

# JOURNAL OF THE



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### GOES ON THE WEB

The GOES website can be found at  
[www.goes.org.uk](http://www.goes.org.uk)

The Site is maintained by Steve Lea and updated on a regular basis - well worth a visit! Please pass on the site address to others who share our interest.

### EDITORIAL NOTE

As many of you will know, I have just taken over as Journal Editor from Alison Davies - a hard act to follow. So I offer this journal with some fear and trepidation, given the high quality that has gone before!

The Society expresses its thanks to Ali for her hard work as Editor over the past years.

The new Editor expresses his thanks to Ali for her patient help and especially for helping him realise that he can't even work his own computer!

Phil Barratt Oct 2002

## NEWS IN BRIEF :: NEWS IN BRIEF

### GOES CHRISTMAS DINNER - 29th NOVEMBER

The Christmas Dinner has been booked at the Kings Head for the last Friday in November - the 29th. We will meet at 7.30pm for 8pm. The cost of the meal will be £16.95 per head. A menu is enclosed with the journal and those who wish to attend need to return the tear off slip indicating their choice of meal. The slips, together with a cheque made payable to **GOES LTD** should be sent or given to Steve Lea by **Thursday 21st November** at the latest. (Steve's address is at the back of the Journal)

### GOES POLO SHIRTS

As many members already have GOES sweatshirts, it was suggested that we might look into the possibility of having some Polo Shirts made for the society. Phil Barratt has approached an embroidery firm in Heywood, near to his workplace and has had a small selection of samples made which have been modelled on Thursday nights by Tony & Ali Davies. After a general approval from those present we are now preparing order forms. The Polo Shirts will cost £9. They are in bottle green with a gold logo. The logo on both designs is embroidered. The order forms will be available from the end of November on Thursday nights and orders can be returned together with a cheque made payable to **GOES LTD** to Dennis Abbott. T-Shirts will be available in the spring as well priced only £8. If they are successful we will make up an order twice a year or when we have enough interest to put a new one through. If you haven't yet seen the samples please see Ali, Tony or Phil. Steve Lea still has a number of sweatshirts in stock priced £12.

### SOCIETY SUBSCRIPTIONS

You will probably know that your membership fee (currently £10 per member) provides each member with insurance for trips underground, aboveground, walks, working parties etc. This insurance cover is with The British Cave Research Association (BCRA) Committee. Members were shocked to learn from our Treasurer Dennis Abbot, that BCRA have increased the Insurance from just over £1 per member to £5 per member. This will inevitably mean a rise in subscriptions to enable GOES to meet the substantial rise in costs. The committee has not been able to meet before going to press, but will discuss the matter as soon as possible. Information will follow as soon as it is available.



## G.O.E.S. NEWS :: G.O.E.S. NEWS

### NEW GOES CHAIRMAN

At the AGM this year John Carpenter was elected our new chairman. Details for contacting John are given together with other committee members on the back cover. The Society wishes to express grateful thanks to Erik Sellors for his hard work as outgoing chairman.

### PROMOTIONAL WORK

Regular visitors to the GOES "watering hole", the Kings Head, will have seen the new permanent display which now resides in the restaurant area of the pub. This work has been ongoing for some time (see *Issue 1 2002*). A small group was formed to put the display together and manage the exhibition. The exhibition is in Welsh and English. It has been good to take those enquiring about the society to see the display and give them a feel for what our society does. We would like to express our gratitude to Steve, the landlord for allowing us to create this promotional space.

The first of our large display boards has now been completed and is now installed at the Visitors Centre at the Orme's summit. It is housed in the video room. Do call in and have a look if you are up there!

### NEW COMPUTER & PROJECTOR

GOES successfully applied for National Lottery funding under the *Awards for All Wales* Scheme in early August to purchase a society computer and projector. The research and application work was undertaken by Tony Davies. The formal handing over of the cheque for £5000 was performed by Gareth Jones A.M. on Mon 23rd September at the entrance to Pen Morfa. Members then adjourned to the Kings Head for a slide presentation by Steve Lea (*using Power Point for the computer buffs amongst you!*) with the new equipment.

