

Library

Northern Mine Research Society

Newsletter February 1980

1980 Subs

Those who have not paid for 1980 should find a reminder attached to the front of this Newsletter. If you know of any unpaid (now ex) member, give them a nudge or ostracise them until they've divied up. (You could even pay their subs for them!).

Grinton Meet 11-12. (See November Newsletter for the Sunday's happenings)

It was evidently felt that members efforts on the Saturday of the Meet had not been accorded the respect due. So to set the record straight Geoff Greenough has submitted most of the following:-

Because of a discrepancy in date between various NMRS information sheets (or so the meet leader claimed) 8 members turned up for the meet on Sat 28th July, 1979. The Hon. PRO was absent, reportedly laid low with 'flu, though less kind spirits thought the 15" drum entrance to Devis Hole had some bearing on the matter. The party included the oldest active member, as well as the longest member (in tight twisty spots he's like an "artie" - he has to shunt to get round), but all negotiated the entrance.

The two striking features inside the mine were the extreme dryness of many of the roadways and the "maze" just off the main entrance level and visited on the way out. The maze is a curious example of water worn caves sometimes seen in lead mines, more frequently in Derbyshire than in Yorkshire. In Devis Hole they resemble a small scale Buttertubs with a roof. When originally discovered they were filled with a mixture of mud, spar and lead ore and were cleared out. The 15" gauge still applies but only in one direction, so angles and knobs have been introduced to make exploration more interesting. The fitter members tried to manoeuvre their way right through to a second entrance from the main level, two of us soon felt old age creeping on and abandoned the attempt to imitate worms while kneeling on sharp limestone rubble. They retired to the 15" drum exit and spent a happy ¼ hour experimenting with different techniques of traversing the obstacle (head first, feet first, on back, on stomach) and finally recommend arms outstretched, head first on stomach. The fitter enthusiasts were eventually defeated and also retired from the maze, underfed miners of 1800 were obviously smaller than NMRS members of 1970's.

The smelt mill is well worth a visit, it has been partially restored by a group under the job creation scheme.

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Future Meets

As seems to be our wont there occurs each year a time when you must mess up your nicely printed Meets card. That moment has now come.

Alderley Edge Meet (Wood Mine) 23rd March.

Any member wishing to attend must book with the secretary before 16th March. This is an underground meet and is limited to 20 members.

Mongo Gill Hole Meet 30 th March.

Access to this particular Mine is controlled by the Council of Northern Caving Clubs and certain rules must be strictly observed.

1. Vehicles must be parked on the roadside verge beyond Stump Cross Caverns, NOT in the show cave car park.
2. No vehicles allowed down the track to the mine.
3. No dogs allowed.

Llanwrst Meet 24/26th May.

No details yet to hand, and May Newsletter may not be out in time to give details. If you want to go and want further details please ring PRO nearer the time but no later than Wed 21st May.

Nenthead Meet 21/22 June

This is an underground meet.

Please note that at least one day will involve a very strenuous trip. Anyone wanting to participate in this will only be eligible if prepared for a hard 8' hour excursion. To make sure of a place on this trip book with John Met. It will be strictly limited to the first 20 members with wet suits and adequate equipment. Any spare places can be filled on the day. Any less hardy souls who turn up will be catered for as conditions and numbers dictate.

Caphouse Colliery Sat 5th July Leader John Goodchild (addition to card)

A suggested itinerary is as follows:-

Meet at Caphouse Colliery (SE 253165) at 11.00am. Visit the colliery (Shaft sunk 1791) and walk around industrial history trail, viewing 18th century wagonway tunnel, inclined planes, early 19th century viaduct, pumping engine, house ruins etc. Lunch at Reindeer Inn, (near colliery) followed by walk to Emroyd Common, viewing further colliery remains, an incline, stone railway sleeper blocks etc. Return to cars and proceed to Horbury Bridge where the canal lay-by and colliery railway staithes will be viewed. Finish about 4.00pm.

The tour will be illustrated by a variety of maps, documents and old photographs.

It is regretted that due to access restrictions it has become necessary to limit numbers attending some of the meets as listed above. As stated please book with the secretary J.H. McNeil, 12 Woodville Road, Brierfield, Nelson, Lancs. If you require confirmation that a place is available for you a stamped addressed envelope must be sent with your booking. Failure to do so may lead to disappointment when a place is not available on the day.

Help Wanted

1. David Bick is interested in the history of the ELMORE oil floatation process, and particularly in details of the ore-dressing plant set up on this principle at SYGUN copper mine near Beddgellert about 1901.

