

BRITISH MICROMOUNT SOCIETY



NEWSLETTER NO. 53 JUNE 1999

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OBITUARY - DR MIKE ROTHWELL 1938-1999

John Dickinson

It is with profound regret that we have to report the premature death of our popular Chairman, Mike Rothwell.

Mike died suddenly on May 20th while engaged in his favourite hobby of collecting minerals on the Isle of Skye. He was 60 years of age.

Mike was a founder member of the BMS and played a leading role in the running of the Society throughout its 17 year history. His contribution was unique in that he combined a high level of expertise in geology and mineralogy with tremendous enthusiasm and an ability to instill the same enthusiasm in others. He never failed to assist and encourage those who approached him for help and often went out of his way to introduce people like myself to the magical world of minerals.

Mike will be sorely missed by all of us, and we extend our warmest sympathy to his wife, Nancy, his son Steven and daughter Sarah.

Mike spent his early years in Somerset and obtained a science degree and Ph.D. at Bristol University. He went on to do post graduate work in the States at the Atomic Energy Commission in Ames, Iowa. He joined Unilever in 1966 and held several senior posts in Europe and the UK before retiring in November 1998. In 1981 he was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society of Chemistry. He was also a member of the Russell Society.

Footnote

Mike has always felt that students were not encouraged enough to consider careers in industry. In his memory Nancy will be setting up a fund to establish a prize for science students with an interest in a career in industry. Unilever will be assisting her with the arrangements. Anyone wishing to participate should send contributions to Nancy personally.

MIKE ROTHWELL - A PERSONAL TRIBUTE

Roy Starkey

John Dickinson has provided an Obituary elsewhere in this Newsletter, but we felt that given Mike's unique place in the development of the BMS something extra was warranted. The following notes are a personal tribute to a very special member.

I first met Mike at the BLMDA Mineral Fair at the Holiday Inn, Leicester in the Spring of 1981 - he became one of the founder members of the BMS. At that time Mike had been collecting minerals for about 4 years or so, and was already "hooked". Since that time, every September Mike has attended the BMS Symposium, quickly becoming one of the "regulars", either presenting an illustrated talk, running some form of workshop, providing a newsletter write-up and so on. In 1984 Mike gave a talk on "Minerals of the North Wales Coast" reminding us all of things which "used to be found". In 1985 Mike began a five year run as organiser of the Annual Symposium, and introduced many of us to the fascinating "Minerals in Glacial Erratics" from Thurstaston Beach. Together with John Dickinson, Mike had made a special study of these

extraordinary rocks, studded with superb crystals for the micromounter. We were subjected to light hearted after dinner mineral quizzes, including such questions as "What was mined at Knotty Ash?". These have since become a BMS tradition which has taken on the format of "The Experts" vs. "The Rest"!

In subsequent years we were treated to talks on "Llangynog and Snowdon", and "Recent Discoveries from the Caldbecks" - an area particularly close to Mike's heart, and one which he visited frequently with John Dickinson and Richard Bell.

At the 1991 Symposium Mike provided a review of "Ten Years of Collecting Micromounts", looking back over perhaps the most exciting period in the history of the BMS. The following year, whilst presenting the "What's New on the Tables" slot, Mike introduced a new format by telling the audience half of a joke before giving his talk, only providing the other half and punch-line at the end. For those of you who weren't present, the joke recounted the tale of a burglar who upon entering a house in darkness was startled by a voice saying "Jesus and I are watching you!"

At the 1997 Symposium, Mike, together with other members, put on a "Workshop" display of North Wales Minerals, and in 1998 he was elected as Chairman of the BMS - a role which he took on with relish. Mike was a particularly active member of the BMS, not only at the Symposium, but behind the scenes, providing rapid EDAX identifications for people with "problem" specimens, contributions to the Newsletter, support for museums and articles for publications such as the UK Journal of Mines and Minerals.

A quick scan of the BMS National Reference Collection Catalogue shows something like 90 specimens contributed by Mike, many of them unusual, and including specimens number 1992 through to 2000. Mike worked closely with our Curator, Max Wirth, to develop a format for the Collection Catalogue which has been widely regarded as one of the most valuable reference works available for collectors of British minerals.

