

NORTHERN MINE RESEARCH SOCIETY

Newsletter February 1978

Annual General Meeting 5th February 1978 at Skipton.

About 2 dozen members were present, and after the last minutes were read, the following reports were submitted and the proposed alteration to the constitution (as shown in last newsletter) was accepted. The new elected committee members are:-

President	Mrs. J. Guthrie, 186 Station Rd., Billingham. Tel. M'boro 554437
Vice-Pres.	J. H. McNeil, 12 Woodville Rd., Brierfield, Nelson. Tel 0282 63297
Junior Vice-Pres.	Mrs. L. Finch, 10 Exeter Cres, Killinghall, Harrogate.
Treasurer	Mrs. J. Griffin, 19 Westfield Terr, Baildon, Shipley.
Secretary	J. H. McNeil (address as above)
Editor	R. H. Bird, 41 Windsor Walk, South Anston, Sheffield. 090 978 3229
PRO	H. Houghton, 29 Parkside Rd, Meanwood, Leeds 6. Tel 0532 758505
Recorder	A. P. Finch, 10 Exeter Cres, Killinghall, Harrogate.
Librarian	E. Nutter, 38 Skipton Old Rd., Colne. Tel Colne 4572

The reason for these alterations on committee are mainly because if Adrian manages to stay at Uni. for the next 2 years and gains his honours, it is very unlikely that he will be remaining in this area. As it seems to take about 2 years for mail to stop being delivered to previous secretaries, Lynda has stood down officially and John Mc has taken over as secretary.

Treasurer - see attached balance sheet

Secretary The past twelve months have once again shown improved membership among other things. Enquiries have been coming in steadily and I think prompt attention which these have received has paid off.

It is with regret that I am standing down from this office, but owing to personal circumstances I feel that in fairness to the Society I should retire, however Society membership enquiries will still receive prompt attention as for a while I shall still deal with correspondence arriving at my present address.

I should like to take this opportunity to thank members for their help and co-operation over the year.

L. Finch.

Editor The last twelve months have been a most satisfactory period for the publications section of the society. A change of format size and the individual cover designs for the Monographs have hopefully made our publications more attractive for the retail market. We were also able to issue three separate volumes during the year as a result of a large cash donation.

It is probable that we will again be in a position to repeat the output in 1978 with a late edition of the Welsh series - this one entitles "The Mines of Montgomery and Radnorshire" - being issued towards the end of the year. If this is possible, an order form will be included in the newsletter for the extra volume, nearer the time. The amendment to the constitution before us today is to cover this eventuality. It is desirable to divorce these extra issues from the rest of our work for two reasons; firstly to complete the Welsh series in the shortest possible time and secondly to retain a varied output of publications.

The concept of a nationally orientated series seems to have found favour with the membership and generally there has been a good response to calls for articles - particularly individual monographs. Shorter articles are always required for the Autumn Memoirs however. Contributors to our publications can be assured that their

work will have a wide readership by virtue of our increasing circulation and that : research papers will not end up in some obscure repository where their presence may only be known to a few. Moreover, I feel that there are many fine papers which have : never seen the light of day due to their authors' not having facilities and capital available to publish these things themselves or, alternatively, their work does not fall into the appropriate areas covered by a localised society. These days commercial publishers are also wary of specialised mining papers since the financial return on these is very limited. It is certain therefore that we can expect a continuing growth in our monograph series which will benefit author, the society and the mining historian.

Regarding future issues, it is, in mining parlance, a good idea to keep reserves well ahead of the mill. This not only retains members' interest but allows plenty of preparation time for the editor!!

Turning to finance, you will see that there has been a steady growth in float capital available and I think that this can largely be attributed to a more realistic retail pricing per volume. Such a float is essential to avoid strangling output. Slight concern has been expressed about the larger-than-usual publication stock held at Billingham. This had been brought about by overprinting each issue to avoid the price per copy escalating and the whole print run from being borne by our members and subscribers. However I don't think there will be much difficulty in selling this stock within the next two or three years and, in any case, a good stock of back numbers - provided it does not tie up too much money - shows that we are pursuing a vigorous and healthy publishing programme.

