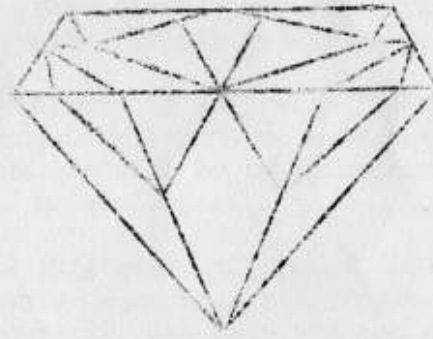


CHAIRMAN

3

STONIE CHAT



NORFOLK
MINERAL
LAPIDARY
SOCIETY

Spring has sprung, the grass has ris, I wonder where the writers is? My regular nature lovers have come forward to feed my pages but any help to make me heavier would be welcome.

NEWS.....NEWS.....NEWS.....NEWS.....

Martin, the intrepid rock hound, plans to re-start our field trips in May but, as we cannot announce details three months in advance, venues will be advised at monthly meetings. If there ia any you would like arranged please contact him...

.....Jim Lightwing will be at our May meeting with his Cromer Forest Bed fossilsand will be pleased to answer your questions. We may even be able to get the location of that mystery quarry from him..... cows might even fly.....

.....Our friendly professional jeweller, Mr. Zelle, will be with us in June with coloured gemstones.....

.....Martin steps forward in July with "Lakeland Field Trip Remembered" the story of his 1981 week in the Lake District with the Sidcup club. He will be bringing along specimens he collected for us to admire.....

.....Our Gems Fair this year will be at the Crome open day on July 4th. Any member requiring stand space please contact Colin by the June meeting. Any help you can give to the demonstators will be most welcome - please contact Roy.....

.....We will be holding our usual fund raising stand at the Thorpe Joint Fete on June 13th. Please get the tumblers rolling for the sand jars for June 13th and July 4th.

see you soon

POINT TO PONDER

When God made Man She made a mistake.

ANAGRAMS ? Answers to those that appeared in our last issue.

Lapidary

DANA WISDOM - DIAMOND SAW
FAT TEN CIG - FACETTING
SIR MIGHT SNIVEL - SILVERSMITHING
RUM BELT - TUMBLER

Minerals

ICE TALC - CALCITE
BAT RISE - BARITES
ANGLE 'A' - GALENA
TIE HER WIT - WITERITE
TEETH AIM - HEMATITE

Fossils

BOOR HID CAP - BRACHIOPOD
Gail POTTER - GRAPTOLITE
BITTER OIL - TRICRITE

Gemstones

STAY THEM - AMETHYST
TO PRIDE - PERIDOT
IN TRICE - CITRINE
REAL MAD - EMERALD
A SHIPPER - SAPPHIRE
TAX DINER ALE - ALEXANDRITE
MAIL ROUTE 'N' - TOURMALINE
DID MOAN - DIAMOND

TURN THE PAGES FOR A NEW SELECTION TO AMUSE YOU

POINTS TO PONDER

You have to do a lot of worthy things to prove you're good, but only one to prove you're bad.

The best health insurance is moderation.

CUTTING REMARKS

how to cut those difficult and unusual stones

AXINITE

Colour varies according to the angle at which it is viewed from yellow to brown. Cuts easily but with a directional resistance and is easier with the grain. Polish with cerium on felt or hard leather.

AZUREITE

Sand carefully, polish with chrome oxide, if you have a supplier of c.o. let us know, on wet soft leather.

BARITE

Several types when finished show a wood - like grain. Sensative to heat, this stone is brittle and cleaves unexpectedly. Use a smooth wheel and finish on well worn 600 grit disc. Polish on soft, well padded, leather using tin or cerium.

BLUE JOHN

Breaks easily along strong cleavage planes. Soak in hot shellac, allow to cool and work with care. Never use coarse wheel and sand on fine worn discs. Polish with cerium and water on soft leather.

CHRYSOPHRASE

Use extreme care with this material, partly because of the cost of this expensive member of the quartz family, and partly because it undercuts. Use sharp new discs with plenty of water and a high speed. Polish with cerium on damp leather.

Next time we will start with granite.

On behalf of the budding new mineral collectors among us we asked a well known collector about his hobby

Q. What is a mineral?

A. It is any substance extracted from the earth by mining.

Q. So, is it a metal ore then?

A. Yes, and it can also be a quarried stone such as limestone or gypsum.

Q. Is any of the metal ore or gypsum to be found on waste tips?

A. Yes, particularly in the part of a tip created when the ore was cheap and plentiful and only the best processed.

Q. Where are these tips?

A. Adjacent to mines and on quarry floors, which occur in Cornwall, Devon, Wales, Derbyshire, Lakeland, North Penines and Scotland.

Q. Are there any in Norfolk or Suffolk?

A. No.

Q. Are these mines and quarries still worked?

A. Very few mines are worked now but many quarries are in use.

Q. Are the disused mine tips accesible to the Public?

A. In most cases yes, but if on private land ask permission first and watch out for the occasional unfenced open shaft.

Q. How do I arrange a visit to a working mine or quarry?

A. Write to the manager for permission first stating days required, number in party and ages of children. Wear stout shoes and carry a safety helmet to ensure entry.

