

NORTHERN MINE RESEARCH SOCIETY

Newsletter February 1979

Obituary - W.T. Shaw

It came as a shock to receive the following news, unfortunately too late for inclusion in the last newsletter:-

We are very sad to have to record the death of Mr W.T. Shaw of Keswick. 'Bill', who was 69, died on 2nd November, 1978 following a further stroke. He is survived by a daughter, Jane, and son-in-law, Peter Dickinson to whom we extend our sympathy.

~~Bill served~~ his apprenticeship to mining at Greenside and subsequently has worked and been known in many parts, becoming an authority on all aspects of mining, and maintaining a lively interest to the last. (He was an Honorary member of NMRS).

He will be missed by all who knew him, and I would like to say a personal goodbye to an old and valued friend.

Mike Goth.

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Mike Gill

Mike Gill, past President and Recorder and long standing member of the Society, in enforced residence at present in Pinderfields Hospital, Wakefield, following a motor accident in Saudi Arabia last December.

We wish him a speedy and complete recovery.

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British Mining No. 10 - The Mines of Montgomery & Radnorshire

This volume is now available. Members and associates who have not ordered one already but who wish to receive a copy should write direct to Bob Guthrie, (186 Station Road, Billingham, TS23 2RT). Final price of this volume is £1.20 to members and it would save you postage if cash can be included with your order.

Those who have already made use of the order form in the September newsletter should by now have received their copy.

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Publications

The following are still available from Bob Guthrie (address as above). Titles not shown are now out of print.

Vol 2 No 3. Memoirs 1973	£0.70
BM2 The Day Mine, Wanlockhead	£1.25
BM5 Memoirs 1977	£1.40
BM8 Memoirs 1978 (few only)	£1.35
BM10 The Mines of Montgomery & Radnorshire	£1.20

Above prices for members and associates only.

British Mining No. 11 - Memoirs 1979. Material for this issue should reach the Editor - R.H. Bird, 41 Windsor Walk, South Anston, Sheffield - no later than 30th June, 1979. The next publication "The Llandudno Copper Mines" will be issued in May. 1979.

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Everybody out.....!

The P.D.M.H.S. who have been engaged in removing the pitwork and pumps of the hydraulic engine in Wills Founder Shaft at Winster have now completed the work. The 360' shaft is to be capped with concrete sleepers and the pumps will be 'split' between the Science Museum and the Peak District Mining Museum, Matlock. The removal of the pumps has necessitated extracting about a hundred feet of sand and silt in the sump below the engine room, with the aid of sludge pumps and sustained human elbow grease; this effort being punctuated with the odd shower of deads and expensive photographic equipment!

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ARE YOU

1. Are you an active member,
The kind that would be missed,
Or are you just contented
That your name is on the list?
2. Do you attend the meetings,
And mingle with the Flock
Or do you stay at home
And criticize and knock?
3. Do you take an active part
To help the work along?
Or are you satisfied to be
The guy who just belongs?
4. Do you work in Committees?
To do this is no trick -
Or leave the work to just a few
And talk about the "clique"....?
5. So come to meetings often,
And help with hand and heart.
Don't be just a member,
But take an active part.
6. Think it over, Member
You should know right from wrong
You can be an active member
Or you can always just belong.

This gem is not ours but was spotted by one of our members in the IEEE transactions,"
then spotted by one of OUR members in their newsletter.

Forthcoming Sellings

To be published May, 1979 (now in the Press) "The Lead Smelting Mills of the Yorkshire Dales, (1962)" 2nd Edition. Printed by Scolar Press, London and Ilkley and published again privately by the Author, R.T. Clough.

Approx 240 pages, Quarto, Wrapper, Finely bound. This new edition (limited to 750 signed copies) will contain over 50 unpublished photographs (mainly taken over 30 years ago) as well as drawings etc., relative to mining and smelting in the Yorkshire Dales, and much additional text, with a further long bibliography. All text plus survey and photographs in 1st edition to be also included in this new edition. (No copies of 1st edition are now available).

Pre publication price: £18 (until 30th April, 1979 after which date copies will be £24) plus £1.30 postage and carton in each case. Cheques or postal orders payable to Robert T. Clough, Stoneleigh, Utley, Keighley, West Yorkshire BD20 8HN.

Further to

"In reply to the query in the November newsletter regarding fluid inclusions in fluorite, the following may be of interest;

Fluid inclusions have over recent years become important for determining the temperatures and pressures occurring at the time of deposition of minerals and also for providing information regarding the chemical nature of the solvent fluid.