The continuing increases in printing and paper prices together with postage were a prime cause of the necessary subscription increases this year. To give an example: production cost of BM4 in May '77 was £279.00 on a print run of 500. BM6, a similar publication - but without photographs - was only £20 less in November on a print run of 300! In other words, BM6 was 54% more expensive per volume than BM4. Even allowing for the reduced quantity, which put 20% on the price per copy, there was still an increase of 34% in six months. For every 100 copies printed, costs (per vol) fall by 10% so the more members and sales the merrier. Perhaps we can draw cold comfort from the fact that every other society is faced with this problem, some, more so than us.

During the year two advertising leaflets were produced and circulated to various kindred societies, together with a select number of review copies of British Mining. This has almost certainly resulted in increased aftersales and more members.

An attempt - and a successful one at that - has been made to secure commercial outlets for our publications and thanks must go to Bob Guthrie for the bulk of this work, as well as his conscientious handling of the aftersales side.

Sue and Harry Houghton have again taken on the job of initial dispatch of publications, so relieving me of this onerous and time consuming job, for which, much thanks!

After producing five issues of our work, Laurie Pepper and his staff at Office Liaison Ltd have become thoroughly acquainted with our needs and style. Their welcome advice, high standard of workmanship co-operation and sympathetic regard for our rather limited resources have made editorial work not only easier but a pleasant and enjoyable business. Perhaps I should point out that when the time comes, and assuming printing policy remains unchanged, my successor will find this little company very helpful, even though communications may not be as easy as at present.

There would however, be no publications to print but for the fact that so many members have taken time and trouble in submitting their work, and for this, I am sure the whole membership is justly appreciative.

A final point, and this is that whilst your committee has already thanked him by

letter, I feel it is opportune to reiterate our thanks to Mr Foster-Smith for his magnificent donation towards the cost of publishing his work on the metal mines of Wales. Every effort will be made to complete the series as soon as possible. This is only fair, since we have had the MSS in hand for about 10 years. It is significant I think, that this author has enough confidence in the society to make available a gift of £250 in order to help us with the job.

The next publication, "A History of the Conlig and Whitespots Lead Mines", will be issued in May.

R.H.Bird.

PRO Over the past year 4 newsletters have been produced and would appear to have been favourably reviewed by most members. I would like to thank all those who contributed to the success of the newsletters by sending in articles, and also to apologise for any that have not yet appeared. The problem this year has been to keep the number of pages down to a reasonable level - this doesn't mean for you to stop sending me articles though, it's better to have too many than not enough.

I would also like to thank my staff (the one who pulls my strings and works me) for all the work she has done to enable the newsletter to be produced at all. Ta Sue!

If anyone can offer or help with a supply of duplicating paper, this will help to keep PRO expenses down and ultimately your subs., which this year were about £40. This covered mainly postage, all paper used was paid for 2/3 years ago and these stocks are now nearly exhausted. Expenses have also been kept down by the policy of sending Newsletter and BM out together where possible, as well as bulk deliveries to areas for distribution by members. Thanks.

H. Houghton.

Recorder Unfortunately the Records have not been used in the past months, so again I have no report, other than, material is being prepared for transfer to my successor.

I would also like to thank those members who have deposited material in the past and trust that they will continue to do so.

M.Gill.

Librarian Over the past year the library has been fairly regularly used by a variety of members and a number of additions have been made.

A.P.Finch.

List of New Members as additions to the Members List.

Full

I.J.Brown	95 Manygates Lane, Sandal, Wakefield.
D.W.Davies	5 Madison Avenue, Cheadle Hulme, Cheadle, Cheshire SK8 5DF
C.Moffitt	12 Rowan Drive, Heybridge, Maldon, Essex EM9 7BW.
A.J.Pearce	34 Madison Avenue, Chaddesdon, Derby
V.M.D.Quant	Silverwood, Gwernymynydd, Mold, Clwyd CH7 5LE.
M.Street	10 Oakwell Crescent, Leeds LS8 4AF.
T.Thompson	'Undercliffe' 10 The Avenue, Woodland Park, Prestatyn, Clwyd LL19 9RD.
I.Francis	19 Oak Lane, Hanson Lane, Halifax
J.M.Saville	23 Wharfedale Crescent, Garforth.

