

Apologies for and Corrections to last Newsletter.

Unfortunately the bad fairy in the duplicator struck again, and some stencils were altered during printing (the correcting fluid was cleaned off the mistakes it was supposed to mask).

The main correction seems to concern the book review on "Lead Mining and Smelting in Swaledale and Teesdale" by A.E. Shayler and Co.

As good as this publication is, everyone will agree that £5.50 is a bit too steep, so anyone waiting a copy send £1.50 instead.

Please accept my apologies for any inconvenience that this may have caused.

Also the Dinner should be good at £4.00 - we'll settle for £4.00 per head.

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New Honorary Member

It is proposed that J.R. Foster-Smith be made an Honorary Member of the Society, and we hope to ratify this at the September General Meeting.

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Change of Officers

No need for panic, the Committee haven't fallen out with each other (well no more than normal), but as Jennifer is feeling too ill to continue doing the Treasurer's job as well as running a home. and is due to go in hospital anytime now, Sue has volunteered to take over as Treasurer in her place. On behalf of the Society I would like to thank Jennifer for all her help and hard work in the past and wish her a speedy recovery.

All correspondence for Treasurer should now be sent to:- Mrs S.M. Houghton, 29 Parkside Road, Meanwood, Leeds LS6 4LY. Tel 758505.

Adrian has resigned as Recorder, and seeing as how he has got a temporary job in South Africa perhaps it would have been a bit much expecting him to continue in office. When he returns he feels that pressure of work in his final year at University on top of the recorder's job will be too much. We wish him well and thank him for his efforts (will you still talk to us when you're famous?).

Mike Gill has taken over as recorder again, and his address is 38 Main Street, Sutton, Keighley. Tel 0535 35388.

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Wales Meet Report. 26/28th May, 1979.

J.H. McNeil

This was perhaps not one of the best attended meets of the year more than likely due to the rather inclement weather which was up to the leaders usual standard.

On Saturday a small party set off for Talybont and thence made their way to the Dwlch Gwas mine. An inspection of the lower level revealed it to be wet (very wet) and nasty so it was decided to explore the upper adit first. A shaft of approx. 50' was descended using the fixed ladders in the shaft which were of doubtful age and character. Our heaviest member was dispersed down the shaft first to prove the strength of the ladders and wooden stagings. After these were found to be reasonably sound further members descended. At the bottom of this shaft another shaft continued but without ladders. Lack of tackle promoted an early retreat by disappointed members who had hoped to inspect the underground cages and headgear. It is interesting to note at this point that the adjoining shaft to the manway is filled to the upper adit level with water. Whilst the manway is perfectly dry (at present). The mineral men were very soon at work in a nearby stope and had soon located a quantity of pyromorphite crystals.

After lunch the party continued up the valley to inspect the much older Hafan mine and the Plynlimon and Hafan tramway which was built to serve the local quarries and mines. A steep incline is to be found at the head of the valley with the remains of the waterwheel pit used for haulage. Several old levels and open-cut workings adjoin the incline. Later that afternoon it started to rain..... That will teach people to leave their waterproof clothing in their cars.

Saturday evening was spent bothering Harry, who was trying to read a Cowboy story, in between rain showers. Eventually he was left in peace and the party adjourned to the local hostelry for refreshment.

Sunday dawned and we found the caravan field below our campsite knee deep in mud. This field unfortunately provided an exit for our cars. Attempts to remove Ken's car using a Landrover succeeded in getting us banned from the Caravan Club, which was rather surprising since we had never been members in the first place.

When the meet eventually got under way it was decided to take advantage of the rapidly improving weather and stay on the surface. A visit was first made to the Frongoch mine where several buildings still exist although in desperate need of attention if they are not to deteriorate further. After lunch the adjoining Wemyss mine site was explored. It was here that the ore from Frongoch was later processed. Our explorations were interrupted by a wild native shouting at us in some strange celtic language. Our resident interpreter did a quick translation but I'm afraid the result is unprintable. I can only assume that this gentleman's sharp temper was due to the fact that it is impossible to obtain alcoholic liquor in Dyfed on Sunday.