The theory is that vacuoles were formed in the minerals at the time they precipitated out of solution which became filled with part of the solution; later when the minerals cooled the drops of solution separated out into normal temperature state solids liquids and gasses thus giving the appearance of a vacuole partly filled with liquid.

The inclusions are best studied in transparent minerals and a check has to be made that the inclusions are totally isolated i.e. there are no cracks or fractures leading to atmosphere along which the contents could escape or become contaminated. A thin section containing the inclusion is then viewed under the microscope and heated until the solid, liquid and gas become homogeneous and expand to fill the vacuole, the temperature being required to reach this stage representing the temperature of deposition.

The fluid is generally an aqueous solution of Halite containing up to two dozen other trace elements and the degree of salinity can be checked by noting the temperature at which the solution freezes. Typical temperatures of deposition for Fluorine are around 140 degrees C.

Of related interest, research is at present being conducted into fluid inclusions in diamonds; lead which is present in the fluid has been dated and indicates that the diamonds were formed millions of years before surrounding matrix of Kimberlite; this

suggests that the Kimberlite is merely a transporter of the diamonds rather than featuring in their manufacture.

Inclusions are not generally common but are nevertheless widespread and are found in a variety of minerals although they are difficult to detect in the darker minerals.

Adrian Finch.

Also.....

"The 85' shaft mentioned in the Gunnerside Gill Meet report is presumably the one situated on the left hand side of the Old Rake Vein approximately 10 yards from its junction with the Friarfold Vein. This shaft connects with Sir George Level which at this point is directly beneath Buntan Level. On passing the blockage at the bottom of the shaft if one heads towards the portal (the portal of Sir George can be seen at the bottom of the tips from Buntan) deep water is soon encountered and this gradually becomes deeper until further progress is impossible. In the other direction a worked out chamber is immediately entered with an unstable roof fall at the far end.

Roger Turton.

Book Review

"A Historical Sketch of British Mining". Robert Hunt. ISBN 0 7158 1246 7. 228pp., 13 line drawings., appendix and glossary., revised index. Reprinted 1978 by EP Publishing Ltd, East Ardsley, Wakefield, West Yorkshire. Hard back £5.50.

This book, first published in 1887, concerns the history of metal mining in the British Isles and was written by Robert Hunt who is now generally remembered as the Keeper of Mining Records for 37 years from 1845. The book, reproduced in facsimile form, contains six chapters; mining prior to the Roman Invasion; during the Roman occupation; to the 18th century and separate chapters on mining for tin, and copper; lead and silver; gold; iron ore and other metals in the 18th century. Whilst only representing Book 1 of Hunt's great work, this part is considered the most interesting of the whole, containing as it does technical as well as geological information. The very extensive appendix will be of great value to the student of mining history since it lists a wide range of useful information in its 38 tables, this material being devoted to production statistics of the various metals, copper ticketings, average prices, imports and exports and much more besides.

To anyone who has the slightest interest in Britain's mining history up to and including the 18th century - which probably applies to the majority of the membership - this volume will be found to be invaluable particularly since the original work is now quite rare, or at best, not easily consulted. The publishers are to be congratulated for this fine edition and it is to be hoped that they may be sufficiently encouraged by the demand for this book to consider reprinting the remaining sections of this great work which is so frequently used - and quoted - by authors of recent papers devoted to the subject. Bearing in mind the high cost of books these days - particularly those well presented in hard back form - this offering from EP Publishing Ltd can only be described as excellent value for money.

R.H. Bird.

I keep getting asked how I go on with regards to copyright on articles in N/L's:-

When 'omer scribbled before his fire
'E'd eard men yarn by land and sea
An' tales 'e thought 'e might require
'E went an' took - the same as we.

Men knew 'e stole, 'e knew they knowed;
They didn't make no noise or fuss,
But winked at 'omer down the road.
An' he winked back - the same as us.

More to. Further to

Bunton Level and Old Rake. The following is taken from an article by Peter Comer in the B.S.A. Bulletin of December, 1970.

