



THE ARTS
SOCIETY
TRAILS OF
DISCOVERY

REDRUTH

Trail for Children

Start point is outside the Civic Centre (Library) in Alma Place. This is a trail for children with adults which will take 30-45 minutes to complete.

You can read the 'More Information' while on your walk or you could scroll down to 'Continue' each time and leave these sections until later.



When you come out of the library you need to carefully cross over the road. You are then going to go to the right and up the hill. Before you do look back at the library window. You will see the words **KRESENN KERNOW**. KRESENN is sometimes spelt with one N and means building or centre in the old Cornish language. KERNOW is Cornish for CORNWALL, so together the words mean CORNWALL CENTRE or CORNWALL BUILDING.

More information about the new Archive Centre in Redruth, Kresen Kernow.

- ◆ The new Kresen Kernow building opened in 2019, cost 18 million pounds to build and can be found on the edge of the town near Tesco's.
- ◆ It houses the world's largest collection of documents, maps, photographs, prints, drawings and other materials related to Cornwall's history.
- ◆ Here you can find one and a half million treasured archives, most of them kept in a state-of-the-art strong room, on fourteen and a half miles of shelving.
- ◆ Upstairs there is a library of Cornish books and a room for carrying out research and downstairs various exhibitions and a café.

When you walk up the hill you will come to a **Large Post Box** outside of the Redruth Sorting Office on your left. The letters written on the box are E II R with a crown above.



The letters stand for our Queen and they mean Elizabeth the second Regina (Queen of Great Britain) There are two slots for letters, one for post with stamps on and one for franked letters.

More information about Queen Elizabeth's reign



◆ E II R is called a monogram and it means Elizabeth the second, Queen, the R standing for the word Regina which is Latin for Queen. The first Elizabeth to be Queen, that is Elizabeth I was Queen from 1558 to 1603.

◆ When Prince Charles becomes King, he can choose to keep the name Charles or he can choose another name. If he keeps the name Charles his monogram will be C III R, or Charles III, King. This time although the letter R is still used, it is standing for the word Rex which is the Latin for King.

Look across the road to Redruth Station.



Next to the word Redruth you will see this:



If you see this **British Railways Logo** on street signs there will be a station nearby.

More information about the logo.

- ◆ The British Railways logo represents two tracks and a set of points.
- ◆ A set of points is found where two railway tracks meet and these points can be moved.
- ◆ If they are set to 'normal,' the train will go straight ahead, but if they are set to reverse, then the train will go on another line to the right or the left.
- ◆ Gerry Barney, the designer of the logo was only 21 when he came up with the idea.
- ◆ His idea was chosen as best in a competition with 50 other competitors.

When you get to the top of the hill and before you turn left to go down Fore Street, look across at the very large building in front of you.



This was **Redruth Wesley Chapel** which later became Redruth Methodist Church. When full it held 1500 people.

More information about John and Charles Wesley.

- ◆ John and Charles Wesley were preachers who first came to Cornwall in 1743.
- ◆ There was always a large congregation of people present to hear them speak.
- ◆ One time when they preached at Gwennap Pit, there were ten thousand people present.



- ◆ The people who followed their preaching built their own churches or chapels to worship.

- ◆ Many Cornish chapels were built by farmers, fishermen and miners and altogether over 700 were built.
- ◆ The people who followed the Wesley preaching were known as Methodists.
- ◆ In the early days, before schools were built, Methodists set up societies to educate both adults and children and they also helped people who were having a bad time in life.

You should now have turned left and be going down Fore Street.

Walk down the road until you come to the Post Office on your left. Look across to The Red Lion Inn and next to it you will see a red box, which is a **Telephone Kiosk**. This dates back to 1935.



Think about why people went inside a telephone kiosk to make a phone call?

More information about the K6 telephone kiosk.

- ◆ The Red Telephone Kiosk that you have seen in Redruth was designed by Sir Giles Gilbert Scott in 1935. Around sixty thousand of this design were installed around Britain and some eleven thousand remain.
- ◆ They were made specially to commemorate the silver jubilee of King George the fifth and are known as K6 telephone boxes (five different designs were made before this one).
- ◆ The insides are black and chrome.
- ◆ The outsides are made of cast iron and the doors made of teak wood.

◆ Above the glass at the front there is a crown to represent The British Government.