Associate

Beamish North of England Open Air Museum,	Beamish Hall, Stanley, Co.Durham.
D.M.Holmes	34 Sydenham Avenue, Liverpool L17
Ironbridge Gorge Museum Trust,	Ironbridge, Telford, Salop.

Changes of Address

M.P. Bayley 2 Speedwell Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham 5.
T.A. Bowland 4 Fenton Close, Osgodby, Scarborough, N. Yorks. YO11 3QS.
P.R. Goodchild 63 Broadmead, Callington, Cornwall PL17 7DD.
D.C. Grant c/o Ernysted's Grammar School, Gargrave Road, Skipton
J. Keating 145 Stonhouse Street, Clapham, London SW4.
V. Landless 18 Birchwood Drive, Hambleton, Nr Blackpool Lancs.
G.C. Newall c/o Amax Exploration U.K. Inc. 1st Floor 5 Derrys Cross, Plymouth.
North Yorkshire County Library, The Library, High Street, Skipton BD23 1JX.
J. Shambrook 10 Drayton Road, Reading, Berks.
C. Sleight 34 Cypress Road, Redcar, Cleveland TS10 3EN.
M.V. Twigg 30 Valley Drive, Yarm-on-Tees, Cleveland.

The Weardale Lead Company

Further to the article by Dr F.W. Smith which appeared in British Mining No 5 and details the above company's activities, it may be of interest to learn that ownership at Weardale changed on June 1st 1977. Dr Smith points out that the I.C.I. shareholding was transferred to Swiss Aluminium Mining (U.K.) Ltd and that his article was released during I.C.I.'s ownership, with the latter company's permission.

Drawing Office Service

One of our members who owns a business specialising, among other things, in copying drawings and plans, has kindly offered his services to any member who wishes to make use of him. Anyone wanting any projects or research reports, old mine plans etc., doing could do worse than to contact him, the proposed charge will be £1 per hour. If interested contact:- W.G. Jack, at Geoplot Services, The Radleth, Plealey, Pontesbury, Shrewsbury SY5 0XF.

"Greenside 1896

The Story of Smiths Winder

Money being tight and ingenuity strong and scrap in plenty they thought they'd build a winder themselves. Mr. Borlase the chief comedian at the mine then, presented Tom, John, Jos and George with a drawing (not a plan) and said now it's up to you, see what you can make up. I'll get a few wheels when we see what's wanted, and away we go.

There happened to be an old hydraulic winding engine at Low Level shaft top; a grand engine but no water to drive it (the water had got away down some old workings on its way from Linkindale) so they used the old iron shaft 13' 3" long. It had been forged out square and then drawn under the hammer on the corners and made octagon, so into the lathe it went. One journal 5 1/2" at each end and one 9" from the end taking the fast and loose drums between, and an old 6' 6" brake wheel picked up from the Old Low Level incline.

There were two 5ft drums and some old cast metal pedestals 3' 6" high, that would just come in for the job, left at Low Level shaft top. These were belonging to the hydraulic winder, the first winder ever put down at Greenside well over 100 yrs ago. So off they went to lower them down the shaft to Lucy Level. All went well till the loose drum got over the edge, then the chain broke and away it went taking timber and pipes with it. The centre of the loose drum was the only part unbroken.

The next thing was to get casting two drum sides to run on the old centrepiece and two discs with opposite pin holes and octagon centres to fasten on to the octagon shaft with wood packing 7' long by 1 1/4" thick and tightened up with iron wedges, so

making a loose drum when pins were withdrawn for adusting ropes.

In the meantime wheels were got; cast iron helical tooth, flanged, for the last two motions and steel straight teeth for the first. Then to fixing, as cement was not much in use in those days heavy cross sections of timber were laid down and fixed with bolts through for the timber carrying the pedestals, which had three feet each about 1ft square. The centre one being under the drum shaft. The top section taking the bearings and also the legs were H section 14" thick with long rounded end slot holes for lightness, from the centre bearing to back of drums.

Then there was the motor, a huge affair made by Jacksons of Manchester, 500 volt 4 pole with a 2ft dia. armature (just such another machine as the old d.c.generator up at No. 3 Power House at the present).

After a good deal of hard graft, jacking and pinching and scheming it was got together. As usual there was no head-room even if they'd had any blocks. Sweat and blood, but no tears (nowt gars reet till somebodys got napped and a bit of blood let out).