The surface remains at Graiggoch Mine were next visited where the track of the pumping rods is clearly indicated by the roller supports which are still in situ. Close to Graiggoch mine are the ruins of the hydro-electric power station which supplied power to the Frongoch and Wemyss mines.

Glog Fach and Glogfawr mines were next on the agenda where some very fine deep shafts can be seen. These shafts are sunk onto Level Fawr which was driven from the village of Pont-Rhyd-y-Groes to de-water the mines of the area. On our return journey to the campsite in Cwm Rheidol the portal of Level Fawr was visited although an underground exploration was not made since the level is blocked before it reaches any workings. The only access to the workings now is via deep and dangerous shafts.

After tea, since Dyfed is dry, several members paid a visit to the mines in the Rheidol Valley. At Cwm Rheidol mine primitive attempts at hushing were made. Suffice to say these were of limited success and so a retreat to the Rheidol United mines was made.

On Monday the weather was back to normal i.e. RAIN. With the fond hope that the weather might improve, delaying tactics were brought into force with a visit to the Rheidol Hydro-Electric power station and trout hatchery. The storm having failed to abate lunch was taken at an inn in Talybont before proceeding to Ystrad Einion mine. Several members descended into the icy cold waters of the level to inspect the underground waterwheel. The water in the level does seem to have dropped considerably since our visit of two years previously, on this occasion it did not even reach 'critical depth' (not even on Harry). For those who have never seen the waterwheel it is probably one of the most impressive sights to be found underground in Britain.

On our return journey to the camp the tips at the Welsh Potosi and Henfwlch mines were explored by the keen members despite the torrential rain.

For those who remained until the Tuesday the day dawned bright and an excursion was made to Aberystwyth by way of the narrow gauge railway from Devil's Bridge. This rounded off nicely what had otherwise been a fairly uninspiring weekend. (Well at least I enjoyed myself even if no-one else did).

Note: I wonder if Harry ever did get those cows to Abeline?

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### New Mineral Discovered

A previously undiscovered mineral has been unearthed in Cumbria by one of our members - Chris Moffitt of Essex. This particular mineral is called TSUMEBITE or ARSENTSUMEBITE and is related to Conihalcite and duftite. If you want to see what it looks like, then Chris's sample now resides on display in the Mineralogy Gallery of the Natural History Museum in table-case 40e.

At the risk of starting another Klondike, the map ref where it was found was approx NY35302343 Roughton Gill, Carrock Fell..

For those who are still reading, and not haring it up the M6, Tsumeb is a mining town in S.W. Africa where the mineral was originally found.

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### Meets 1980

If you are prepared to lead a meet, please let John McNeil have details of where and when so that a programme can be arranged and printed on your membership card in December. John's address is 12 Woodville Road, Brierfield, Nelson, Lancs BB9 5RW.

Miss Nellie Kirkham (Mrs J.H.D. Myatt) an Obituary.

It is with regret and a great deal of sadness that I must inform you of the death of Nellie Kirkham as we all knew her, on Monday 23th May 1979 at Stoke on Trent.

Nellie was a woman of many parts, an artist in the mid nineteen twenties doing designs for costumes and illustrations for books.

Poet, Playwright and Broadcaster. Between 1929 and 1939 she had several plays broadcast on the old Midland Region; some were based on old Derbyshire Legends, others had a near science fiction flavour and Lead Mines and Miners crept into them more and more.

As early as 1936 Nellie wrote a manuscript entitled "The Lead Mines of Derbyshire" which is now housed in Duxton Library with the comment that "this no longer represents the authors considered views". From 1947 to 1969 with her great book on Lead Mines and Soughs in mind no less than 40 papers on the subject were published. Some were later updated and published in other journals and there were many smaller items, introductions and sections in larger works. Whilst the major work never appeared, due rather to publishing restrictions than lack of material, "Derbyshire Lead Mining through the Centuries" was published by Bradford Barton in 1968.

We all remember Nellie in the field; she would come bustling up with her maps and pad and no matter what remote corner of Derbyshire someone happened to mention, she knew that there was a tiny mark on the stone gatepost of the field in question, or she would have an anecdote for that very spot.

Derbyshire is the poorer by the loss of Nellie, but she will never be forgotten and few will be the future works on Lead Mines and Miners that do not somewhere carry a little bit of Miss N. Kirkham in them.

