

Sussex Mineral & Lapidary Society

Newsletter

Issue 01 October 2023



An old tin mine, Cornwall

From the Editor

Welcome to the very first edition of the SMLS digital Newsletter. Our thanks go to John Pearce and all contributors for their time and knowledge in producing the many journals we have enjoyed over the years.

Following the retirement of the journal, this Newsletter aims to bring you relevant and topical information in an accessible way. I hope you like it.

Please email any comments or contributions for future issues to me at smlsnews72@gmail.com

Samantha



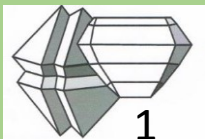
Inside this issue

Pg2 – A view from the Chair

Pg3 – Events, a roundup of what's on over the next couple of months

Pg4 – News, a selection of articles covering, minerals, fossils, gemstones and more

Pg5 – In Focus, topical selection for your interest





From the Chair

It is a pleasure to introduce the new SMLS Newsletter and to thank Samantha for volunteering to be newsletter editor. The primary purpose is to keep all members informed of SMLS activities but also to provide interest and entertainment related to our hobby, I think Samantha has done a great job in this first edition.

The Journal of course had detailed reports on the SMLS talks for members who were not able to attend the talk in person. The advent of the Zoom era has opened up the SMLS talks to all members worldwide. I think we are one of only a few societies that offer a joint face to face talk/Zoom talk, and thanks to Caroline for supporting the technology.

With that said I would encourage all members to use the Zoom meeting links and give the Zoom talks a try. You have time at the beginning to chat to other members, talk to the speaker and to ask questions. You do not need any additional software, just click on the Zoom link and wait to be admitted to the meeting. If anybody would like to practice this so they feel more comfortable with Zoom then please drop me an e-mail and we can set this up.

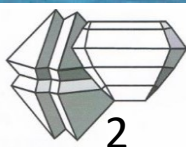
The committee is currently focussed on the 2024 program and of course preparation for the Sussex Mineral and Fossil Show. The program is taking shape, with a strong focus on getting our field trip program back on track. The show is a major undertaking but enjoyable to organise, key to this are all the show helpers. Susan Tyzack has volunteered to coordinate the show helpers and Susan will be in touch with you over the next few weeks to finalise the details. Without the SMLS helpers the show would not run, so thanks in advance.

A show program is included, and I would encourage everybody to share this and promote the show to all your friends, family and neighbours.

Colin



Kynance Cove, Cornwall



Events

- 13th October – Sussex BMS Branch Study Evening
- 14th-15th October – Bakewell Rock Exchange
- 21st-22nd October – Chelmsford Rock n Gem Show
- 3rd November – SMLS Club Meeting, “What can we learn from thin section microscopy?” By Peter Nancarrow, 1930, Zoom details [here](#)
- 4th November – Festival of Geology, London
- 18th November – SMLS Annual Show
- 18th-19th November – Kempton Rock n Gem Show
- 25th November – Finchley Mineral Show
- 26th November – Oxford Mineral & Fossil Show
- 1st December – SMLS Club Meeting, zoom only, “Scotland’s Carboniferous Firth of Forth coast” By John Taylor

2023 SUSSEX MINERAL & FOSSIL SHOW



Rhodochrosite on Sphalerite. Photo courtesy of Crystal Classics.

Saturday 18th November 10.00 - 4.30

Haywards Heath College, Harlands Road, Haywards Heath, RH16 1LT

Over 40 dealers with minerals, gems, fossils, meteorites, flints, books, & accessories for sale

SMLS Online

The club [website](#)

The club Facebook [Pages](#)

Next Club Meeting – Friday 6th October

20 Years of Cornish Collecting by Tony Lee, starts 1915 for talk at 1930

All members welcome to join the dinner at Pascals Restaurant before the talk, let Colin know if you are coming and be there for 1800

The talk will take place in the Methodist Church Hall in Haywards Heath and will also be on Zoom. Zoom details [here](#)



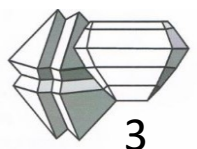
Liroconite – Ctrl + click [here](#) for more on liroconite

Mineral of the Monthis all things Cornish, so please bring your best specimens along on the 6th

Finchley Show

New in our calendars for 2023, organised by the Amateur Geological Society, Finchley. If you go please do let us know what you thought of it.