The purpose of this new equipment will ultimately be for the collating and safe storage of GOES archives for the future. The projector, which will run through the computer system to provide professional presentations, will be used to promote the society by its members in the wider community. We may apply for some further funding for training. More information is available from Tony Davies or Steve Lea (details at the back).

**Picture Opposite:** Hilary resurfacing after her first underground trip in the Ty Gwyn mine. And still smiling ..... here's to the next trip Hilary!

### SUMMER WALKS

A full programme of walks was planned for this summer and were organised by Ali Davies & Sue Chapman. With a good write up each week in the North Wales Weekly News, the walks were very well attended and very much enjoyed. This year the programme was extended and covered four weeks more than in previous years.

Some informal discussions have taken place about the nature of GOES summer walks. There is, at times, a small tension between the informality of our walks and the feelings of a few members who might like them to be more structured. The consensus of opinion seems to be, that unlike many other local groups who organise guided walks, tours etc., the value of the more informal walks lies in the wealth of knowledge to be found amongst the members who attend. Such knowledge can then be shared in the group and discussed.

### KENDRICK'S CAVE

The last walk of the season took GOES to Kendrick's Cave which because of its private location had not previously been seen by many members. The owner, Professor Brian Wilson, took small groups into the lower cave through a Victorian entrance. After the short tour he and his family invited members around the grounds and into his home for drinks! A week later, at Prof. Wilson's invitation a small group visited the upper cave, which was found to be scattered with old beer cans in considerable number. Members are now exploring the possibility, with Professor Wilson and others, of helping to restore the top cave as a possible winter project and details will follow.

If members have ideas for future walks or indeed would like to lead an informal walk to a place of particular interest to them, please could they let Sue Chapman have details.



## WORK AT PORTH YR HELYG

During the investigations at Porth yr Helyg three stemple eyes were found in the cliff face above the known adit. The three eyes appeared to be in a line running from left to right at 45 degrees, which might indicate a stemple walk, but with nothing available to support the other side, some thoughts were of a roof construction or some form of lean to building. A trial excavation was started to see if more eyes continued across the cliff face. Several hours of digging revealed another 1500 mm of rock face in which more eyes can be seen. The additional eyes revealed show two vertical rows of eyes approximately a metre apart at 700 mm centres vertically with one at the top centrally. This is now looking like a shaft support system but further investigation needs to be done. **Steve Lea : September 2002**

## TYN Y FRON MEETS TY GWYN!

On Sunday the 15th September 2002 members set about testing the connection between the Tyn y Fron shaft and the end of the Ty Gwyn adit. This involved four members descending the Tyn y Fron shaft 275 feet to the main adit level. Communications were established by hand held radio's which worked up to 20 metres along the adit. A bridge constructed of steel poles and planking was lowered into the system and located across the portals to allow a walk in from the shaft and to ease the start of the SRT in the shaft. This operation completed, a time of 1 o'clock was agreed to test the connection. Another party now entered the Ty Gwyn Adit, clear sounds could be heard, which indicated the party in Tyn-y Fron were above that of Ty Gwyn, no voices were heard. The Tyn y Fron party now started an excavation at the end of the cross cut under the tram tracks. A void above was emptied of sloppy mud showing a 20 foot high chamber which appears to go down the other side of the blockage but no connection was made..

**Steve Lea September 2002**

## BRONZE HEADS, BELLS & A BRUTAL MURDER.

On Thursday evening, the 1<sup>st</sup> of August, it was decided GOES would enjoy another cultural outing. It may be remembered that last year GOES attended and enjoyed Dave Chapman's exhibition of his work in the Cambrian Gallery in Conwy.

