

### Good News

We have decided not to make any increase to the subscription rates for 1982 - they will remain at this years price of £5.50 for Full members; 75p for Family members and £6.50 for Overseas members.

### Bad News

To wipe that silly smile off your face, the above are now due. If you send Sue your money she will process you forthwith, and will be eternally grateful for all your offerings. The usual rules apply - pay before 1st January 1982 and make life easier for us and we'll keep sending you such bumph as this; Don't pay - then you'll get now't. Those who like to make life complicated by wanting receipts or acknowledgements, then remember to indicate as such and please ENCLOSE S.A.E. or NO reply will be sent before the February Newsletter.

A renewal form is attached to this Newsletter. This can also be considered to be an invoice for the computers among our Institutional members who seem to have difficulty in grasping this fact.

### Nominations for Committee.

You will find a nomination form on the reverse of the renewal form. Any proposition for Committee must be made on this form, and must have the approval of the candidate, and must be returned at least one month before the date of the A.G.M. (this is to be 14th February 1982 at Sicklinghall as usual).

### 1982 Meets List

John Mc hasn't exactly been inundated with offers to lead meets for next year. It gets monotonous seeing the same few names each time, so please give us a break - volunteer NOW. If you don't feel that you are quite competent of rising to the dizzy heights of meet leader don't worry, none of us feel that we are. We need suggestions for venues too, so any help here will be appreciated.

Does anyone know anything about mining activities in the North Yorkshire Moors area. It's been suggested that we have a meet here - any offers?

If you can help in any way please let John know as soon as possible (by return?) so that it can be included on the meets card.

### Future Events.

Dec 25th - Christmas Day.

20/28th August 1982. - NAMHO/Whernside Manor Mining Course at Whernside Manor,  
Dent, Cumbria.

1. The course fee is £80.00 including food, accomodation, transport on excursions, lamps, hats and tackle. It does not include wet suits, personal surface and underground clothing, footwear, towels & soap. You provide these.
2. If you want to go - read on.
3. A deposit of £20.00, payable to North Yorkshire County Council should be sent to John Mc. The balance will be due at the Manor on registration.
4. Preference will be given to people who have not previously attended a Manor Mining Course. Some underground experience is necessary, but the venues can be altered at short notice to take account of experience. Two minibusses will allow different grades of underground trips to be undertaken.
5. Accomodation is in dormitories with bunk beds (bedding provided). Course members are expected to assist with washing up and table laying etc.
6. All bookings to John McNeil, 12 Woodville Road, Brierfield, Nelson Lancs by no later than 30th June 1982. All applicants sending deposits and name and address will receive acknowledgement, the final details nearer the time.

"And what," you may well ask, "do we get for our money?" A lot. For example - The Swaledale Lead mines - underground trips followed by illustrated talks on them, covering the principle veins, history, surface and underground remains etc. 2 days and nights in the Alston Moor/Weardale/Teesdale area (Here you will stay in a Field Centre where food and bedding is provided but you will be expected to cook as well as washing up etc. Course projects - learn about underground/surface surveying, also how to interpret sites and remains.

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That was just a very brief summary of the draft programme, but it should give you the idea.

#### WARNING: DANGEROUS KARABINERS

There have recently been a few failures of SIMOND 10mm oval ALLOY karabiners reported to the NCA Equipment Committee. They are marked SPELED 1500kg on the spine and have a cross type latch.

These karabs have already been withdrawn from shops and it is recommended that any in circulation are no longer used.

Whilst on the subject of safety, the following snippet of information ought to give food for thought:-

The air we normally breathe contains 20% oxygen. After about a half hour in an atmosphere containing only 15% oxygen permanent brain damage occurs. In air with an oxygen content of 10% you will be dead in 4 minutes.

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Safety lamps are normally set to go out if the oxygen level drops below 17/18%.

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Anyone know the levels of oxygen needed before a match/candle/gas lighter won't light?

#### Crofty query (from Sunday Times 25th October 1981.)

"If pushed, would the regulatory authorities prefer arch-opponent Jim Raper to carry on running the South Crofty tin mine or Rio Tinto-Zinc to build up a creeping monopoly position in the industry? This thought is sparked off by RTZ's offer to buy up to 10% of Crofty at around the 24p suspension price. RTZ already owns Wheal Jane and 18% of Geevor and its links with Crofty are growing. As well as buying shares RTZ has just signed a contract to take nearly all Crofty's tin ore production for processing at its giant Capper Pas smelter. The deal apparently gives Raper's company some £400,000 a year more than the last buyer, a West German metals firm. At some stage RTZ might be tempted to persuade Raper to part with his 6% stake in Crofty.