◆ The Redruth K6 stands outside what was The London Inn, which is to be turned into a shop and flats.



◆ It is going to be repaired and made to look like new again and it may then be fitted with a defibrillator (if you don't know what this is you could look it up).

You now need to walk down further until you come to a point where the road goes off to the left.

This is where you carefully cross

over the road making sure that you look for any traffic coming from your left along this one - way street.



As you cross over you will see the statue of a miner.

When you look up at the **Statue of a Miner** you can

see that in his right hand he holds a pick to hack out the tin or copper ore in the mine.

In his left hand there is a bar or ingot of tin or copper and around his neck are six candles to give him light in the darkness underground. There is another candle in the metal hat that he is wearing.

More information about the statue of the miner.

- ◆ This statue was erected in 2008 in memory of the thousands of miners who worked down the mines in the Redruth area.
- ◆ His hat, known as a bump hat, would have been made of felt hardened with resin.

◆ On the top of his hat is another candle which would have been kept in place with a lump of clay and this one would have been lit to show him the way in the darkness.



◆ The candles were made from tallow, which is beef and mutton fat. They burnt with a very unpleasant smell and gave off a lot of smoke.

◆ Between 1841 and 1902, when many copper and tin mines closed because they were no longer profitable, thousands of miners left Cornwall and took their mining skills to Arizona and Michigan in America and to Mexico, Australia and South Africa.

Right next to the miner is the clock tower.

Back in the 1700's there was a wooden tower here. This was replaced with a stone Clock Tower in 1828.

Find a round black plaque on the wall of the tower and read what is on it.

More information about the Town Clock



- ◆ The Clock Tower is made of granite and was built in 1828.
- ◆ In 1841 it was decided that somewhere was needed to keep people who had broken the law and so the arches were filled in, doors were put in place and behind them Police Cells were built.
- ◆ By 1904, many taller buildings had been built around the tower and so the height of the tower was raised so that miners going to work at the top end of the town could see the time.

- ◆ You can see that there is a clock on the four sides of the tower.
- ◆ Each clock face is made of stained glass in the shape of a six-pointed star. At night each face is lit up, often in different colours.

Move down the street until you come to two hounds by a lamp post and another six hounds standing on a plinth.



The sculptor, David Kemp, who made these, made the first ones from miners' boots, but the ones here were made from bronze, an alloy of copper and tin. They have been named '**The Tinnners Hounds**'. Many Redruth Miners mined for copper and tin in years gone by.

**More information about
'The Tinnners Hounds'**

◆ The very first Tinnners' Hounds were made by David Kemp out of old Miners' boots left behind at the closed Geevor mine.

◆ Each hound or hunting dog was made from seven boots.



◆ Quite a large number of these hounds were placed by David on the cliffs of Botallack, which is very near Geevor.

◆ Sometime later David Kemp was contacted by Kerrier District Council and Cornwall Council and asked to make

eight hounds in bronze metal for Redruth Fore Street.

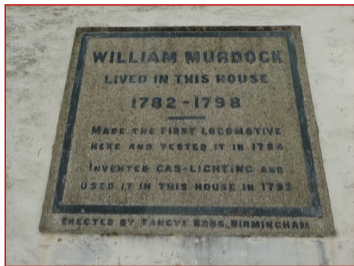
- ◆ Bronze is what is called an alloy, that is, it is made of two metals, copper and tin.
- ◆ It was copper and tin that were the metals mined by the Redruth miners, so



Keep looking to the left as you walk down the street until you see **Cross Street** to your left.

Walk along

this street and on your right on the side wall of a house you will see a plaque.



William Murdoch lived in this house (1782 – 1798). He was the first person in the world to light his house with gas.

More information about William Murdoch.

- ◆ Although William Murdoch lived in Redruth for a very short time, he is remembered for the many improvements that he made to the machinery in local mines and as the first person in the world to light his house from gas.
- ◆ He also made the first working model of a steam engine carriage in 1791, but it was Richard Trevithick who we remember for steam powered travel, because he built a full- sized locomotive, which he demonstrated as a carrier of people, in 1801.
- ◆ Every June in Redruth there is a special day of celebration when the people remember William Murdoch. There is a

children's dance and procession, an old time fair and a variety of live concerts.



Murdoch Day, Redruth

WELL DONE!

**You have completed the trail.
We hope that you enjoyed it.**



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<https://truro.theartsociety.org/>