



The Russell Society

Southern Branch Symposium 8 February 2020

To be held at the Somerset Earth Science Centre located adjacent to Moons Hill Quarry, Stoke St. Michael, BA3 5JU. For location see <https://www.earthsciencecentre.org.uk/contact-us>

Please arrive for Coffee from 9.30 to start at 10.10

10.15 to 10.55 The Progress of Mineral Development in the Mendips by Mourice Czerewko, an engineering geologist with Aecom. The development of supergene minerals in the weathering zone results in many wonderful minerals. Mendips mineralisation corresponds with other major centres of mineralisation within Carboniferous limestones in the UK.

11.00 to 11.40 Remote miners' trials and minerals by Sue Cowdry, an amateur mineralogist. Searches for ore and the possible wealth to come led hopeful miners to explore trials in out of the way inhospitable sites. Hunting out such places and finding representative mineral specimens can be rewarding in many ways.

Coffee Break 11.40 to 12.00

12.00 to 12.40 The Mendips of Mons by Eddie Bailey, an independent consulting geologist with Touchstone Geological Services Ltd and Shaun Johnson, a geologist with Aggregate Industries UK. The end-Variscan tectonic evolution of southwest England has vexed geological minds for over 100 years ...until now. With the last piece of the puzzle in place, the mineralisation and geodiversity of this extraordinary region can be fully appreciated. The development of aggregate company geodiversity action plans (cGAPs) provides the blueprint to bring these remarkable events to the wider public.

Lunch 12.45 to 1.45

1.50 to 2.30 Minerals of Gloucestershire by Roy Starkey, an amateur mineralogist. Gloucestershire was the principal world source of celestine (strontium sulphate) from the 1870s through to the 1980s and specimens from this era grace many public and private collections. The county has also been an important producer of iron ore (in the Forest of Dean). Lesser known are agates and prehnite from the Tortworth Inlier and the iron mines around Iron Acton close to the M4 motorway. More recently, Hampstead Farm Quarry near Chipping Sodbury has attracted the attentions of collectors due to the occurrence of episodic cave-infill mineralisation in the Carboniferous Limestone. This talk will provide an overview of mineral occurrences in the County, illustrated with specimens from private and museum collections.

2.35 to 3.15 Calamine Mining on Mendip by Steve Plant, a research chemist. Calamine mining on Mendip dates back to the 16th Century. The talk will outline the calamine mining activities over its active period to the 19th Century and will describe the locations of and the zinc minerals found on the Mendip Hills.

Close at 3.20

Displays throughout the day featuring Mendips minerals.

Swaps and Give-away tables will be provided – please let me know if you would like a space allocated, they will be available from 9.30. To reserve a place please contact Chris Finch at chris@dunstanlodge.co.uk

Chris Finch