGM	Shirley Adrian	2
BMS Occasional Papers	John Pearce	7
Editorial	Mike Dannatt	16
Changes of Membership Details		16

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF
THE BRITISH MICROMOUNT SOCIETY HELD AT
THE UNIVERSITY OF LEICESTER ON SUNDAY 20TH OCTOBER 1998.**

The Chairman Mike Rothwell opened the Meeting at 10.10 a.m. There were 58 members present. Secretary Shirley Adrian.

1. Apologies for absence,

Apologies were received from Max Wirth, Malcolm Southwood, Tony Brittain, Doroth and Cyril Merritt, Ken and Sigrid Luff, Bob Reekie and Dick Smith.

2. Minutes of the 1997 AGM.

It was proposed by Mick Wolfe and seconded by John Vanston that the minutes be take as read, and this was agreed by the members.

3. Matters arising from the Minutes,

No comments were made.

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

Sidney Freeman presented both reports.

On Pearl's behalf he reported that on 16th September 1998 there were 203 memberships including 32 Family memberships, giving a total of 235 persons. There had been 9 new members, 6 non-renewals, and two deaths, giving a net increase of 1 over the year.

As Treasurer Sid referred to the Receipts and Payments Account and explained that this was somewhat difficult to interpret due to the number of overlaps between accounting years. The entry for Sundry Expenses of £57 was made up of £30 affiliation fees and £27 exhibition expenditure. The Symposium Organisers prepare a detailed account of their expenditure, which had shown an overall surplus of £67 last year when receipts from the Auction and Raffle were included. The fact that the expenses for one or more Newsletters had not been included made comparison with previous years difficult so that the increase in balances was slightly deceptive, but Sidney felt that overall the Society's finances were healthy.

Mike Leppington asked why, in that case, the subscription had been raised. Sydney explained that last year it had become apparent that we should have to pay a commercial rate for the printing which Mike Rothwell had been able to get done more cheaply for us in the past. The subscription rate had been set at last year's AGM to cover this increase.

Doug Morgan commented on the difference in postage costs between '97 and '98. This was due to an extra postal distribution in 1997.

Sidney thanked Mike Leppington for his thorough and efficient auditing of the Society's accounts.

Acceptance of the Accounts was proposed by Austin Lockwood, seconded by Oneta Wilson and agreed unanimously.

Mike Rothwell proposed a vote of thanks to Sidney and Pearl Freeman, which was seconded by Alan Dyer. Mike Leppington agreed to continue as auditor.

5. Chairman's Report,

Mike Rothwell said he had very little to report. He had been very busy at work but Society business had run smoothly and the Symposium Organisers had been very efficient. He thanked everyone involved and encouraged members to raise any issues with any Officer or Committee member for further discussion.

6. Other Reports.

Newsletter Editor

Mike Dannatt apologised for the late appearance of the last Newsletter due to circumstances beyond his control. It had been suggested that the Newsletter should regularly have a colour feature. He said that printing costs for a normal Newsletter were about 42p¹. The centre colour page to mark the 50th issue had added another 50p. Printing the Reference Collection Catalogue cost £1.60² per copy. Mick Wolfe pointed out that the paper normally used for the Newsletter was not really suitable for colour.

The inclusion of a loose photograph was suggested by Jill Goltz. Jean Spence felt that we should have a Millennium photo. Mike Rothwell said he would arrange to take a photo of the members at next year's Symposium. Various other suggestions will be considered by the Committee.

Mike said he had been asked if the Micromount Competition could be reported on in more detail. Peter Braithwaite agreed to undertake the task and Austin Lockwood would report on the Micromineral Competition. Mike Rothwell thought the article based on the Workshop presentation was a good idea which could be repeated. The Norfolk Group were willing to write about their display and George Ryback will also be asked.

Mike Dannatt thanked all contributors.

Mike Rothwell proposed and Austin Lockwood seconded a vote of thanks to Mike Dannatt

Curator.

Max Wirth was unable to attend the Symposium but asked delegates who had brought specimens for the Collection to send them to him via Mike Leppington. The Collection was growing well but there were still gaps to be filled. Mike Rothwell said that the Collection was becoming a valuable resource and proposed a formal vote of thanks to Max for his work. This was seconded by John Dickinson.

¹ Corrected figure 21p - Editor

² Corrected figure 80p - Editor

Richard Belson pointed out that many "ordinary" minerals were missing from the Collection. Jamie Nelson offered help with ID confirmation of opaque minerals for the Collection. He will write an article for the Newsletter about this.

Archivist.

Alan Edwards reported that the Rashleigh was out on loan. 4 volumes of Goldschmidt were also on loan but the remainder were available here. He also had a copy of Oneta Wilson's thesis on the Zeolites of Great Britain available for delegates to study.

Oneta Wilson said she would be glad to get any comments or updates from members.