#### Donegal Uranium.

Following on from the November 1980 Newsletter item about Exploration licences in Ireland I've received a couple of items:-

The first is the Bulletin of Donegal Uranium Committee - a lengthy screed urging Demonstrations and Pickets etc., to stop Anglo United test drilling in the area. Reading through it, one gets the impression of a mine producing ore that even in its raw state is highly radioactive and that a cloud of Raydon Gas will contaminate a great chunk of Ireland. In fact they produce a plan showing "The Probable 3 hour range of Radon Gas - using average wind speed". Most impressive.

However, they must not have had much success with their campaign as The Irish Press of 9th June 1981 reports:-

"Anglo hopes on Donegal uranium

Exploration activity by Munster Base Metals reached its highest ever levels last year with five diamond drills in operation for a period. Nevertheless, less than 15% of the total strike length of the main radioactive zone in the Donegal uranium prospect and only half of its most promising surface-detected targets have so far been tested.

Anglo's annual report says that "it would be surprising if substantially better and more persistent mineralisation did not exist in the remaining and so far untested 85% of the zone". "

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Frank P. Jowett wrote to me recently asking if I could help to obtain copies of The Denbighshire and Flintshire Publications. Any offers? then contact him at 76 Church Road, Rhos-On-Sea, Colwyn Bay, Clwyd. LL28 4YS.

He also sent the following information:-

#### Anglesey

My son, who is now in the Navy, remembers seeing a mine level on Holyhead Mountain when going on a diving expedition, so this is probably your lost Holyhead mine. (see Foster-Smith Mines of Anglesey and Caernarvonshire - RHB).

#### Caernarvonshire

There is an old filled in Copper mine shaft in the garden of the house 'Derwen Deg'  
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off the road from the Conway to the Trecastell Lead mines.

There are also a series of levels in Allt Wen at the head of the Sychnant Pass, and a blocked-up adit? near Gwern Engan. This latter is associated with Gossans, and has an artificial cutting made through the rock above it, which is Rholite. The slag heaps show traces of manganese ores. I have come across the following reference to these areas, but alas, I wrote it down many years ago and omitted to make a note as to its place of origin. Here it is:- "It is curious to note that there are 'headings', or levels in the lava rocks adjacent to the shales on Allt Wen, and in the shales themselves at Cogwrn, near Gwern Engan, warranting the belief that the 'prospectors' inferred that the shale bands were associated with mineral veins. The shale at Allt Wen is of a black sooty nature, closely resembling the black shales of Derwen Deg (DiGarograptus or Cadnant shales). About 50 years ago, a rich copper lode was worked at the latter place, a circumstance which may have led to search being made for similar lodes wherever there was an outcrop of black shales"

#### Denbighshire

These notes are as a result of my own research locally, and you may know of them. If not they may be of interest.

#### Rhos-On-Sea.

- a) Finding of Copper Cakes of Roman form in Tan-y-Bryn road. These were presumed by Dr. Willoughby Gardner to have come from Great Orme Copper Mines, but there is a distinct possibility that they were made locally.
- b) A stone lined (rough-water-worn boulders) shaft about 60' deep in vicinity of Llandrillo Church, found in 1964 then covered in.
- c) Old mine level running under Llys Euryn ruins and also under Tan-y-Bryn road in a NE direction. This has been broken into at various times.
- d) Stone shafts (square) cut in the limestone on the edge of Tan-y-Bryn road, close to c). Visible when road was widened in 1978.
- e) Trial mine level in a garden off Drinerth (? ed.) Road. The house was built in 1927 so the level must be older. The level ends at a blank wall about 100' in. Shot holes are visible in the limestone.
- f) I have heard of a mine level at the bottom end of Dinerth road, but have been unable to confirm this.
- g) I have heard of a shaft being found on Gorst's estate off Tan-y-Bryn road, which was filled in.
- h) There is an old mine level in Nant Sempyr (? Ed.) that was bricked up in 1936. The mine is in Silurian shales (? Wenlock) and had a shaft a little way in. It is presumed that this was for lead. (Opposite the old Colwyn Bay gas works).
- i) I have in my possession an iron Pestle, of a type suitable for grinding up ore, this was found in a garden in Rhos-on-Sea.

If you want any more information I will be glad to help.

Frank P. Jowett.

#### Welsh Miners Museum

(Afon Argoed Country Park) South Wales.