Dave now has a studio in Rowen, and it was to this venue we went. The studio is based in Llangelynnin New Church, which was built at the beginning of the 19th Century, to succeed the then redundant early medieval parish church. The old Church was dedicated to St. Celynin, a sixth century Celtic saint, who was the son of Helig ab Glanog of Tyno Helig, whose territory was said to have been inundated, in the Irish Sea. The old church is located about 3 miles from the new church in the shelter of Tal y Fan, and had become isolated from the main settlements.

In 1980 the congregation in the new church had dwindled to such low numbers that St. Celynin's was closed and most of the internal trappings were removed, although several of the original pews have been retained. David bought the Church and part of the grounds in 2000, but the graveyard is still the property of the Church Commissioners.

There is a particularly interesting grave in the Church yard, which unfortunately we did not have time to investigate. In 1853 Jack Swan, a wandering itinerant labourer, shot Jesse Roberts, who was a pupil teacher in the British School, in order to steal his pocket watch. Jack Swan was hanged for the murder and his body buried in the prison yard in Caernarfon. Jesse Roberts was buried with his parents in St. Celynin's churchyard. 80 years later, when the old Caernarfon Prison was converted into the County Offices, the body of Jack Swan was disinterred and in the dead of night, was buried in Llanbeblig Church yard, with nothing to mark the spot. A gruesome little story.

One of my favourite pieces of sculpture on display was Heroic Heads 1 and 2. The two heads were adorned with botanical impressions.

The images were converted from actual plants, by a technical process which I would not know how to explain! The result was most effective.



*Picture : Heroic Heads 1 & 2*

The attendance on this trip was excellent – something like 20 people turned up, which included several little girls.

Whilst the adults enjoyed the sculpture and Dave's very interesting talk about all the aspects of his work, the children explored the graveyard, and were fascinated to discover that the old church bell was still in working order. Each little girl was allowed to pull the bell rope once, but when one junior campanologist turned up for a second go, permission was sternly withheld! Already the local residents may have wondered if World War three was about to commence.

Several of us were intrigued by what appeared to be an enormous head covered by a white sheet. We had hoped that Dave would uncover this concealed work before the evening ended. Sadly this was not to be, and it must remain a mystery.

Amongst other displays to be seen in the studio is a fine collection of bone, bronze and stone tools which Dave has recreated from prehistoric artefacts. He also showed us silicon moulds for making wax models, which is then worked in bronze.

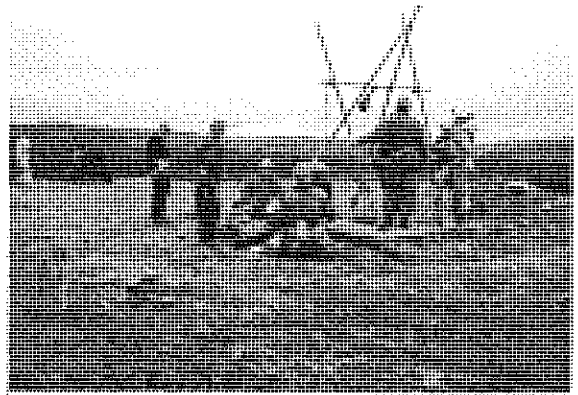
By the side of the Church is a hay meadow through which runs the River Henryd. Dave has plans to turn this into a field of wild flowers. Next spring, when the flowers are in bloom, this alone should make a return visit to Llangelynnin well worth while.

**Eve Parry - September 2002**

## OGOF LLYN PARC

On Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> August 2002 Society members were invited by North Wales Caving Club to visit Ogof Llyn Parc on Esclusham Mountain by Minera, Wrexham. The cave system is accessed via the Pool Parc Mine, which originally broke into the cave system. The arrangements to meet at 9:30 for a 10 o'clock start lead to an early start for all concerned. I had only reached Ruthin, when a telephone message confirmed that the rest of the party were already on site gearing up for the day. On arriving, parking is a matter looking for clear ground along side the road, which lead to cars being spread along half a mile of road surrounding the Pool Parc area.

