



NEWSLETTER

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Hon General Secretary.

Mr K. Walls,

33, Gledhow Ave,

Roundhay,

Leeds, LS 8 1 LD.

TEL, 666208.

NORTHERN CAVERN AND MINE RESEARCH SOCIETY.

NEWSLETTER NO 2, AUGUST 1973.

We extend a welcome to the new members of this society listed below, and trust you will all benefit from this new association.

FULL MEMBERSHIP.

Mr I.Cornwall 250 Home Thorpe, Orchard Park Estate, Hull, E, Yorks.
Mr D.D.Higgins 72 Street Lane, Roundhay, Leeds, LS8-2AL.
Mr R.W.Lester, 'Netherstone', Madeira Rd. Littlestone,
New Romney, Kent. TN28-8QT.
Mr W.G.Lack 2.3.4. The Radleth Plealey, Pontesbury, Shrewsbury, SY5-Oxf.
Mr D.K.Roberts II Imperial Mansions, Royal Parade, Harrogate, Yorks.

FAMILY MEMBERSHIP.

Mrs G.A.Turton. Driffield.
Mrs Roberts. Harrogate.

ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP.

British Museum (Natural History) General Library.
Burnley Central Library. Lancs.
Mr J.Harker, High Wycombe, Bucks.
Mr S.D.Holdsworth, Chipping Camden, Glous.
Mr S.H.Jackson. Pudsey. W, Yorks.
Mrs A.G.Lubbock, Linthwaite, W, Yorks.
Leeds Public Libraries, Reference Library, W, Yorks.
North Riding County Library HQ, North Yorks.
Mr T.Oldham, Bristol.
Mr F.W.Smith. Teeside.
Science Museum Library, London.
Mr J.C.Thompson, Northumberland.
Mr G.T.Warwick, Birmingham.
Mr G.Workman, Greenhow Hill, W? Yorks.
Mr I.G.Wright, London.
Mr H.Ratcliffe, c/o Halifax, W, Yorks.

Address Change.

Cpl Landless, J.G. R.I945555. G.R.F. R.A.F. - uch - Scotland.
Mr T.G. Ziemba, 7, Park Square, Wigton, Cumberland.

Omission from last issued list of members. (April Newsletter)

FULL MEMBERSHIP.

Mr G. Metcalfe, "Rosebank" Hebden, via Skipton, BD 23-5DP.

NEW MEMBERS A FEW NOTES ON THE SOCIETY.

For the guidance of new members, a few items on the Soc are included;

Full Members, Student Members, Junior Members, will have the yearly subscription acknowledged by the printed meets card, with your subscription receipt on the reverse, this will be sent to you, by Mrs Griffin, the Membership Secretary, and Hon Treasurer. This is your invitation to attend all the society meets, and events.

ASSOCIATE and OVERSEAS MEMBERS. will receive a Newsletter and any back issues of the Memoirs, FOR THE YEAR OF MEMBERSHIP. together with any spare newsletters left over from last issues. Publications issued later in the year will also be sent. i/e, further newsletters INDIVIDUAL SURVEY SERIES, which it should be noted are not an annual publication, but are produced at the discretion of the Hon Editor, Mr P. Jackson. as and when finance, M/S and time allow.

THE SOCIETY LIBRARY.

All members are invited to make use of this facility, which include all back issues of our publications, and most of the Speliological and Industrial Archaeology works of any importance produced in the British Isles; Members are requested to note the Postage charge on the package of books received, and to re-emburse the society librarian, by including stamps to the amount expended by him, when the books are returned. The address of the Librarian is Mr J, Lowther. 10 Crag View, Cononley, via Keighley, W, Yorks.

AFFILIATIONS.

We are affiliated to the following, The British Cave Research Assn., The William Pengelly Cave Studies Trust, Buckfastleigh, Devon. The Council for British Archeology, The Cave Rescue Organisation, The White Rose Pothole Club, Bradford. Affiliation with these clubs provide members with an unequelled library service, lectures, Summer Schools, and a voice at national level for all aspects of planning, conservation, and grants.

The Society Year.