If anyone can tell him of any published articles or records relating to the period or the addresses of any descendants of the Elmore family, please write to David Bick, Pound House, Newent, Glos GL18 1PS.

2. Whilst Simon Hughes has a craving for old slags. His plea is as follows:-

"Some members of the Society may be aware of the research being carried out at Oxford on the probable area of the origin of copper used in ancient bronzes.

I am trying to establish a similar technique that is applicable to lead objects, particularly Roman artifacts, and smelting slag. If any members of the Society could send me galena samples from smelts of ore from individual sites. That is I am not interested in slag that is 30% Alston Moor, 30% South American and 40% of origin unknown. However if anyone can supply slag that is known to be free from a source such as Bonsall Moor only I would be most interested.

I would like about 100 grammes of ore samples and any amount of slag, up to 100 grammes, if possible. It is important to note on all samples the mine where the ore originated. All contributions will be acknowledged personally and in my thesis".

Samples should be sent to Simon J.S. Hughes, Dept. of Archaeology, Dept. of History, University of Manchester, Oxford Road, Manchester M13.

Did you know that 1 gram = 0.0353 ozs. So on that basis 100 grammes is near enough the same as 3½ ozs.

Danger

From the Times of 26th November, 1979.

Disposal Halted: The Forestry Commission has halted the disposal of supposedly empty weed killer canisters in disused mineshafts in North Wales after public concern at the threat to water supplies. The drums, supposedly cleansed of 245T, a weedkiller banned in America because of suspected damage to unborn babies, were thrown into an old lead mine by foresters until September last year. Checks at the mineshaft in Gwydir Forest, Gwynedd, have now proved that the weedkiller was left in the drums and that small quantities could have seeped into the earth. It is said that 245T smells like rotting fish and gives a burning sensation in the throat.

Dangerous Helmets

From PDMHS December Newsletter

A report of an accident where a girl died after falling down a mineshaft whilst abseiling indicates that her helmet came off the head cradle, although the head cradle and chinstrap were still on her head when she was found. The helmet was a type where the attachment is a plastic snap-in system and it appears that as she hit her head a glancing blow on the shaft side this was enough to 'unsnap' the helmet from the cradle. Such helmets would be perfectly safe when hit from above by a rock, but may be 100% useless in protecting you in a fall in a rift or shaft.

Bill Harvey has sent the following news from Wanlockhead.
Wanlockhead

Work to have the Loch Nell mine freely available for visitors has taken time but lighting has now been installed and insurance arranged. Further work by JCS team has built a second arch at the Pates Knowes smelt mill and has enabled repairs to be made there and on other features of the Open Air Museum. Experience shows that a constant maintenance programme is needed if preservation work is not to be undone by weather.

Leadhills Library

Staff from the Wanlockhead Museum have recently catalogued the MSS material in the Miners' Library at Leadhills. Handlists are available there and at the Wanlockhead Museum, but arrangements to examine papers etc must be made in advance with the Hon. Sec., Leadhills Library Committee, Leadhills, Lanarkshire. The next step is to find a librarian to re-arrange and catalogue the book-stock. It is hoped that some way will be found to do this in 1980.

Why go underground when you could pick flowers?

Connections between certain plants and ore veins have been claimed since antiquity, but are probably regarded with scepticism by most mineralogists. Now, work by two botanists on Wanlock Dod has produced some scientific evidence to support the belief. They made sample counts of plants in the vicinity of known lead veins and found the Common Bent Grass (*Agrostis tenuis*); Matt Grass (*Nardus stricta*); and the Common Tormentil (*Potentilla erecta*) all positively thrived. Details of the project can be found in - 'Plant frequency and distribution in high lead soils near Leadhills.' by A.Oxbrow and J.Moffat. Plant and Soil. June 1979 Vol 52 No 1.

Access to Knotlow Mine, Monyash. (Circular from Derbyshire Caving Association)

Access arrangements for Knotlow Mine, Monyash, have had to change again following the sudden death of Mr. Palfreyman at the end of August. The arrangements are now:-

The key is available from Mrs Bird at the Village Food Store, Monyash. This is on the right hand side about 100 yards from the cross roads heading towards Bakewell, (SK 151665). The shop is open on Saturdays and Sundays and Mrs Bird has kindly said that she does not mind people calling to return the key after the shop has closed but she would obviously prefer it to be returned during opening hours. No deposit is required and it is not necessary to book the key in advance but please sign your name in the book when you collect the key and make a note of the name if you hand it on to another party rather than returning it yourself. Mrs Bird's telephone No is Bakewell 3144. We hope cavers will appreciate Mrs Bird's kind offer of help and try to cause no inconvenience. If any problems arise, please contact Hulland Ward 629 or Mansfield 882515.