Most recently Mike had become involved in representing the interests of collectors in discussions with the Lake District National Park Authority, concerning access to the Caldbeck Fells and had submitted a draft paper on the subject in preparation for a meeting scheduled for mid-June. It would have been his greatest wish to see these discussions brought to a sensible and positive conclusion and we must all see to it that the Society continues to work towards this end.

There are many people who owe a great debt of gratitude to Mike Rothwell, not only in the mineral world, but also in his professional life and the wider community. The packed congregation at his funeral service is testimony to that. It is tragic that having worked so hard for others, all over the world, Mike was unable to realise the fruits of his labours in a long and happy retirement. For him, a day in the field was a day out in pleasant company, whether or not he collected anything for himself being largely immaterial. His generosity, integrity and perhaps most of all, his sense of humour are characteristics which those who knew him will always remember.

Oh yes - back to the joke ! - When he turned the light on the burglar was astonished to see that the voice was that of a parrot. "Who are you?" he asked. "My name's Esmerelda" said the parrot. "That's a pretty stupid name for a bird" said the burglar. "I don't think it's any more silly than calling the Rotweiler Jesus" came the reply!

Keep smiling - it's what Mike would have wanted.

CALDBECK FELLS UPDATE

The first meeting of the Minerals Working Group convened by the Lake District National Park Authority (LDNPA) took place on the 15th June 1999 at the Brockholes National Park Centre. Mike Rothwell was due to attend as a representative of the BMS and he had already prepared a paper before he went to Skye. Mike's paper was among those considered by the LDNPA and was an important contribution to the discussion. It is reproduced below.

The outcome of the meeting will be prepared by the LDNPA and will be circulated to those attending the meeting for comment before it is published. It is important to note that **the present ban on collecting remains in force** pending the introduction of a scheme for licensing collecting. The owners of the area encompassing the Carrock Mine have confirmed that they will enforce the same conditions as the LDNPA do for the rest of the Carrock Fells.

Peter Davies, the Area Manager for the Caldbeck Fells, was asked to clarify the situation with regard to the mineral rights. He confirmed that the rights did pass to the Authority with the ownership of the land.

The following is the text of Mike's paper.

1) Collecting Minerals, Guidelines, Code of Practice, Authorisation

Collecting minerals is the lifeblood of the science of Mineralogy. For the past three centuries many people have gained a great deal of pleasure from the hobby of collecting minerals. Their activities have led to the establishment and development of some of the great Museum collections and have provided the foundation and the specimens for a great deal of mineralogical research. Without Collectors Mineralogical Science would wither. Mineral collecting however is not done just for scientific research purposes. Mineral specimens are natural objects often with great beauty and much collecting is for purely aesthetic reasons but whatever the reason collecting specimens preserves them for the benefit of future generations.

The British Micromount Society (BMS), therefore asks that the authorisation to collect minerals in the Caldbeck Fells be reinstated.

The BMS accepts that the irresponsible activities of a few Collectors led to the imposition of a ban on collecting. The BMS deplores the behaviour of these Collectors but wishes to work with the LDNPA to agree conditions under which the ban can be lifted.

We believe that a permit scheme administered by the LDNPA be put in place. Permits should be issued on an annual basis to individuals against a small charge to cover administration costs.

The BMS will issue collecting guidelines to all its members and the Society will do all it can to ensure awareness and compliance with these Guidelines. In this respect the Society is watching with interest the development of guidelines for the Geological Association with a view to adopting common ones.

The BMS will expect its members to abide by the code of practice issued by the LDNPA.

2) Knowing what has been collected

There are relatively few places where Collectors can go for reliable identification of the minerals they have collected. These are Universities, major Museums, the British Geological Survey and a few individuals with particular skills. Many professional members of these organisations are associated with the Russell society and the BMS and as a result anything of interest such as a new mineral or mineral occurrence tends to be published.

At present as far as the BMS is aware there is no regular comprehensive communication from the mineralogical fraternity to the LDNPA on what has been found in the Caldbeck Fells. The BMS would be prepared to submit an annual report on what has been found in the area by its members.

3) Storage, display and ownership of collected minerals

Currently it is the accepted practice that minerals found by Collectors collecting with permission may be kept by the Collector. If collecting is to be allowed the BMS believes that this should continue to be the case.

