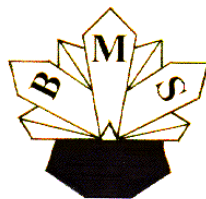


BRITISH MICROMOUNT SOCIETY



NEWSLETTER NO. 56 AUGUST 2000

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CALDBECK FELLS PERMIT APPLICATIONS

Trevor Bridges

On the 5th April 2000 a meeting was held at the LDNPA Blencathra Centre to discuss the applications for permits to collect minerals on the Caldbeck Fells. Present were representatives from the LDNPA, (including the Area Manager, their archaeologist and the Area Ranger) English Nature, Cumbria RIGS, Brian Young wearing BOS and Russell Society hats and myself representing the amateur fraternity. The meeting was chaired by Peter Davies (Area Manager) of the LDNPA. I thought the meeting was very positive, reasonable and enjoyable.

In all 28 applications had been received. This was much less than I expected and there were a number of my friends who I had expected to apply, but have not. In a way this is quite disappointing in view of the effort put in to get people to try out the new system. Initially there was a lengthy discussion on the standards to be applied and the general content of the applications, then the applications were considered in groups. 20 applications were from societies and individuals seeking permission to visit the area for periods from one day up to about a week. The geological people present pointed out that while the research content of these might be fairly low, a responsible approach had been used, including proper identification of species and a commitment to writing them up and there was always the possibility of something interesting being discovered as has happened so often in the past. This was agreed and all of these applications were then accepted by the LDNPA.

There were then 5 applications for extensive access to the Fells for periods of 10 to 30 days a year. The research content of these was very variable and every one was flawed in some way. Some even requested access to the areas singled out as restricted at the present time. However, these applications were not rejected out of hand and the LDNPA with the help of English Nature will write back explaining the problems and pointing out what is required to bring the applications up to an acceptable standard. It is then up to the individuals concerned to meet the requirements if they wish to go ahead.

The last 3 applications had no research content at all, no referees and other failings. It was felt these had to be rejected, but the LDNPA will approach the people concerned to try to find some compromise that will meet their needs without damaging the Fells. Having dealt with the applications, Peter Davies said the LDNPA wish to organise some general mineral days and would like to assemble a collection of minerals to be used for educational purposes. They will be approaching the mineral societies for help, which we shall of course provide to the best of our ability.

Finally there was a brief discussion on what to do in the future. As was made clear in their original Minerals Policy document, the LDNPA see the permit system as needing to evolve in the light of experience and this will be discussed around the end of the year, with a report planned to go to the January committee of the National Park Authority.

THE FUTURE OF MINERAL COLLECTING

Letter from the Chairman

The recent discussions (see Trevor Bridges' report elsewhere in this Newsletter) and subsequent Policy Document issued concerning Mineral Collecting in the Caldbeck Fells have served to stimulate much debate and a certain amount of angry reaction amongst the mineral collecting community. In spite of all the heated exchanges and discussion, disappointingly few amateur collectors applied for Permits to Collect. What should we read into this situation? Are people just too apathetic to make a formal application? Do most people in fact not really want to collect in the Caldbecks anyway? Or was there an innate assumption that "I wouldn't get a permit anyway - so what's the point in applying ?" In fact, almost all of the applications received were approved, and those requiring amendment prior to approval have been dealt with sympathetically by the Park Authorities.

Whilst the outcome may be viewed as the best most workable way forward under the circumstances, it highlights the fact that there are many different areas of change as we enter the 21st Century. Many of you will be aware for example that Health and Safety requirements are now impacting seriously on visits to working quarries, whereas previously we were all able to adopt suitable practices when on such visits to the satisfaction of both collector and Quarry Operator alike. Pressure from collectors on diminishing numbers of sites and depleted amounts of material at these sites is in itself a threat to the future of mineral collecting. We must all pause to reflect upon where we are going, and what we can do as individuals, and in our various organised groups (Clubs and Societies) up and down the country, to contribute to the debate which has now started.

