

South Crofty - will it come right this time?

The headline in the Telegraph Business pages (Sunday, 31st July 2017) said: "From Poldark to present day: Cornish mining finds new seam".

The article referred to the new owners of the South Crofty mine, Canadian company Strongbow Exploration Inc, who are talking about a £120m investment to get the flooded mine operational again.

Efforts by another company a few years ago foundered when the price of tin fell. But Strongbow bought the mine out of administration in 2016, confident that the price of tin would not fall below its then current price of £15.2K per ton. Apparently no new mines are opening anywhere in the world, and tin is now mostly used as lead-free solder in electronics, as well as in chemical production.

See previous articles on South Crofty (links below).

The Daily Telegraph article reported that: South Crofty's official mine life is eight years if mined at 1,000 tons a day. Strongbow believes there are far greater reserves deep down. The mine is vast, with some tunnels running out 2.5 miles at depths which can reach 3,280 feet. The South Crofty resources are the third highest grade of any tin mine, behind only those of the Congo and Peru, in the world.

The mine is flooded below a depth of 197ft; and that will need pumping out. There is a large reserve of lithium in the mine water and rights have been let for its extraction. The mineral is a key ingredient in batteries and should be in high demand as more and more electric vehicles come onto the roads.

Strongbow estimates that there should be 300 local jobs in the mine once the mine gets operational.

The Strongbow website (<http://www.strongbowexploration.com/s/SouthCrofty.asp>) says: "There has been tin mining in Cornwall since at least 2,300 BC. The South Crofty Project commenced large scale production in the mid 17th century. The mine managed to continue operations until it shut down in 1998 following the tin price collapse of 1984."

Links to previous articles on South Crofty in *The Pewterer*:

<http://www.thepewterer.org.uk/home/the-pewterer-volume-3-2>

<http://www.thepewterer.org.uk/home/the-pewterer-volume-3-3>

<http://www.thepewterer.org.uk/home/the-pewterer-volume-4-2>

<http://www.thepewterer.org.uk/the-pewterer-vol-4-3>

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