The two yearly items of note are the annual dinner, and the Presidents "TALK IN". Both of which will take place on the W/End of OCTOBER 13/14th 1973. The dinner is to be held at the Devonshire Hotel, Skipton, W, Yorks, and the Talk In at the Scout Hq nearby.

Full Details will be sent nearer the date, the price for the dinner will be about £2 per person. Overnight accomodation will be at the

scout HQ, free of charge, sleeping bags are required however.

At the dinner the two awards of the society will be made, the Presidents Cup, awarded by the President of the Year, to a member of his sole choice, for outstanding work in the current year, and the Golden Chicken Award, any one member, may be sentenced to hold this award for one year, for an act of ineptitude, in the year, awarded by Trial, of the Craven Bar-Moat Court, the unjust rules of this court will again be revealed at the dinner. The trial is of course fixed by the President, who would be DeLIGHTED to have from YOU in the strictest confidence, the name of a suitable victim, and his OFFENCE (to spare feelings no members are mentioned by name at the trial) The President requests, that you will please write to him, or inform him, by word of mouth, your own recommendations for either award, your help would be appreciated, write or telephone Mr R. Walls.

33, Gledhow Ave, Roundhay, Leeds, LS8-1 LD. TEL NO LEEDS 666208.

THE PRESIDENTS "TALK IN"

Will be held on the Sunday after the dinner, at the Scout HQ, at which a series of short talks are given by members, of aduration of 15 to 20 mins per speaker, members and nonmembers are invited to take part, will you make the effort and prepare a short talk?

Projectors for slides will be provided, please state if you require an up and over projector, or other aids, we will do our best to lay these on for you. again, contact the President if you are intending giving your support, at the above address.

MEETS IN THE YEAR.

Only a few meet reports have come in from meet leaders, my thanks to the following members who have sent in reports of meets.

MIKE GILL, reports, Grassington Moor Meet, was abandoned due to very heavy rainfall.

SUTTON CLOUGH SMELT MILL This meet not on meets card, was passed around by word of mouth, for the 12th August 1973, and is a new find, by members.

Sutton Clough, cont.

The Society has been engaged in the excavation of this Lead Smelting Mill in Lumb Clough, Sutton, since March. It has proved to be far larger and more rewarding than at first anticipated, with this in mind a meet was called to uncover a large area of previously untouched ground; We are grateful to those members of our Society who answered the call and to the Lancaster Cavern and Mine Research Society (no war of the Roses between our Societies) for arriving, digging, braving the savage flies, a very rewarding w/ends work.

Gillfields Level, Greenhow.

During correspondence with the Dept of Mining and Mineral Sciences at Leeds University, I was asked to inform our members, that: Leeds University have negotiated special rights of access to GILLFIELD LEVEL, and its associated workings on Greenhow Hill; It is intended to establish an underground training centre for students and that certain amounts of equipment will be left in the mine. Therefore it is necessary to restrict access: it will, however, be possible to make arrangements for 'Bona Fide' investigators to visit the mine. This question of access has been taken up by myself (M. Gill) and I am at present awaiting the result of correspondence.

C. .

END.

Miss Hazel Martell, reports on,
WANLOCKHEAD SUMMER SCHOOL. 1973.

The task before course members, was the continuation of the work started the year before at the Bay Mine. Work centred on the boiler house and engine beds, circa 1830, and it was hoped to find some indication of an earlier engine built by William Symington, circa, 1789. Lectures were given by Bill Harvey, and Geoff Downes-Rose, and were informative, and at times amusing.

The fearless hunters of Wanlockhead organised a midnight foray into the fells where they captured a wild haggis-

--this was enjoyed by members on the last Saturday.

Most English members were disgusted by the Scottish opening hours- and for those who remember Leadhills '71, Happy Horace is still in Leadhills, now with a six day licence and still no handles

The course concluded with a booze-up at Bills place, (Hope your drains have cleared by now, Bill):

END:

CORNISH MEET. TRURO AREA.