Open - April to October 10.30am to 6.00pm

Nov to March 12.00 noon to 5.00pm including Saturday/Sunday.

The charges are very reasonable - Adults 20p. Kids/OAP/ Disabled 10p.

Also in the same vicinity is the  
Cefn Coed Coal and Steam Centre

Cefn Coed was at  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile depth, the deepest anthracite pit in the world. It was originally sunk in 1926, taken over by the Coal Board in 1947 and closed in 1968.

The centre piece of the display is one of the original steam winders.

Open - April to October 10.30 to 6.30pm closed Tuesday & Wednesday.

Nov to March 11.00 to 4.00pm

Charges Adults 50p. Children/OAP/Disabled 30p. Special Family rates and Party rates for 10 or more.

#### Lakes Meet Sept 19/20.

Due to the absence of a report from the leader of this Meet, I don't seem to have any alternative but to use the following account which has, somehow, appeared in my possession:-

"Mr J. Crompton, hereafter referred to as J.C. once promised me a trip to Nenthead.  
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just after Easter -- He didn't say which year. J.C. who lead the Lakes meet on the most abysmal weekend he could choose, where wind and rain took its toll. Mike Goth ascended towards heaven during Saturday night, he never said he was going. (I suppose hang gliding in a tent is fun, if you are that way inclined, but not sir, in the night). Ken went home, at least we think he did, his tent wasn't in it's place the following morning. Sunday. Well, JC lead us to Hollows Farm where we met some charming individuals who had been practising hay making with their hair and sniffing glue at the same time. They would persist in throwing raw and hard boiled eggs at us. Mike Goth spent most of his time catching them to replace his depleted store back at base camp. The wind and the rain came, cold and wet, forward we trailed. 'Isn't it grand?' commented JC. I'm informed that 17% oxygen one feels faint, 15% one is dead. But I reckon at Rigghead quarry 15½% would be a fair assessment."

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The Mineral Statistics of the British Isles.

Part II The Yorkshire Mineral Statistics. (including Cleveland Ironstone Mines).

Already mentioned in May 1981 Newsletter (Page 7) we can now advise that the above, as 2nd in a series, is now almost ready for publication.

Unlike Part I this will be complete with N.G.R. for each location. Anticipated price approx. £2.50. Each part of limited print run - so make sure of your copy • order NOW. Send no money at this stage - you will be invoiced upon despatch. SEE ORDER FORM attached to this Newsletter.

Please note - Those who did not order Part I, Mrs Bird still has a few copies left at £2.50 each. Send cash with order, but indicate clearly that this is for Part I.

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1983 Biennial Conference.

We are to host this Conference, which is to be held at the Leeds Industrial Museum, in June 1983. Following the magnificent effort produced by the Shropshire Gaving and Mining Club and the Ironbridge Gorge Museum in 1981 we will have all in to better it.

It is imperative that anyone wishing to speak or make suggestions should do so now in order that a draft programme can be established.

Anyone wishing to help in any way should speak up now - we already have a volunteer for handling bookings. People will be required for many other tasks, 100 people take a lot of attention. Contact H.Houghton initially at least.

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NAMHO News.

North Lancs. Environment Protection Group. - Warton Crag.

The Society and NAMHO have been advised that the applicant intends appealing to the Minister of the Environment against the decision, by Lancaster City Council, to refuse planning permission for the erection of holiday chalets on the Crag.

Both the Society and the Association gave objections to the scheme, which is adjacent to the Reddle Mines at Warton Crag, on the grounds that the development would detract from the area and mining relics will be destroyed.

NAMHO Letter to Members of Parliament.

Mike Gill, Secretary of the Association, wishes to thank those members who have forwarded this letter to their M.P. Those who have not yet done so are urged to remedy this.

The Association has received a number of replies and whilst progress will be slow, the Lord Chancellor's office is aware of our problem.

Mines on Forestry Commission Land at Llanrwst.

The Association regrets that the situation remains as before, strictly no access! It has been in contact with the Head Forester, who, whilst being sympathetic to our case feels that his legal obligations are inescapable. Will members please respect this position which, we are hopeful, will improve.

Botallack Engine Houses Preservation Project.

The Carn Brea Mining Society has instigated the project to preserve these famous Cornish features. The two engine houses, the lower built in the 1800's and the upper c1860, have taken decades of Atlantic weather without repair. The Society has "grasped

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the nettle" and is preparing plans, specifications and costings for presentation to a reputable builder. The preliminary survey has revealed that the cost of the project will be around £40,000. A working party has been formed to co-ordinate efforts and to obtain funds from statutory and non statutory sources.