The Author, John Hodgkins and Roger Turton decided to try to get passed a blockage in Bunton Level hoping to gain access into the Old Rake and maybe through to Hard Level:-

Upon commencement of the work little progress was initially made, but a 50' rise was seen above the fall which it was thought might be utilised. The fall was finally broken through, using poles and packing the dig, ending up with a foot square hole to the far side. A week later John and I returned with Roger Pescod and Dave Turton and some coffin boxes made mid-week. We found that more rubble had fallen from above so that no gap could be seen. When it came to my turn to dig, I was able to stand in the rise and look around. - my exit looked as if it might disappear at any time as the right hand side consisted of shale and large boulders often 4' deep and up to my waist, they were only held back by a rotten timber; the left hand side was not so bad and the front was mainly mud and shale, so I decided to slowly remove the timber and pass it out behind me. One large boulder required our combined efforts to move, the whole operation being compared with defusing a bomb.

I started digging at the far end of the blockage and dug down. I broke through and soon, having cleared forward towards a solid roof, found I could dig with no more rubble falling. After clearing what I hoped would be enough, the boxes were pulled through, going in position with less than $\frac{1}{2}$ " to spare. As the rise was about 8' long there was an 18" gap between them, but the centre looked fairly safe. The boxes were pretty tight, being on a slope and when I emerged on the far side I found myself standing in 18" of water. After the others had joined me and we had advanced about 9 yards the floor level had risen and we were in a dry passage. Forty yards from the blockage, the floor between the rails had given way leaving a ten foot deep hole and we presumed that there were workings below. After 60 yards we came across a fall and at this point saw the beginning of the vein, up to $\frac{1}{2}$ " wide in places. We realised now that we were in the beginning of the Old Rake Vein.

We proceeded finding small workings to the right and above the passage. In places the roof was very unsafe and at 110 yards it had given way. To our disappointment we arrived at a point where the floor had completely disappeared for about 20' and only the left-hand rail was connected to the far side, the other lying some 25' below. The only way forward would be to descend and then scale the other side. We had gained about 140 yards of passage and could see it continuing.

On the following weekend we returned with scaling equipment to gain access to the passage at the far side of the hole. The floor of the ensuing passage was very unstable showing openings where the floor had collapsed. Six feet from the top of the scaling ladder was a rise but the surrounding roof was in a state of collapse so was not accessible.

At 50 yards a hole in the floor gave access to a passage which is also very unstable and ends after 30 yards where railway lines can be seen above with boulders lying across them. These boulders are at the bottom of a major blockage, work on the removal of which was begun before we returned to the entrance. Rumbles could be heard about 30' above.

We returned about a fortnight later and after two hours we had partly penetrated the choke. I poked my head through and the way beyond could not clearly be seen though at least it looked fairly safe. After more digging Roger looked through and noticed directly above his head a boulder about 8' long and 2' wide going up indefinitely. The rise could clearly be seen up to 40' above.

This relates exploration to date and work has been temporarily discontinued. In all, 220 yards of "new" passage have been explored.

I would add that from what we have seen so far of the Old Rake Vein, it is, in comparison with other parts of the Old Gang System, in a very dangerous state due to workings immediately above and below the main passage. It demands respect.

Our Hon. Recorder says he has a handle to his name and would we please call him by it.

In future therefore, he is to be addressed as Mr. FINCH-HANDLE.

I think that's what he means!!!!

Mining Conference - 23/24th June, 1979.

The first ever conference of as many mining Societies and Museums as can be contacted is being planned by PDHMS. Subject to sufficient support it is proposed that the event will take place at 'North of England Open Air Museum', Beamish on weekend 23/24th June, 1979.

In addition to talks, displays etc., this will be an opportunity to meet like-minded people to exchange views and ideas.

Full details will appear in next newsletter, meantime make a note.

Alteration to Meets Card

In view of the above event the Keld Meet will now be held a week later, ie. w/e June 30th/1st July, 1979.

Annual General Meeting - 11th February, 1979.

We seemed to have more apologies for absence than members attending, but this at least ensured a quick and uncomplicated meeting.