And so the first electric winder was put in commission in this country.

Electricity was then still in its infancy and no-one had hit on the idea of a reversible motor, so they come by a double clutch bevel geared reversing device which was coupled on to the motor and first reduction gear. This device is still on the property and was in daily use until the old firm closed down.

It was a job well done by real craftsmen. They didn't know who Euclid was and cared less, but practised his art before he knew it; the shortest distance between two points is get at it, a centre line, a bit of string, a ruler, and no Top Hatter with a rotten plan.

This winder worked continuously until 27 Aug. 1941 when the drum shaft twisted off on the gear side, leaving the drums standing intact with one cage up and one down."

The above was submitted by Vaughan Landless who doesn't know when or by whom it was written, (but he found it at the Records Office at Kendal).

For Sale

The following Publications are available from Bob Guthrie, 186 Station Road, Billingham C. Cleveland TS23 2RT. (Prices include post and packing)

		Members	Non-Members
Vol 2 No 3	Memoirs 1973	£0.70	£0.70
* Vol 2 No 4	Memoirs 1974	£1.00	£1.00
British Mining No 2.	The Day mine, Wanlockhead	£1.25	£1.40
* British Mining No 3.	Memoirs 1976	£1.05	£1.35
British Mining No 4.	The Mines of Anglesey & Caernarvonshire	£1.00	£1.35
British Mining No 5.	Memoirs 1977	£1.40	£1.75
British Mining No.6.	The Mines of Merioneth	£0.90	£1.35

Titles not shown are out of print. * A few copies only.

Also beleive it or not we still have some car stickers and metal lapel badges left These can be obtained from John McNeil, 12 Woodville Road, Brierfield, Nelson.

Prices:-

Car stickers - 40p collected, 50p posted.
Badges - 35p collected, 45p posted.

Warning to Members

An organisation called the British Cave and Mine Association (BC & MA) has been established in Sheffield. Among claimed member organisations is one NC & MG. This is NOT our Society, so if you are tempted to contribute anything to BC & MA in response to any appeal you may receive from them - be warned we aren't involved in any way.

Maybe one/some of their officers would care to put a name or two on their bumper it might not seem to be quite as suspicious to us then. The bible laws being what they are perhaps we should say no more.

Book Review

"The Search for Silver - Cornish Miners in Mexico 1824-1947" A.C. Todd.
192pp., 27 plates., endpaper maps. Lodenek Press, Padstow, Cornwall. £5.25.

This book, in similar style to Dr Todd's former work "The Cornish Miner in America" (D.B. Barton, 1967), tells the story of the Cornish involvement in the re-opening of the once rich silver mining area of Hidalgo after it had lain idle for nearly a quarter of a century as a result of political upheavals and revolution. When these convulsions subsided, representatives from Mexico journeyed to Europe in order to encourage foreign mining expertise to redevelop the mines. The result was wild speculation and the formation of various concerns, one of which, headed by John Taylor forms the main subject of this book. The story is one of great perseverance and fortitude and involved the transportation of men and materials across the Atlantic to New Spain where disease (including the charmingly named 'black vomit') and appalling conditions of travel took their toll. Cornish pumping engines were dumped upon the open beaches until there were men enough to carry them over the miles of scorching terrain to the distant mines. Once there, and the clearing up operations had been completed, the Taylor concern under the title of the Real del Monte Company, had to face innumerable difficulties, human and technical. Coup followed counter-coup as President overthrew President in a country notorious for its political instability; "high grading" was rife - rich silver ore being smuggled out of the mine in a dead miner's stomach in one case - and difficulties in concentrating refractory ores (via the patio process) were a constant problem. The result of these setbacks was an eventual defeat for these 'wise men from the east' (their own cynical term for non Cornish adventurers in the tin and copper mines of the South West) and the Real del Monte Company gave up the mines in 1848. Their successors however were to strike it rich, a familiar enough occurrence in metal mining history.

The technical side of the 19th century mining operations is outlined as are the beneficiation processes such as patio and barrel amalgamation. We learn for instance, that the shaft at nearby La Valenciana Mine was 1500 feet in depth, of octagonal shape and a staggering 32 feet in diameter. For the first 200 feet, it was lined with brickwork. Drifts from the shaft foot were ten feet wide and at inclined sections, solid stone stairways were built to allow the ore to be carried to the bottom of the shaft.

