

Next Members list Jan 1976



NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 1974

Committee Meetings for 1975. ALL MEMBERS, please note.

General Meeting, April 13th, 2pm 'The Dump' Scout HQ, Skipton.

A.G.M. Feb, 9th, 2pm : : : : : .

General Meeting, Sept, 7th, 2pm, Scout HQ, Nunthorpe, Middlesbrough.

General Meeting, Nov, 16th, 2pm 'The Dump' Scout HQ, Skipton.

CHANGES OF ADDRESS. should be notified to,

The Treasurer & Membership Secretary.

Mavis J Jackson.

37 Broomhall Place,

Sheffield,

S 10 2 DG.

NORTHERN MINE RESEARCH SOC.

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MEET REPORTS FROM MEMBERS.

SPARWOOD IRONSTONE MINE. 14th JULY,

12 in the party, spent an afternoon in the three mines that make up the complex of Sparwood. The party explored more than is usual & made contact with areas that had been entered from the main drift prior to this entrance becoming unsafe.

Quite a lot of artifacts were found and photographed in situ before the best were carried out. Thanks to John Owen the Meet leader, we had a very interesting trip, including an unforgettable smell, when we navigated 75 ft of drainage slurry.

WARNING:: We had to VACATE three different areas owing to bad air: DO NOT ENTER THIS MINE WITHOUT A SAFETY LAMP.

R.G.GUTHRIE.

COLDBERRY SURFACE MEET . 22 Sept.

22 in the party on this meet, on a blustery wet day. On climbing the fell, a view of the water balance, the shops and shafts was obtained, on the way to the dam at the top of Coldberry Gutter, Red Grooves Mine was examined on the way to Hudeshope Beck which formed the next phrase of the tour. Lodgesike, Marlbeck, Sheers and Firstone were pointed out, but not visited.

R.G.GUTHRIE.

DERBYSHIRE AREA, A PRIVATE MEET. SEPT 74.

With the Aid of Richard Bird and Peter Jackson, a small party was able to find a welcome in Derbyshire area. Obtaining a good look at a number of mines and smelters, and the Leawood pumping engine, at Cromford which some local enthusiasts are restoring.

The Peak District Mines Historical Soc, lent a couple of members, and an underground visit was made to the Goodluck Mine.

To the northern eye, the tiny local levels are worth seeing.
I would strongly recommend a meet in derby area, with the P.D.M.H.S.
the Mines are well worth looking at. (they even have some good pubs,
but the sandwiches not as good as in Yorkshire)

BILL HARVEY, GLASGOW.

EXTRACTS FROM THE POST BAG.

The Annual Wanlockhead Exhibition, visited by over 4000 persons
in six weeks, which reflects great credit on Jeff Downs - Rose. He has
now got the Wanlockhead Museum Trust of the ground, and if an old
cottage can be done up in time, for 1975, this will be the home of
the future. Have you any thing published on the LADES on Grassington?
I require more information if any one has it to hand?? (any one)??

10th March 74. A bat record. A Long Haired Bat was found at 1750ft
hibernating in a mine level near Tyndrum (Plecotus auritus)

PUMPING ENGINE MODEL.

A $\frac{1}{8}$ scale, working model of the Wanlockhead Beam Engine has
been constructed by a Chesterfield engineer, Mr F. Jackson.
Mr Jackson worked to drawings made by Mr W. Harvey, and the model is
based on the assumption that the engine was a water bucket pump,
and worked by the weight of a large bucket filled and emptied.
Pumps of this kind were known as 'flop-jacks' in the Cornish mines.
Also as 'Bobbing Johns' in Scotland, in the 18th cent a similar
pump worked at the Ecton mine in Staffordshire. The fact that
Mr Jackson's model works perfectly provides further evidence that
the Wanlockhead pump worked in this manner. The model was on show
at the annual exhibition of mining history, and was seen by over
4000 visitors. Mr Jackson is preparing an account of his model
for publication in "The Model Engineer".

As the main centre of interest in the society seems to be the out-door events, it seems pointless to fill page after page with committee reports, extracts of the more important decisions are given next.

21st April Meeting at Billingham. Teeside.

Our contribution to Cave Conservation was by not going into them, much: The collection of insects from underground was still going on, and any member wishing to add to this collection was most welcome. (Caving Recorder, Mr R, Walls.)

The duplication of the next Memoirs was waiting illustrations. (now in members possession). Dr Raistricks article on Smelt Mills was expected to run to 80 pages. We were still short of Memoirs material. (The Editor, Mr P, Jackson.)

