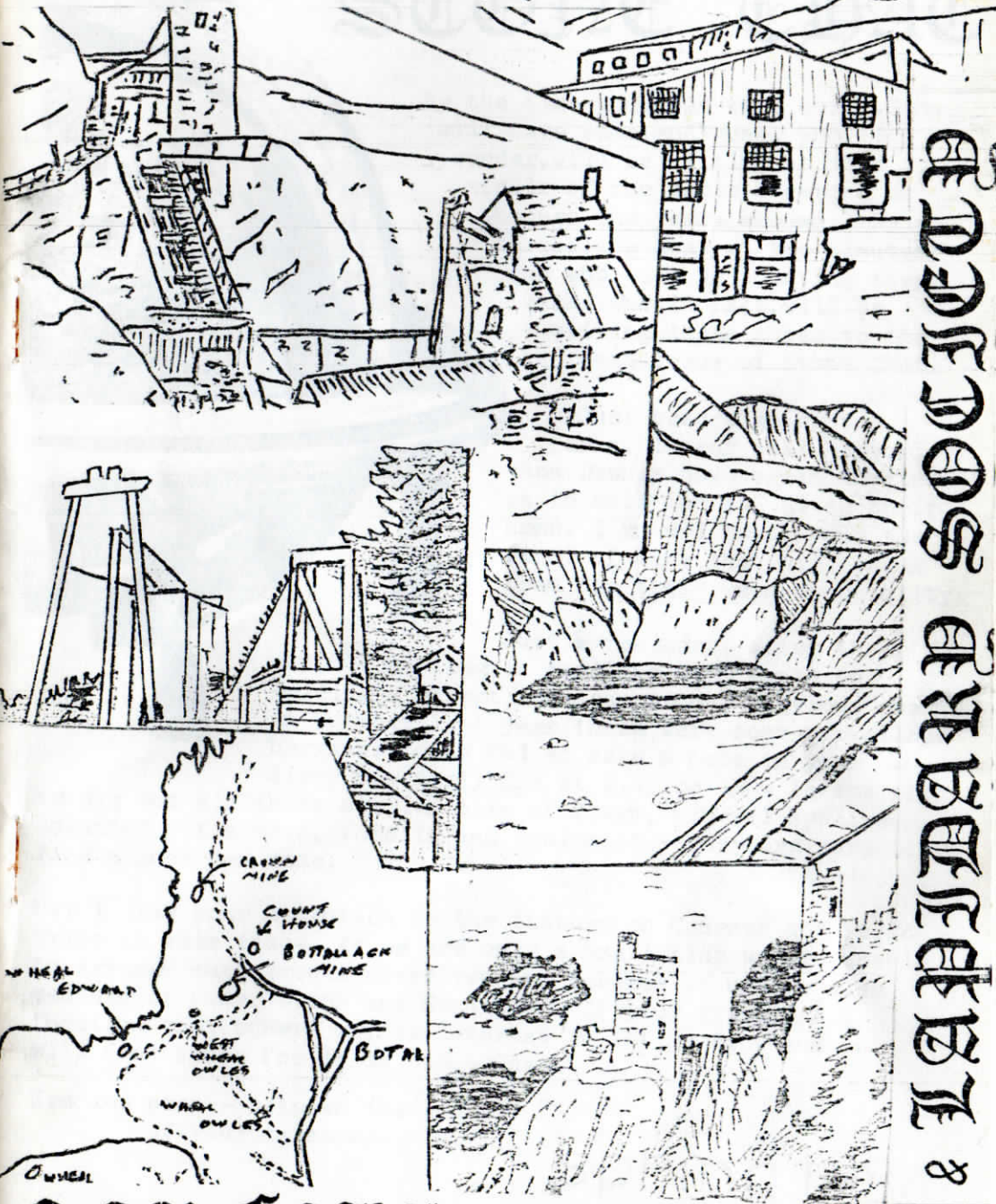


STONE CHAT



READER'S SERVICE & INFORMATION

NORFOLK MINERAL

BOTALLACK MINE St. Just, Cornwall

The mining area of St. Just is one of the oldest mining regions in Cornwall, and is believed to be the home of cliff mining. Small mines predominate and one of the largest is Botallack.

This mine is very old with levels running out under the sea. It is said that once, during a storm, the miners became frightened by the noise of rocks rumbling along the sea bed above them.