As will be apparent from the book's sub-title, the greater part of the text deals with individuals and families, and tends to become tedious in places. Sections and plans would have been helpful in sorting out the descriptions of the mines' layouts above and below grass. The 27 plates are interesting but marred by indifferent reproduction. In short, a fine piece of research and recording but this volume will probably have greater appeal to the social rather than the mining historian.

R.H. Bird.

Summer Schools and Courses 1978.

- a) Snowdonia National Park Study Centre, Plas Tan y Bwlch, Mientwrog, Gwynedd LL41 3YU.
4 - 11 March Quarries & Quarrymen. 17 - 24 June Lead & Copper Mines
1 - 7 May Welsh Gold Mines. 27 - 29 Oct Aspects of Ind. Arch.
3 - 10 June Practical Ind. Archaeology. 29 Oct - 5 Nov Ind. Arch. of Snowdonia
- b) Peak National Park Study Centre, Castleton, Derbs. Mines and Caves 31 Mar - 2 Apr.
- - - - -

Seeing as how I've been hanging on to this for the last 6 months, it is time it was included:-

History of the Registered Company

R. Sharnbrook.

At common law the Crown always had the right of granting charters of incorporation. This right was first used for creating commercial corporations at the end of the 16th and the beginning of the 17th centuries, when such companies as the Levant Company, the East India Company, the Hudson's Bay Company, and the notorious South Sea Company (later incorporated by a Special Act of Parliament) were created. As these corporations were legal entities quite distinct from their members, it therefore followed that at common law the members were not liable for the debts of the corporation, and indeed the Crown had no power to incorporate persons so as to make them liable for debts of the corporation. In a partnership, on the other hand, the firm was not given a separate corporate existence, the partners were always individually liable for all the debts of the firm - e.g. their liability was unlimited.

Trading companies, as we know them, were originally regulated companies, that is companies in which each member traded with his own stock subject to the rules of the company, but towards the end of the 17th century, the joint stock company emerged, and this is the form of company we know today.

Eventually there grew up a new type of company based upon contract, the contract taking the form of an elaborate Deed of Settlement (most mining companies were originally "Deed of Settlement Companies" or otherwise known as "Cost Book Companies" the latter term deriving from the Cost Book wherein was entered all transactions of the company). The Deed of Settlement contained provisions regulating the relations of members among themselves, providing for the transfer, calls, and forfeiture of shares, for example. The elaborate Deed of Settlement continued in use well into the 20th century e.g. at Levant Mines in Pendeen, Cornwall - until 1919-1920, although after 1855 and 1856 when the Limited Liability Act was passed in the former year, and the Joint Stock Companies Act passed in the latter year, which substituted the Memorandum & Articles of Association for the Deed of Settlement, the Deed of Settlement gradually fell into disuse.

The Limited Liability Act of 1855, whilst limiting a members liability to the amounts (if any) unpaid on his shares, largely weakened the close and personal control which individual adventurers formerly exercised over the affairs of the company or mine. Thereafter - gradually at first, and then much more frequently, dividends became the yardstick whereby the progress of a mine were measured; moreover with the capital much more widely spread and shareholders living some distances from the mine, these were unable to differentiate between legitimate mining or downright frauds. The years between 1860 and 1890 were the hey-day of the fraudulent company promoter, so much so that far more money was made from company litigation than from actual mining or legitimate corporate enterprise. In *Great Wheal Polgooth v Lewis* 1879, it was held that a Solicitor who does the legal work necessary in forming a company, was

not himself a promoter, or in *Emma Silver Mining Company v Grant* 1879, it was held that the term "Promoter" actually involved 'Floating' a company. The former case arose from an incident at the Polgooth Inn, Polgooth Village Nr. St. Austell, where persons were induced to become shareholders after having been liberally supplied with laced ale.

The Companies Act of 1862, repealed and consolidated (much abused term in mining) all previous companies acts, and placed Company Law in a form we know it today. The Directors' Liability Act 1890 made directors liable to compensate all persons who had been induced to take shares through false statements in a prospectus, but not until a comparative late date - 1900 were provisions made for the compulsory audit of a companies accounts, until then this duty was invariably performed by a director or other officers of the company, one can well imagine the outcry this would cause today!