Unless Mineral Collectors, and other Field users (e.g. educational parties, geological societies etc.) are able to establish effective communication with the various regulatory bodies and land owners, and to present valid and objective reasons why collecting should be allowed to continue, there is a high likelihood that mineral collecting as we know (or knew) it will disappear as a recreational pursuit within a very few years. Far from being entitled to collect wherever and whenever we like, mineral collectors must start to accept that we are in fact "part of the problem" and it may be that restraint is called for if we are to preserve the opportunity to collect, at least in some areas, and most likely under some form of "Access Agreement". I have just returned from two weeks touring the Colorado Plateau in the USA, visiting many State and National Parks. Without exception, removal (collecting) of any geological material is expressly prohibited unless the collector has an official permit, and official permits will normally only be granted for bona-fide research purposes. This is precisely the approach being promoted by the LDNPA and others for the Caldbeck Fells, so we should not feel too hard done by !

I am well aware that many, perhaps most, mineral collectors and maybe BMS Members will find this point of view unacceptable, and abhorrent. "We should stand up and be counted" "Fight for our rights" etc. etc. The reality is that we have a precious resource in geological material, and it is right and proper that serious thought be applied as to how best this resource should be used, and conserved / preserved.

How many of us have stores of material in garden sheds and garages, tomato trays or "flats", maybe collected years ago from sites now exhausted or obliterated? This too is part of the mineralogical resource and we must treat it with the necessary respect and care. You may have surplus material to dispose of - please do this in a responsible manner. The "grab table" at the BMS Symposium is a very simple way of passing on small amounts of material, but if you have

really significant amounts perhaps an earth science institution or museum would be a grateful recipient, provided that the material is well provenanced.

If you have comments or views on any of the above points I would be pleased to hear from you - maybe we can find time to discuss some of these issues at the end of the AGM in Leicester. Meanwhile - have a great summer, and Good Hunting !

EARTH ALERT AND ELSIE HANSFORD

Roy Starkey

The BMS stand was duly mounted in the Brighton Conference Centre for Earth Alert and Baroness Young who opened the Conference, told Elsie she could have peered down the microscope at the exquisite microminerals all day (there's a politician for you"!) Unfortunately the Club Displays were put in a hall which was difficult to find, even if it had been well signed, and on the second floor, so there were far less people than there might have been.

Pam Pearce, Dorothy and Cyril Merritt helped Elsie on the Sunday, but unfortunately no other BMS member was prepared to make a firm commitment to help, although one or two of the Sidcup Society did help during Saturday.

John Pearce presented Elsie Hansford with a specially framed "Award of Merit" prepared by our Chairman, Roy Starkey, who was unfortunately away on holiday in the USA touring the Colorado Plateau. It had been decided formally to record the great debt of gratitude which the Society owes to Elsie whose efforts and contribution to the Society over many years have been quite outstanding - from the early days in her capacity as Secretary and "general factotum", through the later years of growth, and on so many occasions as "the face of the Society" at numerous exhibitions and shows. Elsie's stereo-photomicrography, the rotary carousels, and sheer staying power have been an inspiration to us all.

The "Award of Merit" is intended as small token of our collective appreciation in recognition of the excellent way in which you have developed the BMS exhibition stand over many years, and in particular we are grateful to Elsie for co-ordinating our stand at this year's National Geological festival in Brighton. Elsie's efforts are greatly appreciated by BMS members, and I am sure also by the many hundreds of members of the general public who have experienced the delights of Micromounting and minerals at first hand in her company.