The famous Boscawen Diagonal Shaft at the Crowns section of the mine was begun in 1858.

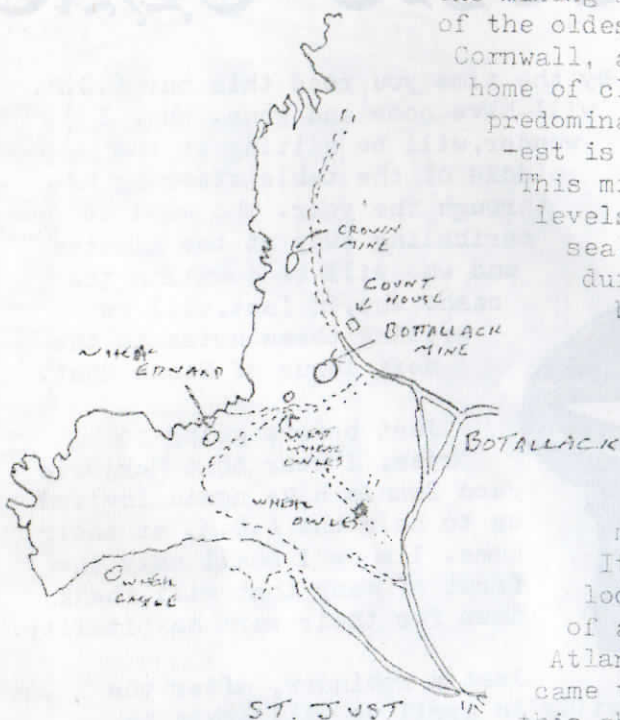
It provided access to the lodes which extended a third of a mile out under the Atlantic. Many famous people came to Botallack and descended this shaft and broke off mineral specimens from below the sea.

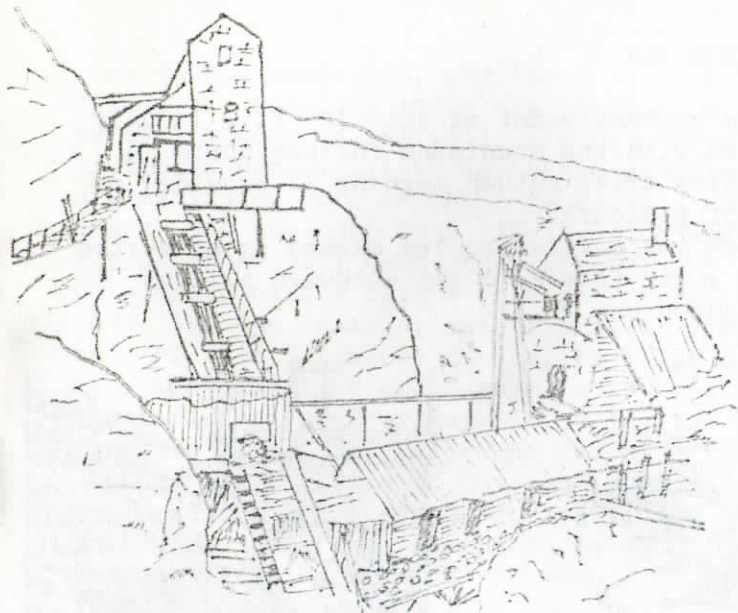
Among them were King Edward VII and Queen Alexandra (when they were still Prince and Princess of Wales) and Prince Arthur the twelve year old son of Queen Victoria.

In 1863 there was an accident when a wagon chain broke and eight men and a boy were killed.

The time came when the many visitors were restricting the working of the mine, and a charge of half a guinea per person was introduced. The cash raised from this was put into a fund for the relief of widows and injured miners.