Donations will be welcomed and can be forwarded to :- Mr. L.R.Holmes, 'Whispers', Ladock, Truro, Cornwall.

#### Insurance

We have now had clarification of the 3rd Party Insurance Certificate - Members are now covered for all activities in pursuance of the Society's aims, whether on an official meet or not. In future there will be no need to contact John Mc to arrange for cover before going off on a weekend.

#### Help Wanted.

First a "plea from the heart".

#### Mining Books.

Avid collector of old mining tomes urgently requires the following to compliment his burgeoning collection. Anything considered, but the following are high on the list:-

Mems.Geol. Surv. Special Reports on Min. Resources of Great Britain.

Lead and Zinc: The mining District of N.Cards. & W.Montgomery. O.T.Jones 1921.

Lead and Zinc: Mining in the pre-Carboniferous Rocks of N.Wales. 1922.

Lead and Zinc: Mining in the Carboniferous Rocks of N.Wales. 1921.

British Mining. R.Hunt 1884.

A Treatise on Minerals and Mining. D.Davies 1896.

Institute of Mining and Metallurgy Symposium. "The Future of Non Ferrous Mining in Gt.Britain & Ireland."

Mining and Metallurgy. J.Phillips and J.Darlington.

Highest prices paid for the above - rather like asking a stamp buff to sell a penny black, but it's worth a try! Offers of Anything to Dick Bird, 41 Windsor Walk, South Anston, Sheffield S31 7EL. Tel 0909 563229. (Don't think I could afford a first edition of De Re Metallica though!!)

2. If anyone has any MOULDYWARPS Publications for sale at a reasonable price, especially Nos 1 - 3. Or alternatively if they would be prepared to loan them for copying, postage would be paid both ways. Please contact Les Tyson, 13 Birch Avenue, Cadishead, Nr. Manchester, Lancs. M30 5AU.

Les would also like to trace a survey of Nut Hole Sloat Hole Mine in Arkendale.

3. "I have been doing some research into Swiss mining for a number of years and - with regard to one particular mine that is quite dear to my heart - have met with shareholders from England. I would be most interested to know if you can trace any of these for me and, if so, let me know in what connection they are being mentioned:-

J.M.Steinthal; Herman Leo; Louis Borchardt; P.Goldschmidt; ..Roskill. All were Manchester based.

I know that at least Steinthal had large mining interests in the U.K.

Any information, especially about Steinthal, would be most appreciated as I am intending to write a detailed book on the mine in question".

If you can help please contact:- Rolf von Arx, Buchzelgstr. 39, CH-8053 Zurich.

#### 4. Caldbeck Fells.

Somebody writing to "Dear Twinkle" and signing themselves "Big Dick from Windsor Castle" wrote recently passing on a request for info. The gist of the message was that "Dr.C.Stanley, British Museum (Natural History) Cromwell Rd,London had asked him to ask me if I would be kind enough to request members with tit bits (he! he!) relating to the mining history and mineralogy of the Caldbeck Fells in the Lakes, to get in touch. Dr S., together with two other worthies are preparing a monograph on the area for the Society. Maps, info on the deep underground, in fact anything considered as interest would be welcome so as to make this monograph as comprehensive as possible.

#### 5. Ireland

We're certainly getting around in this Newsletter.

"I hope, this winter, to give a short talk to a mineralogical society on "The base metal Deposits of Ireland". Although I have suitable information on the area, I am

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desperately short of visuals (i.e. 35mm slides).

I was wondering, if through some of your members, I may be able to borrow a selection of slides, covering any aspects of the operations at Tynagh, Silvermines, Gortdrum, Naven, Magcobar, Aroca etc. I have already written to all these concerns with little success. Any help you could give me would be greatly appreciated".

Please contact:- N.J.M. Moreton, 3 Asquith Boulevard, Knighton, Leicester. LE2 6FD.

## 6. Eskdale.

In return for inserting the following, Alwyn has promised an article for a Memoirs, so I suppose that in helping him you will be helping with the Memoirs.

"I'm researching into the history of the Eskdale, Cumbria, mines and would be glad to hear from anyone with a similar interest or any information (copied and returned with postage refunded of course).

I'm also interested in the background to some of the main company promoters who may have appeared elsewhere - in particular one Faithful Cookson who, with the aid of a mine Captain, Hoskins, made much money from selling the lease of the area. Further characters are the Earl of Devon (not the Duke) chairman of the Whitehaven Iron Mines Ltd., and one William Donaldson, a civil engineer, resident at Leathwaite, Ambleside in 1879-81. However if these people crop up elsewhere perhaps some kind soul might enlighten me. The main period of activity for these mines was 1870-84."