Mineral, Gem & Fossil Show
North London
Saturday 25th
November
2023
10am – 4pm
Large Hall with
Jewellery, Gems, Fossils, Rocks, Minerals
Children's Lucky Dip, Books, Maps + Refreshment area
TRINITY CHURCH, NETHER STREET, N12 7NN
Near 'Tally Ho' Pub & Arts Depot, Ballards Lane, North Finchley





Fossils

Britain's elite fossil hunters on their finds of a [lifetime](#)

Ice Age horse skull found on Isle of [Wight](#)

Refreshed Fossil Code offers new [guidance](#)

How to find fossils on the [beach](#)

Fossil hunting in Mappleton, [Hull](#)

Claims of 180-million-year-old dinosaur [egg](#)



Something to share?

If you have read or watched something interesting email it to The Editor at smlsnews72@gmail.com and it will be considered for future issues.

In this section we bring you a selection of recent news articles. Use Ctrl + Click on the underlined text to link straight to the articles.

Minerals & Rocks

Jonathan and Anne Rand donate lifetime mineral [collection](#)

The Gem Guy shows his mineral [collection](#)

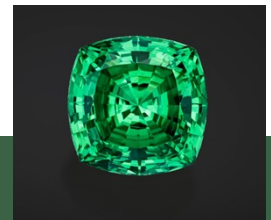
£476k for Royal Cornwall [Museum](#)

World's largest collection of fluorescent [rocks](#)

Rockhounds fight for access, [Mojave](#)

NASA collects Rum rocks ahead of Mars [mission](#).

Managing Afghanistan's mineral [wealth](#)



Gems & Lapidary

Solid laboratory grown single crystal diamond [ring](#)

Wallace Chan exhibition featuring one of world's largest black [diamonds](#)

Is gem cutting a dying [art](#)?

Smithsonian unveils superb Lion of [Merelani](#)

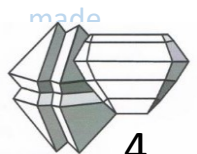
Lab grown gems impact [prices](#)

Videos

Landslide fossil hunting, [Yorkshire](#)

Objects of Vertu

Captivating stone dial [watches](#)



October is for Opal

Opal is traditionally the gemstone for October. Do you know your opals?

Here are some interesting articles about these silicon based wonders.

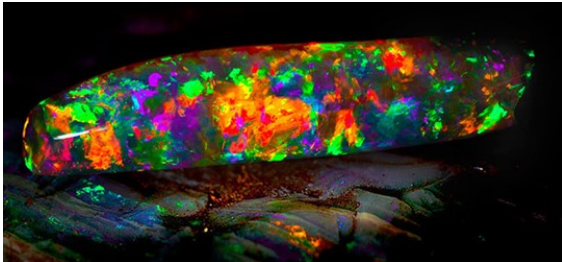
And if you haven't seen "Outback Opal Hunters" its not too late to check it out on Discovery and Prime.

Opal basics from [GIA](#)

All about opal from [IGS](#)

Opal mining and living in [Coober Pedy](#)

The Virgin Rainbow [opal](#)



Sustainability – Lithium

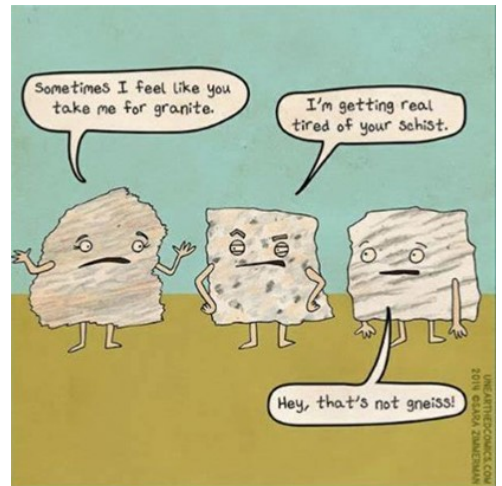
Cornish Lithium launches crowdfunding campaign to build sustainable, battery-grade UK lithium [supply](#)

Sustainable lithium for many [decades](#)

What's the most sustainable way to mine the largest known lithium deposit in the [world?](#)



Chuckle Corner



Quote of the month

"The meek shall inherit the earth, but not its mineral rights"

John Paul [Getty](#) (1892-1976)

