



The SA Gem and Mineral Club

Associated Member of F.O.S.A.G.A.M.S.

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NEWSLETTER - AUGUST 2013

LAST CLUB MEETING : 25th July 2013. 14 members attended, there were no visitors this month. Owing to a glitch with the Hospital authorities, the room had not been prepared in our usual cinema style. Instead, the tables had been set out in a circle with chairs around the outside. However, all agreed after-



Jenny Reuter, our Treasurer Donaé Stone, and our incomparable "Tea Lady" Fiona Cilliers waiting for the film to start



Interesting pendant, made from a variety of stones from different rings

wards that this was a far better format, which led to more interaction between members, and more conversation, and generally a much less formal atmosphere. Gill will arrange for the same format in future.

Colin welcomed everyone to the meeting, saying that it was nice to see so many members present. After a preliminary chat a video from the NMMU collection was shown, "The Restless Planet", which was interesting in that much of the ground covered therein tied in with other videos recently seen by the club. The stones for the month were Ruby and Carnelian and anything yellow and, as always, there were some interesting and beautiful exam-



Citrine earrings

ples of all on display.. Members spent some time looking at the items on show, much lively conversation ensued, and the meeting was generally agreed to be very enjoyable. The usual tea and cake rounded off a pleasant evening.

NEXT CLUB MEETING : Will be at 7.30 on Thursday the 29th August 2013, at the St George's Hospital Training Centre, Park Drive. Stones of the month are Peridot and Aventurine, members are asked to bring any examples of either or both of these, and any other items which they think would be of interest, preferably something we haven't seen before or else not for a long time!

We will be showing another of the NMMU's videos, not sure which one at present as we still have to vet the ones we have borrowed and make sure they are suitable. If any members have any videos or DVDs pertaining to gemstones or any other related topic, it would be nice to share them with the rest of the club.

ADVANCE NOTICE - NEXT MONTH : Prof Russell Shone will be coming to give a talk on a topic to be chosen by himself.

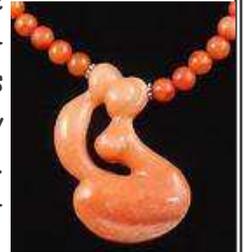
THE END OF AN ERA The late Norman Brittle's partner, Arthur Jackson, passed away on Saturday the 10th August, just over 2 weeks after his 81st birthday. The Club's condolences have been extended to Keith Redman, Arthur's nephew and only next-of-kin.



AVENTURINE

Aventurine is a semi-translucent to mostly opaque stone with mica flecks. which comes in silvery, yellow, reddish brown, greenish-brown, bluish green and orange. It contains inclusions of small crystals that reflect light and give a range of colors - depending on the nature of the inclusion. Aventurine is composed of two gem minerals, one is a plagioclase feldspar and the other is quartz . Both have a sparkling reflection from oriented minute inclusions of mica or haematite, which cause a slight metallic iridescence.

This is an easy identifying factor often called *aventurescence*. Aventurine derives its name from Italian - *per avventura* - by chance. Aventurine is the anniversary gemstone for the 8th year of marriage. Translucent aventurine often fades in the sun, therefore aventurine jewellery is better kept in a dark place. For many centuries aventurine has been used for jewelry, candelabra, girandoles, pipes, vases and bowls (sometimes very large), and for other ornamental objects. . It is a very charming inexpensive stone. There was a custom of assigning various Masculine and Feminine Saints with a particular gem for use in talismans. The name Andrew or Andre (i.e. patron Saint Andrew) is associated with Aventurine. According to mythology, this stone is most suited for those born under the zodiac sign Aries, Taurus, Pisces, Sagittarius, Capricorn and Libra and should be preferably be worn on over the heart or at the throat for best results. Aventurine is the anniversary gemstone for the 8th year of marriage.



*Carved
aventurine
pendant*

PERIDOT

Peridot is a wonderful gemstone that is very popular for its olive green hue. In fact, although its gemstone name is Peridot, the mineral from which it comes from is called Olivine. Olivine is mineral that usually contains many elements including most of all magnesium, some iron, silica rock or stone and oxygen Usually Peridot is found in rocks that are high in iron or magnesium and is one of the few gemstones that occur in only one colour. The intensity and tint of the green, however, depends on how much iron is contained in the crystal structure, so the color of individual peridot gems can vary from yellow- to olive- to brownish-



Peridot gemstone

green. The most valued color is a dark olive-green.



Slice of Fukang Rock with sun behind

Peridot is the only gemstone found in meteorites, namely Pallasite meteorites which are comparatively rare and extremely interesting. Meteorites are rocks that have fallen to Earth from space. They are the remains of long-dead planets and asteroids; many or most are believed to originate in the asteroid belt between Mars and Jupiter.. Pallasites are spectacularly beautiful meteorites made largely of millimeter-to-centimeter-sized crystals of olivine, metallic iron-nickel (Fe-Ni), and troilite (FeS). About 90-95% of the 85 known pallasites, which comprise the main group, have similar compositions and probably come from a single body. The remainder are probably derived from five or six additional asteroids. Since most pallasites are composed of angular fragments of olivine embedded in iron-nickel, it is widely believed that impacts mixed olivine fragments from the mantle with molten metal from the core. One of the largest known such meteorites is the Fukang Rock which was discovered in 2000 in the Gobi Desert in China, and weighs as much as a small car. It has been cut into slices which give the effect of stained glass when the sun shines through, as in this picture.