Minerals are kept in private collections, in Museum collections and in the case of the BMS, in the Society's collection. Museum collections are open to the public and the BMS collection is available to all members. Many mineral Collectors donate specimens to Museums for display and research purposes and as a result these public collections continue to grow. Given that metal mining in England has virtually ceased, and with limited funds to purchase specimens this is an important source of material for Museums. The BMS encourages its members to donate specimens to the Society's collection and to Museums.

Should the LDNPA wish to set up a display of minerals from the Caldbeck Fells in one of its visitor centres the BMS is prepared to assist.

4) Past, current and Future research

Mineralogical research is stimulated by the results and observations of collecting activities. The breadth of mineralogical specimens available from the Caldbeck Fells, one of the most important areas for mineralogy in England, has been detailed in many papers on topographical mineralogy and has been summarised in many books.

One has often heard the comment that the area has been "*worked out*". Such comments are not new and, in respect of large hand specimens, undoubtedly this is the case. Small, often microscopic, specimens of minerals not previously recorded from the Caldbeck Fells and in a few cases not previously recorded from Great Britain continue to be found. This is unlikely to be the case in the future should collecting by the public continue to be banned. This is simply because the chances of something new and interesting being found increase dramatically when amateur Collectors as well as Professional Researchers are given permission to collect.

There remains much interesting and worthwhile geological and mineralogical research to be done in the Caldbeck fells but as this has little commercial value it is unlikely to happen without the help of dedicated amateurs.

M Rothwell

9-May-99

THE MICROMOUNT COMPETITION

Peter Braithwaite

I have been requested to re-state the competition rules. First, however, I am taking this opportunity to explain the reasons for holding a competition at all. In particular this is for the benefit of newer members, but it is also to remind others.

The primary purpose is not to establish a 'Winner' although a Trophy is awarded and held for one year by the micromounter whose entry is judged to be the most worthy. Rather it is to encourage members to adopt the 'traditional' micromount by displaying a number of specimens properly mounted but differing in style and expertise. By showing such a collection it can be seen how well each, in its own way, shows the specimen to its best advantage. On more than one occasion it has shown that that someone's own micromount - not entered because 'it wasn't good enough' was just as well mounted as those entered. Try it!

Competition Rules

The original rules are now revised and expanded largely as a result of queries and comments from others and are now hopefully more understandable.

1. The specimen shall be British.
2. The specimen shall be 'self-collected'. This, however, includes specimens obtained from rocks collected and shared on a joint field trip.

Specimens may also be entered where they have been obtained from larger pieces of rock which have been swapped. It is considered that the breaking down and trimming of a specimen to micromount size is more important than its source. The fact that it has not been completely self collected should be stated. Down grading, if any, would only be considered in a tie-break situation. Actual micromount swaps are not valid.

3. The specimen shall be permanently mounted on a suitable pedestal or base. and be so positioned that it is most attractive when level beneath the microscope lens. The judge may tilt the specimen and rotate it if necessary to see it at its best (very few micros can be set so perfectly!)
4. The box housing the specimen shall be of a size not exceeding 1" cube (25mm).
5. The box shall be labeled, as the entrant may decide, and shall be give, as a minimum; the name of the mineral(s) and the site location of the specimen.
6. The entry or entries, maximum two, shall be accompanied by written matter giving the name of the entrant and information as Rules 2 and 5 and any other information or comment as the entrant may see fit to include. (In the past this has unfortunately included rude or sarcastic comment, points are not however deducted). Yet.
7. Entries should be received by the Judge three weeks before the date of the Symposium. Entries will be returned at the Symposium to the entrant or designated person or by post as requested.

Judging.

A points system is used with varying values covering the rarity of the specimen, the skill shown in its trimming and mounting. The labeling and the initial overall impact - the Wow! factor.

Although the Judge will use a points system these will not be revealed in order to avoid the inevitable 1st, 2nd, 3rd etc comparisons which is contrary to the spirit of the competition.

Should the entrant wish to receive specific advice or comment on the specimen this should be mentioned (see Rule 6). The answers may be verbal or written as requested.

In some cases entrants have asked that their specimens should not be given public display, usually because they were not good enough. In one case the specimen was awarded the trophy! So far all specimens entered have been worthy of being seen by others. Remember the prime reason for the Trophy competition is to encourage others to follow suit and by comparison, to increase the overall quality of everyone's micromounting technique.