During the 1870's there was a very bad mining depression and Botallack began to lose money heavily. The company carried on working until 1895, when an underground dam collapsed and flooded the 112 fathom level. The mine was





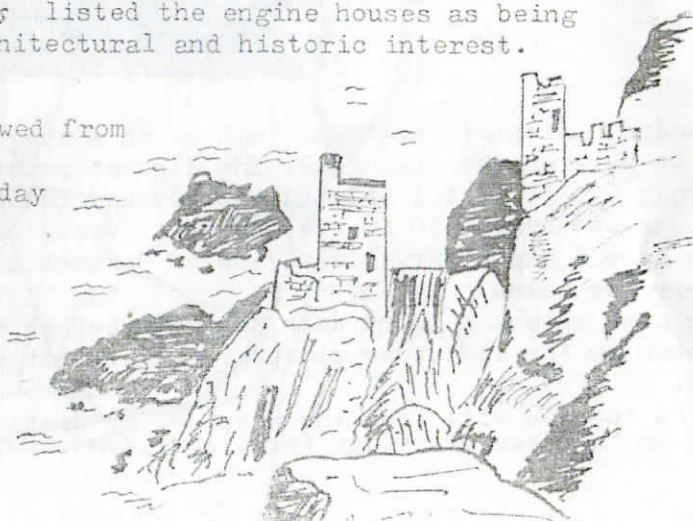
BOTALLACK MINE
in its
working days

then closed.

In 1905 an increase in the price of tin encouraged a re-start of the mine and a new vertical shaft, called Allens Shaft, was sunk. After much expenditure and a lot of disappointment the business was closed for the final time on the 14th March 1914.

To stop further deterioration the Dept. of the Environment has listed the engine houses as being of special architectural and historic interest.

The mine - viewed from
the opposite
direction - today



HAMPSFELL and its HOSPICE

Hampsfell, with its highest point at only 727 ft., is only a mere bump compared with the mountains further north in Cumbria, but on a nice crisp Autumn morning it provided me with a great deal of pleasure.

As you can see there are several routes marked on my sketch map - I picked the route from Fell End - though all the routes are well signposted.

The Hospice
sitting upon
a limestone
pavement.

Notice the
young man
at the
indicator.



A hundred yards of farm road took us to a stile, over this and we were on the open fell. The highest point at Fell End is only 616 ft. but I skirted the top and followed the contour at about 550 ft. to the left (west) of the hilltop. From here I had a marvellous view of Cartmel and its famous priory far below.

From here we had a short walk downhill before the longer stretch to the limestone plateau, the highest point on the fell.

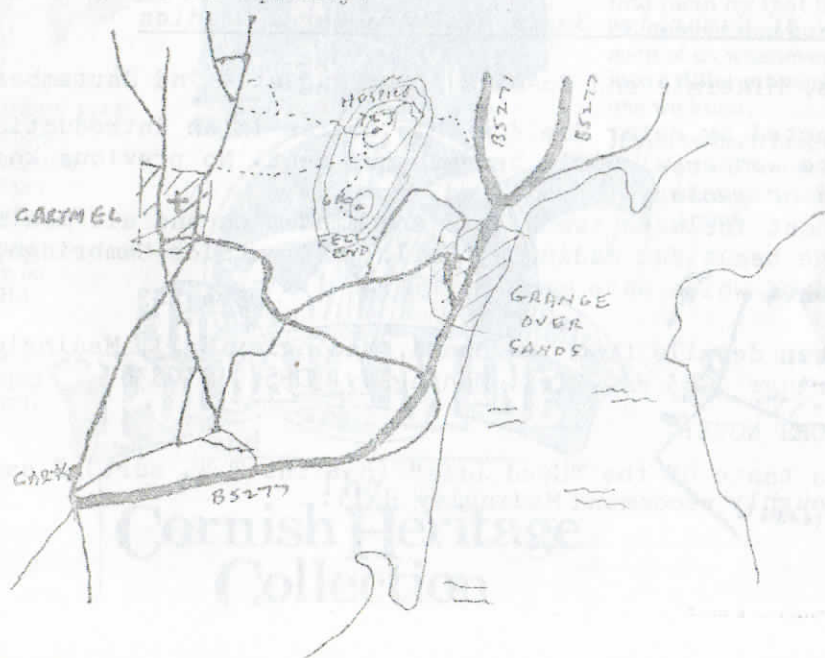
At the top you will find the Hospice, my dictionary defines this as "a place of refuge for travellers", built by the

Rev. Thomas Remington, the then vicar of Cartmel, in 1834. Inside the building there are some useful stone benches and several boards on the walls are painted with romantic Victorian verse. Litter louts and vandals are not new and are mentioned here as those "who possess more muscle than brain" and the hope that "if the rich and poor should meet I trust they will each other greet".