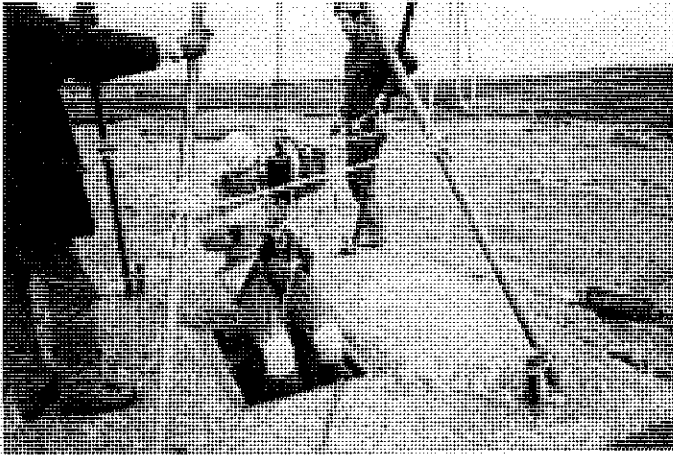
The winch head could be clearly seen across the area with the steady beat of the engine clearly heard. We now busied ourselves to change and join the others who were mostly ready to go. Not knowing what we would be doing that day, it was agreed to take all equipment with us, this was soon altered when Nigel Nix one of our leaders



explained that only a sit harness, krab and cowstails were necessary. I had been advised earlier that there was no need for wet suites for this trip, which had been passed on to all of us attending, but two members still decided that it is safer in rubber, a personnel choice, but I must admit to using wet socks, which always help with cold feet.

Now with the party gathered around the winch head, Tony King explained the winching technique and safety issues. The first party leader was made ready, being attached to the bottom of the steel weight (with a safety line above) directly to the winch cable above, and then lowered through the access cover and down into the shaft, which is lined for the first 60 feet then enters into solid rock for the next 240 feet. After approximately five minutes the shaft telephone rang confirming that the leader had arrived and was ready for the next man down. Glyn Davies decided to go first for us and was soon being winched down the shaft. The same procedure followed for the next 1½ hours as slowly each of us in turn were lowered into the shaft. The ride down the shaft while effortless was slightly un-nerving as no control was available just gently fending of the walls, which are only 4 feet apart. The throb of the engine is felt via the cable which can jam over tightened krabs.

Upon reaching the blockage in the shaft at 300 foot level, which is marked with a plank to land on bordered by deep looking cold water, we next walked along a mine passage passing through two small crawls, until we reached a series of steel ladders which took us down another 100 feet, this connected with another mine passage, now filled with thigh deep water back to the shaft. A crawl between large boulders held apart with steel bars involving turning and twisting in all directions lead to the unmistakable sound of running water rushing and crashing around in the passage in front of us.



After entering the Miners River Passage our guide pointed out the names of many of the miners written on the mud on the ceiling, most in traditional flowing script handwriting. Now turning down stream we followed the water over various boulders heading towards The Swallow where we departed from the water heading up into the dry passageways.

A series of passages some wide and low others over 30 feet tall lead us on a circular tour taking in various of the natural features and delights of the system.

Meeting back with some of the other parties it was agreed to start out to allow time between the various parties for the return winch trip. Reaching the breakthrough our leader was keen to show us The Quarry area, but only two of our party wished to do more, one member decided that lying in the stream was

more important, the benefits of the wet suit he was wearing had by now worn off as he slowly steamed after the physical exertion of a quick trip along the Miners River Passage. After climbing the ladders back to the shaft base, turns were taken for a lift back to surface. While the shaft was wet at this lower level this soon gave way to dry lift back to surface. Care had to be taken with any out cropping rocks or passages, as the winch is always moving.