The Bank balance at 21st April stood at £118 in the bank less sums of £1.10 due to Mr Shambrook and payment of £8 to Skipton Troop of Scouts. Membership, 59 full members, 14 family, 4 students 1 Junior. Many members were unpaid so far this year, a reminder had been sent out. The meeting agreed that, in future the Treasurer should send out individual reminders, when required.

A.O.B. Mr J, ALMOND produced a bound book and index as examples of some Transactions which were been sold off by the Northern Institute of Mining. He reported that the library of the Institute of Mining Engineers was returning to Newcastle.

Mr D, Platt, then raised the question of article II.2 (Constitution) and the need for a Society Auditor. In reply to a question from the Chairman, Mr Platt said he knew of an ex accountant who may be prepared to consider the auditing of the Society accounts, (3).

After various points had been made on the subject Mr Guthrie, Proposed 'That we have a Society Auditor' sec C, McChesney.

Mr R.G. Guthrie later outlined the extra work and expense to which our Editor was put especially on travelling long journeys. The Editor declined any idea of recompense, but Mr Guthrie

invited the Society to be made aware if the expense became too much. The Chairman, President Mr J, MacPHERSON, added that our Editor could at least feel entitled to the view that his work and efforts for the Society were very much appreciated.

Meeting Closed. to be followed by an Extraordinary Meeting.

to discuss the proposed change in the title of this Society.

i/e To delete CAVERN AND, after a long discussion, the meeting that "the title of the society be under consideration of change" prop, P, Jackson, sec D, Platt. Passed nem con, and that all members be informed of this proposal in the next Newsletter.

On the problems experienced in financial matters and publications, the Chairman called for closer liaison of Officers and concluded, that the appointment of an auditor would resolve such matters.

Closed 6-15.

Working Committee Meetings are held the first Friday in the Month, at the Devonshire Hotel, Skipton, 9PM. Open to all members to attend.

June Meeting, extracts, the Publication, Teign Valley now sold out.

Only accredited Clubs are now accepted at the Buckden Camp site,

Upper Wharfedale, Apply to Mr R. Metcalfe, Heder Farm, Buckden,

Wharfedale, Skipton, with Stamped envelope for reply, or Telephone

Kettlewell 288.

Association of Industrial Archaeology, Prop R, Walls' That the Society shall appoint an unofficial representative to Ass Ind Arch and the fee of £2 be paid by this Society' sec K, Walls.

July Meeting.

A provisional ~~agreement~~ offer was discussed from a publisher to provide a means, within our means to print the book by Dr A, Raistrick. Two proposals were made and discussed. This was left on the table to obtain the views of Dr Raistrick.

AUGUST MEETING.

Surplus ladders sold to B.B. Kirk Ltd @ £5 each.

Insurance of Society equipment now in force, covering, two duplicators:

two typewriters, in the home and in transit. Premium £3-95.

P. Jackson, Editor, stated that Dr A. Raistrick was giving us a free choice as to the method used to publish his M/S and that he was giving to the NC&MRS the copyright with provisos.

Mrs Jennifer Griffin, stated that we had £106 in bank and 100 member. Jennifer stated that it was her intention to resign at the next AGM.

North Yorkshire Records Office was to start publishing, 1st out would be a M/s thesis "The Richmond Copper Mines" it was to be a

subscription sale. system, return address, Records Office, North-

allerton, N. Yorks. Three Publications were planned for the year,

subs £3 + postage.

Mr Richard Bird of Sheffield had donated a copy of his book, (see review) to the Soc library, a letter of thanks to be sent by Hon Sec.

NOVEMBER MEETING.

Six new members elected.

Hon Sec Mr K. Walls willing to retain Hon Sec position, and to delegate to others some of the work of his office, this is the result of private life work load.

Publications Account when returns are in should be £200 +.

The Meets List was discussed, P.J. to write to members who had returned questionnaire regarding future meets.

Questionnaire regarding increase of subscription rates, no one had objected, one member had put 50p as his limit. Name change, no objections, rather the reverse.

M. Gill proposed 'That we produce the Flintshire Occ Pub as the next publication; sec K. Walls. Carried.

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EXTRACTS FROM THE GENERAL MEETING OF SEPT 8th, 1974.

Chairman Mr J. McPherson.

The Chairman proposed a vote of thanks to the retiring Treasurer Mrs Jennifer Griffin on her reluctant retirement from office.