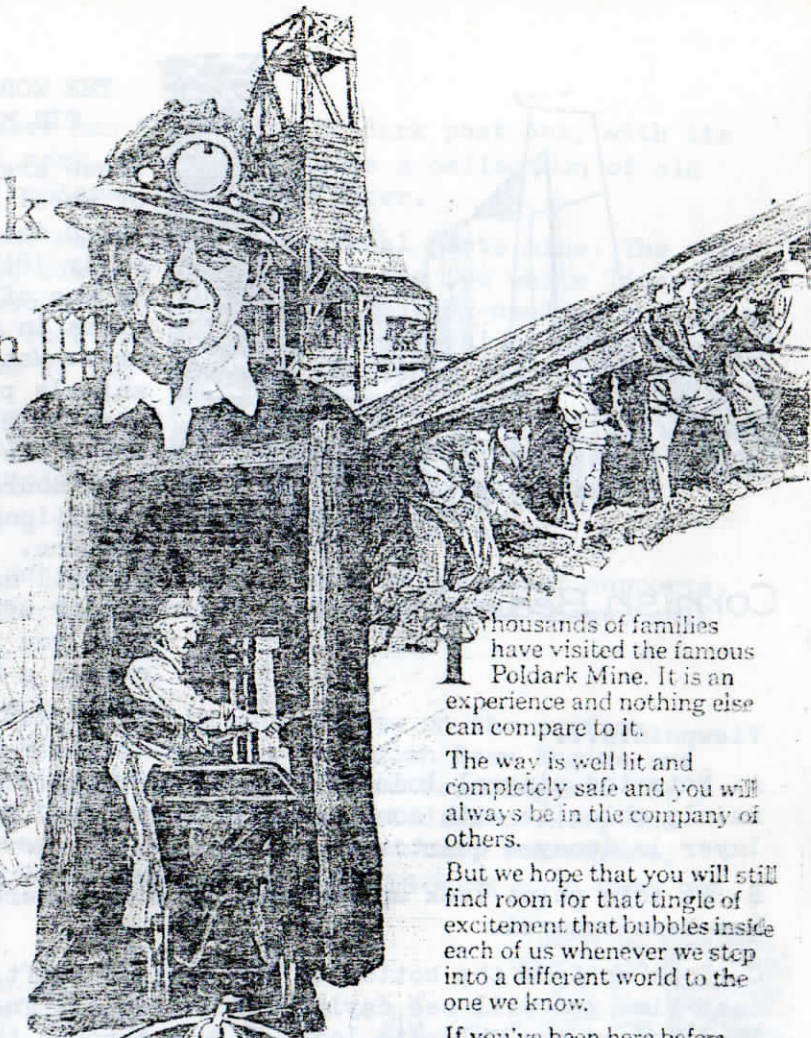
Outside, a narrow flight of stone steps took us to the top and to the simple, yet effective, indicator. With the help of this ingenious device, built by a retired railwayman, many Lakeland and Pennine mountains can be easily identified on a clear day. These include the Conistone range, Langdale Pikes, Helvellyn and Kentmere mountains and a shoulder of Skiddaw. To the west Wharfedale and Ingleborough in Yorkshire can be seen. Towards the south near at hand Walney and Piel islands and it is said that during exceptionally clear conditions Snowdonia and Snafell on the Isle of Man are visible.

It is said that the bones of many soldiers killed during a battle between Saxon invaders, led by King Edmund, and the troops of Dunmail, king of Cumbria, in A.D. 946, are buried in a tumulus near the hospice.

There isn't much evidence of fossils in the limestone hereabouts, but if there are botanists with you they will have a real field day at the right time of year as there are wild flowers and fern aplenty.



Poldark Mine at Wendron



Thousands of families have visited the famous Poldark Mine. It is an experience and nothing else can compare to it.

The way is well lit and completely safe and you will always be in the company of others.

But we hope that you will still find room for that tingle of excitement that bubbles inside each of us whenever we step into a different world to the one we know.

If you've been here before you will know exactly what we're talking about.