Douglas A Nash.

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Publications News.

DM12 The Mines of Cardiganshire. J.R. Foster-Smith

This volume is now in press and should be available in late October. Price to members and associates is £1.65 post paid. Those who would like a copy and have not yet ordered one are requested to contact the Editor as soon as possible - R.H. Bird, 41 Windsor Walk, South Anston, Sheffield S31 7EL. (Order form with May Newsletter). To buy a copy in the shops would cost you at least £2.50.

DM13 The Mines of Grassington Moor. A.P. Finch

This is to be the next Society Monograph for the New Year. Contains a feast of information, maps, plans and photographs brought together for the first time under one cover.

DM14 Memoirs 1980 Another action-packed (one hopes!) edition.- Contributions please.

DM15 The Teign Valley Silver-Lead Mines 1806-1880 (C) J. Schmitz (reprint).

Due to the kind co-operation of the author, the above title is to be reissued by the Society next year. This will be a much revised and enlarged version and will be available to special order (per the Newsletter) in a similar manner to Mr Foster-Smith's volumes. This title has been out of print for some time and there still exists a considerable demand for it. Members who already hold a copy of the first impression - now a bit of a collector's item- should find this reprint of considerable interest.

The Non-Ferrous Mines of the South Wales Area by J.R. Foster-Smith and the Caradon and Phoenix Mining Area by H.R. Shambrook are a further two monographs on file which will be published at the first available opportunity.

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Further to .....

Mr Francis' article in the May Newsletter

" Esbjørn Currer Briggs died in Oslo, then called Christiania, in 1881, a fact recorded in the Mining World of 5th November of that year. His obituary notice added that he was managing director of Briggs and Co. Ltd., and a director of a company which worked the Fratsberg copper mine in Norway. His great grandson Noel Currer Briggs is an eminent genealogist.

There were several Briggses connected with mining in Cornwall. H.C. Briggs was a director of Penstruthal Consols Tin and Copper Mining Co. Ltd., Gwennap in 1877; J.J. Briggs was a director of West Great Work Mining Company, Breage and Germoe in 1874,

and William Briggs, a woollen draper of Leeds, was a director of Trevisa Mining Co. Ltd., St. Enoder, in 1859. That company had offices in Leeds, first at 5 Bank Street and then at 12 South Parade."

J. Brooke.

Keld Meet Report. 30th June/1st July, 1979. - - -

H. Houghton.

On Saturday the Meet comprised of 8 members, which proved just the right number for exploring and seeing as how two of these were wearing wet suits they were despatched into Landy Level to see if it 'went'. It did, but they turned back when deep water was encountered, but the level seemed to continue for some distance further. After inspecting the remains of Crackpot Hall and the old smith's shop and the crushing mill remains, Crackpot Hall level was next given our attention. It was here that we discovered that a flash gun doesn't work after immersion in 2ft of running water (it probably wouldn't have worked either if the water had been still) and that the batteries fall out of another if the battery compartment lid comes off.

I tried to create interest in running a course on underground picture taking where they all paid me a lot of money to show them how. I still don't think all that abuse was called for upon my mentioning the idea.

After lunch a combined assault was made on Swinnergill Main level, where even the 'Poisoned Dwarf' found it back-breaking having to stoop for so long and so far. Even being used as a pull through-cum-feeler gauge in the corifice failed to straighten my back. Still a good time was had by all and the sun was still shining upon our emergence into the daylight.

Swinnergill Beck was followed down to the Deldi Hill Smelt mill, passing on the way the spot we were assured was the site of Parks level.

On the way back to the village the dressing arrangement near Low level was photographed, studied, discussed, poked with the boot toes and generally explained, to anyone who couldn't work it all out for themselves. Surely this must be one of the most compact and easy to work arrangements, as well as being in as picturesque a setting as can be found anywhere.

On Sunday we had lost 1 but gained 4 plus 2 children so it was decided to spend the morning looking at Keldside Mill, Tan Hill colliery and the Engine house and shaft etc at West Stonesdale.