Q. Can I get into old diused mines?

A. Yes.

Q. Is there much left in them to collect?

A. Very little and they are no longer safe.

CONT. ON NEXT PAGE

CONT. FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

- Q. Why not safe now?
A. Poison gases have escaped, once solid timbers have rotted through, ceilings can cave in, floors collapse beneath you and an apparent puddle could cover a 40 ft. deep hole.
- Q. Do some people still go in?
A. Yes, societies exist for the study of mines and the party leaders understand most of the possible dangers.
- Q. O.K. - are the tips worth searching?
A. Yes, but write to the local club for guidance before you visit, for the best results.
- Q. What equipment will I require?
A. A geological hammer, a small haversack, newspapers, spectacles or safety glasses, a 10 x lens, pen and notebook.
- Q. Will you answer some more questions in the next issue of Stone chat about minerals themselves?
A. With pleasure and remember the only happy person who is down in the dumps is the mineral collector.....

.....

SOLUTION TO THE CROSSWORD THAT APPEARED IN OUR LAST ISSUE

ACROSS

1. Malachite
4. & 5. down Turquoise
6. Kinetic
9. see 4. down
10. Echinoids

DOWN

1. Marl
2. Cornelian or Carnelian
3. Etch
4. and 9. across Trilobite
5. see 4. across
7. Mine
8. Mohs

.....

POINT TO PONDER

The mark of the immature man is that he wants to die nobly for a cause, while the mark of a mature man is that he wants to live humbly for one.

And now for you mineral experts a page of anagrams
just for you

ORANGE TIA

ONE LIMIT

STIR ICE TEAS

GATE IN TIME

THEIR GAP

TEN MILE BODY

AT MEETING

TOILER ANT

HEARTY DIN

I EVEN TOIL

RARE POINT YES

TRIPE, MON

BIT NERO

RARE GAL

TOOK BRIE

O THIRD ONE

MAPLE CITY

THESE LICE

CANDY CHLOE

O HIS MITTENS

COOLLY CRASH

SAILED TO

SET CRUISE

SHEEP TRAIL

TO CICERO

TOURIST ALE

EGO TITHE

ESTATE IT

PRIME HIM THEO

BIT ISLET

TIME LINE

TOIL ZEST

AIMS ONE JET

THIRD RATE TEE

BLOATER RAID

MOISTEN HOT

MILESTONE

BETTER IRON

MEMOIRS FROM MAGGIE

- The mine that nearly was not there.

When you think of gold mines and rushes you probably conjure up pictures of Charlie Chaplin and the Yukon Trail or James Bond as 007. Or perhaps the heat and size of the South African mines, the new Johannesburg and Kruger Rands. But I don't - I think of Wales and the day we all went goldmining. After all the Queen's wedding ring is made of fine Welsh gold, so we thought we would find a nugget or two.

The Dolgellau gold belt extends from Afon Mawddach north ten miles across the coed y Brenin Forset and during the Welsh gold rush about 150 shafts around Clogau and Gwynfynydd were sunk between 1850 and 1870. (Editors Note - These names are murder for a Norfolk man born and bred to type.)

We stayed at Portmadoc a good jumping off point for slate mines, gold mines and many other things in North Wales. We followed the coast road to Barmouth and turned east along the Mawddach Estuary and then north towards Trawsfynydd. We had one of those useful little maps they give you in Wales to get you walkin along forest tracks. Three miles from the car stopping point to the mine along the trail it said. Well the track must have been measured by a flying crow and one with a funny sense of direction at that. We walked around this bend and that bend and the next and the one after that. We had biology lessons on mosses and wood ants and lizards and blackberry bushes and leaves and flowers and fir trees and clouds. We "hupped" our legs like soldiers until the littlest one sat in a puddle and said her legs had run out of "hups" and then we finally found it - a dark shaft going straight into the side of the hill. The air was so cold like ice. The trees surrounding it were all green lichens like dead men's fingers and everything was so wet and cold and damp. I don't think the sun had ever shone there. We don't think they found gold there either, we certainly didn't - not even enough to dust an eyelash with..... More next time.

Who says we haven't any good collecting sites in Norfolk? Why not try this field trip to Overstrand yourself and prove 'em wrong.

Leaving your car in the village, walk down the slope to the prom. and turn right towards Sidestrاند. Follow the prom. to its end, climb down to the beach and continue behind the breakwater.

The first mass of chalk in the cliff is under the site of the old Overstrand Hotel. Specimens of belemnites and echinoids can be found here.

Continue along the beach looking in the pools and beds of shingle for small pieces of amber and carnelian. You may also find water worn nodules of marcasite.

Before you reach the end of the breakwater, you will see two more masses of chalk in the cliff, here again several varieties of fossils may be found.

Beyond the breakwater, on the beach you will find a mass of chalk which stretches for about half a mile. This was once part of the cliff that has now been eroded away. This chalk also contains many specimens of ecinoids, belemnites, brachiopods, ostrease and corals. Nodules of marcasite are also embedded in the chalk.

On the right hand side of this chalk bed is a long bed of stones and boulders, here you can find specimens of marcasite which are sometimes more crystalline and free from the chalk. This is also where you may find fossils from the Cromer Forest Bed and pyritized ammonites.

Unfortunately this bed of chalk can only be seen at low water. The masses of chalk were deposited in the cliff by glacial action although the origin is not certain. They were first noticed in 1878 and by 1896 there were ten of these masses lying on the bed of the till which ran along the base of the cliff for nearly half a mile.

GOOD HUNTING.

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Meetings

First Tuesday of each month (except August)
7.30 for 8 pm at the Cromo Centre,
Telegraph Lane
Norwich

Workshops

All other Tuesdays also at the Cromo Centre.