NEWS ITEMS

- The latest issue of The Mineralogical Record features a comprehensive (20 pages) article by David Green, David McCallum and Mike Wood on The Brownley Hill Mine, Alston Moor, Cumbria. Non-subscribers may like to obtain a copy of this issue (Vol. 31 No.3), price \$10 from usual outlets.
- The Mining Heritage Society of Ireland has just published a 30 page monograph with 33 figures, "Ross Island and the Mining Heritage of Killarney", by William O'Brien. This is available by post from Dr Matthew Parkes, Geological Survey of Ireland, Beggars Bush, Haddington Road, Dublin 4, Ireland. Price £4 postage free.
- There is a new list of confirmed species for Mont Sainte-Hilaire in the latest edition of Micronews (Canadian Micro Mineral Association Newsletter). While the editor is seeking permission to make a few copies for individual members, the list is available on the Internet at:

http://www.ssc.on.ca/mandm/cmms34_3.html#classA

BMS DIRECTORY OF MICROMOUNTERS - 2001 EDITION

Mick Wolfe

Those who have a long memory may recall that it was decided, at the last AGM, that a new edition of the Directory would be prepared for publication in early 2001. It was agreed that a copy of each member's 8th edition entry would be sent out with the invitation to the 2000 symposium for amendment. Those members with no entry have been sent a copy of one complete page from the last edition so that they can compose their own single paragraph entry.

Revised and new entries should either be handed to me at the symposium or posted to my home address.

OS INTERACTIVE ATLAS OF GREAT BRITAIN

Max Wirth.

I purchased this CD-ROM, published by Focus Multimedia Ltd. at £29.99 (www.focusmm.co.uk). I can recommend it since, unlike many applications, this really is user friendly, even I could run it. It is based on the Ordnance Survey and allows one to find a map centred on one of 55000 place names. Better still, entering a grid reference brings up the map and the grid reference of the cursor is continually displayed. One can zoom right down to street names on some maps. There are many more good features, photographs, text and what not.

Your own pictures and comments can be attached to a particular point. I only had three SEM photographs, these are now attached to Frongoch, Iron Crag and Force Crag.

If anyone has pictures on disc of minerals or sites, I would love to hear from you.

INTERESTING ADDITIONS TO THE BMS REFERENCE COLLECTION.

Specimens 2201-2250

Max M.Wirth

Most of you will by now have seen the excellent paper by John Betterton in the UK J.Mines & Minerals. The photography by David Green is superb and now John has entered more specimens from Penberthy Croft to the collection.

The smooth spherules of pseudomalachite (2201) are the best I have ever seen. Alas there is no woodwardite on the birnessite specimen (2203), it is too fragile to send around. The rare carminite (2207) lining a vug is small but well crystallised and the colour is striking. Don Blake contributed specimens from another little known site, Brookwood mine in Devon. This must once have been another arsenate site and the erythrite (2209) and tyrolite (2210) are noteworthy.

Tim Neall found another wulfenite (2217) at Kinniside mine and has at last put a name to the little silvery-brown rosettes of manganese oxides occasionally found. This one is srancieite (2218) a Ca/Mn oxide from Ullcoat mine near Egremont.

Trevor Bridges, the joker, sent numerous specimens, some of which seemed interesting. I returned these to him asking for record slips I am still waiting!

Patricia Terry brought back hinsdalite (2221), minute white crystal encrustations, from Tynagh mine in Ireland. From the same location she also contributed a delightful little arborescent silver crystal at first thought to be copper because of the blue encrustation with copper minerals. David Green showed it to be silver.

As usual, Steve Rust explores the unusual sites and finds the unusual minerals. From the Cuillin granites he extracted allanite (2226) resembling that from Geevor and gadolinite-Y (2227) which is difficult to see until told where to look on the specimen. This was confirmed by XRD and SEM. Zircon (2230) is apparently quite widespread at this site and well crystallised though small. Another rarity from there, and equally difficult to see, is kainosite-Y (2234) with a long formula!