(N.B. The Mrs Bird mentioned above is no relation to our Dick.)

The Ty'n-y-Caeau Iron Mines, Abergele.

W.G.Jones

The Abergele area is best known for its lead mining efforts in the 18th and 19th centuries, but around 1900 an Iron Ore deposit had attracted attention. This was at "Ty'n-y-Caeau", a farm some two miles South-west of Abergele "Town".

An Abergele resident, Mrs Campini, widowed and now 77 years of age, was a daughter of William Bayliff, Consulting Engineer who had mined gold in West Africa and copper in South America. At the behest of the London firm of Jaeger Bros., he vigorously developed the deposit in 1908 and with prodigious efforts and drive pushed the production up to 2000 tons valued at £1200- by 1911. A rapidly declining price and other factors then made further effort unprofitable.

Mr Bayliff had local young men, Messrs. Rix and Millwater as students under him. A descendant or relative of the former, a 'Miss Rix' who lives at Rhyd-y-Foel not far away, is not able to add further detail. Two of Bayliff's brothers founded the local firm of Bayliff Brothers, and the contract to provide the 'horses and carts' for carrying the ore, started them off. The ore had to be transported to Mostyn, nearly a dozen miles away, where it was either smelted or shipped.

All the workers professed to me 'Welsh speaking' and it was usual for Owen Roberts from nearby Llanfair to act as interpreter.

At adjacent 'Nant Uchaf', in the 1880's some 500 tons of ore had been raised containing manganese. William Bayliff sank an exploratory shaft and also made a boring. The core from this was assayed and showed sufficient manganese to be of interest.

Bayliff planned to construct a cableway to carry this ore from mine to coast at Llanddulas. Unfortunately! this had to cross the land and garden of the Countess of

Dundonald and without mincing words this august lady just wasn't playing ball. Evidently the ideas of the well-to-do landowner don't change much over the years. But it is evident in retrospect, that the viability of the mine depended on this major programme being put into work, and in the event Mrs. Campini sadly records that 'the cost of transport became too heavy and the mines had to be closed.'

The Abandonment Plan No 6051 was received by the Mines Department in 1913. It was prepared by a Helston Mining Engineer and shows two cross sections of the orebody, both roofed by limestone and underlaid by shale. The largest of the seven pillars shown was built up of waste rock and evidently no difficulty was experienced with roof support. Although on inspection the area showed signs of flooding on a wet day, water appeared to pose no problem.

The mine is shown on the 6" 1914 edition of the Ordnance Survey and when it was prepared it was probably still in production. It is not shown on the edition which appeared a quarter of a century later and 'Nant Uchaf' does not appear on either.

In substance this appeared in the SC & M Clubs Newsletter 141 of November 1976, I have now 'rehashed' it. It's only merit is that it is based on the verbatim statements of people living in Abergele.

Wots On

April 2nd. This date sees the re-opening for the season of the Chalk Pits Museum, Houghton Bridge, Amberley, Arundel, W. Sussex. Tel Bury 370 (079-881)

June 27/29th. Subterranea Britannica in conjunction with the Tunnel Study Society are to hold a 'Study Weekend' at Bristol.

Likely itinerary - Friday evening, Informal gathering; Saturday, Bristol Castle tunnel; Medieval cellars; Redcliffe caves; Goldney Grotto and tunnels; Clifton Rocks underground railway remains & evening talk on stone mining in the Bath area; Sunday Box Freestone mines and Fonthill - tunnels and hermits cave.

Cost - yet to be finalised. Details from Phil Marshall, 26 Bayswater Avenue, Westbury Park, Bristol BS6 7NT. Tel (0272) 37389.

July 12/19th. Spend a week down a hole up a mountain!

David and Marilyn Palmer (two of our members) will be continuing the survey and excavation of the 17th to 19th century lead mining site at Esgair Hir near Aberystwyth for the week. The work has been in progress since 1978 and completion is anticipated this year: an interim report was published in the AIA Bulletin Vol. 7, No. 1, 1979. Training can be given in surveying techniques and in excavation as required. Participants must arrange their own accommodation although information about camping etc can be supplied. The only cost will be to cover the use and insurance of equipment, probably about £5 depending on numbers.

For further information contact Dr M. Palmer, History Dept., Loughborough University, Leics LE11 3TU.

August 23/25th Wanlockhead.