A small party of members managed to get away for a few day to a good camp site at Leverton Place nr Truro, arranged for us in advance by the meet leader Mr A.R. Nichols of Truro, who devoted a whole week of his spare time, to make our stay a memorable one, the main target of the meet was to see the new production unit, the tin mine Wheal Jane, now in production and working at profit. Mr . . Nichols who has a first hand knowledge of the surface plant, to us on a very detailed tour of the works, which proved to be a most complex process indeed. With the present uproar of the Conservationist, so of the Craven Dales fresh in mind, attention was given to the lay out of the plant from this aspect, I gave a personal full marks to Consolidated Goldfields, for the efforts made to eliminate, noise dust, and water pollution, and in the landscaping work completed, or in the process of completion. The site is a very good example of the responsible attitude that most of the international mining concerns now have, without getting much credit for it.

Mr Justin Brooke, took us on a delightfully informed tour of the coastal mines, a feast of views, and well placed anecdotes. All in All, a happy week to remember, and a great full thank you to our two leaders, nor forgetting Susan Nichols who sort of lost Nick for a week, but as usual, managed to forgive us, again!

end.

Most members of this society, follow private interests, in holes all over the north, now and again sending a little piece of news back to base (RECORDS) or to me for inclusion in the newsletter,

One such item, from a new member is next, during the years of going underground, we have had fellow travellers, Frogs in Stump Cross, and the big Toad that pushed us aside in the Cut, Stump X, Lizards at Cross Pot, Bats in the Gavel Mine, a Fox in a hole in Trollers Gill, now OTTERS!

Mr John Thompson reports,

That earlier in the year he and his son entered a mine to see if they could identify some birds that had been heard on the last visit, in the upper workings. they were never seen properly, but were believed to be Jackdaws, but what was seen, was a Kingfishers nest nicely inside the mine entrance, with three young "GOLLIES" to use a North Country expression. This nest was the usual mud, fish bones, grass and reed fill construction, and to the best of his knowledge the young were safely reared to fly. Further in they were surprised to see an Otter with young. Needless to say, we are not publishing the name of the mine in the hope that next spring they will return again.

END.

Mr R, Walls, meet leader of the Alum Pot Meet, Reports on the Meet. Alum Pot, Another wet weekend, Bugs collected but little else achieved, despite booking the pot weeks ago-3 other groups were in it before us! Dolly Tubs pitch with 4 sets of ladders* Ugh!

END.

Contained with this report is an address change, a new notification for me, please note, along with the others on the first page of this newsletter. Mr R.V. Davis, Dawn Farm, Orton, Penrith, Cumberland, Tel No Penrith 622.

end.

THE SOCIETY EXHIBITION.

Has again been in action, this time at the request of Mr Julian Holmes, and under his supervision, spreading the society name around London, via the windows of the Skipton Building Society branches at Holborn, Wembley, gaining us some new associate members, and we hope selling our publications. Now back₆ in Skipton, ready for Nottingham

MINING NEWSApplication to mine rejected*

The proposal to mine the Appletreewick Area, Craven Dales, for lead, Barytes, Calcite, Limestone, has been rejected by the Dales Park (West Riding) Planning Committee. Maj Yorke, made the application on behalf of the lessee a Canadian, who in turn has sub-let to a French Consortium, this however is only the first round in the affair, as a public inquiry or a decision by the Minister of the Environment can reverse the decision, no further moves are expected however, until the change over from the West Riding to the North Riding come into effect next year.

The chairman of the Planning Committee, Mr A. Knowles Eitton, a former W/Cmdr in the Royal Air Force, a resident of Appletreewick, declared an interest, and took no part in the debate and voting, as part of his land comes under the proposed application. He stated afterwards that 'The development would be inappropriate to a National Park

The villagers (now in the main new residents from the Industrial West Riding) opposed the plan stating at a public meeting, that heavy traffic noise, pollution, lack of safeguards or restrictions would upset the local tourist centre.

(The nearby extension to a reservoir will bring all these benefits to the area,)

BOULBY MINE. now in production.

In the National (North Riding) Park the new £40 million development of I.C.I. and Charter Consolidated Ltd, now named Cleveland Potash Ltd is now working up to production, to enter the big League of Potash producers. It is expected that between 6,000 tons a day will be extracted when the full potential is reached, a massive 2,500,000 tons a year, of ore which would yield 1,000,000 tons of high grade potash. To move this, the axed railway has been re-opened to link up to the railhead.