THE BMS NATIONAL REFERENCE COLLECTION

The article by Roy Starkey in the last issue has prompted two members to respond. Kemp Meikle writes:

"Roy Starkey's note about the specimens still missing from his original listing of 166 species, made me think about his No.7 Andradite, since of course this is indeed melanite garnet with which I am very familiar. I collected quite a lot of this material in the early 1970's in the area around Ledmore and Loch Borrolan in the Assynt District, and a specimen was submitted for the collection. This is listed as No.0336 but unfortunately appears only as garnet. I have pointed this out to Max and I am sure he will take care of that now.

"So there are really only 13 missing Roy. 9!"

John Betterton writes:

"I read with some considerable interest the recent article concerning 'The BMS National Reference Collection-14 years on!' by Roy Starkey. I found it strange to find that the mineral woodwardite, No 162, was stated to be 'unlikely to get this one!'. I would be keen to receive some input concerning that statement. Two specimens of birnessite numbers 772 and 773 were donated to the National Collection some years ago. Both these are associated with that species and were noted in the original description sent to Max Wirth. The mineral had been confirmed by XRD at the NHM, Film Number x6712F and subsequently published in the Journal of the Russell Society (1989), 2 (2), 48. Woodwardite has not appeared in any of the published BMS catalogues to date. Later study at Penberthy Croft mine has produced further specimens of this rare Cu-M sulphate. This woodwardite additionally has been examined by SEM and FTIR methods."

JEANBANDYITE RE-VISITED
John Betterton and Neil Hubbard

John Betterton has responded to Neil Hubbard's item in the last newsletter. He has entitled his note "Jeanbandyite Rebuttal":

A simple question arises. Why was this occurrence not previously reported in the geological literature or for that matter the BMS newsletter? In the four years prior to publication no information regarding this particular find was communicated to the authors of the jeanbandyite-natanite paper. The Penberthy Croft occurrence remains the first published location for these rare Sn species in the British Isles. Interested readers can find further details in the recent paper published by Betterton *et al.* This appeared in the October issue of Mineralogical Magazine, 1998, Vol. 62 (5), 707-712.

Neil, in turn, has provided "a reply to John's reply":

"The X-ray data and chemical analysis of the jeanbandyite that I collected from Hingston quarry in 1990 was not sufficiently complete to publish at the time. After more material was collected from Hingston quarry and Penberthy Croft in 1994, I communicated the date that I collected the jeanbandyite to one of the authors of the recent paper in the Mineralogical Magazine. I assumed, somewhat naively, that this would be enough to establish Hingston quarry as the first British location for jeanbandyite."

Note: This brings to a close the correspondence on this matter. No doubt John, Neil and others who are interested will pursue the matter elsewhere. *Editor.*

"MINERAL NEWS"
Bill Bolton

Bill has written to ask that we make members aware of his new publication and has provided the following brief description. Enquiries direct to Bill, please, on the number given below.

"Mineral News is a new monthly news sheet which has been eagerly received. From nothing, it has achieved, in just two months, a print run of 1,500 copies, and seems set to continue rising. It covers Minerals and Mineral related subjects, as well as Palaeontology and Lapidary topics. It is increasingly being used by local and national societies to publicise their indoor and outdoor programmes. Its main use seems to be as a bulletin board for almost all groups to inform others of their activities. However, it does carry serialised articles such as The Grand Tour - a mineralogical tour of Britain, and The History of Antimony Mining in Britain etc. The format is A3 folded to A4 newspaper style, and the paper has a minimum of twenty pages. The majority of these pages are available for any one to use for articles, letters, or comments. Many features such as Club News, Club Directory etc., are free. Needless to say, its pages are open to the BMS as a society, or to its branches, for publicising meetings and activities such as field trips, and even for recruitment. There are no catches, it is here to assist mineralogy and mineral collectors, clubs and societies. For further information contact Bill Bolton on 0151 201 3579. The paper costs just 75p

per issue."