Kemp Meikle contributed a number of zeolites collected by Gordon Todd last year. These all come from locations described last century by Heddle, Canna, Lang Craigs near Dumbarton and Touchadam Muir near Stirling. These zeolites are striking because of their brick-red colour. A copy of Heddle, 1893 Trans.Geol.Soc.Glasgow, Vol.X, p.72 ff is on record.

2201	PSEUDOMALACHITE	Penberthy Croft	St.Hilary Cornwall	Betterton J.	SW 555.324
2202	SIDERITE	Penberthy Croft	St.Hilary Cornwall	Betterton J.	SW 555.324
2203	BIRNESSITE	Penberthy Croft	St.Hilary Cornwall	Betterton J.	SW 555.324
2204	AGARDITECE	Penberthy Croft	St.Hilary Cornwall	Betterton J.	SW 555.324
2205	AGARDITECE/ND	Penberthy Croft	St.Hilary Cornwall	Betterton J.	SW 555.324
2206	ARAGONITE	Penberthy Croft	St.Hilary Cornwall	Betterton J.	SW 555.324
2207	CARMINITE	Penberthy Croft	St.Hilary Cornwall	Betterton J.	SW 555.324
2208	FLUORITE	Brookwood mine	Devon	Blake D.	SX 697.681
2209	ERYTHRITE	Brookwood mine	Devon	Blake D.	SX 697.681
2210	TYROLITE	Brookwood mine	Devon	Blake D.	SX 697.681
2211	SPHALERITE	Brookwood mine	Devon	Blake D.	SX 697.681
2212	MUSCOVITE	Brookwood mine	Devon	Blake D.	SX 697.681
2213	PYRITE	Penberthy Croft	St.Hilary Cornwall	Betterton J.	SW 552.323
2214	QUARTZ/SIDERITE	Penberthy Croft	St.Hilary Cornwall	Betterton J.	SW 552.323
2215	BROCHANTITE	Penberthy Croft	St.Hilary Cornwall	Betterton J.	SW 552.323
2216	GOETHITE	Penberthy Croft	St.Hilary Cornwall	Betterton J.	SW 552.323
2217	WULFENITE	Kinniside mine	Cleator Cumbria	Neall T.	NY 041.144
2218	RANCIEITE	Ullcoat north	Egremont Cumbria	Neall T.	NY 025.086
2219	ANGLESITE	Eaglebrook mine	Dyfed Wales	Bridges T.	SN 735.893
2220	THOMSONITE	Thurstaston beach	Wirral	Dickinson J.	SJ 230.830
2221	HINSDALITE	Tynagh mine	Galway Ireland	Terry P.	M 740.130
2222	SILVER	Tynagh mine	Galway Ireland	Terry P.	M 740.130
2223	SIDERITE	Robarts mine	Illogan Cornwall	Jewson C.	SW 674.436
2224	SIDERITE	Crenver & Abraham	Crowan Cornwall	Jewson C.	SW 632.337
2225	SIDERITE	Weeth mine	Trevaskis Cornwall	Jewson C.	SW 615.383
2226	ALLANITE	Loch Kilchrist	Kilbride Skye	Rust S.	NG 618.198
2227	GADOLINITE-Y	Glas Bheinn Mhor	Loch Ainort Skye	Rust S.	NG 545.268
2228	HEDENBERGITE	Glas Bheinn Mhor	Loch Ainort Skye	Rust S.	NG 545.268
2229	FLUORITE	Loch Kilchrist	Torrin Skye	Rust S.	NG 618.198
2230	ZIRCON	Eas a Bhradain	Loch Ainort Skye	Rust S.	NG 536.266
2231	ZIRCON	Eas a Bhradain	Loch Ainort Skye	Rust S.	NG 536.266
2232	HORNBLLENDE	Glas Bheinn Mhor	Loch Ainort Skye	Rust S.	NG 545.268
2233	BECHERERITE	Frongoch mine	Dyfed Wales	Rust S.	SN 723.745
2234	KAINOSITE-Y	Eas a Bhradain	Loch Ainort Skye	Rust S.	NG 536.266
2235	STILBITE-K	Glas Bheinn Mhor	Loch Ainort Skye	Rust S.	NG 553.274
2236	HEULANDITE	Glas Bheinn Mhor	Loch Ainort Skye	Rust S.	NG 553.274
2237	HEDENBERGITE	Glas Bheinn Mhor	Loch Ainort Skye	Rust S.	NG 545.268
2238	HORNBLLENDE	Camas Malag	Loch Slapin Skye	Rust S.	NG 583.192
2239	ANALCITE	Compass Hill shore	Canna Hebrides	Meikle K.	NG 247.064
2240	THOMSONITE	Compass Hill	Canna Hebrides	Meikle K.	NG 247.064
2241	LEVYNITE	Compass Hill	Canna Hebrides	Meikle K.	NG 247.064
2242	MESOLITE	Compass Hill	Canna Hebrides	Meikle K.	NG 247.064
2243	MESOLITE	Compass Hill	Canna Hebrides	Meikle K.	NG 247.064
2244	MORDENITE	Compass Hill	Canna Hebrides	Meikle K.	NG 247.064
2245	STILBITE	Earlston reservoir	Touch Muir Scotland	Meikle K.	NS 727.910
2246	NATROLITE	Earlston reservoir	Touch Muir Scotland	Meikle K.	NS 727.910
2247	HEULANDITE	Earlston reservoir	Touch Muir Scotland	Meikle K.	NS 727.910
2248	HEULANDITE?	Earlston reservoir	Touch Muir Scotland	Meikle K.	NS 727.910
2249	GARNET	Lang Craigs	Dumbarton Scotland	Meikle K.	NS 433.748
2250	ALBITE/SAPONITE	Lang Craigs	Dumbarton Scotland	Meikle K.	NS 433.748