A vote of thanks to Alan was proposed Martin Stolworthy and seconded by John Novak.

Branch Reports

Jean Spence said that the next meeting of the Northern Branch would be at Bircotes Library, Bawtry, on 31 st October.

Harry Critchley reported that the Warrington group met on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of the month in conjunction with the Warrington Lapidary Society. An average of 6 members brought along specimens to study or discuss, sometimes with a theme. They had also met members of the Wirral Mineral Society. It had been a satisfying year. He thanked those who had given support to the meetings.

Dick Smith had been unable to attend the Symposium but Rusty Waughman reported that the West Midland Branch meetings had continued as before. For their Field Trip to Wales they had stayed at the University of Aberystwyth and he recommended it as being very good value.

Austin Lockwood reported that the South-east Branch continued to meet quarterly, with 25-30 members attending. A joint meeting with the South-east Branch of the Russell Society at which John Pearce and Austin W Woodbridge ran a mini-symposium on the subject "Minerals are Chemicals" was successful and instructive. Elsie Hansford and Peter Wallace will once again organise the BMS stand at the FLAGS Exhibition /GA Reunion on November 7th at University College London. A display with the theme "Small is beautiful" being arranged by Elsie will be mounted at the Sussex Mineral Show at Clair Hall, Haywards Heath, on November 21st by kind invitation of John Pearce.

Austin thanked Peter Wallace for looking after the Branch finances and for reporting on the interesting specimens brought to the meetings, June for organising the refreshments, and members for their support.

Peter Wallace commented that BMS displays "revolved" round Elsie's carousels of. micro's which always aroused a lot of interest and were a great way of attracting attention.

For the Norfolk Branch Kevin Johns reported that attendance was steady and that there was "a large number of slag collectors".

Symposium Organisers

Kevin Johns wished to record his thanks to the Geology Department for their efforts in motivating the workmen to get the department ready in time for the Symposium. He also thanked the speakers, Trevor Bridges and John and Pam Pearce for their help with the Auction, the Raffle ticket sellers, Martin Gale for the programme booklet and everyone else who had helped with the Symposium.

Richard Belson reported that £401 had been taken at the Auction which raised £224 for the Society, there having been some donations. The Raffle took £77, which was less than usual. Provisional dates for next year were given as 18th/19th September.

Richard asked for an opinion on Saturday's meal. It was felt to have been below standard. It was proposed by David Roe and seconded by Roy Starkey that the Symposium Organisers should investigate alternatives and the decision should be left to them and the Committee.

A formal vote of thanks to Richard, Kevin and Martin was proposed by Graham Bell and seconded by Vicki Packard.

Projects.

Database.

It was felt that the software package needed to be updated as recent versions of Windows were unable to read it, although the information could be loaded into Access by those who had it. Mike Rothwell agreed to talk to Harry Day about this.

Occasional Papers.

David Green reported that 2 new papers were now ready and could be purchased from John Pearce. The "Guide to Micromounting Part One, by Peter Braithwaite cost £1.50 and "Chemical Testing of Mineral Grains" which he had written cost £2.00.

Development of a BMS Web site.

Mike Rothwell showed the meeting the home page <http://www.earthlines.com/> which is maintained by BMS member Tony Brittain trading as Endsleigh Books, and features the Russell Society and Rockwatch. Tony would add our information to this page free of charge.

Peter Braithwaite felt there would be no point in this as we are solely a British Society whereas the other two are international. Trevor Bridges said it might be a means of recruiting new members. Mike said this would be particularly helpful amongst the younger generation. Concerns were raised about overseas members and making information about sensitive sites available abroad. It was pointed out that we could include as much or as little information as we wished on the web page and that the Constitution made it exceptional for anyone living overseas to be admitted as a member. Roy Starkey said that these concerns were real but that the world was going this way. It could in fact be a useful way of proliferating information such as the problems with collecting on the Caldbeck Fells which could discourage visitors from coming to collect.

David Roe proposed that the web site be set up solely as a means of advertising the existence of the Society. The situation could then be re-assessed next year. This was seconded by Austin Lockwood and agreed by the meeting.

Mike Rothwell undertook to put this in place.

7. Founder's Cup,

Mike Rothwell said that the Committee had been asked to select someone who had furthered the cause of the BMS and Mineralogy to be the recipient of the Founder's Cup.

This year there was an outstanding candidate - an active founder member, who was always helpful, who had started the Occasional Papers project - our past Chairman, John Pearce.

John said that on arrival at the Symposium this year he had been pleased with the thought of not having to face the unruly mob.....but he was delighted to receive the Cup.

8. Election of Officers.

The Officers agreed to serve for another year. No other nominations had been received.

