

## **PERRAN-AR-WORTHAL LOCAL HISTORY GROUP**

On Friday 10<sup>th</sup> November Phil Allen gave an interesting talk on Feock's historical heritage and explained how they disseminated information about the interesting historical locations within the parish through a series of walks called the Feock Trails.

Phil told us that Feock Parish has a fascinating history. Within the parish there are several bronze age tumuli, an Iron age fort, ancient trade routes and pathways and the old Redruth and Chacewater railway route with its extension to Point. Devoran, Carnon Mine and the area along the creek are part of the Cornish Mining World Heritage site recognised as significant by UNESCO showing the remains of the mining industry in the area. We know that gold from the Carnon Valley was used in the Bronze age 'Nebra Sky Disc' recently found near Leipzig in Germany showing very early trade in minerals from this area. Much later trade with the rest of the world was helped by the shipbuilding industry locally. The 'Rhoda Mary', a three masted cargo schooner renowned for its speed was built in Carnon Yard in 1868. Point tin mine and the smelting works at Penpol in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century formed a busy industrial landscape. All these activities provided the wealth for estates such as Carclew and Tregye and families such as the Daniells of Treslissick.

After the collapse of tin mining, the area was left with derelict mines and docks, apparently giving rise to a local saying "As dead as Devoran Docks" This relict industrial landscape with its old railway lines and tramways was then able to be used again for leisure with the development of walking and cycling trails. The area also contains a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) for its tidal mudflats and saltmarsh habitats, supporting large number of birds including Black tailed Godwit.

As a Parish Councillor, Phil explained that there was a commitment in the Local Development Plan for Feock to develop and improve local footpaths and make them of greater interest to the public. He compiled the Feock trails to both promote their use and encourage a greater appreciation of the history and heritage of the parish. The Feock trails are self guided walks along local footpaths using the published leaflets, but information is also available by using interactive QR codes and via the parish council website ([www.feockparishcouncil.co.uk](http://www.feockparishcouncil.co.uk)) which has links to more detailed information. Phil also explained how they successfully applied for heritage lottery funding which was used to publish the leaflets and also to renovate St Feock's well.

Phil was thanked for a very interesting talk which also provided our own group with some thought provoking ideas, and for his hard work on the Feock Trails which we can all access to learn more about the history of the Feock area.