Please contact:- A. Austin, 21 Croftlands, Bigrigg, Egremont, Cumbria.

I often wonder just how much response is generated by these appeals, 'cos I don't exactly get inundated with articles resulting from the answers. Wink, wink, nudge, nudge.

At the Dinner I was presented with a special award. "Silver", I hear you gasp. "Nay, Cotton". A Tee Shirt no less, boldly emblazoned across the bosom of which the message "I have a Little Nut Tree nothing will it bear!" accompanied with various labels and stickers.

Unfortunately all the letters had fallen off by morning. Although promising retribution - I have to admit that it's not an easy job to better. So, instead I filched Richard's speech after the Dinner and have reproduced it here.

"Those who are not already doing so - may smoke".

"Ladies and Gentlemen.

The time has arrived for a special award to be presented. A serious occasion which should not be skimmed over without some careful considerations being taken into account.

Mr. H. Houghton, Britain's answer to Spiderman; the human Kelly; Plumbob shaft reamer supreme; Sciatica Sufferer Extraordinaire, except when he's lifting pints.. I would like to take this opportunity in thanking Harry for all the help and advise he has given me in the past, which I have totally ignored, except once in Wales, and bitterly regretted it afterwards. - - - Well, it's about this little operation of his. There has been growing concern within the Society about it. On every underground trip the topic seems to surface at breaktime. The lecture is often accompanied by miniature clay models which are left in situ for others to wonder at --- and wonder they will. -- On the day of the operation the surgeon stood (in amazement) by the side of Harry. He said he'd never seen anything like it before. Now, when the surgeon made the incision, he looked very hard into the wound and exclaimed, "That's funny", which it wasn't, "It isn't here, or there -- or there, in fact I don't know where it is". Harry looked down. (Remember he'd had a local anaesthetic, mainly beer I think), and couldn't see the offending organ either. They were both baffled. Harry's first aid experience didn't help either. The surgeon continued. "Well, I guess..." GUESS. Harry looked startled. ..We'll have to make another cut somewhere lower down" There was silence. "Ah! Jim lad, That's where we went wrong". WE! "Let's start again" and so the operation continued once again, this time successfully. "WE HOPE". Just one thing -- why is Sue still looking for a real man?

Friends, on behalf of a silent few within the Society we would like to present our founder Inactive member with this small gift, hoping he will continue the good work, as long as he is able to, also this small packet of self-adhesive vasectomy scars for his wild nights out. SIR HARRY."

### Survey on Limestone Workings (Dudley Herald, 20th March 1981.)

An in-depth research project has been ordered to map out potentially dangerous limestone mines under parts of Dudley.

West Midlands County Council estimate that altogether £62,000,000 worth of property, roads and other development is built over these mines in Dudley, Walsall and Sandwell.

Research could take two years to complete and experts have warned that it could cost at least £20,000,000 to pack the ground and prevent widespread collapse.

Much of the limestone mining took place in the 19th Century when no records were kept of where the mines were situated or how deep they were. But some of the caverns are thought to be up to 700' deep, with roofs supported by pillars of rock.

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### Old Man Revisits Mongo Gill ( not to be mistaken with t'owd man. Oh, I don't know though).

The following should be read in melodramatic voice, wearing Dearstalker, Norfolk jacket and moleskin breeks.

The storm was raging as the two figures sheltered uncomfortably in the lee of the derelict mine buildings from the violent buffeting of the strong winds and lashing rain. Suddenly from out of the murk a strange shape slowly emerged. A Renault van - Dickinson and friend had finally arrived.

(Not exactly Heathcliffe, but the best we could do at short notice.)

The date was September 27th 1981, "the hard man of Craven" was preparing to show those young whippersnappers how MEN go caving. From a well equipped rucksack our hero prepared to gird his loins. Underground garments, ironed and spotless, were produced, the expert shuffled his feet, rid the area of sheep muck and proceeded to change. The most essential garments in this apparel would appear to be mens Long underpants of 1930's extraction.

Descent of North Entance by rope ladder (the pukha stuff, none of yer new-fangled Electron stuff 'er tha 'naws. This particular lot had been rotting under our floor for the last 10 years.) brought the circulation back to even those parts that Lager couldn't reach, even if you batned in it.