9. Geologists' Association Millennium Exhibition.

Austin Lockwood said that there was to be an Earth Alert Conference in Brighton from the 28th to the 31st of May, 2000. The DTI, the BGS, the Dinosaur Society and the Russell Society would be among those taking part. The GA propose to hold their Annual Reunion there for 2 days, with the usual display of club activities. Austin would like the BMS to have a major presence. He will write an article on the subject for the Newsletter so that the subject can be discussed at next year's AGM.

10. Any Other Business

Peter Braithwaite asked for clarification of the news that collecting would no longer be allowed on the Caldbeck Fells. Richard Belson read from a letter he had received from the Park Authority stating that minerals could be sought and studied on the Fells but should not be removed from there. Peter suggested that the Russell Society and the BMS should combine to lobby on behalf of collectors. It was thought that the drawing up of a Code of Practice might be helpful, to include quarries as well as other sites. Austin Lockwood thought the GA should be involved and Roy Starkey suggested that Brian Young might help. It was agreed that Mike Rothwell would consult Brian Young on behalf of both Societies.

Doug Morgan said that Cynthia Peat had asked him to thank all those who had sent her specimens last September. He was sorry to report that both Cynthia and Jim were now very ill. Mike Rothwell said he would write to them on behalf of the Society.

Philip Taylor warned that the City of Leicester was likely to be very busy for the next 2 years and that it would be advisable to book accommodation as soon as possible.

Harry Critchley said that the Warrington Society had 12 junior members and so was in need of more microscopes. Would any member able to assist get in touch with Beryl Taylor.

Mike Rothwell thanked the Officers, the Symposium Organisers and their helpers, and members for coming, and closed the meeting at 11.50 a.m.

BMS OCCASIONAL PAPERS

John Pearce

Two new occasional papers were launched at the recent BMS Symposium (bringing the total to 10):

Paper 8. A Guide to Micromounting. Part One: Collecting by Peter Braithwaite

The paper outlines the tools and techniques used in collecting micromounts and lays particular emphasis on the differences between collecting micromounts and hand specimens.

Paper 11. Chemical Testing of Mineral Grains. by David Green

A knowledge of chemical testing is of use to anyone wishing to identify minerals. At best, it is a simple, rapid, sensitive and inexpensive technique. This guide describes the equipment and reagents required and some of the more useful tests.

These papers can be obtained from me, also the earlier papers:

1. An Introduction to Micromounts	by Roy Starkey	£0.50
2. Determining the Optical Properties of Minerals	by Max Wirth	£1.00
3. Minerals are Chemicals	by John Pearce	£1.00
4. Paper Chromatography	by Max Wirth	£0.75
5. Using the Mineralogical Literature	by Roy Starkey	£3.00
6. Stereomicroscopes	by Mike Edwards	£1.50
7. Photography of Minerals through the Microscope	by Elsie Hansford	£0.75
8. A Guide to Micromounting Part 1 Collecting	by Peter Braithwaite	£1.50
9. A Guide to Micromounting Part 2 Micromounting	by Peter Braithwaite	£1.00
10 A Guide to Micromounting Part 3 Cataloguing	by Peter Braithwaite	In prep.
11 Chemical Testing of Mineral Grains	by David Green	£2.00

These prices are for BMS members and will only apply while stocks last. Copies can be obtained from me, please add p&p at the rate of 1-3 copies: 75p; 4-10 copies: £2.00 and 11+ copies: £3.50.

Tony Brittain (Endsleigh Books) has taken on the printing of these papers and will sell copies particularly to non-members. We are very grateful to him.

At the Symposium the Editorial Board had a meeting and identified those papers which we hope will be produced in 1999 and beyond:

Planned for September 1999:

A Select Bibliography from Min. Mag.	Roy Starkey
Minerals are Chemicals: Part 2 The Periodic Table	John Pearce and Austin Woodbridge
A Guide to Micromounting, Part 3 Cataloguing.	Peter Braithwaite

Papers in preparation or papers the editors would like to see developed:

Radioactivity and Radioactive Minerals	Kelvin Phillips
Crystallography for the Collector	Doug Morgan
Cleaning Minerals	
Mineral Associations	
The Formation of Minerals	
Slag Minerals	
An Introduction to Zeolites	

Please contact me if you want to comment on any of the above suggestions, we would also be very interested in other titles for papers and offers of help in writing them.

MINERAL COLLECTING - THE EASY WAY

Pam Parlanti

Choose a nice, wet, windy day. Clear the kitchen work surface. Pull up a stool. Reach for - no, not the hammer and chisel - a tin opener and a tin of salmon!

On doing just this, I found what appeared to be a small piece of glass. However, when I examined it under my microscope, I saw that this piece of "glass" had terminations. So, back it went to the Supermarket for analysis in their laboratory. Back came the result - STRUVITE! I have since found two more pieces. I can only assume that the salmon had ingested the minerals on its travels and that these were then crystallised during and/or after the cooking process. If anyone out there can come up with a more logical explanation, I would be grateful and interested to hear it.

