

ROYAL GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF CORNWALL 1814 – 2020

HON. SECRETARY'S REPORT FOR THE AGM FEBRUARY 2021

1 Meetings during 2020

The rising risk of covid-19 infection and the onset of the national lockdown in mid March 2020 meant that we have been unable to hold a programme of monthly meetings in a physical space.

This adversity has been turned into an opportunity with the expert application of technology and wide network of contacts that our new president has brought. We have held monthly meetings online, which have been well supported by members as well as attracting new participants from around the world. Our programme has consisted of the following lectures:

- a. Weds 20th May: Monitoring Active Volcanoes, Dr Geoff Kilgour, Volcanologist at GNS Science, from New Zealand & Dr James Hickey, Lecturer in Geophysics & Volcanology at Camborne School of Mines, University of Exeter.
- b. Weds 17th June: Women in Mining by Hester Claridge, exploration geologist at Cornish Lithium Ltd. & committee member of 'Women in Mining' & 'Women in Geothermal'.
- c. Weds 16th September: Mining Links between Saxony & Cornwall by Rowan Halkes, post-graduate student at Camborne School of Mines, Univ. of Exeter.
- d. Weds 21st October: Drilling back through time into the Jurassic Earth and Solar System by Stephen Hesselbo, Professor of Geology at Camborne School of Mines, Univ. of Exeter and project lead for the JET project.
- e. Weds 18th November: The Collection of the British Geological Society at Keyworth, Notts., by Dr Mike Howe, including the collection of the RGSC.
- f. Weds 16th December: "Christmas Stars, Meteorites & Space Mission" by Sara Russell, Professor of Planetary Sciences & leader of the Planetary Metals Group, Natural History Museum, London.
- g. Weds 20th January 2021: "Clams and Climate Change: What the longest-lived animals on Earth can tell us about past Climate Activity" by Dr David Reynolds, Centre for Geography and Environmental Science, University of Exeter, who kindly stepped in at the last minute.

2 Forthcoming Programme, 2021:

We are looking forward to continuing our online lectures and will include a postponed lecture on The Ice Age in Cornwall by Prof. James Scourse; a further lecture from Gregor Borg, hopefully with a visit to London to see the Nebra Sky disc which is due to be exhibited in the British Museum later this year.

Field Work:

Due to the uncertainty of the present situation field work has been postponed, but we are hoping to book some later in 2021 or soon after.

Caerhayes Visit: A visit to Caerhayes Castle to see the geology collection had to be cancelled last year. We are grateful to Courtney Smale for the offer of a guide to the collection and hope to re-arrange this in summer 2021.

- ### 3 Correspondence:
- Melissa Hardie has agreed to be our correspondence secretary and to field requests for detailed information. A few requests have been made for information from the earliest Transactions, which have been directed to Kresen Kernow, where a complete set is held. However, Kresen Kernow has been closed for much of the past twelve months and we have not been able to use the Fire Station yet. It is hoped that we will find a suitable method of scanning and uploading the past transactions so that they may be searched by anyone, anywhere, and are grateful to our member Charlie Moon for offering to do the scanning. We

intend to take professional advice on the best method of completing this and to start later this spring or summer.

- 4 **Lease for the Fire Station:** this has been a major drive, run by Dr. Loveday Jenkin, who has spent many hours seeking the best deal from Cornwall Council with the solicitor. It is hoped that this will be completed very soon and the facility for work be available.
- 5 **Advertisement for a temporary Curatorial Post:** The Council agreed to advertise for a short term post to look through the archive, advise us on the best means of curating this and making it available online, with a start to this work to be made by the holder of the post. If possible we will seek to extend this with the support of a grant application.

Linda Beskeen