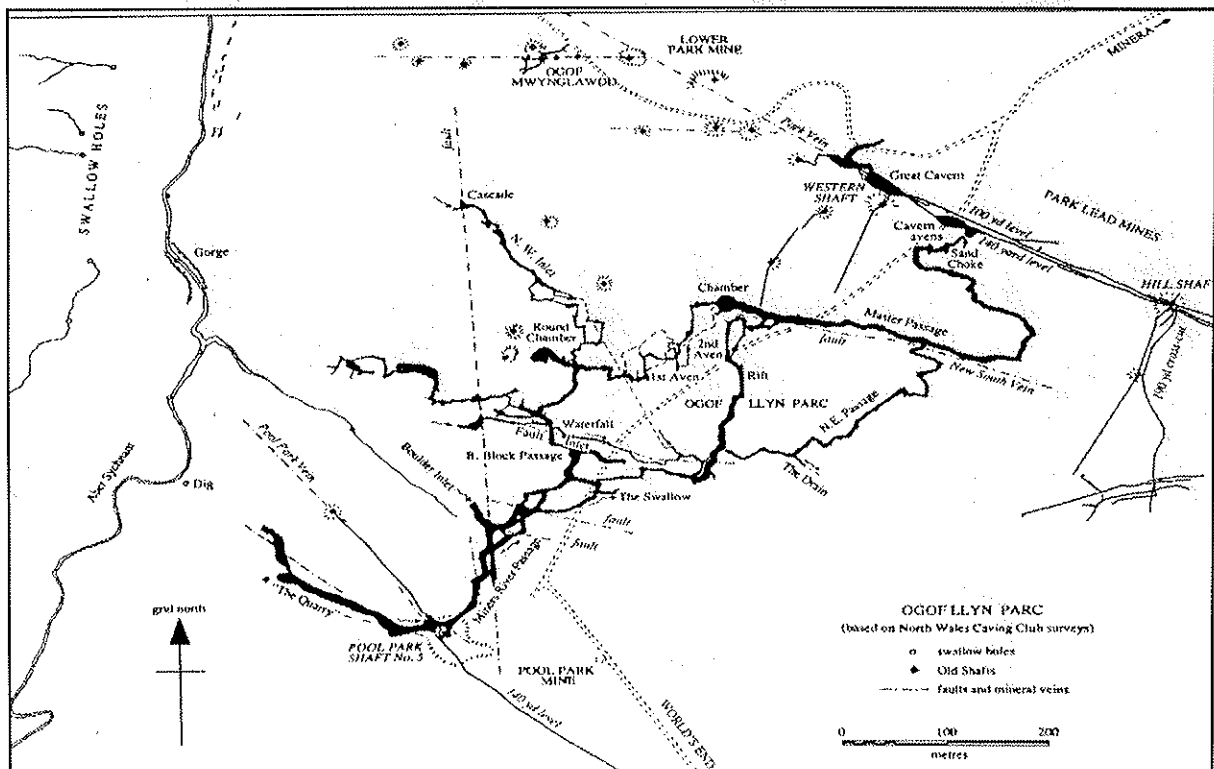
As we appeared on the surface with words of thanks and mutterings of "that's better than SRT" each of us disappeared in different direction to change and talk over the days fun. The weather had now started to closing in, which encouraged the early arrivals to set off of home. The last men up Dave and Brian offered to assist with the de-rigging of the system, which was surely welcomed by our hosts, who had sat all day with the winch on surface.

Thanks to North Wales Caving Club again for a great days caving.

**Stephen J Lea: September 2002**

*Picture top left shows the start of a descent*

*Picture below shows the Plan of Ogof Llyn Parc*



## ALIENS HIT THE TY GWYN!

Once upon a time on the great planet Willaston, many miles away in a solar system not yet known to man, lived Dr What. He was a gifted man with computers, and imparted his knowledge to his followers. Joyce and Dennis in particular, were amazed by his skills.