Tinned salmon in our house is now served up mashed, diced, chopped every way I can. *I* think it looks very appetising - my problem is trying to convince *others*!! I think that, as a mineral collector, I have got my priorities right. Chunks of salmon or struvite - which would you choose?

Editor's note: Coincidentally, during a recent conversation, Dick Braithwaite made reference to finding struvite in canned crab. He believes that the phenomenon was covered in an issue of *Nature* some years back. Can anyone refer Pam to the article please?

1998 MICROMOUNT COMPETITION

Peter Braithwaite

There have been no reports on the competition for some years, there being so few entries - on average only 2 to 3 people each year. This year, however, there were 12 people entering and 23 micromounts to judge. An all time record - just over 5% of the total membership! In view of this I, as the Micromount Competition Judge, have been volunteered to write this report in the hope that members who are unable to attend the Symposium may be encouraged to enter - as well as those in the live(?) audience.

With a welcome number of new faces in the audience I felt it necessary, when announcing the results and before moving on to the actual competition, to explain two points which might otherwise have puzzled them. First, in spite of the Society's title, the majority of the membership are addicted to various noxious substances with names like 'Blue Tack' and 'Gunk' which are used to attach small mineral samples, more or less securely, into plastic boxes. Micromounts, of course, being mineral specimens properly and permanently mounted on pedestals, themselves fixed into boxes and thus presenting not only specimens of scientific interest, but also being aesthetically pleasing. Secondly, in order to lessen the shock, I had to warn them that the remainder of the presentation had, in the past, been marred by unseemly remarks and unwarranted hilarity which may well be repeated, although the reason for such behaviour was obscure.

In an effort to persuade members to enter the competition, I promised, in 1997, to abase myself by removing my tie (normally only removed on retiring for the night) and, as further encouragement, to present each entrant with a toffee. Both promises were fulfilled. I had thought that the higher entry numbers were due to both these inducements but found, on attending the Symposium, that considerable lobbying had been carried out by others and, in particular, by our founder (who wishes to remain anonymous). I also found that two regular contributors who, in order to boost the

numbers, had this year boycotted the competition - logical? Well, it is if you come from Cornwall.

The fact that other people had succeeded in drumming up entries whilst I had not may well have depressed me had it not been for a letter which I had received and which showed that one person at least appreciated and, indeed, respected my efforts. The letter started, quite properly, 'Sir', which immediately provoked the remark from some philistine in the audience "Is it spelt with an S or a C?" I naturally ignored this remark but, on reflection, it may have had some value - most antiques do. Regretfully the remainder of the letter, which is reproduced below, was similarly and typically degraded by not so '*sotto voce*' remarks and loud laughter.

"Sir - The revered micromount competition run by yourself - micromounter, cynic and wit - has, in recent times, been unable to attract the support which your august personage demands. Therefore, I would esteem it a great honour if you would devote a fraction of your valuable schedule to examination of the shoddy offerings here enclosed.

"I remain, as ever, your humble and obedient servant etc. etc."

However, in spite of the interruptions I soldiered on and, at the conclusion, thanked the writer (David Green) most sincerely and promised that I would have the letter framed and hung where I could further appreciate it while seated on the loo.

Due to interruptions, these preliminaries took up, as usual, an inordinate amount of time but I was finally able to report on the actual Competition. As already stated, a record number of entries was received including some real surprises. The most staggering, from my point of view, were the entries from my long time field trip companion Richard (Sticky Fingers) Bell, although he did comment "It's more difficult than 'tack'". Practise, Richard, practise.

Some entries were from 'secret' micromounters who apparently did not consider that they were good enough to enter and some were from 'one-off' or 'first-time' micromounters. The whole idea of the competition is to encourage people to actually micromount by allowing them to compare their efforts with others and identify the factors which led to one specimen being judged worthy of the trophy. The general standard was quite high with some minor faults being easily overcome with practise or advice.

The Micromount Competition is different from the more normal micromount requirement because it tends to seek perfection. An example of this problem was a specimen of almost granular greenockite coating crystals in a vug and which I would very much have liked in my own collection. However, the vug was overpowered by the amount of matrix - had it have been trimmed so that the vug assumed more importance, it might well have been a winner. BUT this further trimming would almost certainly have sheared the vug and ruined the specimen. Had this specimen have been mine I, too, would have left it as it was. It is not worth risking ruining a specimen in order to try to win a trophy, but by all means enter it, it may still win and, in any case, it will elicit some envy! Quite often the near-perfect trim is the result of luck - no matter how skilled you may be.

