

## King Edward Mine Museum: Latest News – October 2018

The King Edward Mine (KEM) is an essential part of the Camborne School of Mines (CSM)'s history. Established at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century it was, in its day, a foremost centre for mining education and taught students from around the world mining engineering and techniques. Originally conceived in the 1890s, KEM included underground training in a part of the old South Condurrow mine and mineral separation in the mill which was completed in 1902.

KEM became flooded in 1921 leaving CSM until recently to use a nearby mine, Great Condurrow for underground training as well as Holman test mine. In time the machinery in the mill became obsolete and was replaced by more modern plant on the CSM site. It was, however, of significant historical importance and there was a real possibility that it could have been destroyed, but the efforts of a group of keen volunteers has saved it and it is now a grade 2\* listed building in the ownership of Cornwall Council and run by a trust keen to advance knowledge and understanding of mining history in Cornwall.



CSM Students Hand Steeling Competition 1910 at King Edward Mine (from CSM Magazine July 1911):

In the past year a number of developments have occurred at KEM. We have seen the end of a major capital investment programme financed by the Heritage Lottery Fund. This has included the restoration of the boiler house and the installation of a display of KEM history inside, a new roof for the mill and other changes and improvements. The redundant buildings on the site including the count house, assay office, carpenters shop and blacksmiths

forge have all been refurbished and now house a range of activities including Cornwall Wildlife Trust, the Croust Hut café, which is open all year, and a yoga class.



Torchlight miner's treasure hunt 2017 at King Edward Mine

As part of the HLF support, we are required to take an active role in community based activities. This has included events as varied as children's bug hunts, nature walks, dog shows, vintage car shows, STEM (science, technology, engineering and maths) sessions for children, the Sensory Trust and the entertaining of a range of groups from children to the elderly with visits to our museum. This is an area we are keen to expand with particular concern for the local community in what is a very disadvantaged area and where we can make a real difference. With 22 acres of mining landscape and indoor lecture facilities, KEM is seen as a community resource which needs to look outwards to the benefit of the whole community.



Cornwall Schools Mining Games 2018 at King Edward Mine: Pupils from Brannel School, Redruth School, Richard Lander School, Helston Community College, Penryn College, Mounts Bay Academy, Wadebridge School and Cape Cornwall

Earlier in the year we hosted the International Mining Games, from which CSM emerged as victors. This was an enjoyable experience and it was good to meet mining students from around the world. We also hosted the Schools Mining Games, a scaled down version for secondary school pupils who, again, had a really good time, and we plan to repeat this in 2020.

The growth of the museum requires us to add further trustees to our team and expand the areas of skill and expertise. This is crucial to our future success as we progress from a small band of enthusiastic hobbyists to a more professional and outward looking group with a strong outlook to the community and a desire to expand and develop Cornwall's rich industrial and mining heritage using a range of experience and skills.

At present we operate with a band of excellent and friendly volunteers. We would greatly welcome anyone with enthusiasm and skills from the CSM family to become involved with us. If you have an interest in joining us we would be very grateful for your help. Please drop by one Sunday morning to meet the team or contact us at: [info@kingedwardmine.co.uk](mailto:info@kingedwardmine.co.uk).

David Ager, Chairman, King Edward Mine Museum