



The S A Gem and Mineral Club

Associated Member of **FOSAGAMS**
13 Bathurst Crescent, Taybank, PE South Africa, 6025

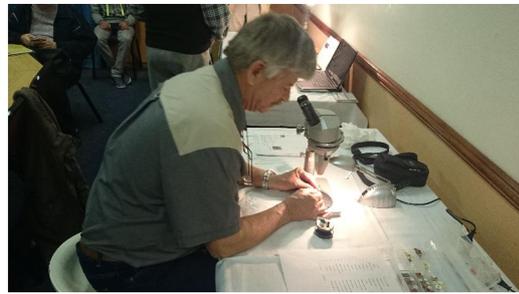
Chairman: Reinhardt van Vuuren: Cell : 0742408053 sagemclubpe@gmail.com

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Phone calls preferably after 17:00 weekdays

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LAST CLUB MEETING Thursday 31st July 2014 at the Conference Room, St Saviour's Church Hall, Cnr Villiers Road and 1st Avenue Walmer at 7:30pm. There was a total of 11 members present and 1 visitor. Reinhardt welcomed everyone to the meeting and informed everyone of the workshop moving to new premises in Sydenham towards the end of August beginning September 2014. Reinhardt also shared about his trip with Johan van Biljon's to Maitlands Mine on 26th August and explained that it would not be feasible and that the mines are unsafe. After which the floor was open to Johan van Biljon who gave a brief introduction to micro mounts. He then invited the members to come and view some of the micro mounts through his microscopes that he had set up. This was a new aspect to most of our club members who found it most interesting and very beautiful might I add.



The members then spent some time looking at some items of ruby and other red stones on the display table as well as a display of micro mounts. Thank you Gill Towers for tea, coffee and cake.



NEXT MEETING : 28th August 2014, at the Conference Room, St Saviour's Church Hall, Cnr Villiers Road and 1st Avenue, Walmer, at 7:30pm. Members are urged to attend. The birthstones for August are Peridot, Sardonyx and Diamond and members are asked to bring specimens of these, or any other item of interest.

Peridot is a gem-quality variety of Olivine. It belongs to the Forsterite-Fayalite mineral series. Peridot is an idiochromatic gem, meaning its colour comes from the basic chemical composition of the mineral itself and not from minor traces of impurities. Thus, Peridot is found only in green. In fact, Peridot is one of the few gemstones available that can be found only in one colour, although the shades of green may vary from light yellowish to dark brownish-green.



The name 'Peridot' was derived from the Arabic word for gem - 'faridat'. It is sometimes referred to as 'the poor man's Emerald' or as 'Chrysolite', a word derived from the Greek word 'goldstone'. It is one of the oldest known gemstones, with records dating back as early as 1500 B.C. Historically, the volcanic island of Zabargad (St. John) in the Red Sea, east of Egypt, had the most important deposit that was exploited for over 3500 years. Today, the finest quality Peridot comes from Mogok in Burma, although Pakistani peridot is now highly regarded as well. There are other very important deposits found in Arizona, China and Vietnam. Peridot has also been discovered in fallen meteors and it has also been discovered on Mars and the Moon in Olivine form.



Identifying Peridot

Chemically, Peridot is an iron magnesium silicate and its intensity of colour depends on the amount of iron it contains. There may also be traces of nickel and chromium present. Peridot is not especially hard and it has no resistance to acid. On very rare occasions, Peridot is known to form with cat's eye chatoyancy (asterism) in the form of four ray stars. Peridot can be mistaken for similar coloured gems, but its strong double refraction is often a very distinguishing trait. In thicker stones, the doubling of lower facet edges can be easily seen by looking down through the table without the need for magnification.



Most gemstones are formed in earth's crust, but Peridot is formed much deeper in the mantle region. Peridot crystals form in magma from the upper mantle and are brought to the surface by tectonic or volcanic activity where they are found in extrusive igneous rocks. Historically the volcanic island Zabargad (St. John) in the Red Sea was the location of the most important deposit. It was exploited for 3500 years before it was abandoned for many centuries; later, it was rediscovered around 1900 and has been heavily exploited ever since.