OPEN EVERY DAY

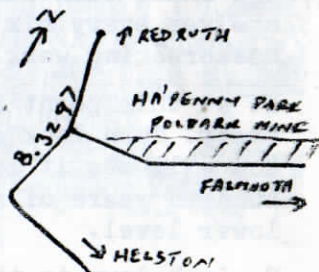
10 am to 10 pm
(July & August)
10 am to 6 pm
other months

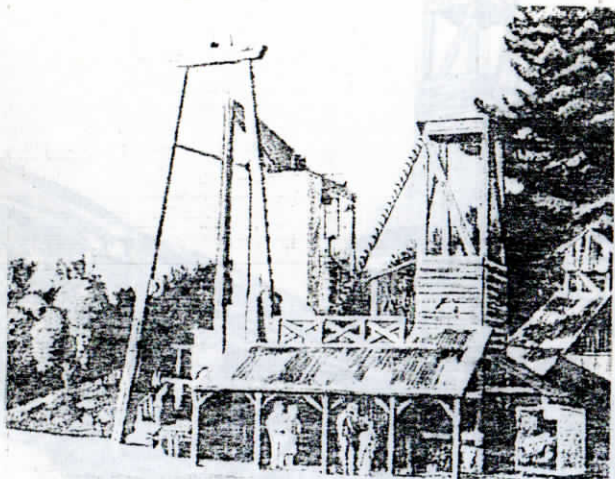
3 miles north
of Helston on
Redruth Rd
(B3297)

Telephone
Helston 3173
or 3531



The
Cornish Heritage
Collection





THE WORKINGS OF A TIN MINE

These are the workings of Wheal Roots mine which date from the early 18th century and is one of the oldest mines in the Wendron area. Waterwheels and animals provided power for the mine workings while the miners worked long hours in dark damp conditions to extract the ore.

We will now proceed on a tour of the mine but when you go be sure to obtain a brochure to guide you on your way.

Cornish Beam Engine

Viewpoints...

- A. Note the mineral lode in the roof (straight ahead). It is mainly chlorite with some tourmaline and tin. The orange layer is decayed quartz.
- B. At this point look up and see the stope where the mineral has been removed.
- C. Look up from the bottom of the central shaft. It is the last time you will see daylight for a while. The shaft is inclined on the chlorite lode. It was through this shaft that access was originally gained to the mine.
- D. This is the oldest part of the mine. Look up the shammeling shaft with its bridges and platforms. Miners stood on shelves every six feet to shovel ore up in stages. It was backbreaking work.
- E. At this point stand on the grill and look up the east shaft. Then look ahead to the unexplored part of the mine. You will see it is still full of mud and debris from two hundred years of neglect. Go down the iron stairs to the lower level.
- F. Look down to the tableau and then look through the timbers to the level above. You are approximately 125 ft. underground at this point. Note the tin lode marked with white lines.

G. This chamber has the famous Poldark post box, with its special post mark. It also contains a collection of old pumps being restored to working order.

H. This is the main tin lode of Wheal Roots mine. The vein of tin can be clearly seen between the two white lines. The miners would have worked this lode by candlelight, breaking the rock and removing the mineral by hand. The lode contains 22 lbs of tin to the ton of rock (1%).

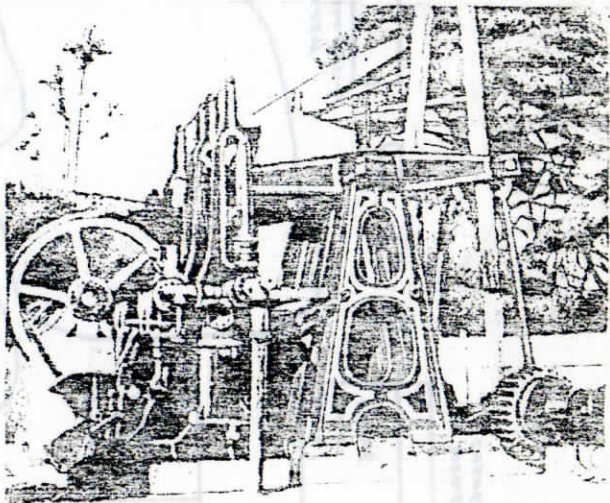
I. The stamps were used for crushing ore to sand so that the grains of tin could be extracted. This job was often done by bal maidens (women who worked at the mine).

J. Look down a raise to the adit levels below.

K. Note the introduction of timbering and metal supports. The ground has deteriorated so that it is no longer self supporting.

At Ha'Penny Park there is much to see on the surface. Close to the mine entrance is a Cornish Beam Engine and nearby a Hoisting Engine and Compound Beam Engine. The park also has to offer a fun area, kiddies corner, the Cornish Heritage Collection, licenced bar, restaurant, craft shop, picnic gardens and free parking - to name but a few.