The Moorland Publishing Co are to republish ,
Dr A, Raistricks 'Mines and Miners of Swaledale' an enlarged edition.

A request from the P.R.O. for any spare copies of
our publications, Memoirs or the ISS issues, as these are wanted
by Libraries, letters of thanks to the donor will be sent.

Officers Reports.

Caving. Mr R, Walls, The Mongo meet was a short one due to the
the rescue in the area, the Society had no wish to incur any risk.
Insect collection was still taking place, Mrs Jean Dixon was still
doing this work for us.

Treasurer, a copy from 1st Jan to Sept 8th was circulated
showing subscriptions of £159.60. Asked if any items were outstanding,
Mr Platt said he had just ordered stencils and ink and the
£2 fee for the room now in use was to be paid. The Treasurer said
the books still in need of final completion but this should not
hold up the transfer to the new Treasurer Mrs M, Jackson.

Recorder, Mr M. Gill, reported that work at Sutton was
almost completed. Hebden Moor was almost ready for Memoirs. Buckden
Meets depended on the weather, and little had been done at Grass-
ington. Asked by the Chairman who looked after the Society tackle?
Mr Gill keeps it.

Librarian, Miss H, Martell, The library was now moved to
her home, some old caving publications could be sold off.

Mr R.T. Clough was publishing a new book, to which we should subscribe

Editor, Mr P. Jackson, Election of Mr A, Suddes - Asst Curator
Darlington Museum. The Memoirs Had gone out, a few articles in hand

FOR NEXT ISSUE. Flintshire might prove too expensive to produce
at the moment. Could try a Memoirs ; later in the year.

On the question of Subscription, further viewpoints were
given, and the Chairman asked that all members views should be
requested via a Newsheet, and that the Working Committee should
look into this.

North East Recorder, Mr R.G. Guthrie, Work was still in
progress at Scrait Hole. On return to the Troutbeck (Teeside) the

Horse level was 3ft under water. All heads-pumping continues at the Gin Hill Shaft-some rubble to clear yet.

On the matter of the change of the Society Title. The Chairman said that this must be done for the A.G.M. by writing to the secretary in advance but first we needed to look what the change was to be. This was another matter for notice to be given to members (News-Sheet). Active society members appeared to approve a change, others did not. The outcome of the discussion was the proposal by Mr Dickinson, 'The Northern Mine Research Society' be put forward as the new title, seconded by Mr M. Gill, this proposal was passed by the meeting (nem con)

End of Extracts .

BOOK REVIEWS

Britains Old Metal Mines, A Pictorial Survey

R.H. BIRD

D. Bradford Barton Ltd, Trethellan House, Truro, Cornwall.

£3-50 1974 112 pages 156 plates page size 210 - 215mm

As the author states in the introduction, the aims of this book are to put some historic mining sites on record and to encourage others to do likewise.

The content of this book is essentially photographs, together with an outline map to show location of mining areas and up to a page of text as an introduction to each mining area covered. The plates varying in size from whole plate to $\frac{1}{4}$ page, have extended captions.

The area headings are South West England, The Mendips. Wales, Shropshire, Aldersley Edge. Ecton Copper Mines, The Peak District, The Pennines, The Lake District, The Isle of Man, Wanlockhead, and Eire.

The plates are varying quality; some are of excellent quality but the reproduction process of litho printing has apparently not done justice to some of the prints which appear to lack contrast.

There is an overall impression to this reviewer of 'greyness'. A most peculiar plate occurs of the leat to Dolaucothi mine which shows a mass of bracken, but I am told by the author

that this was due to layout problems. An interesting view of Cwystwyth mill is spoilt by the walls facing the camera being in total shadow and there is a rather grim view of Grassington smelt mill flues. There are some excellent shots, including one of the head-gear of Black Tom shaft, some underground in Ball Eye mine and one of an ore crusher in the Wicklow mountains; The author includes location map references for each plate.

P. Jackson, 21 July 1974.

Lead & Lead Mining in Derbyshire

A H Stokes

Peak District Mines Historical Society

Special Publication No 2 Reprinted 1973.

A4 Paper Size 90 pages, litho-printed.

£1.50 from 14 Tredington Road, Glenfield, Leicestershire.

A reprint of a paper originally published in 1911 by the Chesterfield and Derbyshire Institute of Mining Civil and Mechanical Engineers. Gives a general introduction to lead mining in Derbyshire with explanations and descriptions of many mining terms used in the area. A chronological history of mining, and Manlove's famous poem are also included. A useful introduction to Derbyshire lead mining at a useful price.