This latter was probably of most interest. The main part of the site comprises of the shaft and engine house, waterwheel pit, and a drainage level from the pump in the shaft. No one had an explanation of how the pump was arranged and linked and so far very little seems to be known about this site at all. The pumping pipe was visible among the bloated sheep floating in the shaft, so it seems likely that the pump is still intact at the bottom of the shaft. 250ft of water is all that stops it being accessible and vandalised.

The afternoon was spent looking round the hill top at Deldi Hill trying to pin point the various levels and shafts that we had not had time to look for on the previous day.

#### Additions to Members List

##### Full

|                       |                                                                                        |                       |
|-----------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| P.C.D. Drears         | 4 Woodbine Terrace, Headingley, Leeds 6.                                               |                       |
| S.M. DAVIES           | 80 Keel Rd, off Mizzen Rd, North Hull, North Humberside.                               | 856730                |
| H.M. Parker           | 44 Tom Lane, Sheffield S10 3PB.                                                        | 0742 305113           |
| G. Rose               | 25 Ratcliffe Road, Sileby, Leicester                                                   | Sileby 3402           |
| A. SUNDLES            | 30 Scargill, Iascelles Park, Darlington DL1 4UP                                        | D'ton 283578          |
| S.L. Westmacott (Mrs) | 13 Alcester Road, Studley, Warks.                                                      | Studley 3675          |
| L.M. Willies          | Hilderston, Dale Rd, Matlock Bath, Derbys.                                             | Matlock 4322          |
| Mrs Woods (Family)    | 18 Cedar Wood Grove, Sunderland SR2 9EJ.                                               |                       |
| <u>Associate</u>      |                                                                                        |                       |
| Mrs M. Aspin          | 2 Caton Avenue, Larkholme, Fleetwood FY7 8LS                                           | F'wood 6785           |
| R. Hill               | 6 Pitteville St. Portobello, Edinburgh 15                                              |                       |
| Meadhurst Club        | c/o C.J.S. Dartlett, BP Research Centre, Chertsey Rd, Sunbury-on-Thames, Middx.        | S'bury 85533 ext 8114 |
| D. SARGENT            | 'Dovedale' The Street, Colton, Norwich.                                                | N'wich 880531         |
| C.J. Schmitz          | Dept. Modern History, University of St. Andrews, St. Andrews, Fife, Scotland KY16 9AL. | St. And. 74426 ext 62 |

### Student

M.F.Critchley      Geology Dept., Royal School of Mines, Imperial College, 01-764-7491  
Prince Consort Road, London SW7 2BP.  
N.Dickinson      5 Owen Walk, Foxhill, Sheffield S6 1AR.      0742 346770  
T.Tweedy      22 Bannerdale Road, Sheffield S7 2LD.

### Overseas

A.Linters      Centre for the Study & Conservation of Industrial Heritage,  
Begijnhof 39, B-3800 Sint-Truiden, Belgium.

### Changes of Address

K.G.Carruthers      21 School Rd, Oldland Common, Bristol BS15 6PH.      0522 29084  
A.Woodrow      Dunster Lodge, Burton by Lincoln.

### Change of Telephone No.

C.Moffatt      12 Rowan Drive, Heybridge, Maldon, Essex      0621 55433

### Corrections to Society Members List attached to May Newsletter

M.A.Smith Associate not Full  
J.S.Famblyn Full not Associate

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### Future Meets.

25/27th August, Strontian. Camp and meet at NM837658 10.30am.

9th Sept. General Meeting, Sicklinghall Village Hall 2.00pm

22/23rd September, Lake District Camp and meet at Hollows Camp site, Grange,  
NY250169 10.30am.

13th October, Annual Dinner at Bridge Inn, Ingleton at 7.00pm for 7.30pm.  
£4.00 per head to J.H.McNeil, 12 Woodville Road, Brierfield, Nelson,  
Lancs BB9 5RW no later than 22nd September, 1979. Booking form was  
included in May Newsletter.

Barney has offered camping facilities to members wishing to camp for  
the night/w.e. His address is H.Barnes, Castle Hill Farm, Higher  
Westhouse, Ingleton. (Off the A65 just after Ingleton near SD672741  
Sheet 98)

10th November, General Meeting and President's Talk-in? Sicklinghall Village Hall  
at 2.00pm. followed by Pie & Pea supper.