Where the overall standard is high the job of deciding which specimen is worth the trophy can be very difficult. In this case the judge was lucky, one specimen was outstanding. The trophy was awarded to Mike Rothwell for a well mounted and perfectly balanced group of lironite crystals from Wheal Gorland. Obviously the crystal colour and rarity added to the 'wow' factor, but were not good enough in themselves to have guaranteed the Trophy. Congratulations to Mike and let us

hope that his next entry is even better! I also hope that even more people will enter and challenge him in 1999.

Apart from the actual Trophy proceedings, I have tried to convey something of the peculiar atmosphere which seems to surround this event. However, I tend to write as I talk. If you find this account rambling or overlong, I apologise. *You* may be just the person I seek to write next year's report - interested?

1998 MICROMINERAL COMPETITION

Austin Lockwood

This popular event, now in its fourth year, was again held during the Annual Symposium at Leicester University. For the first time, judges were appointed by all five branches of the Society, and our thanks are due to Vicki Packard, Mick Wolfe, Rusty Waughman, Andy Castleton and Harry Critchley who kindly gave up their time to examine, and award points, for each of the 24 specimens entered for the Competition.

Being a judge does enable you to carefully examine each specimen, without distraction, and the general view of all the judges was that this year's entries were of an exceptionally high standard. Those members who took the opportunity to examine the specimens after the AGM on the Sunday morning will, I am sure, confirm this.

As members may recall, judging is based on a maximum of 50 points awarded by each judge for features such as perfection of crystals, overall cleanliness, rarity of species and dramatic appeal. Part of my job, as the Competition Administrator, is to check the marking and to work out the average points awarded by the five judges.

Mike Leppington, for the second year running again submitted the best entry, this year with a superb specimen of plumbogummite collected in 1994 from Higher Roughton Gill. Four of five judges awarded this the highest number of points, the average score being 43.4.

Bridget Belson's beautiful specimen, comprising a spray of vivid purple elyite from Stoneycroft Smelter, Newlands Valley, Cumbria came second with a average of 42.0 and Roy Starkey's excellent phosgenite, cerussite and barite from Clevedon Beach, Avon came third with 40.4. There were many other specimens that scored 39 points and over, including Bob Snowball's mimetite, coronadite, psilomelane and quartz from Dry Gill Mine, Caldbeck Fells, Paul Wallace's mixite from Penberthy Croft, Cornwall and George Fletcher's interesting specimen of linarite, caledonite, cerussite and leadhillite from No.2 level dump, Red Gill Mine, Caldbeck Fells.

Following the announcement of the results on the Sunday morning Mike Rothwell kindly presented Mike Leppington with the Maurice Grigg Micromineral Trophy to keep for another year.

It is encouraging to see the Micromineral Competition so well supported and I would like to thank all those who submitted entries. However, we cannot let Mike win for a third year running so, when you are sorting through your finds over the next nine months, don't forget to put aside something special for next year's Competition.

BMS DIRECTORY OF MICROMOUNTERS 1999 EDITION
Mick Wolfe

Following a suggestion at the recent Annual General Meeting, I am extending the deadline for submission of revised entries for the 1999 edition of the BMS Directory of Micromounters to the 31st December 1998. The main reason for this is to enable members to advise me of their E-mail address, if they have one. It is my intention to incorporate these into the updated postal address listing which accompanies the directory. A secondary reason for the extended deadline is to allow time for more updated or new entries to be received. Members who told me at Leicester "I've forgotten to bring mine" or "the dog ate it" or "here's a note from mother explaining why I didn't have time to do it" will now have no excuse. In these days of ever increasing cost, it would be a waste of the Society's resources to reprint unless there is a significant number of revisions to incorporate.

Would all members wishing to appear in the Directory please check their existing entry and advise me in writing of any required amendments or corrections. New members are invited to create their own entry; they can telephone me for assistance if required.

Replies should be sent to me, Mick Wolfe, at 16 Collington Street, Beeston, Notts, NG9 1FJ. Telephone 0115 919 7567.

SMALL IS BEAUTIFUL
Austin Lockwood

John Pearce, as organiser of the Sussex Mineral Show, has kindly offered the BMS the prime position in the main hall for the 1998 show which is being held from 10.00am to 4.30pm on Saturday 21 November at their usual venue of Clair Hall, Haywards Heath. The BMS display, which is being coordinated by Elsie Hansford, will be on the theme of Small is Beautiful and the coloured posters advertising the show include one of Elsie's superb photographs of microminerals. Roy Starkey is to give an illustrated talk on the theme of the show between 12.00 and 12.30pm.

SALE OF SPECIMENS FROM THE COLLECTION OF THE LATE
KEN SAVAGE

The organisers of the sale of specimens wish to thank members who attended the 1998 Symposium. During the event, specimens to the value of over £160 were sold.

SET IN CONCRETE!

Max M. Wirth

In 1991 Peter Wallace contributed a specimen of ETTRINGITE (1403) to the BMS collection, it had been confirmed by XRD. Two years later it was described in a note to the Newsletter (No.34, p.7), it had been collected next to the old engine house at Tresavean but the matrix looked suspiciously like concrete. The Natural History Museum was asked to determine the origin of this matrix and there the story ends.

