

ROYAL GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF CORNWALL 1814 – 2021
PRESIDENT'S REPORT FOR THE AGM FEBRUARY 2021

Well, there must have been many notable years in the long history of RGSC but this year has been one of the most strange and frustrating. I hope you have been able to keep well during all the restrictions and uncertainty. Our activities have been somewhat curtailed but at least those of us with suitable digital facilities have been able to meet for some online talks and the one advantage of this is that we have been able to link to lecturers and participants as far away as New Zealand. Our Facebook page is gathering numbers and a good place for some digital geological chat.

The Bolitho Gold Medal of the RGSC 2019 was presented in absentia, due to illness, to Joseph Neil Plummer at the AGM last year. Neil's wife, Beatrice Kernö, and our annual lecturer, Professor Dianne Edwards, MA, PhD, ScD (Cantab), CBE, FRS, FRSE, FLS, Research Professor at the School of Earth and Oceanic Sciences, Cardiff University were able to visit Neil to present the medal to him before visits all became so difficult. You will be pleased to know that Neil is now at home in the care of Beatrice.

I would like to take this opportunity to look forward. The resurgence in interest in geological resources in Cornwall, with exploration projects for lithium, tin, tungsten, copper *and* geothermal energy, coupled with so much interest in the outdoors and healthy exercise, must make this a great time to expand and rejuvenate the activities of the second oldest geological society in the world. In Cornwall, there is plenty of scope for a large and active geological society, working in collaboration with like-minded geological, historical and wildlife groups.

We want to maintain the programme of talks – online for now – and then in person again when we are able but in a larger venue when we can be more ambitious about the number of people we attract. We have been very fortunate to have been able to use the Allet facility for our talks and are keen to maintain a close relationship with the Cornwall Wildlife Trust.

I hope, as soon as we are able, we can also set up a lively programme of local fieldtrips and consider some more ambitious occasional trips elsewhere in the UK, to London for example to see the Nebra Sky Disc, and potentially abroad, such as to follow up the invitation from the talk last year to visit Saxony, a region in Germany that has many 'geo-related' synergies Cornwall.

There is plenty to do for those who are interested in the historical aspects of the Society. Loveday Jenkin has been pursuing a final agreement with Cornwall Council on the arrangements for use of the Old Fire Station, so that we have safe storage for records and archives while we work on them (thanks for you stamina on this, Loveday!). We are seeking some professional advice on strategy and funding to digitise the RGSC Transactions so that they are available for research. There is also other archive material that needs research and curation, and a project is now underway in partnership with the British Geological Survey to work on records for the RGSC collections now housed at BGS in Keyworth, near Nottingham.

When resources and conditions allow, it would be really good to do more outreach to help enthuse more people about geology.

I hope we will be able to produce a new Transactions volume this coming year and rejuvenate these outputs in a form that serves as authoritative but lively and accessible information.

I would like to be sure to record my thanks to Council and representatives for all your work for the Society during the year, including a special mention for Janet Wynne who has been maintaining our website.

All of us on Council welcome member's comments about what activities and visits would be of most interest in the future. Let us hope for more geological opportunities in the forthcoming year.

Frances Wall