The potash layer is defended by a layer of water bearing sandstone, 1,000 ft thick which contains water at a pressure of 1,000 per square inch, this was penetrated by the shaft sinkers, after freezing the surrounding rock, in one shaft, and by cementing the rock to get through the second shaft. The site for the new mine was selected by architects, and is very similar in location to the Wheal Jane mine, Truro, Cornwall. The effluents will however at Boulby be pumped along a mile long pipe beneath the sea, and then into more pipes on the sea bed, Marine biologists have made a study of the marine life of the area, to serve as a standard, to keep a check on the effect of this discharge. The strong tidal currents are expected to wash away, the effluents without ill effect to the local crab population.

Mining News

RTZ exploration at Coed y Brenin near Dolgellau has indicated 200m tonnes of 0.3% copper. However, the deposit is said to be unworkable at present prices. (Sheffield Telegraph 19.4.73)

57 Volumes of mining tracts from the G.C.Greenwell collection were sold by Phillips on 17.4.73. The buyer was Simpson who paid £1,250.

(Financial Times 18.4.73)

A.G.Allen (Stockton) Ltd will possibly be carrying out operations at Lunehead Mine, Teesdale, this summer.

At Cammock Eals Mine, Teardale, the new incline goes to 40metres below the old level to the base of the Tynebottom limestone, and not as previously reported, into the Whin sill.

Exsud Ltd have abandoned work at Ashgillhead mine, and are concentrating on the Blanchland area.

Geevor Tin Mine made a net profit during the last year, in contrast to a loss the previous year. (Times 8.8.73)

J.R.Foster-Smith, W.J.Houston and S.H.Jackson are thanked for their help in supplying information. Apologies to W.J.Houston who supplied a major part of the mining news in the last newsletter, whose name was inadvertently omitted from the acknowledgements.

PUBLICATIONS REPORT

A further 100 copies of the publication 'The Non-Ferrous Mines of Denbighshire' have now been produced, and are selling well. A major advertising campaign for this book will start in early September. The Teign Valley lead mines is selling slowly at the moment, but has brought the society to the attention of several important mining companies. Advertisements in the journal 'Industrial Archaeology' during early 1973 has produced several new members, and several publications sold.

The next edition of the society 'Memoirs' has been typed onto the stencils, and now awaits the finance for printing. The editor would be very interested to hear members' responses to the illustrations in Teign Valley lead mines ie quality of paper, before proceeding.

Articles are ALWAYS required for the next edition of the Memoirs, the intake between April and August being precisely nothing. If you have an article, or a longer study suitable for Occasional Publication status, please contact the Editor.

The address is - 37 Broomhall Place
SHEFFIELD Yorkshire
S10 2DG

PJ.

1. Monographs on metalliferous mining history, volume four: 'Lead Mining in the Mid-Pennines. The Mines of Nidderdale, Wharfedale, Ribblesdale and Bowland.' Arthur Raistrick. Published by D. Bradford Barton Ltd, Trethellan House, Truro. First published 25 May 1973. Price £2.85.

As stated in the Introduction to this book, it intends to give an account of the history and technical development of the mines of this area, with details where possible of the more important mines, and some indication of what still remains to be seen. Obviously in a book of one volume, it is impossible to do justice to the subject when such a large area has to be covered. The bias of the account is towards the history of the mines, and a great deal of this section is devoted to pre 1800 mining history, area by area. It is difficult to argue with the historical facts presented as very few references are given. Although the book has 172 pages with 16 plates and 13 diagrams, one is left with the impression of having received very little information per page, in part due to the large typeface, and in part to the grammatical tangles that the author gets himself into. The 16 plates of photographs are appalling in quality; to say that they lack sparkle is an understatement. The diagrams are poorly drawn, have little to relate them to surface features and use a variety of symbols. Of the mine plans, the sources of none are given, and many bear letters and figures which are not explained in the text. In some descriptions of mines, not all relevant descriptions have been drawn upon, and one is left with the impression that the major part of the text was written before 1960.

The publishers proof reading is poor for a book of this price.