If you have any slides, exhibits, photos, articles, plans, in fact anything of  
interest do bring them along and let us see them. We could still do with a few  
more short lectures, so anyone willing please intimate on the booking form attached  
to this Newsletter. This is an afternoon and evening do. All please bring a dish,  
knife, fork and spoon - most important.

Let's see if we can make this do even better than last year!!

Photo Competition for the Julian Holmes Trophy will be judged by our President at  
the above function and the trophy awarded to the entrant who in the opinion of the  
judge has submitted the best photo.

Black and White prints only (any size), all pictures must in some way be related  
to mining; be all the entrants own work and have been taken within the previous 12  
months. There is a limit of 3 prints per entrant to be accompanied by 5p worth of  
usable stamps per pix. All entries will be judged and displayed at the Talk-in, and  
if you want them returned by post, please send a stamped addressed envelope.

All entries to be sent to H.Houghton, 29 Parkside Road, Meanwood, Leeds LS6 4LY  
no later than 1st November, 1979.

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### Barytes in Scotland

From Mining Journal 13th July "Dresser Minerals International has recently  
acquired exploration rights on Forestry Commission land near Pitlochry in Scotland,  
where, the company hopes, successful development of barytes deposits will aid the  
Offshore Supplies Office and the Department of Energy in reaching their objective  
of maximum utilisation of U.K.products in development of U.K. North Sea Oil."

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### Bull's Eye at Ball Eye

From Mining Journal 6th July, 1979 "The Deepwood Mining Company has announced  
that seven drill holes completed in the vicinity of the old Ball Eye mine in the  
Matlock district of Derbyshire, have returned assay values of 6.52%Pb and 46-92%  
BaSO<sub>4</sub> (barytes), together with fluorite and silver. A more detailed exploration

programme is now underway, including a full investigation of the old mine workings in the area. The Ball Eye mine was formerly the highest grade silver mine in the county. Full planning permission was granted by Matlock council last year for Deepwood to conduct quarrying and mining operations in the area, and the first load of hand sorted ore (averaging over 64% Pb) was recently dispatched by the company."

Don't Forget:-

Bob Clough's Reprint

The Lead Smelting Mills of the Yorkshire Dales and Northern Pennines should be out soon.

This is to be published as a limited edition of 750 signed copies, and now also covers the North Pennine area. It contains over 140 additional unpublished photos-surveys- and much new text.

The pre-publication price (until 31st August 1979) is £19.00 (\$38.00) After this date the price will be £25.00 (\$50.00). Orders or reservations to be sent to R.T.Clough, Stoneleigh, Utley, Keighley. Cheques and money orders made payable to Robert T.Clough and crossed.

Offer to Members

William Hooson 1747 Miners' Dictionary, Published Wrexham

Hooson's dictionary is probably the finest work on 18th century lead mining available. Hooson emigrated to Wales probably from Youlgreave, Derbyshire around 1720. The dictionary gives enormous detail of mining practise in Derbyshire particularly for the early part of the century. It is being reprinted by the Institute of Mining and Metallurgy for sale at £11. By special arrangement it will be available to members of NMRS at a pre-publication price of £9. Cheques for this amount MUST be received at Peak District Mining Museum at Matlock Bath, Derbyshire by mid-September 1979 to qualify.

Lynn Willies.

Book Reviews

The Alderley Edge Mines by Chris J. Carlon

A lot of time has obviously been spent researching and writing this book to give a comprehensive account of the Alderley Edge mining field. Comprising 144 pages, with a well balanced proportion of plans and photos, the text deals with the Geology and History of the area, a description of the individual mines, with a good reference and Bibliography.

Included in the book is a short chapter about a phenomena that must be unique to this area, the very high accident rate to visitors who in the past have either gone exploring in the mines, or else fallen down one of the many shafts etc;- an example concerns the inquest on 2 Stockport men who were lost and subsequently died whilst exploring the west mine, on Whit Sunday May 1929. At this period it was the practice, especially at Bank Holidays, to place someone on guard and to barricade the entrances to the mines. The witness says "Mr John Perrin, who had been placed on duty at the barricade on Whit Sunday morning to prevent people entering the mine, was verbally abused and then stoned." Later that same day the floor was forced off and carried into the mine by a crowd of day trippers.