This is now a joint NMRS/NAMHO meet and will centre on Wanlockhead, Dumfriesshire, where hosts will be the Wanlockhead Museum Trust. The Lead Mining Museum at Wanlockhead was founded in 1974 and was the subject of a talk at the Beamish Conference last year. The Museum comprises an indoor interpretive display of mining history; the Miners' Library, founded in 1756 and now housing the Scottish lead mining archive; and the Open Air Museum. The latter is served by a walkway which includes many of the mine sites around the village. Viz. the Loch Nell mine adit; the water-powered beam pump, now scheduled as an Industrial Monument; partially re-constructed 18th century smelt mill; a miner's cottage; and other features.

The mines at Wanlockhead and nearby Leadhills were the major sources of Scottish lead and had a continuous history from the late 17th century until the 1930's. The villages are on the high moors between the valleys of the Clyde and the Nith and can be approached either from the A74 or the A76. Coal and limestone were once mined in the valleys and arrangements are being made for a visit to the massive limestone mines at Barjarg in Nithsdale since these offer an interesting contrast to the operations at Wanlockhead. Barjarg can be reached from the A76 so can be included in the itinerary of visitors from the South. For those who can spend at least some part of Monday in Scotland, other places of interest have been included in the programme:-

No 'hard' underground trips have been planned and it is hoped there will be something for everyone.

Saturday - Barjarg Limestone workings. NX8890

Sunday - Wanlockhead Mining Museum. NS8713

Monday - Suggested venues - Leadhills Mines, NS8815; Glendinning Antimony Mines, NY2997; Cairnphairn Lead Mines, NY5293; Gladstone Court Museum, Biggar, NT0438; Prestongrange Mining Museum, NT3773.

Accommodation. There is a recognised camp site at Sanquhar and tents may be pitched at Wanlockhead. A list of hotels and B & B in the area will be available with the final programme.

N.B. It is proposed to have a meal together on Saturday night - we have been asked to give an estimate of members who may be interested in this - so let John Mc. know as soon as possible.

For Sale - Member wants offers for his Memoirs!!

A complete collection of every publication produced by the Society since its formation is on offer to the highest bidder. If interested contact D.Platt, 5 Kirkstall Drive, Barnoldswick, BB8 6EZ.

Personal Accident Insurance.

NAMHO are at present trying to organise this. Is there sufficient interest to make this possible? Would you be interested in £2000 for Death, loss of limbs etc, and £10 per week for 5 years for Permanent disablement, all for a premium of 50p each per year? This will be possible only if NAMHO's can guarantee a minimum premium of £250. So let us know now. (Don't send any money yet though - please!)

BM 12 The Mines of Cardiganshire

We have been asked to insert the following by David E.Bick.

"Although David Bick's series The Old Metal Mines of Mid-Wales is listed in the bibliography of Mr Foster-Smith's Monographs as being among the titles drawn upon by the author in their compilation, we have been requested to make it clear that this is not the case. Mr Bick's series was actually written and published subsequent to the completion of Mr Foster-Smith's manuscripts, and should therefore be treated as a separate and additional source on the subject."

By coincidence in the same post I received from Bill Jones "..... a message of encouragement for the despondent!

HERE IT IS! New mines are suddenly discovered on old mining sites. And although at first sight it seems highly unlikely, the researcher's logical reward is to turn up 'something new', even in respect of centuries old mines which already have long records and have been looked into a hundred times.

There is no need therefore to be discouraged! Something that some previous worker has missed - or perhaps putting an entirely different interpretation on facts that have been long accepted. Every researcher has his (or her) set plan of campaign and it would be most remarkable if the pattern were the same in every case.

This possibility must be accepted if, instead of 'rehashing' the old ---- one is able to come up with SOMETHING NEW."

The Cliff Family & The Fireclay Trade etc. J.H.Armitage (from Y.A.S. Ind.Hist. N/L)

The Cliff family settled in the Laisterdyke area of Bradford about the year 1800, It is believed they migrated from the York area.

In the wake of the Industrial Revolution and as a result of it, streets of houses and other municipal developments required drainage. Paul Cliff saw the possibility of building a family business by manufacturing drain pipes and chimney pots as well as fire bricks for lining flues etc., using the fireclay and ganister from the stone quarries and other excavations in the area. Later, when the fireclay works was well established, a pit was sunk at Laisterdyke to work fireclay and coal for the works. This pit was still in production in 1858 - there is no record of when it closed down.

Joseph Cliff was born in 1806 and at the age of 34 left the family business to establish his own "Sanitary Tube Works" at Beeston Royds. Supplies of coal and fireclay were obtained from two old coal pits and a quarry nearby to make glazed sewerage and drain pipes and other glazed ware.