Now, whilst reading the New Scientist (No.2144 of 25 July 1998) as I do every week, I came across a snippet on go-slow cement and I quote: "The setting of cement is related to the crystallisation of a mineral called ettringite."

Is this a mineral? In Ettringen (Germany) it is found in limestone inclusions in lava. We have to admit that it is on a par with smelter slags and a purist would say throw it out but it is a very pretty little vug and we will retain it for posterity.

INTERESTING ADDITIONS TO THE BMS COLLECTION Nos.2001-2050

Max M. Wirth

Acicular rutile (2005) is delicate and Mike Rothwell found a nice, clean specimen with albite at Lanterdan quarry. He also identified plumbogummite (2006), in a strange stalactitic habit at Wheal Hope. At Benallt mine he collected brown piemontite (2007) which is related to epidote.

Mike also gave us a whole suite of minerals (2010-2030) from Dolyhir quarry, a site kept under shrouds for two years for reasons best known to somebody else. Included are cuprian adamite (2010) as a sparkling green crust, dark blue azurite (2014), large anglesite crystals (2015) of unusual habit, tennantite (2018) identified by EDAX, olivenite (2020) as minute rosettes of green blades on azurite, sulphur crystals (2026), tyrolite (2027) flat lying green blades, an uncommon mineral in the UK, cuprite (2028-2029) in tiny octahedra and finally otavite (2030) which only Mike would have noticed and identified. Strangely contributions are becoming smaller and I now attach a small paper arrow to show what to look at.

Geoff Deverell contributed two specimens of mottramite (2032-3) from Judkin's quarry. The mottramite is like a yellow dusting on relict vanadinite crystals which on close inspection are hollow. It would seem that a copper fluid has extracted the vanadium and lead to form the mottramite.

Bill Bolton sent us a specimen of zippeite (2040), bright yellow and sparkling. This is radioactive and carries a warning sticker and it should not be eaten or inhaled! Bill also sent a specimen of leadhillite from Red Gill, it is not very good but it is the only one we have from there (gentle hint).

Eagle Crag near Patterdale has yielded rather nice specimens and Mike Rothwell brought out tetrahedrite (2046), a fascinating calcite (2047) in thin hexagonal blades and wulfenite crystals on hemimorphite (2049).

Finally, the ugliest specimen is rhodochrosite (2050) from Burdell Gill, insignificant, colourless crystals but confirmed by Mike Rothwell's EDAX. I am sorry, Mike Leppington, but they are certainly interesting and worth mentioning.

