

Local History. A Study of mining in Cornwall

Vocabulary liked to Cornish mining:

adit	A tunnel into the hillside to give access to a mine.
bal maiden	A bal maiden, from the Cornish language bal, a mine, and the English "maiden", a young or unmarried woman, was a female manual labourer working above the mines.
beam engine	A type of steam engine used for pumping, winding and crushing.
borehole	A deep, narrow hole made in the ground.
croust	A term for 'food break' used Mid-Cornwall.
explosion	A violent shattering or blowing a part of something.
foundry	Metals are melted into and cast into shapes in a foundry.
fuse	The item that is lit to give time to retreat from the explosives.
Mine captain	The person in charge of a mine, some mines had a surface captain and an underground captain.
poll-pick	A miner's pick - one end is for hammering and the other end is for using as a pick.
wheel	A mine works or place of work
shaft	A vertical or near vertical tunnel to give access to a mine.



Mining in the past

What was it like to be a Cornish miner in the 18th and early 19th century? It was dangerous work and these are some of the ever-present dangers:

- 1.) The temperature was very high.
- 2.) Ventilation.
- 3.) Climbing ladders.
- 4.) Flooding from the sea.
- 5.) Rock fall.

Cornish miners spread their knowledge all over the globe.

Cornish miners went to California to mine for gold. They still celebrate St Piran's Day there.

Cornish Miners went to Mexico to mine for silver. They have a place called 'Little Cornwall' and make pasties called Paste which are spicy.

A festival called 'Kernewek Lowender' (Cornish Happiness) is held in Australia after the Cornish went with their expertise to mine in Australia.

How has mining changed the landscape in Cornwall?

Old engine houses, mining towns and large Houses with gardens are all part of how mining has change the landscape.

St Just is a mining town. Hayle was built up as it was a foundry and a port for coal in the past. Houses such as Godolphin were built with money made from mining.

Mining Today

China clay is still mined today in St Austell.

Toothpaste, paper, rubber and paint is made from China clay.

Mining in the future

Lithium is used in many modern day appliances such as mobile phones and it is used to make car batteries.

Lithium can be found in Cornwall. Companies are investing to see if they can extract lithium from the ground.