The party consisted of the Leader/Guide/Expert/Tutor accompanied by 2 sherpas recruited from that great band of "these buggers nowadays haven't a clue how to go on, not like in my day at any rate". At this point our hero apparently underwent a sudden change. "Like a bloody rabbit." "His eyes sparkled and off he went."

Progress, through ruckle after ruckle, led at last to cavern 152, a shattered, dripping hole with 2 obvious ways on. The un-obvious N.E. line was therefore taken and encountering a sound rift-passage the intrepid group re-appeared at the ladder.

"Oh ye of little faith, mock ye not."

A second attempt into the depths of the first ruckle led to better ground and open space, it also led to voids in the floor, muddy tubes and eventually Black Chamber. "Hell, sheer hell", do I hear you call? Here, 'Survey Station' markers were found, still intact, and in their mounds of mud from the early sixties. "God, yes I remember building these." In those days, surface water showered from the roof of Black Chamber but has since changed course.

Our hero, antennae twitching, intently studied a corner of the chamber, where somewhere below, a heavy flow of water could be heard. Entry, through fallen blocks, was made to a rift below the floor of Black Chamber. Here through a shallow duck was a stream and a 4 metre waterfall. "Instincts like a 's...House rat'."

After a mamoth 3 hour <sup>exhibition</sup> ~~expedition~~ exit was gained via South Entrance.

Anon (or B.Bond)

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### Book Reviews.

#### 1. The Mineral Kingdom. Vol. 1. No. 1.

The Journal of the British Mineral Collectors Association. (Directors - D.R.Neal & I.D.Thutgood.)

For an association of only 70 members, this publication is a good advert. Its 26, A4 size pages contain articles on:

Flourite - with bubble inclusions, what these are and why they occur as they do;

Access and its associated problems, with a recommended code of prectise for collectors;

La Mine de Lacan, near Aveyron, Southern France. This mine is owned by a subsidiary of Vielle Montagne, and the methods and machinery used by them here are described, the text accompanied by plans and diagrams;

With Photographing Minerals, whilst accepting the fact that this is the first part of a Series, I can't help thinking that a quart has been tried to be contained in a

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pint pot.;

Bonsall Moor Minerals deals with the finding of Axe-head Calcites, 2 black & white photos and several drawings/diagrams accompany this article;

The final article explains some of the equipment and its use, needed for collecting underground.

At £6.00 for 6 issues (bi-monthly), by subscription, and providing that the present standard is at least maintained, then (if you must collect minerals) you would find this interesting publication value for money. I found it interesting reading on the whole.

Details from:- Earth Science Promotions, 27 Lower meadow, Harlow, Essex. Cm18 7RD.  
Tel. 0279 411952 (Day), 0279 415844 (Night).

H. Houghton.

2. West Yorkshire: "A Noble Scene of Industry" - the development of the County 1500 - 1830 by R.C.N. Thornes, published by West Yorkshire Metropolitan County Council 1981, Price £2.50, A4 size paper covered, 60pp including 35 figures and plates.

This is a well produced, properly printed book with good illustrations and although there appears to be an over-emphasis on textiles (21 pages) there is some mention of mining. "Iron" is given 7 pages including 2 excellent photos of the possibly mis-named "bell-pits" at Emley. Coal is given 2 pages with in addition only passing mention of clay (for potteries and brickworks). Perhaps the greatest omission is that of stone working for, although many of the photos show fine and massive stone buildings (like the great mills and Piece Hall) there is no mention of the industry this construction must have supported.

A good book for the industrial archaeologist, but not the mine historian.

I. J. Brown.

3. Coniston Copper Mines - A field Guide.

Eric G. Holland, the author of "Underground in Furness", has recently published a comprehensive pocket guide to the above Lake District mines. The book is intended as a guide to the many interesting sites on the area of Copper Mines valley and will no doubt draw the criticism that it encourages "the inexperienced" to venture underground. Mr. Holland has liberally seeded the work with warnings, to the uninitiated or foolhardy, about the various dangers to be encountered.

There are 54 figures which include some very clear plans and sections and a number of conjectural reconstructions of the various mechanical remains that will be an invaluable assistance to those visitors unaware of their presence. One criticism of the plans and site maps is the inconsistent placing of the North Pointer which may lead to some confusion if they are read in conjunction with an O.S. Map.

Mr. Holland also tells me that he is preparing a companion volume on the history of the Coniston Copper mines to be published within the next year.

In conclusion, this guide, which costs £1.95 from Bookshops, or £2.40 direct from the author, autographed, must be a welcome addition to the shelves of anyone commencing an interest in these mines or with the intention of visiting this complex area. (Author:- E.G. Holland, Old Stainton Hall, Stainton, Barrow-in-Furness, Cumbria).