New members

Martin Ellam	101 Dunraven Drive, Derriford, Plymouth, PL6 6AT E-mail: MARTIN.ELLAM@TESCO.NET	01752 781252
Allan & Elvire Mortimer	4 Maybourne Grange, Turnpike Link, Croydon CR0 5NH E-mail: allan.mortimer@homeoffice.gse.gov.uk	020 8667 0861
John Taylor	Greenways, Cooling Street, Cliffe, Rochester, Kent, ME3 7UB	

Changes of address details:

Peter Todhunter	New telephone number	01902 457794
Belinda Walters	16 Burns Close, Horsham, Sussex, RH12 5PE	01403 270883
David Hardman	Corrected postcode - BL8 4EG New e-mail: david@hardman20.freeserve.co.uk	
Kevin Johns	Oak Tree Farm, The Common, Shelton, Norfolk, NR15 2SH E-mail: kevin.johns@btinternet.com	01508 530330
David Neal	Corrected e-mail: dneal10478@aol.com	

Newsletter Timing and Contributions

I know, you have all been waiting for it. My apologies for the late production. It took until the end of July, after our house move in March, to make a permanent place for the computer - balanced on top of a filing cabinet was alright for the odd e-mail but not for anything worthwhile. My repeated thanks for contributions at successive AGM's has obviously lulled everyone into a false feeling that I have a surfeit of articles. The well finally ran dry and not being anxious to come calling without my PC, no-one got chased.

You will see that I have given an extra fortnight in the October deadline - this is to make it easier to get the AGM minutes prepared but also to *ensure* that I am overwhelmed with submissions for the next issue.

<p style="text-align: center;">NEWSLETTER EDITOR Mike Dannatt Ashcroft, Smalldale, Bradwell, Hope Valley, Derbyshire, S33 9JQ Tel: 01433 621801 E-mail: the.dannatts@care4free.net</p>

The deadline for articles for Newsletter 57 will be 15th October 2000. 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 part of the body of the E-mail message. Clearly printed documents are acceptable and can be scanned and read into the PC.