In 1826 William Ingham and Sons had established a prosperous glazed fireclayware

business at their Wingate works at Wortley Moor Road, Upper Wortley, Leeds. They had purchased the rights of the Manor of Wortley to mine coal and fireclay. Their pits were Busk pit, Manor pit and two pits in Blue Hill Lane. Later in 1910 the Coronation pit was sunk near Whitehall Road. No doubt it was due to the success of William Ingham and Sons, that influenced Joseph Cliff to open his own fireclay works adjoining the area to Inghams.

In 1873 the Wortley Fireclay Co., with Joseph Cliff as managing director, opened the Elland Road works to make glazed pipes, gully grates and both glazed and unglazed fireclay bricks. This left the Royd works to concentrate on the manufacture of domestic glazed ware, such as baths, sinks and sanitary ware. The Elland Road works drew its supplies of fireclay and coal from the Elland Road pit (sunk in 1873), later the Peacock, the Yard and the Royal pits supplied coal and fireclay. Both the Royal and the Yard shafts were inside the works yard. These two shafts were uncovered in 1974 when the works was demolished to make way for the South West Motorway. All these four pits worked out all the reserves of coal and fireclay under the Low Fields between Elland Road and Gelderd Road and they all ceased working between 1888 & 1900. They were not deep and all were "wet" pits which flooded to the shaft top as soon as they were abandoned.

About 1900 or 1902 the Greentop pit at Pudsey was sunk to work fireclay and coal at Bankhouse. This was closed down in 1916. In 1916 a branch line from the existing tramway in Roundhay Road along Harehills Lane and across land to the North of Harehills Lane to a terminal point at Gipton pit. Fireclay and coal were taken from Gipton to the Elland Road Yard and also to the Wingate Yard on a branch line from Oldfield Lane terminus. This branch line was laid across land to the East of Wortley Moor Road to the works at Wingate Junction.

I am indebted to Mr Foulkes of Highfield Avenue, Upper Wortley for the following information about the Hopper Trams:-

"In the spring of 1916 Leeds City Tramways applied for and got his release from military service as an experienced driver of electric trams for the new service. His duties were to take a hopper tram out from Kirkstall Road Depot each morning at 7am to Gipton pit and leaving the empty one to be loaded, he then took the full one to whichever yard it was required at. Normal load (each tram bogey or wagon carried two hoppers which tipped over sideways to right or left as required) one hopper was loaded with $3\frac{1}{2}$ tons of coal and the other with $5\frac{1}{2}$ tons of fireclay. On arrival at the yard the loads were tipped where required and the empty vehicle driven back to the pit to bring another load. The day's work consisted of 3 or 4 round journeys to a works and back to the pit. The last empty tram being taken to Kirkstall Road Depot about 5pm when he booked off duty returning home on a passenger tram car. The working day was nine hours, with one hour for meals.

In February 1917 the existing tramway at Oldfield Lane was extended by another branch line which went East then curved South to run parallel with the L & NW railway line, crossing Whitehall Road near the Dragon Inn, then passing through the railway embankment via the diagonal tunnel and then crossing Royds Lane to the Cardigan pit near Gelderd Road. By this means coal and fireclay were carried to the Wingate Yard until the winter of 1930-31 when all reserves at Cardigan had been worked out".

Royds Fireclay works drew supplies from Cardigan by horse and cart via Royds Lane. This yard was the original works started by Joseph Cliff in 1840 and when it closed down in 1931 was more than 90 years old. Supplies from Greentop at Pudsey were carried by road in steam wagons as also were fireclay and ganister from the Coronation pit. Cardigan pit was sunk in 1914 to work out reserves in Ravell's pit workings (closed and abandoned in 1898) and Royds pit (closed 1879). Both these later shafts were kept open for pumping and ventilation. Although Cardigan had a large reciprocating pump it was still a very wet pit - it was about 100 yards deep.

Another yard at Burmantofts which had been founded in the mid 19th century by a previous owner was acquired by the Cliffs near the turn of the century. For several years the Burmantofts yard made terra cotta and tiles besides other glazed ware. Originally supplies of clay and coal were obtained at Rock pit and a quarry behind the works. When these were exhausted, materials had to be brought in from other sources. This yard closed in 1964. Other notable ventures were the sinking in 1874 of Peckfield pit at Micklefield by Joseph Cliff and Son. (This pit was sunk in spite of the widely held belief that there was no good coal to be got under the magnesian limestone). The existence of this "Concealed Coalfield" was proved when Peckfield was sunk to more than 300 yards through 9 workable seams of good coal, and 5 seams of fireclay, one of

which was white, bleached fireclay suitable for pottery manufacture. The Wingate yard closed in the 1960's and later the three tall chimneys that were a landmark for miles around were demolished. One of these was known as the "White Ghost of Wortley" because it was faced with white glazed bricks. This was the oldest established yard of the group. Elland Road yard closed in 1973, just a hundred years after opening in 1873. Joseph Cliff and Son were also founder members of the board of directors of the original Frodingham Iron Co., Scunthorpe.