M.C. Gill.

4. "Lead Mines of the Alwyn Valley" by C.J. Williams

This is an offprint of an article in the Flintshire Historical Society Bulletin, with many maps and plans.

A limited number of copies are available for £1.60 including p & p. Monies made payable to Flintshire Historical Society. Members wishing to obtain a copy should contact Clwyd County Records Office, The Rectory, Hawarden, Deeside, Clwyd CH5 3NR.

5. "The Lead Mines of Islay" by R.M. Callender

Although in a different league to the previously mentioned tomes, this little booklet makes interesting enough reading. Obviously intended as a general guide to the few mining sites on Islay to enable the casual visitor to gain a rough idea of what happened, where and when. Nevertheless, it's worth 70p including p & p from Islay Museum Trust, Port Charlotte, Islay, Argyll.

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What is this I hear about Mr. McNeil? He says he is a naturalist, but what does he do? - - Not only does he try to imitate a candle wick (he's about the right size) by setting himself on fire with meths., but he incinerates all the flora and fauna within a 20' diameter of his camp stove.

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In the stone quarries of Whitworth, who lost his party in the far reaches of the workings? Two of his colleagues sat down and started to say things like, "Well, that's it. That's as far as we go in life this time round". Which was just what John was doing - going round and round. "Must be this way out. No. Lets try this. No. Must be the first way." Half an hour later, "Let's try following this string I've found". In the meantime our two friends had just completed their Wills and wanted someone to sign as a witness. Needless to say we made it.

Afterwards I discovered that another member of the party had spent all that night sat on the toilet. The only comment he would make was "Delayed shock." I quite agree.

And finally, guess who walked round Ashnott Mine with a lump of clay stuck over the face of his cap lamp, mumbling, "----- That's funny, my lights low. Shall have to charge it up", and went off thumping his back.

I don't know why he does these things, perhaps it's because he wants to be noticed.

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#### Apologies.

The new Tripewriter does not yet seem to be functioning correctly. Being electric it goes faster than the corporations fingers. Perhaps someday we may produce a perfect Newsletter. In the meantime accept it as it is. Ta!

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#### Future Items.

Keep sending items for inclusion in Newsletters, 'cos I like getting letters.

My kids like it too when the postman delivers envelopes for them to sort out and bring to Mummy/ or Daddy. They also collect the stamps for charity.

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Seeing as how we're on the subject of stamps and stationery - So that daddies little helpers (?) can lick the flaps on envelopes, please enclose a stamped addressed one if you want a reply before the next Newsletter is produced.

I don't know about the rest of the Officers, but it costs me a fortune replying to queries. The NMRS file is always out of stamps when I need an odd one, and so a raid on Sue's purse usually produces one. (So that's where they go, I often wondered - Sue/typist). I never seem to get round to replacing these though, and . . . had to stop calculating the last time I tried to reckon up how much was owed.

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#### Additions to Members List of May 1981 (as at 10th November 1981.)

|                       |                                                                   |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|
| A.J.Bird (Fam)        | 41 Windsor Walk, South Anston, Sheffield.                         |
| A.Bird (Fam)          | as above                                                          |
| L.Willies             | Hilderston, Dale Rd, Matlock Bath.                                |
| J.Hodgkins            | 36 Church Road, Altofts, Normanton.                               |
| Doncaster Met. Inst.  | of Higher Education, Waterdale, Doncaster.                        |
| J.P.Humphreys         | 12 Eltringham Rd, Hartlepool TS26 9QX.                            |
| N.M.Hill              | 103 Lincoln Rd, Branston, Lincoln.                                |
| R.M.Brown             | 1 Park Gate Cres., Guiseley, Leeds LS208AT.                       |
| Miss J.A.Robbins      | Cominco Europe Ltd, 50 Finsbury Sq. London.                       |
| E.I.Jones             | 'Drws-y-Coed', Blaenau Ffestiniog, LL41 3 YW.                     |
| H.Barnes              | Castle Hill Farm, Higher Westhouse, Ingleton LA6 3NH.             |
| D.J.Boyack            | 1 Pittosporum St, Kambalola West, West Australia 6444. (Overseas) |
| G.Davis               | Penrhyn Isaf, Blwch Derwin, Garndolbenmaen, Gwynedd.              |
| Ironbridge Gorge      | Museum, Ironbridge, Telford, Shrops. TF8 7AW.                     |
| R.A.Roberts           | 24 Springfield St, Barnsley. S.Yorks.                             |
| G.A.Lindo             | 9 Mount Rd, Cosby, Leicester LE9 5SZ.                             |
| S.M.Bayley Mrs. (Fam) | 2 Speedwell Rd, Birmingham B5 7PR.                                |
| R.G.Coles             | 16 Cross Green, Upton-by-Chester, Chester CH2 1QR.                |
| J.A.Robey             | Matherfield House, Church Lane, Mayfield, Ashbourne, Derbys.      |
| G.I.Madden            | 67 Churchfield, Harlow, Essex CM20 3DB.                           |
| M.H.P.Green           | Crag Foot, Carnforth, Lancs LA5 9RZ.                              |
| Mrs J. Green (Fam)    | as above                                                          |
| W.J.D.Parkhouse       | 2 Meadow Cottages, Ford Rd, Stone, Bucks. HP17 8R7.               |