One day whilst surfing the Willaston Wide Web, he stumbled upon a Web Site on a planet called earth, <http://www.goes.org.uk>. Fascinated he called all his followers together for a council meeting.

Dennis, whilst being totally computer illiterate was a commander in the federation of Inter-Galactic Space Orientation, and was asked by Dr What to find planet Earth, and in particular, the Great Orme at Llandudno, as he wished to visit the Ty Gwyn mine.

This was done in a trice, and a further council meeting was hastily arranged. It was agreed that four representatives from the Willaston should visit the Great Orme, and request permission to explore the Ty Gwyn mine.

So it came to pass one Sunday morning in August, over the skies of Llandudno, whilst not obvious to the naked eye, Commander Dennis guided his IGSM, Arfurcar, better known as Time And Relative Dimensions In Space, to a perfect landing somewhere in Church Walks.

It was an overcast, rainy day. Llandudno was not looking it's best as we made our way to the prom hotly in pursuit of a very tall earthling, and one, somewhat rotund wearing a silly hat.

We were met and welcomed by a number of people, all dressed up as though they had just come back from a miners fancy dress party the night before, it was as though they had known us; or of us for many years. Oh! How we laughed as someone said we are going down that hole in the ground, and not to worry as we had a vicar and an undertaker in the club, who were on call out!

After a most enjoyable experience which lasted some two hours, I asked Dr What for his opinion as we must report back to the council, in full meeting on planet Willaston on our return.

Dr What said, "If you really want to meet new people, there are probably few better ways to do it than to stand around on a wet autumnal Sunday morning in Llandudno. Locals and visitors alike seem to have all studied at the Hercule Poirot school of detection, and will soon be asking all kinds of questions (possibly this is because there's not too much else to do on a wet autumnal Sunday morning in Llandudno!)

Inquisitiveness went into overdrive as the lid came off an innocent looking manhole, and by the time we had donned our 'uniform' of boiler suit, wellies (green or otherwise), helmet and miners' lamp the assembled throng

was almost fainting with excitement.

Of course, there is always a downside to public acclaim, and the lady, talking to my (very trim) wife, looked at the narrow manhole, eyed me critically and said, 'and is he going down as well' – very hurtful, especially as (doing my best to impress) I was breathing in at the time!

Once down the hole (for safety reasons, poor Phil had to stand at the top for the whole of our sojourn) we had to wade through the only part of the mine with any appreciable water penetration, and with the tremendous help and assistance from our intrepid guides we carried on.... and on....and on.... For over two hours we waded, then walked, then crouched and finally crawled through a series of progressively improbable nooks, crannies and tunnels, gaping with astonishment at some of the sights.

It was tremendous (for all except an increasingly damp Phil) – we had gone into a time warp, seen things lost to generations and lived to tell the tale. The mines are extremely well preserved, with even the footprints of long dead miners visible at some points. They are a geologist's paradise, and few modern-day builders could hope to emulate the precision with which arches and wells were constructed, often with the most rudimentary tools and materials.

No ghosts were seen, but if those walls could have spoken there would certainly have been some interesting tales.

Our day of the unexpected continued when Dennis bought a round of drinks at the Kings Head – or was that merely a trick of the memory....."

Was it a trick?, Or wasn't it, we shall never know as now the story ends. Dr What, Joyce, Commander Dennis and assistant Muriel never returned to that planet many miles away, in fact What and Joyce went to Chester and Dennis and Muriel to Deganwy.

To remind you that perhaps this is not a story after all, when you next venture down Church Walks to the prom, on your left near a hotel and the rear gate to Phil's house, you will see the remains of a TARDIS (Time and relative Dimension in Space). Yes in other words, commander Denis's Arfurcar all the way from Planet Willaston.