A.G.M. 10th February, 1980.

It was a change to see a few more members than the usual committee plus two turning up for the A.G.M. - 3 dozen in fact. Apologies to any who came thinking it was the Pie and Pea supper.

The Committee for 1980:-

President	Mrs L. Finch, 10 Exeter Cres, Killinghall, Harrogate.
Vice-Pres.	G.B. Greenough, 22 Elmhurst Road, St. Annes-on-Sea, FY8 3JH. 0253 723987
Junior Vice-Pres.	H. Houghton, 29 Parkside Road, Meanwood, Leeds LS6 4LY. Tel 0532 758505
Secretary	J.H. McNeil, 12 Woodville Road, Brierfield, Nelson. Tel 0282 63297
Treasurer	Mrs S.M. Houghton, 29 Parkside Road, Meanwood, Leeds LS6 4LY
Editor	R.H. Bird, 41 Windsor Walk, South Anston, Sheffield Tel 090 978 3229
P.R.O	H. Houghton (address as above)
Recorder	M.C. Gill, 38 Main Street, Sutton, Keighley BD20 8HD Tel 0535 35388
Librarian	E. Nutter, 38 Skipton Old Road, Colne, Tel Colne 4572

Any correspondence with any of the above officers MUST include a S.A.E.

There now follows a short emission of the Officers Reports to the Meeting:-

Treasurer - see balance sheet attached.

Secretary - There have been many enquiries about the Society during the year, resulting in an increase in the Society's membership. 1979 saw the inauguration of NAMHO which should further the aims of mines research and go towards helping to solve such matters as access problems.

Thanks to all who have made my job easier in 1979. John McNeil. Secretary

Editor - Four publications were produced in 1979 including an index and bibliography. The publications account (attached) is self explanatory I think and the only observations to make are that both printing and postage costs have nearly doubled since 1978. The former is due to increased print runs thought necessary to avoid material becoming out of print rapidly and the fact that BM's 11 and 12 were larger than usual and contained more illustrations. The latter - increased postage - is I am afraid an unfortunate fact of life which will not improve although this cost reflects our increasing membership and aftersales business.

In 1979 the committee decided to increase the cost of publications to all outlets including the society, since inflation was rapidly narrowing the gap between production costs and sales surpluses. This was done and the full impact should be felt this year, thus avoiding a deficit at the year end.

The large quantity of monograph material received or in the process of being written indicates that our publications are popular and considered worth supporting; this is very encouraging. Indeed, our publications programme is going from strength to strength. It is worth observing (with due modesty on everyone's part) that there is no society in our field who can boast the quantity and variety of published material that the NMRS issues, and this, moreover, despite the fact that our membership whilst expanding rapidly, does not yet equal that of other comparable organisations. However, being a research society, the business side of NMRS is almost wholly geared to disseminating the results of its research and this, it seems, is what members want - many of whom live quite long distances from any mining area.

To aim for a balanced output in 1980 and in order to make headway into the accumulating monograph material, there will be no Memoirs issued this year. Instead, this will be substituted for The Manganese Mines of North Wales. With the Grassington Moor monograph in Springtime and the Teign Valley reprint in the Autumn, there should be a fair spread of interest. Unfortunately costs preclude the latter as forming a part of the annual subscription.

This will probably be the last year in which a third volume is possible by way of financial assistance from an author. Since subscriptions will inevitably rise next year it may be worth considering including the cost of a third volume as standard

issue (i.e. Spring, Summer and Winter) particularly if material continues to flow in at the present rate. I leave that idea on the table for future discussion!

My thanks to all our contributors by whose efforts not only do our publications exist but who help to advertise this society's name and activities far and wide - even as far away as Peking, from where we have just received an order for eight copies of the 1980 issues of British Mining!

Bob Guthrie's name I have left till last. He has expressed a wish to relinquish the aftersales job which he has undertaken for the last five years or so and I would like to finish by proposing a vote of thanks to him for his valuable efforts.

R.H.Bird. Editor.

R.R.O. - The Newsletter seems to have been well received this year, going by the number of letters the committee has received giving it a favourable mention. We've even had one member who wanted to know if he could let his membership lapse, but just pay to receive the Newsletter! as he wasn't interested in most of the BM series.

After our efforts at Beamish, we are now in the process of compiling some permanent display material, and a means of displaying it.