The Committee elected for 1979 are:-

President	J.H.McNeil, 12 Woodville Road, Brierfield, Nelson. Tel.0282 63297
Vice-Pres.	Mrs.L.Finch, 10 Exeter Cres. Killinghall,Harrogate.
Junior Vice-Pres.	R.Humphrey, 83 Medina Road,Longhill Estate,Hull.HU8 9RA. Tel 813514
Treasurer	Mrs.J.Griffin, 19 Westfield Terr, Baildon,Shipley BD17 5EY.
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 Road,Meanwood,Leeds LS6 4LY. 0532 758505
Recorder	A.P.Finch, 10 Exeter Cres,Killinghall, Harrogate.
Librarian	E.Nutter, 38 Skipton Old Road, Colne. Tel. Colne 4572

Officers Reports were as follows:-

President. Retiring President Mrs.J.Guthrie, thanked the rest of the Officers for making her year an easy one, and hopes that the Society will continue to prosper.
Treasurer. Please see attached balance sheet. It would appear as if we have made a loss, but this is due to the fact that subs. for 1979 have been held over to be included in the '79 financial year. We had a total of 219 members for 1978 (which includes 43 new members). Re 1979 we have 188 paid-up members at 10/2/79 (including 25 new members) with 53 still unpaid. A total of £867.13 in the Bank. Thanks to all who have paid so promptly.

J.Griffin.

Secretary. I have received a lot of enquiries regarding membership (borne out by the Treasurer's report). We had a good list of meets, which were reasonably well attended. We have drawn up what we think will be an interesting Meets List for '79 - please give it your support. Thanks to all who have helped me in my 1st year in this office.

J.H.McNeil.

PRO. The past year has been fairly uneventful, apart from newsletter times when the duplicator has given an hiccup and needed a talking to. The correspondence I receive with regards to the Newsletter proves that some members at least do read it. I would like to thank all who have contributed articles etc., and to ask you to keep them coming, as we need all we can get.

H.Houghton.

Editor. Three publications were issued during 1978. I am pleased to say that our publications are now finding a wide market which is shown by the fact that after-sales receipts were more than £1100. Most of our stock publications were exhausted last year and so it is proposed to increase print runs of future issues to compensate for the greater demand.

Total income for '78 was more than £1600, leaving an increased balance to start the new year. This is all to the good because the cost of the next monograph will be more than £600 for the extra quantity. Expenditure last year amounted to nearly £1400; £180 of this was taken up by postage.

Three more publications should be possible this year; 'The Llandudno Copper Mines'; The Memoirs and Mr Foster-Smith's volume on Cardiganshire. In fact, the printers have started to typeset the latter volume so that it will be available earlier in the year

than was the last part in the series. Containing 13 plates, 6 maps and about 9 sections, the Cardiganshire volume will probably be the best of the series and because of the extended amount of text will probably sell to the public at about £2.25.

Monograph material awaiting publication includes the final volume of the Welsh series, 'The Caradon & Phoenix Mining Area' and a monograph on the Grassington Moor Mines is currently being written. Two manuscripts have been rejected on the grounds of being quite unsuitable for a mining publication.

I would like to again thank Harry & Sue for envelope licking and pillar box feeding and Bob Guthrie for his fine efforts on the aftersales side, a job which is annually becoming more time consuming and complex.

My thanks to our contributors who make our publications possible. It would be nice to see new contributors take their cue from the 'regulars'. More underground surveys and a deal more fieldwork should be included in the Memoirs.... so get cracking someone!

R.H.Dird.

The proposed alteration to the Constitution, as detailed in the September 1978 n/1 was passed, and so item 16 now reads:- The management of the Society shall be conducted by the committee which shall consist of all Society officers. Three shall make a quorum. Full minutes will be brought before the next General Meeting.

New Members as additions to Members List of May 1978.

'78. Full

M.W. LOYD	14 Kelso Gardens, Leeds 2.
D. WILLIAMS	7 Larch Way, Chesterfield.
<u>Student</u>	
W.H.A. CASSELLS	23 Eslington Terrace, Jesmond, Newcastle.

'79. Full

R. CALVIN	93 Mill Hill, Cleator Moor, Cumbria
R. FIELD	4 Ellergreen, Burneside, Kendal Cumbria LA9 5SD
J.E. FORKES	28 King St. Normanton WF6 1EW
J. GALL	Beamish Museum, Stanley Co. Durham
M. GUEST	31 Bell End, Rowley Regis, Warley, W. Midlands B65 9LR
J.M. HELLIWELL	16 Century Rd, Retford Notts DN22 7TD
T. HICKINGDOTHAM	410 Southcoates Lane, Hull HU9 3TR
J. JONES	31 Bridgefields, Keyworth, Derbys.
T. LAWS	27 Mellow Lane West, Hillingdon Middsex.
D. LEONARD	30 Wentworth Cres. Starbeck, Harrogate HG2 7JY
M. MURNAGHAN	341A Staines Road West, Ashford, M'sex.
D.W. PANNETT	11 Bramber Ave. Peacehaven E. Sussex BN9 8LR.
J.R. ROBERTS	25 Central Boulevard, Wheatley Hills, Doncaster DN2 5PE
R.P. SHAW	39 Wordsworth Drive, Cheam, Surrey SM3 8HD
P.S. STANSBRIDGE	37 Helston Road, Chelmsford
A. WINROW	111 Holly Dene, Armthorpe, Doncaster DN3 2EZ.