(Not much different now-a-days up and down!!)

This book at £2.85 seems to be a very good buy that no home should be without (ours isn't).

Chris J.Carlon is one of our members, another excuse, if one is needed, to support home industries!!!

Peakland - Lead Mines and Miners. H.M.Parker and L.Willies

As anyone who knows the name of Harry Parker would expect this book contains many fine photographs. The text with each seems to have been deliberately kept to a minimum, letting the pictures speak for themselves, just a brief historical note being given for each.

The book gives the reader an idea of what lead mining in the Peak District "was all about", and generalises, rather than studies any one aspect in great depth. Map references to the sites shown have been deliberately omitted, some may say that this is a mistake as more interest could have been gained by the reader with their inclusion. However good value for the price and should be quickly out of print.

Published by Moorland Publishing in a soft cover for £1.95.

## Mining Conference at Beamish 23/24th June, 1979.

Despite the controversy of the availability of the tickets for this weekend, (which in the end were never needed) the conference was, on the whole, quite a success. Although as it turned out it was not so much a conference as more a series of lectures.

The conference was opened by Dr Arthur Raistrick whose theme was about 3 issues that are in need of attention now, due to lack of interest in the past.

The first of these concerned 'Hushes'. Dr Raistrick explained that the purpose of a hush was to facilitate the extraction of the ore and not as many people think as a means of exploration. If anyone has evidence of Hushing in any other area besides the North Pennines Dr Raistrick would be pleased to hear from them.

His second point concerned the photographic records of the mining areas. Whilst most people took pictures of the mines themselves, the general area around the mining districts tended to be neglected. A study of these areas could give a good indication of the size and prosperity, as well as various other aspects of the mining community, and as such are just as important as the actual mines.

Lastly Dr Raistrick expressed concern that the slags from the Smelt Mills were being lost before an analysis on them has been done. He explained that if a properly planned and executed excavation was carried out, then much valuable evidence could be gained. For example, on many sites there had been several mills built on the same spot, therefore a good way to prove this was to trench across the slags and record and analyse the different layers. The layer appertaining to each mill (or furnace) would have different characteristics, from which it should be possible to date and calculate the efficiency etc of the various alterations on the site.

Beamish Open Air Museum kicked off the slide shows with their talk illustrating the concept, aims and future planning of Beamish Museum. Unfortunately Frank Atkinson, the museums director, who was scheduled to give the talk was ill, so at very short notice 3 of the museum staff gave the talk in their bosses absence.

The remainder of the morning was taken up by a tour of the museum site. In particular the mining area capturing most peoples attention, though some folk apparently did see other aspects of the museum missed by most. To quote "... a great collection of suspended decay."

After lunch it was our turn. This turned out, eventually, to be a talk by J.M.Dickinson (Dicko) about the Society excavation at Sutton Clough Smelt Mill, followed by J.H.McNeil telling the tale of the Chimney Shaft dig.

Lynn Willies was next on the bill disguised as the Matlock Mining Museum. His talk explained the problems, lucky breaks, and otherwise, encountered in setting up the museum, and getting it to its present position.

The North and South Cardiganshire Mining Club was represented by Simon Hughes. He showed pictures of artifacts rescued from several mines by members of the club, as well as various mining sites and the scope for future exploration in the area.

The last hour of the agenda for Saturday was taken up by a discussion about the difficulty in getting insurance cover by societies, and access problems up and down the country. This period was far too short for adequate discussion of such matters.

Sunday was the day of the professionals, or so it seemed by the standards set by most of the speakers.

The first of these was Bill Harvey with an amusing and slick presentation for the Wanlockhead Museum. He explained how the preservation of the Miners Library at Wanlockhead and Leadhills sparked off the idea for the museum; how it came into being and then how it was extended to include the Bay Mine and Pates Knowes Smelter.

The North Wales Caving Clubs talk had to be restricted to Chris Williams because their other speaker didn't turn up. Chris gave his lecture on 'Mining in the Carboniferous Limestone of Flintshire and Denbighshire'. He also explained the set-up at Llandudno (read all about it in DM No 9) and finished with the Conway valley and Parc Mine and Abberclynn.