Beamish also resulted in a small advertising poster being printed, and so far over 250 of these have been distributed to any outlet we could find who might be willing to display it for us. If you know of anywhere else, that has a mining slant but no poster, let me know. Over the past year my system of ALWAYS having application forms with me has resulted in gaining quite a few new members - as all those who were signed up underground will testify.

Since the formation of NAMHO's I've managed to get to the meetings and contributed the odd word or two, and hope that they'll continue to let me in the future!

The most noticeable failure this year, as every other year, is my single-handed campaign to dissuade underground collectors. I therefore announce the formation of the "We enjoy, look, and leave intact" (or "Welli" for short) section of NMRS. More details later.

To conclude, I'd like to thank all those who have made my job easier by contributing material for the Newsletter, and helped with the display material etc. I couldn't function without them.

Harry Houghton P.R.O.

Recorder - I would like to thank those members who have donated plans and photos during the year and express the hope that 1980 will see more additions.

The long running Grassington Moor survey has at last been formulated into a Monograph to be published in May. In conjunction with this project it is intended to revise the Grassington lecture and I am producing a set of 1/2500 sheets showing surface detail and underground where possible.

1979 saw the draft of a Society history which will be revised and enlarged in 1980.

On the whole the coming year looks like being busy for me as I hope to get many loose ends tied up.

Mike Gill. Recorder.

Librarian - The library continues to be used and also to expand both by donations of books and periodicals, and by the usual standing orders of periodicals (such as PDHMS).

Eddie Nutter. Librarian.

Change of Aftersales Address

Please Note Publications aftersales is now being handled by Mrs Hilary Bird, 41 Windsor Walk, South Anston, Sheffield S31 7EL. Tel 090 978 3229. All orders to this address in future.

Society Publications

As from 10th February 1980, all publications sales to members will be at a discount of 10% on full aftersales prices, except in the case where pre-publication orders are invited, i.e. on volumes not included in the annual subscription. A maximum discount of up to 30% is offered on pre-publication orders when these are advertised in the Newsletter.

The following publications are still available; prices quoted are to members only and include post and packing:-

BM9 The Llandudno Copper Mines. C.J.Williams	£1.80
BM10 The Mines of Montgomery & Radnorshire. J.R.Foster-Smith	£1.35
BM11 Memoirs 1979	£2.25
INDEX & Bibliography of NMRS Publications 1960-80.	£0.45
BM12 The mines of Cardiganshire. J.R.Foster-Smith	£2.25

Remember, cash with order saves postage.

Even More Alterations to Meets Card to mess up your meets card even further:-

May 24/26th. The full details for the Welsh meet at Spring Bank Holiday are:-

Camp at Tallylyn, Trefriw, Gwynedd. NGR SH 759602. Meet here at 10am each day.

The Leader is Bill Davies and not John Mc/me as stated on your card.

June 21/22 Nenthead. Ignore the meets card - go by this newsletter.

August 3rd Scout Moor Quarries and Collieries (addition to meets card) -surface walk with leader R.W.Turton round this site - Bury, Lancs.

Meet at the car park in TURN village, NGR SD811182 at 10.30am.

Our meets are not restricted to members of NMRS only (except on very rare occasions) - so if this has deterred you in the past feel free to bring along any friends you wish.

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The South Pennines. (The Pennine area between the Peak District and Yorkshire Dales National Parks bounded by Skipton, Keighley, Halifax, Rochdale and Burnley)

A series of pamphlets has recently been produced which may be of interest to members; They are all in typescript form, A4 size and as yet in draft form. Topics covered include;

1. Geology and land form - the evolution of the South Pennine landscape - 12 pages.
2. Quarrying in the South Pennines - 7 pages.
3. Lead mining in the South Pennines - 4 pages.
4. Coal mining in the South Pennines - 6 pages
5. Selected sites of Industrial Archaeological interest in the South Pennines - 8 pages.

Copies may be obtained on request by post or in person at a charge of 20p each from The South Pennines Information Service, 1 Bridge Gate, Hebden Bridge, W.Yorks.

I.J.Brown.

Walton Colliery, Wakefield - An Industrial Heritage Centre?

The National Coal Board has formally announced the closure of Walton Colliery, and coal production ceased on the 3rd December, 1979. It is understood that the workforce will begin to be dispersed after Christmas, with a salvage team retained for about twelve months. Future N.C.B. operations involve the removal of recoverable underground equipment, and the construction of an underground dam to control flooding. In about twelve months time the colliery will become the responsibility of the N.C.B. Small Mines Unit, which will fill the shafts and render the site safe in accordance with statutory requirements.