*(By Denis Abbot : Intrepid Space Traveller)*

## THE MINES ON THE GREAT ORME

Two articles found in the Llandudno Collegiate School Magazine and re-printed by the Llandudno Advertiser in January 1893

"We take the liberty of printing the following chatty little article from the Llandudno Collegiate School Magazine :-

Now of the many, many thousands, who, year by year, pay a visit to Llandudno, few have any idea of the extensive mining operations that were formally carried on here, although the unsightly gaps and unnatural caves that meet their gaze everywhere must make them painfully conscious of the fact that the 'Boring' fiend is about somewhere. Yet there were and still are Copper mines of vast extent in Llandudno (only inferior in wealth to the mines of gold that every season brings to its inhabitants, existent certainly, but not get-at-able).

Altogether three mines have been opened - the New Mine, towards Conway shore side, the Old Mine near the centre, and the Tygwyn Mine on the Happy Valley side of town, the ore found is then being of two different kinds, known as red and black copper.

There were two entrances to this New Mine, one through a tunnel near the Conway Shore, and the other by a shaft on the mountain close to an old smithy, and not far from the engine house, the foundations of which are still to be seen. The tunnel, about a half mile in length, opened out considerably at the end, and formed a main gallery for the numerous cuttings that branched off in all directions. From these the ore was brought in wagons to the main entrance at Pen Morfa, where dozens of young men and women were employed, at what were called the 'washing floors' their duty being to separate the ore from the stones and prepare it for trans-shipment to Amluch (Anglesea) or Woodend, where it was smelted.

The Old Mine, which was connected with the above, was entered exclusively from the top by three deep shafts, one of which was sunk considerably below the level of the sea. In this case the ore was raised to the surface by means of a very powerful engine laid down close to Maes Y Facrell (the field of Mackerel), and was then put through the same process as the other, previous to exportation. The quality of it was very superior, as will be judged from the fact that it unusually fetched from £25 to £30 per ton in its natural state, and though the quantity was limited, many thousands of pounds accrued to the owners before it was necessary to stop the working owing to scarcity of ore.

There are several interesting features connected with the workings of these mines that are worthy of

mentioning, and not least is this, that when boring the miners came across many old cuttings, that had evidently not been worked for hundreds of years, as hammers of stone and heads of brass were amongst the curiosities found therein. Sometimes, too, a discovery, which with the fact that no entrance had been found without that led to these cuttings, tended to the belief, that it was at some very remote period that this copper mining first began.

There was also this peculiarity noticed in the direction of the different strata of which the Orme is composed, namely - that they were all considerably lower towards the outside, suggesting volcanic action at some time or other. Whilst boring in a certain direction, the miners invariably came across a fault, causing them to come to the conclusion that the mountain was divided into two sections, one of which was from ten to fifteen feet below the other. One more discovery is worth noting, and that was a natural cave formed of pillars apparently similar in formation to the bacon stones now found near the lighthouse, and evidently caused by the dripping of water from above, the whole being of different hues according to the various strata through which the water had passed. This seems for a time to have been preserved and thrown open for the inspection of visitors, who in the infant days of this popular resort, used to visit these coasts, but as the mining proceeded, it was found necessary to break it up, the material being scattered in different directions."

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### The Great Orme The Mines

It was not until the other two mines, of which we had a short sketch in our last number, had been exhausted, that the attention was directed to the town and of the mountain, which had hitherto been left intact. Boring was commenced, and a shaft was driven at the back of the present site of the Belmont, in North Parade, and running parallel to Church Walks. The effort was successful, the yield been very good, and the mining was carried on for a considerable time before water was reached, and it was found necessary to commence pumping. Then an engine was set up near Bella Vista, in Church Walks, and a new shaft was commenced in the rocks below the Pier Gate, near the Happy Valley, to meet the other workings further in the mountain.

This also paid for the trouble and expense, and there was every prospect of a large and continuous supply of good ore, when the water, which had not hitherto been of sufficient consequence to impede the workings, began to cause some trouble and make it necessary for the proprietors to procure another pumping engine. This one, of larger