The first descent of Greenside Mine was described by Eric Holland of the Cumbria Amenity Trust. He described how they cleared a way into the mine (to gain access via the old emergency escape-way) and showed pictures of the trophies they 'won' when they had done so.

The first half of the Shropshire Mining Clubs lecture was given by Ivor Brown. He described the Lincoln Hill area of Ironbridge and showed the mining of coal; fireclay; limestone; ironstone and lastly tar (the famous tar tunnel). The second half of their lecture was given by Bob Hall who talked about conservation of sites -

particularly at Snailbeach.

My notes for the next item just say "Dave Carlisle - various". This just about sums up Daves lecture for the Earby Mines Research Group. The official programme lists it as a contribution - this it certainly was, and was without a doubt the funniest lecture of the weekend, and it's rumoured that Dave's now doing the Clubs as a comedy turn. Talk about "now follow that" !!!

The Derbyshire Caving Club were next with a lecture on the Alderley Edge Mines (see Book Reviews for more about this area).

Simon Hughes stood in for Peter Harvey to give the lecture for the Mid-Wales Mining Museum at Llywernog. He showed the museum from its conception to the present day. How the site has been developed, and explained the museums' hopes for the future.

The final act was performed by Harry Parker of the Peak District Mines Historical Society. He showed the recovery of the Willis Founder Engine from the bottom of a silt filled shaft and then its installation in their museum at Matlock.

On Saturday evening an informal get together resulted in the proposal to form a National Body to speak for all associated Societies on matters mining.

This proposal was ratified by the conference on the Sunday. Any Societies that were not present, and have not been contacted, but who wish to participate, are invited to send representation to the inaugural meeting. This is to be held on Sunday 16th September, 1979 at Matlock. If interested get your Secretary to contact A.J.Pearce at 34 Madison Avenue, Chaddesdon, Derby DE2 6JA. tel 0332 670721.

A full conference report is to be published for sale by Beamish at a later date. We'll let you have price and details as soon as I am informed.

HH.

#### Gunnislake Old Mine.

Situated in granite immediately to the west of the Great Crosscourse that trends North 30° West, and passes underneath Gunnislake Village towards Devon Great Consols on the Devon side of the River Tamar, this once very rich copper mine was noted for the occurrence of the hydrated phosphate of copper and uranium TORBERNITE  $\text{Cu}(\text{UO}_2)(\text{PO}_4)_2 \cdot 12\text{H}_2\text{O}$  and the basic uranium sulphate Zippeite  $(\text{UO}_2)_2(\text{SO}_4)(\text{OH})_2 \cdot 5\text{H}_2\text{O}$  their presence being first noted on the 91 fathom level in Michael's Shaft in lenses and small pockets of a vughy nature.

Great Green Lode, where the majority of these small pockets occurred, is 10 fathoms south of Michael's Shaft, and underlays 18° South; crosscuts meet the lode on the 21, 31, 71, 81 and 91 levels. The lode has been stoped between the 71 fathom and 91 fathom levels for 130 fathoms west of the shaft, and to a smaller extent between the 21 and 31 fathom levels. Situated 32 fathoms south of Great Green Lode is Little Green Lode underlying 20° South, where workings are restricted to the 21 and 31 fathom levels. Parker's Lode in the south of the sett, courses East 30° North, and has been worked from Parker's Shaft to the 72 fathom level.

Adit level commences on the Cornwall side of the River Tamar, just south of New Bridge; driven westwards for 84 fathoms, then north for 20 fathoms, then again westwards another 60 fathoms.

On a visit to the mine in 1977, the adit was found to be navigable throughout its entire length.

H.R.Shambrook.

#### RTZ to re-open two Cornish tin mines.

Wheal Jane and Mount Wellington are expected to be in full production by January 1981, with mining starting about the middle of next year.

The total cost of the project is likely to be about £8.5 million.

RTZ are in process of acquiring the assets and licences of the mines - Wheal Jane is at present owned by the Consolidated Goldfield Group; Mount Wellington by a private company.

All contributions for Newsletter to - H.Houghton, 29 Parkside Road, Meanwood, Leeds LS6 4LY. Tel 758505.

P.S. Your next Publication will be issued in September.