INTERESTING ADDITIONS TO THE BMS REFERENCE COLLECTION 2101-2150

Max M. Wirth

Loanhead quarry material never ceases to surprise me. I dug out some old 1987 specimens and sent them to the RMS for identification by XRD. One specimen (2103) carries calcite crystals in one vug with fine white fibres protruding, these are tremolite. The vug is lined with clinocllore as brown rosettes of blades and a neighbouring vug is lined with another, pale cream chlorite. And Red Gill! I picked up a bit in 1990 from the east side of the burn. This specimen (2107) shows a small amount of red material which must be cinnabar around the edges of weathered sphalerite.

Mike Rothwell gave us some rough from Eagle Crag above Patterdale. A number of interesting specimens were recovered from this. Very pale, almost colourless wulfenite bipyramid (2108), small, green bundles of mimetite-pyromorphite, set off against white hemimorphite (2110) and from the spoil heaps, brightly fluorescent hydrozincite (2112). Kemp Meikle contributed a suite of minerals (2113-2118) from Hilderston, all of which have been described in J.Russ.Soc (1994),5,Pt.2,pp.83-90. Chris Jewson must have read Roy's comments last time, Chris sent us a specimen of woodwardite (2119) from South Caradon mine. He did not collect it himself but obtained it from a French dealer.

Harry Foy has been in touch again and has contributed more rare zeolites, akermanite (2121), identified in Sydney, ferroactinolite (2125), identified by Ulster Museum, hydroxyapophyllite, identified in Sydney (a fine specimen!), lizardite (2128), mordenite and offretite (2131/2), scawtite (2136) and others as shown in the listing. Harry always fills in his record cards and gives plenty of detail.

Kemp Meikle contributed two more tourmalines (2141/2 uvite or dravite) because I questioned an earlier specimen! He also gave us kyanite from two locations (2143/4) of which we had only one specimen in the collection.

Dorothy Merritt had been to Ireland last year and found a few interesting specimens. The azurite from Gortdrum mine (2147) may also carry tyrolite. Can anyone give me a grid reference for this site please, it is in Co. Tipperary.

Chris Jewson also gave us a suite of minerals from the South Crofty mine including monazite (2150) which is mighty small.

ERRATA Max Wirth

Parc Bean Cove is at SW 654.220
Greystones q. is at SX 367.806
Gortdrum mine is at R 870.410
Specimen 206 is albite
Specimen 1163 is in Lancs. not North Yorks.

In the previous issue, my boast about ferrimolybdate at Shap was ill-founded, Tim Neall pointed out that it is koechlinite. The same acid test applies!

In the same issue, Roy Starkey flattered me. I do not write programmes in machine code. I did write some, mainly in assembler, on the simple old Sinclair Spectrum.