Family

Mrs Clough	Stoneleigh, Utley, Keighley BD20 6HN
Mrs M. POLLITT	10 Ashley Close, Rochdale Lancs OL11 3EP

Associate

D.J. BRINE	15 Gregory Ave. Romiley, Stockport SK6 3JZ
D.M. RUFFELL	21 Kearsley Road, Reading RG3 2EA
G. WARRINGTON	22 Edgerton Dr. Tadcaster LS24 9QW

Student

D.J. BOYACK	House D, Room 9, Elms Road Houses, 36 Elms Rd. Leicester LE2 3JY
K.G. CARRUTHERS	House R, Elms Road Houses, 36 Elms Road, Leicester.
A. NEILL	20 Raven Lane, Ludlow, Salop ST8 1LW
J.C. PRATT	Kilmorna, Church Lane, Dulph, Upminster, Essex.

An up-to-date list of all make-up members for 1979 will appear in May Newsletter.

If you write to any of Society Officers, and want a reply, please enclose S.A.E.

All Contributions for Newsletter to - H. Houghton, 29 Parkside Road, Meanwood, Leeds LS6 4LY.

NORTHERN MINE RESEARCH SOCIETY
GENERAL ACCOUNT

Statement of Receipts and Payments for period 1/1/78 until 31/12/78.

RECEIPTS

	£
Subscriptions 1978	522.75
Donations	14.00
Badges	9.10
Publications	6.25
Talk-in	23.60
Annual Dinner	202.50
	<u>778.20</u>
Subscriptions 1979	12.00
	<u>790.20</u>

PAYMENTS

Secretary's Expenses	4.81
Treasurer's Expenses	20.43
P.R.O.'s Expenses	42.19
Audit fee	4.30
Skipton Scouts - hire of Dump	5.00
Subs. to other Societies	6.00
Craven Herald - programme cards	10.00
Stationery	48.60
Equipment Insurance	15.00
Publications Account	499.42
Talk-in	17.46
Annual Dinner	196.00
GM Expenses -hire of Hall	5.00
Bank Charges	0.72
	<u>874.93</u>
	<u>790.20</u>
Excess of payments over receipts during 1978	84.73

CASH STATEMENT

Balance brought forward	315.10
less excess of payments over receipts	<u>84.73</u>
Balance carried forward @ 31/12/78	230.37
Plus skipton Building Society Deposit a/c balance @31/12/77	<u>112.72</u>
	<u>342.99</u>

I certify that the accounts are a true and fair record of the affairs of the Society during 1978.

J.Pulford. A.C.M.A.

NORTHERN MINER RESEARCH SOCIETY
PUBLICATIONS ACCOUNT

Statement of Income & Expenditure for period 1.1.78 until 31.12.78.

Balance carried forward £304.52*

INCOME

Aftersales, including BML0	£ 1110.67
Sales to Society - DM7 & DM8	499.42
Late membership 1977	11.20
Editor's publication sales	2.70
Postal contribution	1.00
Members STO to Pub A/c	2.25
	<u>1627.24</u>

EXPENDITURE

Printing	1097.00
Postage including aftersales	182.00
Envelopes	28.20
Advertising	24.40
Draughting services	17.50
Editorial expenses	21.58
Reproduction fees (for BM9 in press)	14.75
Members STO payment to Gen a/c	2.25
Bank charges	0.36
	<u>1388.04</u>
Excess of Income over expenditure	<u>239.20</u>
	<u>1627.24</u>

CASH STATEMENT

Balance brought forward	304.52
Excess of income/expenditure	<u>239.20</u>
Total funds @ 31.12.78	<u><u>543.72</u></u>

* Note. Balance 31.12.77 in error due to late presentation of cheque (£32) and omission of bank charges (.36p) .Balance at 31.12.77 should read £304.52 and not £336.88

I certify that the accounts are a true and fair record of the affairs of the Society during 1978.

J.Pulford. A.C.M.A.