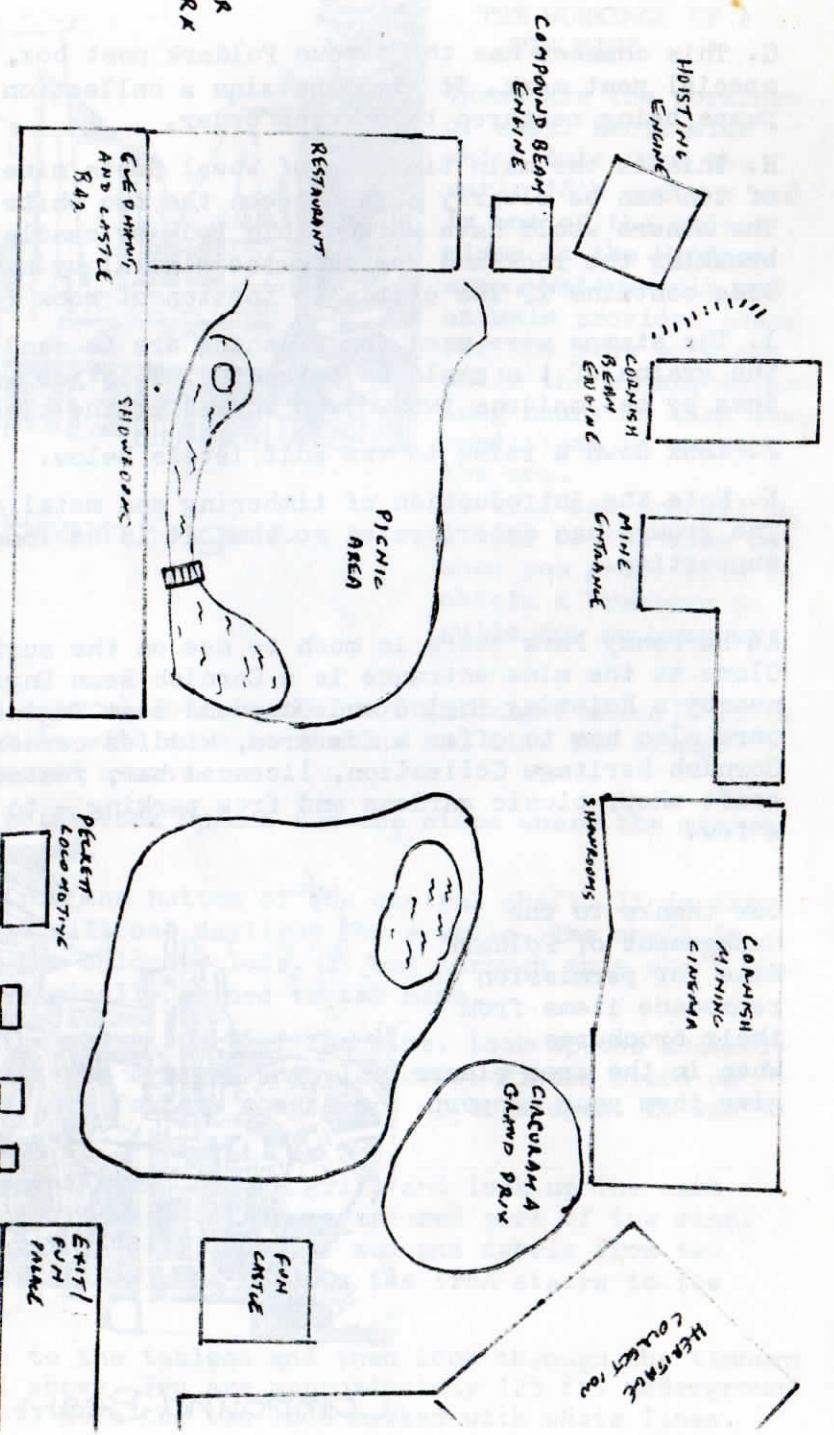
Our thanks to the Management of Poldark Mine for permission to reproduce items from their brochures. When in the area please give them your support.