The Companies Act of 1862, was very much a mixed blessing, for whilst consolidating previous company legislation, at the same time gave the fraudulent company promoter much greater scope for fraud. This Act however, also held that the Memorandum & Articles of Association were public documents and therefore capable of being inspected by any intending subscriber, and in *East Holyford Mining Company v Mahoney* 1875 L.R 7 H.L. 869 held that a shareholder was not entitled to have his contract to take shares set aside, by pleading that he had not inspected the companies Memorandum & Articles.

A very large number of mining companies were incorporated with an issued and paid up share capital of 512 or 1024 £1 shares, the Deed of Settlement of Devon Great Consols Copper Mining Company providing for the latter. However, in the 1860's and '70's with the gradual exhaustion of copper lodes, and to meet growing competition from the importing of foreign ores, financial reconstructions involving much larger share capitals became necessary e.g. at Devon Great Consols, where on 14th May 1872 a Special Resolution was passed at an Extraordinary General Meeting, it was decided to re-register that company under the Companies Acts 1862 & 1867, to substitute the Memorandum & Articles of Association for the original Deed of Settlement, and to increase the share capital from the original amount to 10,240 shares of £5 each. This particular reconstruction became necessary to raise sufficient capital for the construction of the mine's arsenic refinery (Note 1.) and also to deepen Richards' Shaft to 300 fathoms - 1800 feet in the search for tin (this search was alleged to have been abortive). This refinery eventually became the largest in Europe, and even today, with much of the original building levelled, one can form an idea of its original size.

(Note 1. Over 72,000 tons of refined arsenic were produced (1872-1902) - a teaspoonful was calculated to be sufficient to kill a man!

Working Committee Meetings These are held on the first Friday of the month at the following committee members addresses (see sheet 1. for address)

3 Mar	- Harry Houghton	1 Sept	- Adrian & Lynda Finch
7 Apr	- Adrian & Lynda Finch	6 Oct	- Dick Bird
5 May	- Dick Bird	3 Nov	- John McNeil
2 June	- John Mc Neil	1 Dec	- Jennifer Griffin
7 July	- Jennifer Griffin	5 Jan	- Harry Houghton
4 Aug	- Harry Houghton	2 Feb	- Adrian & Lynda Finch

Members are welcome to attend these meetings.

Meets Changes

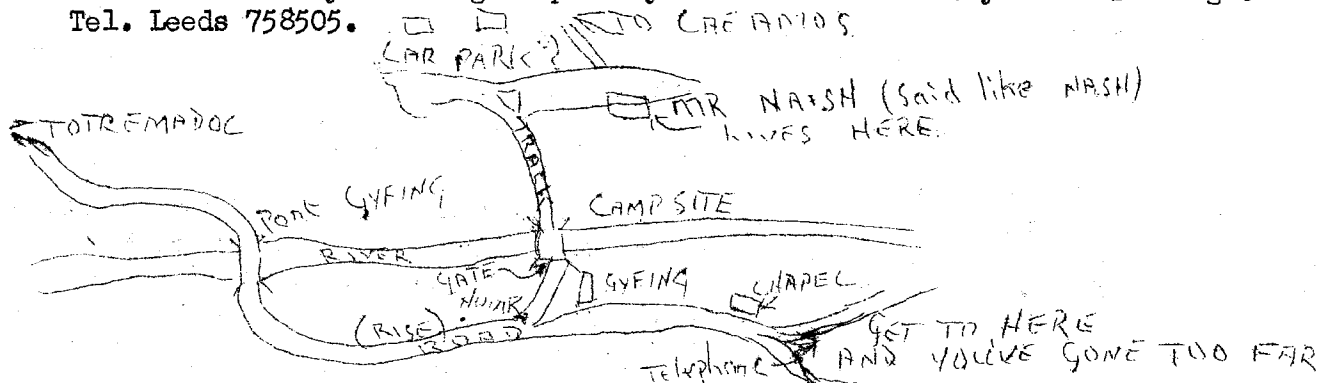
Forgiveness is sought, 'cos in our usual hyper-efficient way we seem to have dropped a couple of tiny whatnots. In order to confuse and make you deface your Meets Card the following should be altered/added as and where you wish:-

March 24 - 27 Cornwall, South Caradon. We are now asked to meet at Butterdon Mill, not Crows Nest Village, at 11am. Butterdon Mill is just off A390.