2001	HEMATITE	Roscommon Cliff	St.Just Cornwall	Rothwell M.	SW 363.337
2002	RUTILE	Remfry Pit	St.Stephen Cornw.	Rothwell M.	SW 926.575
2003	TOPAZ	Remfry Pit	St.Stephen Cornw.	Rothwell M.	SW 926.575
2004	WULFENITE	Dylife Powys	Wales	Rothwell M.	SN 854.299
2005	RUTILE	Lanterdan quarry	Tintagel Cornwall	Rothwell M.	SX 050.871
2006	PLUMBOGUMMITE	Wh.Hope	Perranzabuloe Cor	Rothwell M.	SW 787.548
2007	PIEMONTITE	Benallt mine	Rhiw Llyn Wales	Rothwell M.	SH 222.281
2008	CERUSSITE	Rhyd Fach mine	Talybont Wales	Rothwell M.	SN 661.902
2009	CERUSSITE	Force Crag mine	Coledale Cumbria	Rothwell M.	NY 198.217
2010	ADAMITE (CUPRIAN)	Dolyhir quarry	Old Radnor Wales	Rothwell M.	SO 244.591
2011	AZURITE	Dolyhir quarry	Old Radnor Wales	Rothwell M.	SO 244.591
2012	MIMETITE	Dolyhir quarry	Old Radnor Wales	Rothwell M.	SO 244.591
2013	COVELLITE	Dolyhir quarry	Old Radnor Wales	Rothwell M.	SO 244.591
2014	AZURITE	Dolyhir quarry	Old Radnor Wales	Rothwell M.	SO 244.591
2015	ANGLESITE	Dolyhir quarry	Old Radnor Wales	Rothwell M.	SO 244.591
2016	ADAMITE (CUPRIAN)	Dolyhir quarry	Old Radnor Wales	Rothwell M.	SO 244.591
2017	GREENOCKITE ?	Dolyhir quarry	Old Radnor Wales	Rothwell M.	SO 244.591
2018	TENNANTITE	Dolyhir quarry	Old Radnor Wales	Rothwell M.	SO 244.591
2019	ADAMITE (CUPRIAN)	Dolyhir quarry	Old Radnot Wales	Rothwell M.	SO 244.591
2020	OLIVENITE	Dolyhir quarry	Old Radnor Wales	Rothwell M.	SO 244.591
2021	MALACHITE	Dolyhir quarry	Old Radnor Wales	Rothwell M.	SO 244.591
2022	ANGLESITE	Dolyhir quarry	Old Radnor Wales	Rothwell M.	SO 244.591
2023	ANGLESITE	Dolyhir quarry	Old Radnor Wales	Rothwell M.	SO 244.591
2024	SMITHSONITE	Dolyhir quarry	Old Radnor Wales	Rothwell M.	SO 244.591
2025	CERUSSITE	Dolyhir quarry	Old Radnor Wales	Rothwell M.	SO 244.591
2026	SULPHUR	Dolyhir quarry	Old Radnor Wales	Rothwell M.	SO 244.591
2027	TYROLITE	Dolyhir quarry	Old Radnor Wales	Rothwell M.	SO 244.591
2028	CUPRITE	Dolyhir quarry	Old Radnor Wales	Rothwell M.	SO 244.591
2029	CUPRITE	Dolyhir quarry	Old Radnor Wales	Rothwell M.	SO 244.591
2030	OTAVITE	Dolyhir quarry	Old Radnor Wales	Rothwell M.	SO 244.591
2031	CHALCOPYRITE	Judkin's quarry	Nuneaton Warks.	Deverell G.	SP 345.932
2032	MOTTRAMITE	Judkin's quarry	Nuneaton Warks.	Deverell G.	SP 345.932
2033	MOTTRAMITE	Judkin's quarry	Nuneaton Warks.	Deverell G.	SP 345.932
2034	GYPNUM	Gravel Hill	Penhale Cornwall	Grab table	SW 763.576
2035	GYPNUM	Green Laws mine	Daddry Sh.Durham	Wirth M.	NY 890.370
2036	PYROMORPHITE	Myers Head	Hartsop Cumbria	Wirth M.	NY 415.126
2037	BARITE	Tyn-y-Celyn	Pengwern Clwyd	Bolton W.	SJ 234.407
2038	MALACHITE	Potts Gill (old)	Caldbeck Cumbria	Bolton W.	NY 319.362
2039	SIDERITE	Wh.Drea St.Just	Pendeen Cornwall	Bolton W.	SW 366.321
2040	ZIPPEITE	Geevor m. (14th)	Pendeen Cornwall	Bolton W.	SW 376.344
2041	PHARMACOSIDERITE	Craddock Moor	Caradon Cornwall	Bolton W.	SX 259.702
2042	LEADHILLITE	Red Gill mine	Caldbeck Cumbria	Bolton W.	NY 295.348
2043	BISMUTHINITE	Carrock mine	Mosedale Cumbria	Bolton W.	NY 323.329
2044	GARNET	Reilly q. Houston	Strathclyde Scot.	Meikle K.	NS 419.695
2045	STILBITE	Reilly q. Houston	Strathclyde Scot.	Meikle K.	NS 419.695
2046	TETRAHEDRITE	Eagle Crag mine	Grisedale Cumbria	Rothwell M.	NY 356.142
2047	CALCITE	Eagle Crag mine	Grisedale Cumbria	Rothwell M.	NY 356.142
2048	LINARITE	Eagle Crag mine	Grisedale Cumbria	Rothwell M.	NY 356.142
2049	WULFENITE	Eagle Crag mine	Grisedale Cumbria	Rothwell M.	NY 356.142
2050	RHODOCHROSITE	Burdell Gill	Mosedale Cumbria	Leppington M.	NY 310.316

Please, when you contribute specimens, include an index slip and, if necessary, indicate what one is looking for. Blank slips are available for photocopying from Max Wirth.

A SEQUEL TO IKE WILSONS MINERAL COLLECTING TRIP TO IRELAND

Austin Lockwood

June and I had already arranged our ten day visit to Ireland when Newsletter No.49 was published containing details of Ike Wilson's recent mineral collecting trip to Ireland. We had booked to attend the field meeting to the West of Ireland from the 9 to the 17 May 1998, organised by the Geologists Association, which was being led by staff from the Geology Department of University College, Galway, and from the Geological Survey of Ireland. We had planned to arrive in Ireland a day before the field excursion was due to start and to remain for a day or so after the main party had left in order to collect some minerals.

Not being one to allow grass to grow under my feet, on reading Ike's account I immediately wrote to him, telling him of our plans and asking if he could recommend any particular sites for us to visit and where we could stay for a few nights. I duly received some very helpful information from him, which saved us considerable time on our subsequent visits to Silvermines and Tynagh Mine, and enabled us to collect good representative specimens from both locations, which I hope to put on display at our next branch meeting.