Compound Beam Engine

PLAN OF HA'PENNY
PARK (NOT TO SCALE)

CAR
PARK





CWMYSTWYTH MINES - MID. WALES

Grid Ref. SN 805748

Left almost untouched since mining stopped in 1921 are the Cwmystwyth Mines, on the north side of the River Ystwyth, one mile from the village of the same name. It is on the unclassified road that runs from Devil's Bridge to the Elan Valley.

Cwmystwyth was one of Sir Hugh Myddleton's mines and part of the Mines Royal Society instituted by Queen Elizabeth 1st, Sir Hugh took his lease from James I in 1617.

The earliest mining was at Copa (Copper) Hill and included Gold though the most prolific deposits were of lead, zinc and copper.

In 1844 the four ventures, Copper Hill, Pugh's Adit, King-side Adit and Graig Fawr came together as one. Pugh's Adit had been worked to 180 ft. below adit level aided by a pump driven by a 30 ft. water wheel but with poor results. A new shaft was sunk by Captain Matthew Francis east of the crusher house and this was followed by a period of moderate prosperity. Soon after John Taylor & Co. took over the lease in 1848 things began to "look up" with new deposits being found in both Francis's Shaft and Pugh's Adit the latter reaching 325 ft. below adit level the deepest point of the mine.

In 1899 Henry Gammon formed the Cwmystwyth Mining Company and it is the rusting remains of his mill that is shown at the beginning of this article. The ore hoppers at the rear of the building fed it with zinc blende which was crushed, washed and jigged to obtain the concentrates for smelting. The mill, by the way was driven by a turbine. Unfortunately Mr. Gammon lost most of his own personal fortune in this venture. Between 1905 and 1921 four different concerns failed to make it pay.

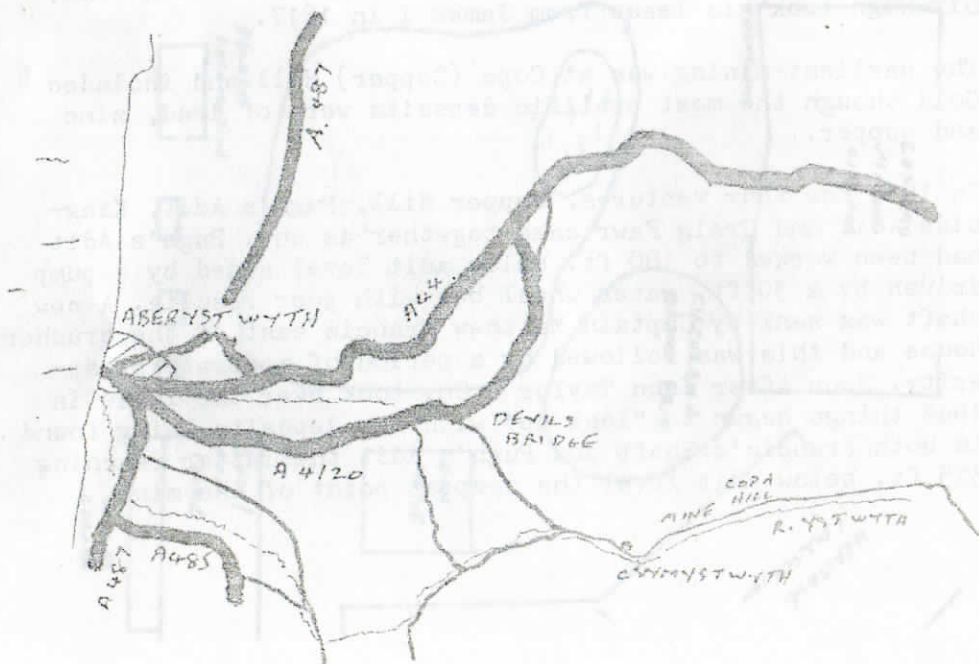
A scramble up to look at the opencast workings known as Graig Fawr will be rewarded by sight of the most spectacular open cuts to be seen in Wales. All around are massive quantities of spoil with water wheel pits, hushes, beds of tramways, leats, ore bins and several open workings.

On the other side of the river spoil tips of the South Cwmystwyth Mine can be seen.

Please take great care on these and all old mine sights.

LOCATION SKETCH MAP

(site diagram on next page)



CWMYSTWYTH MINES

- L - LEVELS
- W - WATERWHEEL PIT
- S - SHAFT
- DH - DAM HOUSE
- BN - BEN TROHAN MINE