We have had the kind offer of 2 bed spaces, a couch and as much floor as is needed for anyone who wants to doss on it, at the home of one of our members who lives 9 miles from South Caradon. Anyone interested please contact Pete Goodchild, 63 Broadmead, Callington, Cornwall. Tel. Callington 2625.

May 14 General Meeting at Sicklinghall starts at 2pm.

May 27 - 30 Cwm Pennant (Garndolbenmaen area) Leader H. Houghton. Camp at map ref. SH 524453. To further add to the confusion, we may have use of an old farmhouse for this meet (sleeps 18+) but we won't know until the week before. Also if too many turn up we may have to disperse some of the tents around the farmers land, so as not to look much like a campsite. Anyone going give me a ring the week before, this could save you having to pitch your tent - don't rely on this though. Tel. Leeds 758505.



June 10 - 11 Plumbago Mine, Borrowdale. Change of campsite - now at NGR NY249168. Meet here at 10-30am.

July 8 - 9 Hilton Mine & Smelt Mill project. Leader M. Goth. Details later.

July 15 - 16 Alston Moor - maybe, if can be arranged. Details later if on.

Note. If any member has any query regarding any Meet may we suggest that they contact the meet leader direct, where possible.

The following is an extract from a caving club bulletin written by S. Jeacock. Blaen-y-Nant.

"Blaen is Nant is approx. 6 miles from Mold close to the village of Erryrys near Llanarmon. Travelling towards Erryrys from Mold turn right at the pub in the village and follow the road past council houses on the right and left. Follow this for about a mile (it deteriorates into a dirt track) past a junction on the left until you reach a farmgate and track on the right. The track leads up to a farm called 'The

Lot'. There are two shafts close to the farm - a large winding shaft some 50 yards in front of the farm, which has been used as a rubbish tip (decaying teabags were seen!) and a climbing shaft. The latter (NGR 198582) is located close to an old barn to the left of the farmgate. The entrance is on top of a small mound and is covered by rotting timbers and boulders. The shaft is also partially covered by a large limestone slab which is stable and needn't be removed. 90' of ladder is needed to descend - belay to a tree about 15' away. The first 20' of the shaft is ginged and vertical and is followed by a steep mud slope. At the bottom the way on is through a bouldery crawl into a short passage about 5' high to the second pitch of 45' (belay to metal stake in the floor). The third shaft soon follows and is 25' deep (belay to metal staple at shaft head). Both pitches also slope down on a steep incline. All three shafts contain remains of climbing ladders but only the last 4 or 5 rungs remain at the base of the shafts (larger remains can be found between the 2nd and 3rd shafts).

At the foot of the 3rd shaft there is a junction. Left leads to the 'Stream Cavern' along a gallery some 6' high, through mud and water. The gallery leads to a flooded shaft and the floor is covered by magnificent gour pools and dams fed by a small stream (quite startling as the mine is quite featureless - for a caver - before this point). The gallery ends in a mud choke. The shaft is about 15' deep and one can see climbing stemples below the water, which is bright green and very attractive.

The passage off the the right leads into the 'Stream Cavern' which is quite high and natural. A stream cascades in from the roof and joins the stream flowing in from the mined gallery. All one wall has been dry-stone walled which has been covered by creamy white flowstone to form a solid wall (quite amazing). The stream flows down a steep flowstone slope and disappears in the filthiest of mud wallows! Wading through thigh deep mud enables one to reach a small passage in the roof which can be followed for some 300' to a dead-end.

