

ST AUSTELL BUILDING STONES – 6 JULY 2010 Notes

Assemble 6pm railway station.

De lank granite used in recent scheme to improve the bus and rail stations. Admire view over town. Different types of granitic stone.

Discovery map & 50 carfree walks, especially the town trails: www.staustellmap.co.uk how many used public transport?

These notes on: www.cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk click on geology, then granites.

Cross road to old cemetery. Note De lank granite used in recent 'Civic Pride' initiative. Many slate tombstones – Delabole or Carnglaze.

Cross road to view massive wall supporting old goods yard, granite does not look local – did GWR bring it from their rail connected Carn Brea quarry at Redruth or one of the quarries near Princetown, such as Foggintor?

Quaker Society of Friends Meeting House Joan Towle 1820 Pentewan-type Stone. Explain what an elvan is, not to be confused with 'blue elvan'. Elvans not found outside Cornwall. Reddish tinges suggest may not be Pentewan, but Hewas Water or similar.

Graham & Graham offices Local granite, possibly from Carn Grey.

Bishop Colenso of Natal born next door.

Post Office – granite, but does not look like one of our local granites, maybe Carnmenellis.

No 1 High Cross Street Pentewan elvan, but elvan used in side wall

may be a 'cut-price' elvan? Pillars of Plymouth limestone. Plinth of granite.

Red-brick bank. 1898 Terracotta brick from Ruabon in North Wales. Etruria Marl (Late Carboniferous). Henry Dennis from Bodmin built up large terracotta works at Ruabon. He was a friend of Silvanus Trevail the famous 19th C Cornish architect. White Hart Hotel Early 19th C. Town House of Charles Rashleigh. Mainly Pentewan elvan, some granite.

Kerbstones Church Street – explain difference between Luxulyan granite (coarse grained) and Carn Grey granite (finer grained with phenocrysts of feldspar and biotite).

Holy Trinity 13th C exterior – exterior of east end. The Church of Bishop Bronescombe. The oldest building we will see. ‘Minestone’ probably from tin streaming operations in St Austell river valley. Great diversity of rock types.

Mengu Stone at foot of tower Schorl rock. Meeting point of Tewington (south, towards Pentewan), Trenance (NW) and Treverbyn (NE).

**Tower and 15th C Church. Pentewan stone
Top: God the Father with son on the Cross.
Middle: Angel Gabriel (left) and the Virgin (right), with lilies in between.
Bottom: Centre is Risen Christ, right is either Bishop Bronescombe (1259) or St Mewan (A.L.Rowse), left is St Austell.**

**12 Apostles on other 3 sides of tower (4 on each side).
Note how fresh the carving still is after 500 years of weathering – unlike the Cathedral, whose stone is having to be replaced after only 100 years.**

War Memorial – Luxulyan granite

Holy Trinity – interior

Baptistry Font (Norman) Pentewan Stone. Earliest use of Pentewan Stone is Dark Age inscribed stone in St Cuby, Tregony.

Floor tiles (1920s) De Lank granite, polished Tremore elvan and others. Tremore used in Place at Fowey and Osborne House, I.O.W.

Pillars in nave, etc. Pentewan Stone.

Arches in Chancel Basic igneous rock. ALR says Catacluse, but we have our own equivalent at Tregongeeves, Molingey, ec. Slightly weathered.

Remind people to put something in the upkeep box.

Market House

Built 1844. Granite looks like Carn Grey. Very sound, so probably from well below surface. Note cornice, string course and reticulated decoration.

Market Hill: fine arch in Pentewan Stone.

North Street: Slate used in former interior wall, from well excavated in centre of Market House?

Biddick's Court

Oak, Alder and Hazel carvings in Civic Pride De Lank granite, former vegetation in prehistoric times, following the great thaw after the last Ice Age.

Much Carn Grey granite and some St Stephen's granite.

Also much De Lank granite in Civic Pride initiative.

Descend to Fore Street

Liberal Club, 1890 Another Silvanus Trevail Building – good Luxulyan granite around arched entrance.

St John's Methodist Church. 1828 restored by Silvanus Trevail in 1892. Fine front ashlar façade of Pentewan Stone, sides of rubble granite masonry. Above entrance, at top of façade, is some granite, looks like St Stephen's Stone.

St Austell Public Rooms, Truro Road 1896 Silvanus Trevail again. Much use of dark coloured greenstone, probably from Tregongeeves, Molingey etc. 'Blue elvan' of quarrymen. Difficult to work stone. Also used in houses at south end of Pondhu Road.

Baptist Church, West Hill. Beautiful front façade of pink Tremore elvan (unpolished) with quoins etc. of St Stephen's Stone.

Freemason's Hall Dark coloured greenstone

Old House plinth Local granite

Moorland Road, bottom of South Street. 1897-1900 Housing designed by Trevail using an elvan, definitely not Pentewan, probably one of the Carnmenellis elvans such as Nancevallen, etc. Not visited.