Fortunately, apart from one very wet day, we were blessed with good weather and this made the field meeting even more enjoyable. By means of a 24-seater coach we were visiting up to ten geological locations a day and these included the Connemara Metamorphic Complex, the Galway Granite Batholith, the Ordovician and Silurian geology of the South Mayo Trough, Waulsortian mudbank limestones, the Burren coastal section, the Doolin Cliffs and the Cliffs of Moher. The geology and scenery of the West of Ireland is superb and June and I certainly hope to visit there again.

On our return to our B&B accommodation at Hillview in Silvermines on the Sunday afternoon we found that Ike Wilson and Richard Braithwaite were also in Ireland and were staying there for a few nights. On the Monday they had arranged to visit a mineral location on the Burren whilst June and I spent one of our best collecting days ever at Tynagh Mine. Thank you, Ike, for helping to make our first visit to Ireland so memorable.

MORE MINERAL COLLECTING IN IRELAND

Mike Dannatt

Almost straight after the Bakewell Show, my wife and I were fortunate enough to be part of a very small party from the Peak Lapidary and Mineral Society to accompany Ike Wilson on a week long tour of some of his favourite spots in Ireland. What memories - the HSS ferry operating close to its limits after a force 10 'blow', arriving at midnight somewhere west of Waterford and ready to drop only to be told that we were off to a Ceilidh! The week had really started with a bang. Then it was down to minerals. Langite, connellite and cuprite from Bonmahon, atacamite from Allihies and cinnabar from Gortdrum. The real field trip is just beginning - the more I open from Tynagh, the more minerals I seem to find and those azurites!! I think that we may even have persuaded one resistant club member to buy a microscope - even after several previous visits to Tynagh!

Thanks, then, to Ike from Janet and I for a memorable first collecting trip to Ireland.

MINERAL COLLECTING IN THE CALDBECK FELLS - CURRENT SITUATION.

Mike Rothwell

There is a very real threat that the Lake District National Park Authority will permanently forbid all mineral collecting in those parts of the Caldbeck Fells that come under their jurisdiction and where they own the mineral rights. (A temporary blanket ban is already in place although notices remain to be erected.)

This threat has arisen because of the persistent activities of a few people who are collecting material for commercial gain in the Caldbeck Fells without permission.

At the recent BMS AGM I was asked to approach Brian Young, President of the Russell Society, with a view to the BMS and Russell Society jointly approaching the National Park Authority (NPA) to see what can be done to avert this threat. I have spoken to Brian and subsequently to the Area Manager for the NPA responsible for the Caldbeck Fells, Mr Peter Davies, to make sure that he is aware of our interests. We are also fortunate in that our Newsletter editor Mike Dannatt has also been able to speak to Mr Davies because of his professional contacts with the Lake District NPA.

Mr Davies was able to assure me that it is not the intention of staff of the NPA to stop members of Societies like the BMS and the Russell Society collecting small amounts of material in a responsible manner in the Caldbeck Fells. They are, however, determined to stop the exploitation of the area for commercial gain and **will** prosecute anyone caught doing this.

Currently the NPA is considering means of restricting commercial collecting without banning all collecting. If suitable means can be found they will be implemented. If not, then it is likely that a complete ban will be implemented.

Mr Davies welcomed my offer that the BMS and Russell Society should work with the Authority to find an acceptable solution and he said that he would respond following further discussions on this subject within the NPA.

Editor's note: My contact with the LDNPA arises because I work for the Peak District NPA. It is likely that the measures which they propose to take will form part of a revised Management Plan for the Caldbeck Fells. In drawing up such a plan, there would normally be extensive internal consultation at the staff level and with outside consultees. The written plan, when complete, will have to be put to members of the Authority for their approval. *Any* adverse publicity at this critical time can only harm the interests of serious mineral collectors. It goes without saying that, were limited collecting to be permitted, such privileges could be withdrawn should there be any repetition of recent events.

Editor's Note: Mike has passed to me a copy of an article which appeared in the Carlisle News and Star on the 22nd October. It reports a police operation, undertaken in conjunction with the LDNPA (the landowner), to crack down on illegal mineral collecting in the Caldbeck fells. The area ranger is quoted as saying that "Micro-minerals, many of which are specific to the Caldbeck area, are very small and are collectors' items and therefore quite rare."

Please note the following changes of address:

Changes and corrections to published telephone numbers:

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NEWSLETTER EDITOR

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Please note that the deadline for articles for Newsletter 49 will be 1st February 1998. Please let me have contributions as soon as possible. Articles or reports on PC disc are particularly welcome but should be in one of these formats, please:- plain text (ASCII or TXT files), rich text format (RTF), Word for Windows 2, Word 6 or Word Perfect 5.1 for MS-DOS. Articles sent by E-mail can be "attached", if they are in one of the above formats, or be part of the body of the E-mail message.

EDITORIAL

Mike Dannatt