Back to the junction at the base of the 3rd shaft - to the right for a distance to the top of a wide, 40' deep, shaft. Traverse over this and the passage continues for 300' to a dead end. A passage on the left leads to the Winding Shaft (this is open to the surface but is blocked some 70' down). Across the winding shaft is another gallery that can be reached by a very careful traverse - leads to about 150' of passage. Returning to the 40' shaft - this is slightly off vertical and leads to a short passage and another shaft, 75' deep. This in turn leads to the head of another shaft! At the head of this shaft is a passage that is choked with all manner of muck and rubbish and most definitely connects with the winding shaft. The last shaft descends for 100' to a choked rift chamber and is very dangerous indeed due to partially collapsed de wall half way down the shaft (as first one down I found out the hard way, an experience much likened to an overdose of Ex-lax). Not wishing to fight our way through teabags and the like, we did not descend the winding shaft.

References to the mine suggest it was being worked during the 1880's - one account though refers to Blaen-y-Nant Cave discovered by lead miners in 1837 - the miners broke into a 'subterranean river' and when the water subsided they found a large well-decorated natural cavern and about 180' of river passage. The vein worked by B-Y-N strikes north west and like other mines in the area was never very successful."

All contributions/critisisms for the newsletter to be sent to:-

H.Houghton, PRO. 29 Parkside Road, Meanwood, Leeds LS6 4LY. Tel Leeds 758505.

NORTHERN MINE RESEARCH SOCIETY
GENERAL ACCOUNT

Statement of Receipts and Payments for period 1/1/77 until 31/12/77.

RECEIPTS

	£
Subscriptions - 1977 Membership	368.50
1978 "	239.65
Badges	15.75
Folders	0.50
Donations	142.85
Repayment from Publications A/c	65.25
Sale of Duplicator & Typewriter	20.00
Presidents Talk-in	12.60
Cheque made out to NMRS in error payable to L.Finch	4.66
Publications BM6, payable to Publications A/c	1.80
Annual Dinner	150.50
	<u>1022.06</u>

PAYMENTS

Subs. to other Societies	6.00
Skipton Scouts - hire of Dump	25.00
Publications A/c for BM2 - BM6	565.25
Craven Herald - Meets cards	12.95
Equipment Insurance	7.50
Annual Dinner	143.00
Secretarys Expenses	33.66
Library Expenses	15.00
PRO Expenses	43.92
Treasurers Expenses	31.43
Bank Charges	4.24
	<u>887.95</u>

1022.06

887.95

Excess of Receipts over Payments

134.11

CASH STATEMENT

Excess of Receipts over payments	134.11
Balance Brought forward from 1976	<u>180.63</u>
	314.74
Add back cheques not presented at Bank	<u>11.20</u>
	325.95
Skipton Building Society Deposit A/c balance at 31/12/77	<u>112.72</u>
Total Funds	<u><u>438.66</u></u>

I certify that I have inspected the accounts of the Northern Mine Research Society, and that the Receipts and Payments account is a true and accurate record of the affairs of the Society during 1977.

J.Pulford A.C.M.A.

NORTHERN MINE RESEARCH SOCIETY
PUBLICATIONS ACCOUNT

Statement of Income & Expenditure for period 1/1/77 until 31/12/77.

Balance brought forward £227.37

INCOME

Sales to Society of BM2 & BM3	£167.30	(balance owing from 1976)
" of BM4	£158.00	
" of BM5	£228.75	
Sales to Members of BM6	£ 63.90	
Publication aftersales	£373.42	(includes subscribers)
Donation	£250.00	
	<u>£ 1241.37</u>	

EXPENDITURE

Production cost of BM4	£279.00	
" BM5	£361.50	
" BM6	£259.45	
Advertising material	£ 20.00	
Invoice reprint	£ 4.86	
Postage of publications	£131.15	(includes aftersales)
Envelopes	-	
Editorial expenses	£ 10.65	
Overpayment of members' subs	£ 65.25	(repaid to Gen A/c)
	<u>£1131.86</u>	

ASSETS

Stock of publications on 31/12/77	£365.41	(at cost)
Debtors*	£213.81	
Balance from Gen A/c for new members publications	N/K	(if any)

* This figure is high due to monthly invoiced aftersales of BM6, not yet expired.

	£1241.37
	<u>£1131.86</u>
Excess of income over expenditure	£ 109.51
add balance brought forward	<u>£ 227.37</u>
BALANCE CARRIED FORWARD	<u><u>£ 336.88</u></u>

I hereby declare the above to be a true and fair view of the Publications Account of the Northern Mine Research Society at 31/12/77.

R.H.Bird. Hon.Editor.