Cont'd.....

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Mrs J.Bond (Fam) 27 Reedley Rd, Reedley, Burnley  
Miss J.Bond (Fam) as above  
Miss K.Bond (Fam) as above  
S.Schofield Wood Cottage, Fellinghe, Knighton, Powys.  
Camborne School of Mines, Pool, Redruth, Cornwall. TR15 3SE.  
I.M.Spensley, Kings Arms, Redmire, Leyburn, N.Yorks.  
C.T.Alderman 14 Westfield Terr, Yeadon, Leeds LS19 7LY.  
G.R.Marsden 35 School Rd, Laughton-en-le-Morthen, Sheffield S31 7YP.  
R.J.Webber-Hill 9 North Grange Rd, Headingley, Leeds 6.  
G.L.Bird 192 Steynburg St, Newbridge Rd, Hull HU9 2PG.  
G.S.Green 19 Hawthorn Close, Keyworth, Nottingham NG12 5SP.  
J.R.L.Hickey 129a Abbs Cross Lane, Hornchurch, RM12 4XT  
D.Miller Ryshworth Middle School, Bingley. BD16 2EP.  
T.J.Bowkett 53 Ty-Glass Rd, Cardiff CF4 5EB.  
P.S.M.Carter 435 Penistone Rd, Shelley, Huddersfield.  
M.P.Ireland Dept. Zoology, University College of Wales, Penglais, Aberystwyth, Dyfed.  
J.L.H.Bate Cwm Safn, Aberdovey, Gwynedd LL35 0SE.  
R.G.Gibson 1 Little Folly, Lydbury North, Salop.  
C.R.Blick 16 Sycamore Cres. Bawtry, Doncaster DN10 6LE.  
D.W.Sample 83 Middlecave Rd, Malton, N.Yorks YO17 0NQ.  
Mrs G.A.Sample (Fam) as above.

Changes of Address.

A.Austin 21 Croftlands, Bigrigg, Egremont, Cumbria.  
W.H.A.Cassells 12 Chapel Close, Finningley, Doncaster DN9 3DL.  
N.J.Coppin Bodynys, Pentrecelyn, Ruthin, Clywd.  
D.W.McCallum 32 Pitt St, Mexborough, S.Yorks S64 0LT.  
P.D.Nightingale 58 Earnsdale Rd, Darwen, Lancs BB3 1HS.  
D.Platt 21 Wellhouse Sq, Barnoldswick.  
G.Thorne 10 Tiberius Gardens, Witham, Essex. N.J  
N.J.M.Moreton 3 Asquith Boulevard, Knighton, Leicester. LE2 6FD.

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Lecture

"Lead Mining in the Yorkshire Dales" by John Hobson.

on Saturday 5th December 1981 starting at 11am at 'Claremont', 23 Clarendon Road, Leeds 2.

The Industrial History Section of the Yorkshire Archaeology Society are having Lead Mining as the subject of this months lecture, and they have kindly invited any of our members who want to turn up.

Clarendon Road is the road that runs from Woodhouse Lane, from the corner of the University with Woodhouse Moor, past Leeds Grammar School and Hyde Terrace Maternity Hospital, and having its other end at Burley Road (just off the Westgate roundabout) by Park Lane College of Commerce.

'Claremont' is the Headquarters and Library of the Y.A.S.

If in doubt don't hesitate to give me a ring.

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Final reminder - don't forget to pay your subs.

attend the A.G.M. at Sicklinghall at 2pm on Sun. 14th February, 1982.

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Merry Christmas & Happy New Year to all our readers.

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Next Newsletter to be issued in February 1982 together with your membership cards as receipt of subs. All contributions, in good time, to:-

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