The Old Metal Mines of Mid-Wales.

Part I- Cardiganshire, South of Devils Bridge.

D E Bick, The Pound House, Newent, Glos. @ 75 pence.

208 by 147 mm page size. Printed. 10 Photographs, 10 drawings & plans. 52 pages.

Descriptions of 20 mines in this area, apparently based on the contents of the National Library of Wales records department and the Mining Journal. There are also sections on the Francis family John Taylor, and Water Power.

P. Jackson, 1974.

Short Mining News from the Daily Telegraph. 10.9.74.

Anglo Canadian Exploration is negotiating for exploration rights over the Ogofau mines area.

CORNISH PARLIAMENT.

The ancient Stannary Parliament of Cornwall is in the throes of revival, after lapsing into disuse in the year 1752.

At a Press conference at St Austell, it was announced that an issue of Cornish Bank notes, in the denominations of, 5s., 10., one old pound, and five old pounds was to be printed and issued, the notes would be redeemable with Gold and Silver purchased by the issue. The notes are described as Cornish old language on the front with English translation on the back.

The Good Old Days ?

From the Bradford Telegraph and Argus, Nov 23, 1914, by ARGUS. "Describing a journey he made in the Keighley area, August 27, 1750. Bishop Pococke, a noted traveller wrote: When I and my party left Ilkley we passed on the south bank of the Wharfe to Addingham, then crossed the moors to Silsden, to the hall of the Earl of Thanet. The moors we passed are full of coals, and a horse load of 20 stones of 16 pounds each sells for 4 pence, at the pits.

In the early part of last century coal prices had increased substantially, and coal mined at Morton Banks was sold at 4s 9p and 5s 6p a ton. About 1880 it was suggested a company be formed for coal to be carried from the pit by overhead bucket conveyor line to the Leeds and Liverpool canal, but with the opening of the South Yorkshire coalfields the idea never materialised."

Private Meet Report. Langley Barrony Mine.

Honeycrook Mine Adit. Grid Ref, Sheet, ??? 825 660.

This adit portal is part of some exceedingly well dressed stone mine buildings which are worth visiting. The commemorative stone above the perfect entrance stonework reads:

Honeycrook Adit July 1871.

Unfortunately it is blocked 15 yds in..

The square chimney approx 60 ft high with its capping still intact dominates the site with a boiler house 50' by 15' below it.

Two slightly smaller buildings alongside complete the engine complex.

A good arched tailrace with dressed stone floor etc, leads to the burn below where the settling ponds were situated.

The bingsteads were robbed for stone 5 or 6 years ago.

Remains of the stamps and four good and three poorer stone buddles complete the buildings apart from some isolated dressed stone bases which may have been at one time some form of ropeway. The spoil tips have remains of some recent floatation plant which have reprocessed the old waste, in the Leadbitter shaft area.

Honeycrook Burn 829 659. in the limestone gorge alongside the old mine road (now a forest of undergrowth) is a trial level

Joicey Shaft 832 659, Very little remains though the house was obviously a mine building at one time.

Winnetley Mine; Two levels were found in the rank undergrowth of summer. One 410 ft to the forehead had a calcite floor for over 100 ft of its length.

Waterhouse Mine. The low level by the river has a flood line 4' high. It is a labyrinth rather similar to the Richmond Copper Mine, (Richmond, N, Yorks) Stringers in an infill of boulder clay and pebbles are to be seen. :::: 40 or 50 ft higher on the other side of the main road is another level which appears never to have been very productive as the vein is only of stringer size. Road improvement plans in the future will obliterate this feature.

This meet was a good interesting day out, thanks to Jack Thompson and his friend Jim.

R.G. Guthrie.

All members will shortly receive the final publication for 1974.

· MWYNA DI- HAIARN SIR FFLINT. THE NON-FERROUS MINES of FLINT-SHIRE. by J.R. Foster Smith, M.I.M.M. Occasional Publication No 7.

and alas a subscription reminder, with the new rates of membership, which inflation has forced upon us, however: it is still only going to cost you the price of four gallons of petrol.

Working Committee Meeting for Jan 75, is to be held on January 10th at Skipton, later than normal due to accounts and constitution change.

D, Platt. 11 Neville St, Skipton BD23 2EU.
Dec 27th 1974.