2101	CLINOCHLORE	Loanhead q.	Beith Scotland	Wirth M.	NS 362.556
2102	CHLORITE	Loanhead q.	Beith Scotland	Wirth M.	NS 362.556
2103	TREMOLITE	Loanhead q.	Beith Scotland	Wirth M.	NS 362.556
2104	BERTHIERITE	Hogget Gill	Hartsop Cumbria	Wirth M.	NY 388.110
2105	SCORODITE	Deer Hills area	Caldbeck Cumbria	Wirth M.	NY 313.366
2106	CONICALCALCITE	unknown!	Cornwall	Weller S.	XX 000.000
2107	CINNABAR ?	Red Gill (east)	Caldbeck Cumbria	Wirth M.	NY 296.346
2108	WULFENITE	Eagle Crag mine	Patterdale Cumbria	Rothwell M.	NY 358.142
2109	AURICALCALCITE	Eagle Crag mine	Patterdale Cumbria	Rothwell M.	NY 358.142
2110	PYROMORPHITE	Eagle Crag mine	Patterdale Cumbria	Rothwell M.	NY 358.142
2111	TENNANTITE	Eagle Crag mine	Patterdale Cumbria	Rothwell M.	NY 358.142
2112	HYDROZINCITE	Eagle Crag (spoil)	Patterdale Cumbria	Wirth M.	NY 358.142
2113	ANNABERGITE	Hilderston mine	Bathgate Scotland	Meikle K.	NS 960.710
2114	NICOLLITE	Hilderston mine	Bathgate Scotland	Meikle K.	NS 960.710
2115	ACANTHITE	Hilderston mine	Bathgate Scotland	Meikle K.	NS 960.710
2116	SILVER/ NICOLLITE	Hilderston mine	Bathgate Scotland	Meikle K.	NS 960.710
2117	BARYTOCALCITE	Hilderston quarry	Bathgate Scotland	Meikle K.	NS 960.710
2118	WITHERITE	Hilderston quarry	Bathgate Scotland	Meikle K.	NS 960.710
2119	WOODWARDITE	South Caradon m.	St. Cleer Cornwall	Jewson C.	SX 268.698
2120	ACTINOLITE	Downings Pier	Donegal Ireland	Foy H.	C 009.309
2121	AKERMANITE	Carneal Plug	Glenoe N. Ireland	Foy H.	J 390.959
2122	CHABAZITE-Na	Portmuck Antrim	Islandmagee N.I.	Foy H.	D 330.150
2123	CHRYSOCOLLA ?	Glenarm Co. Antrim	Northern Ireland	Foy H.	J 330.150
2124	COPPER/ NATROLITE	Glenarm Co. Antrim	Northern Ireland	Foy H.	J 330.150
2125	FERRO-ACTINOLITE	Gweedore-Bunbeg	Donegal Ireland	Foy H.	B 837.230
2126	HYDROXY- APOPHYLLIT	Boghill quarry	Glengormley N.I.	Foy H.	J 295.803
2127	LEVYNITE-Na	Portmuck Antrim	Islandmagee N.I.	Foy H.	D 465.019
2128	LIZARDITE-IT	Old Head Shore	Co. Mayo Ireland	Foy H.	L 085.282
2129	MAGNETITE	Portmuck Antrim	Islandmagee N.I.	Foy H.	D 465.019
2130	MALACHITE	Annalong shore	Co. Down N.I.	Foy H.	J 377.195
2131	MORDENITE	Kane's quarry	Newtownabbey N.I.	Foy H.	J 295.803
2132	OFFRETITE	Ladyhill q. Antrim	Tardree N.I.	Foy H.	J 320.300
2133	PHILLIPSITE-Na	Portmuck Antrim	Islandmagee N.I.	Foy H.	D 465.019
2134	SANIDINE	Old Rhyolite q.	Tardree N.I.	Foy H.	J 188.928
2135	SAPONITE	Green Road quarry	Ballyclare N.I.	Foy H.	J 302.905
2136	SCAWTITE	Carneal Plug	Glenoe N.I.	Foy H.	J 390.959
2137	SCHEELITE	Gweedore-Bunbeg	Donegal Ireland	Foy H.	B 837.230
2138	TETRANATROLITE	Magheramore q.	Co. Antrim N.I.	Foy H.	J 435.985
2139	TOBERMORITE	Carneal Plug	Co. Antrim N.I.	Foy H.	J 390.959
2140	TREMOLITE	Downings Pier	Donegal Ireland	Foy H.	C 009.309
2141	TOURMALINE VAR.	Loch Assapol	Bunessan Mull	Meikle K.	NM 397.207
2142	TOURMALINE VAR.	Loch Assapol	Bunessan Mull	Meikle K.	NM 397.207
2143	KYANITE	Ardnalinish	Bunessan Mull	Meikle K.	NM 380.197
2144	KYANITE	Achnababan	Gartally Scotland	Meikle K.	NH 485.312
2145	ERYTHRITE	Bunmahon mine	Waterford Ireland	Merritt D.	X 425.985
2146	CONNELLITE	Dooneen m. spoil	Allihies Ireland	Merritt D.	V 577.458
2147	AZURITE	Gortdrum mine	Tipperary Ireland	Merritt D.	R 870.410
2148	CUPRITE	South Crofty mine	Illogan Cornwall	Jewson C.	SW 667.412
2149	PYRRHOTITE	South Crofty mine	Illogan Cornwall	Jewson C.	SW 667.412
2150	MONAZITE	South Crofty mine	Illogan Cornwall	Jewson C.	SW 667.412

COLLECTING PROBLEMS IN CORNWALL

Kelvin Tiltman

I am writing in response to a letter you published in newsletter No 52 by Ike Wilson. I feel that there are some points that need to be made, otherwise mineral collectors and other people interested in our mining heritage like myself are going to lose access to sites here in Cornwall and elsewhere.

The first point I would like to make is that we **do** have a problem.

The second point is that it is vital to get permission to visit a site from the land owner. A lot of the sites in Cornwall are on private property and permission should be obtained to visit the site from the land owner. Most land owners are delighted for you to go mineral collecting and for you to tell them any details you might know about the mine.