2. 'Mines and t'Miners'. A History of lead mining in Airedale, Wharfedale and Nidderdale. J.M. Dickinson. Published by the author at 8 Cedar Grove Sutton in Craven, Keighley. 1973 (dated 1972). £0.80.

This is a small paper-covered book with 31 pages and 7 maps. The text has a strong bias towards history after 1800 and is good in its details of 20th century mining, a much neglected aspect of mining history. No facts in the text are referred to specific sources, and there are only a page and a half of references at the end of the text. The maps are well drawn and adequate, but lacking interpretation in some areas. Despite there being 'Miners' in the title, only six pages are devoted to the miners, perhaps a reflection on the present state of knowledge. A selected glossary of mining terms is given at the end of the book which would have been better placed at the front, as the author assumes a knowledge of many terms which will be meaningless to the general reader. This small book is good value for money, and is only spoilt by the crude cover picture.

P. Jackson.

DONATIONS TO THE SOCIETY.

From Mr J. Brooke. Cornwall. One Share certificate of the North Cornwall Silver, Lead, and Tin Mining Association. London, April 20th 1835. Donated for use in the exhibition, or records.

From Mr H. Ratcliffe, France. One replacement Geiger Counter Body. With Sincere thanks, from all of us.

NATIONAL SPELIOLOGICAL CONFERENCE & EXHIBITION 1973.

This will take place on 15th/16th September 1973 at Trent Polytechnic NOTTINGHAM. Lectures will be presented, from 10-15 AM on the 15th, the lecture,s are in the main all of a Speliological topic. The entry fee is 60p, 30p for the under 18's. No overnight accomodation can be provided this year, a coffee bar will be open for morning coffee. Also a licenced bar;

LEADHILLS AND WANLOCKHEAD MINES RESEARCH GROUP.

The following Booklets, producec by the Group are available in the village libraries. 'Wanlockhead) Scotlands highest village. 22p. 'The Beam Pumping Engines, Wanlockhead. 7p. 'The Miners Library, Wanlockhead, 12p. 'Men of the Lowther Hills, 17p. 'The Leadhills Miners Library, 12p. Also in the Libraries, Leaflets are available for visitors, A Note on the Geology of Leadhills & Wanlockhead.- a guide to the mining areas, & minerals, with advice about access to private property; A Bibliography of Leadhills & Wanlockhead- this lists some of the books on mines and people in the libraries;

The Leadhills and Wanlockhead Mines Research Group; A news sheet about the objects and activities of the group, mrmbership of which is free, and open to anyone interested in the area, the Group encourages the study of the area and produces paper,s over a wide sujet range;

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DUE TO THE CLOSURE OF OUR HQ. THE OVERDALE HOTEL: SKIPTON MEMBERS HAVE MOVED TO THE DEVONSHIRE HOTEL: FOR ALL FRIDAY MEETINGS* THE NEXT GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING WILL BE HELD IN THE SCOUT HQ: SITUATED TO THE REAR OF THE DEVONSHIRE HOTEL, DRIVE DOWN THE DRIVE AT THE SIDE, THROUGH THE GATE AT THE BOTTOM, TURN LEFT, THE ONLY BUILDING IN SIGHT IS THE VENUE: 2 PM, SUNDAY 16th SEPT: ALL MEMBERS WELCOME, ASSOCIATE MEMBERS ARE ASKED TO REMEMBER THAT; 'ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP DOES NOT GIVE THE MEMBER THE POWER OF VOTING, IT DOES NOT HOWEVER GAG YOU! COME AND HAVE A NATTER? Early arrivals are to be found in THE DEVONSHIRE.

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Incoming mail, has brought news of new members, since the start of this newsletter, again welcome, and you will all notice that the list of members is now due for revision, but, in this period of time, is it wise to publish a list of address,s and names, which contain many persons of distinction? I as newsletter editor, think not, no offence is meant, if you are reduced in rank to plain Mr, let us first see what development takes place. (DP.)

Associate membership. New Members.

Manchester Public Library. MR O.A. Baker, Plymouth.

End of Newsletter.

From, 11, Nevill St.
Skipton, Yorks, BD23 2 EU.