The Colliery comprises a substantial example of mining development very little altered since the peak of twentieth century mining activity in the 1920's. It comprises 3 shafts, two of which have steam winding engines, together with a range of surface buildings and structures in reasonably sound condition. Of greatest interest is the range of steam powered machinery still in daily use, including a bank of twelve steam boilers, two sets of steam winding engines, (one set dating from about 1880, and the other from 1924), together with steam powered compressor, generators, turbines, steam pumps and a steam hammer. The surface buildings include a power house, engine winding houses, boiler room, a range of offices, stores, and workshops arranged round a quadrangle, large pithead baths, canteen and rescue room, and also engineering and locomotive workshops. There is also a coal screening plant, large surface water reservoirs, together with substantial areas of hard surfaced land presently used as a stock yard. The site retains sections of standard gauge, surface narrow gauge and underground narrow gauge railways and rail re-connection

is possible to the Wakefield Kirkgate - Doncaster connecting line.

A feasibility study is at present being carried out to determine whether the colliery could or should be taken over as a mining museum. Further information will be given in future Newsletters.

I.J.Brown.

Mine Closures

British Steel Corp. have announced that two of their fluorspar mines in the North East are to go on a care and maintenance basis. They are the Beaumont mine driven under the old Allenheads mine and the Whiteheaps mine near Blanchland, Northumberland, resulting in the loss of some 79 jobs. When the announcement was made on Aug 17th both were to cease operations on 1st October, but later Whiteheaps was given a reprieve until the New Year.

The mine at Allenheads has been in the development stage for a number of years and has not, so far, produced spar in any quantity. BSC explain that a slump in steel production has sharply reduced the need for fluorspar and if the mines were to be kept open it could cause the loss of £1 million a year.

Mining could resume if there is an upturn in the steel industry. Those who have been fortunate to go underground at Allenheads have had a unique opportunity to visit the workings of a fascinating and famous old mine thanks to the development operations. Is this the last time this will be possible one wonders?

'borrowed' from PDMHS Newsletter.

An up-to-date list of all paid-up members for 1980 will appear in the May Newsletter.

REMEMBER - IF YOU WRITE TO ANY SOCIETY OFFICER, 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 1/1/79 until 31/12/79.

RECEIPTS

	£
Subscriptions 1979	1041.00
Subscriptions 1980	538.25
Donations	6.50
Badges	16.90
Photo Competition	0.87
Dinner	244.00
Talk-in	28.15
Miscellaneous	7.96
Publications	41.40
Balance brought forward	<u>230.37</u>
	2155.40

PAYMENTS

Secretary's Expenses	11.42
Treasurer's Expenses	40.62
P.R.O.'s Expenses	68.83
Audit Fee	4.45
Hire of Hall	15.00
Subs to other Societies	14.00
Stationery	87.25
Equipment Insurance	16.50
Publications Account	1060.70
Dinner	257.76
Talk-in	24.67
Building Society	400.00
Miscellaneous	<u>14.35</u>
	2015.55
Excess of Receipts over payments	<u>139.85</u>
	<u>2155.40</u>

CASH STATEMENT

	£	
Cash in Bank (per statement)	188.54	
+ Cheques in hand	<u>56.75</u>	
	245.29	
- Cheques not presented	<u>105.44</u>	139.85
Skipton Building Society		
Balance brought forward	112.72	
Interest '78	6.01	
Interest '79	<u>13.80</u>	
Transfer from General A/c	<u>400.00</u>	<u>532.53</u>
	TOTAL FUNDS.	<u>672.38</u>

I certify that the above statement is a true and fair record of the affairs of the Society for 1979.

J.Pulford. A.C.M.A. 5th February, 1980.

NORTHERN MINE RESEARCH SOCIETY
PUBLICATIONS ACCOUNT

Statement of Income and Expenditure for period 1/1/79 to 31/12/79.

Balance brought forward £543.72

INCOME

Aftersales	£ 1185.90
Sales to Society for BM9 and 11 and Index	1060.70
	<u>2246.60</u>

EXPENDITURE

Stationery	18.60
Printing	2067.10
Postage	295.24
Draughting services	47.00
Artwork materials	4.38
Editorial expenses	23.12
	<u>2455.44</u>
Deficit for year	208.84
Balance brought forward	543.72
Total funds at 31/12/79	<u>334.88</u>

CASH STATEMENT

Cash in Bank (per statement)	£157.58	
+ cheques not credited	183.89	
	<u>341.47</u>	
- cheques not presented	6.59	
		<u>334.88</u>

Stock of Publications on 31/12/79 at cost £738.33.

I certify that the above statement is a true and fair record of the affairs of the Society for 1979.

J. Pulford. A.C.M.A.
5th February, 1980.