The third point concerns the damage that was done when the mines were working and the comparison with what the collector does now. The damage that the mines did when they were working may well have been acceptable then but that was **then** and this is **now**. The digging of holes into the old tips in the search for mineral specimens is where a lot of trouble arises, if you have obtained permission to visit the and you have dug a hole into the tip you **must** fill it in. Most of the sites in Cornwall are on agricultural land and the last thing a farmer wants is for one of his animals to fall down a hole, and to injure itself. When the farmer sees a hole with his injured animal in it, and a hole which has been dug by a mineral collector without permission, then the farmer will stop all access to the site. I have seen some holes 4metres long by 2metres wide by 2½metres deep - such a hole is not only dangerous to animals but to anyone on the land. One of these large holes was on a site to which the public has access. Most mineral collectors obtain permission to visit sites, and they also fill in their holes but a few do not. There is clearly a problem and if it continues it is likely that land owners will only let bonafide clubs or societies onto their land to collect minerals.

The fourth point I would like to make is with reference to the comment about newspaper left in mines. It is not only newspaper - drink cans are high on the list of rubbish left in mines. When I go underground I go collecting mineral specimens, to look at the geology and to study the way the miners carried out their activities. I stand back with great respect for what they achieved with the tools they had at the time. I do not go underground to see how many species of newspaper or drinks cans I might be able to find, and this view is shared by a lot of other people. So the message is if you can carry your newspaper and drink cans underground you can carry them back out again for disposal.

I hope that we can sort out the few rogue collectors because, if we do not, the doors will be shut on an awful lot of sensible and well behaved mineral collectors.

NEW DEVON AND CORNWALL GROUP

Chris Jewson reports that members in Devon and Cornwall will hold their first quarterly meeting on 11 September at 2pm in the Quimperle Room at Liskeard Public Rooms, 3 West St., Liskeard. Swaps and sale of surplus material will be a feature of the meeting, so "English visitors" will be made welcome. (He does not make it clear what sort of reception visitors from Wales, Scotland and elsewhere may expect.)

New members:

Elaine Beswick	33 Balmoral Drive, Holmes Chapel, Cheshire, CW4 7JQ	01477 535274
Barry Callagher	79 Goodwin Avenue, Swalecliffe, Kent, CT5 2RA	04111 90312
Roger Eslick	5 Bell Lane, Lanner, Redruth, Cornwall, TR16 6AP	07977 341364
Roger Kemplen	1 Orchard Cottages, Norton Lane, Norton, Sittingbourne, Kent, ME9 0EX	01795 521174
Jonathan Laity	16 Trerise Road, Camborne, Cornwall,	01209 71131
Derek McGee	6 Seacroft Drive, St Bees, Cumbria, CA27 0AF	01946 823471
Mark Owen	32 Tehidy Gardens, Camborne, Cornwall, TR14 0ET	01209 710297

Please note the following changes of address details:

Bob Begley	Unchanged	01603 490034
David Eden	5 Oatfield Close, Horsford, Norwich NR10 3RS	01603 898798
Nigel Hoppe & Avril Woodburn	"Humewood", Perrancombe, Perranporth, Cornwall, TR6 0HU	01872 571137
Richard & Jennie Lamb	8 Queensmead, Beverley, East Yorkshire, HU17 8PQ	Unchanged
Dave Middleton	Please change Lodsall to Bilbrook	Unchanged
Kelvin Tiltman	Please change postcode to P11 3JG	Unchanged
Peter Todhunter	Unchanged	01902 457794

New, or change to, E-mail address:

Crawford Adrian	Crawford.Adrian@tesco.net
Roger Kemplen	Roger.Kemplen@btinternet.com
Derek McGee	Derek.mcgee@virgin.net

Please note that we have been informed that Derrick Ling of Ipswich died in February of this year.

Rex and Norma Bingham have resigned their membership.

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

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Please note that the deadline for articles for Newsletter 54 will be 1st October 1999. Please let me have contributions as soon as possible. Articles or reports on PC disc are particularly welcome. Articles sent by E-mail can either be "attached" or be part of the body of the E-mail message. Clearly printed documents are acceptable and can be scanned and read into the PC automatically.