

Apologies to Mr. P.H.Stanier.

The drawings which appeared in BM20 'Caradon & Phoenix Mining Area' were partly the original work of Mr. P.H.Stanier of Shaftesbury. These were utilised without the knowledge of the originator and Mr Stanier has asked us to point out that he takes no responsibility for inaccuracies therein and wishes to be disassociated with Mr Shambrook's publication.

You will see from the above why we have been forced to take the action below:-
Contributors to N.M.R.S. Publications.

Note Well

We have recently been censured for publishing material of both an illustrative and written nature, which has been plagiarised from sources without the necessary permission or acknowledgments.

Articles are accepted on the understanding that any material used, if not the contributor's own work, is duly cleared by the originator concerned before being submitted to the editor. This is clearly stated in "Notes for contributors" printed on the inside front cover of British Mining.

The infringement of copyright is a serious offence and the offender can be sued for this in a court of law!

Obviously it is not possible for the Society to check that all necessary permission and appropriate acknowledgements have been made. Two recent instances of copyright infringement have meant that the standing of the Society as being a thoroughly reputable publisher of historical mining material has been in question. Copyright restrictions are also applicable if illustrative material is redrawn from existing work.

To avoid future embarrassment, we have regrettably been forced to issue to contributors a disclaimer form which they will have to sign stating that the work submitted is their own effort and all steps have been taken to obtain permission for the inclusion of material which is not; acknowledgement has been given to any material from copyright-protected sources.

This disclaimer will be forwarded by the editor upon receipt of any manuscript.

R.H.Bird.

1983 Subs.

Brace yourselves - this year we have had to increase subs to £7.00 for full membership.

This is the minimum amount that we can exist on and still remain viable and maintain our present standard.

It was felt that the only cost cutting options open to us, i.e. - a) reduce the number of publications to one per year, or b) drop the standard of publications, were unacceptable.

On last years costs Dick needs at least £5.00 per member for publications. In the last few years Aftersales have subsidised the membership by up to 50p per copy. However when you consider that because of the economic climate, this years aftersales figures are down by over half on last years figures, then we have simply run out of cash.

So far this year all the other Society expenses, including NAMHO Insurance, amount to £1.57 per member and we don't see how we can reduce this figure by any significant amount. Postage takes up a very large percentage of our costs and this is due to be increased again in February of next year.

From the above you can see that we have no option but to raise the subscription by the amount we have done.

This proposal was unanimously agreed on at the General Meeting of 13th Nov. 1982.

Meets for '83.

So far only 2 Meets have been proffered - Easter to Cornwall and Spring Bank Holiday to Wales.

If no more offers are forthcoming in the immediate future, it looks like these will be the sum total.

If you want meets PLEASE HELP US. Don't just sit back and hope someone else will do it all - everyone else is doing that too.

Even if you aren't prepared to organise the meet, at least offer your services as

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a guide. Those who led meets for the first time last year were pleasantly surprised how easy it all was.

So extract the proverbial digit and contact John Mc NOW with your ideas. His address is J.H. McNeil, 12 Woodville Road, Brierfield, Nelson, Lancs. BB9 5RW.

Articles for British Mining.

If your excuse for not submitting a manuscript is lack of time, this is for you:-

Geoff Greenough says that he will soon have more time on his hands than he will know what to do with, and would be pleased to help anyone who has a mass of assorted research information to put it in a form which can be published in "British Mining".

So lack of time to complete your article is no longer a good excuse!

....However, 'cos he has too much time on his 'ands, and Sue aint enough, a plan has been devised to make both their dreams come true. Sue is giving up as Treasurer and Geoff is willing to take it on.

The reason for Sue's resignation is quite simple - nowt sinister - just a matter of the number of hours in a day. When she started doing the job in 1979, we had about 200 members, we now have about 430 and growing. She also has to run me, act as assistant PRO, do the Society's typing, posting and be the general dogs body. Other incidentals like 2 growing kids, who are needing a lot more attention; invalid relatives to look after; and a home to run are getting harder to fit in amongst all the Societies business.

Geoff will be taking over the Treasury as from NOW. So please try to remember to send all money and memberships to him in future.

His address is:- G.B. Greenough, 22 Elmhurst Rd, St. Annes on Sea, Lancs FY8 3JH.

Future Events

Sunday February 13th 1983. Annual General Meeting of the Society at 2.00pm at the Village Hall, Sicklinghall, Nr. Wetherby.

10/13th June 1983 NAMHO Conference

The NAMHO Conference of 1983, hosted by ourselves, is to be held at the Leeds Industrial Museum between Friday 10th June and Monday 13th June 1983. The programme will consist of short illustrated lectures dealing with a wide range of subjects related to the coal, fluorspar and metal mining industries. There will be historical and general interest displays with an underground and surface trip included over the weekend.

I hope that is sufficient information to whet the appetite of all members. Any further information may be obtained from R.E. Hewer, 36 Benomley Crescent, Almondbury, Huddersfield HD5 8LU. Please enclose S.A.E. Booking forms and further details will be issued at a later date.

R.E. Hewer.

Ecton Meet Report - 26/27th June 1982.

This Meet, planned in November, turned out to be the "on - off, on - off, on" Meet of the year. We had great difficulty making contact with Mr Cox, the mine owner, and in fact only received access permission 3 days prior to the meet!

In spite of the uncertainty, five members actually arrived on the Friday night - obviously overkeen. The pre-arranged campsite turned out to be waist deep in grass, and the owner directed all arrivals to a nearby alternative. Torrential rain and thunderstorms through Friday night made life more exciting, and found survivors drying out on Saturday morning when reinforcements arrived.

At 10.30am, our party now totalling 7, we set off to visit Jugholes, near Matlock. This is a small working, which during the mid-eighteenth century had a short lived bonanza, and was later worked for the fluorspar in the 1950's, left behind by the earlier lead miners. Interesting barytes/Fluorspar/galena mineralisation was studied in-situ, and the generous covering of thick clay throughout the workings was described as 'sporting' by the party.

After a brief stop for lunch, we moved on to Ball Eye Mine, on the Via Gellia, and climbed up the steep slope to the Ruggs Hall entrance. To the east of the entrance the large working quarry could be seen, which is now eating into the underground passages. Large cracks in the walls and roof underground are evidence of the proximity of blasting in the quarry. Dark purple cubes of Fluorspar are common in the mine.

The party made its way back to Ecton, and joined by new arrivals now totalled

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14. The entrance to Clayton Adit was unlocked with some difficulty whilst the majority waited outside in a sudden cloudburst, and thankfully followed inside into the knee-deep, very cold, water. This water flow was present in the late 1700's when the level was driven, and could not have made for a pleasant working environment. The level leads into a very large chamber where a Robey Engine was housed and the remains of the flue were examined. An enjoyable couple of hours were spent exploring the various levels branching off the main drive. Once everyone was safely out in daylight again, four members tried in vain to lock the security door to the level, when almost on the point of giving up (being by now somewhat wet and cold), Archie Meadowcroft stepped forward and neatly finished off the job, much to everyone's relief! After tea back at the campsite (for which the rain stopped and the sun tried to shine) we reported to a local hostelry to pass away the evening talking mines and mining.

Sunday morning was dry and sunny, and tents were hurriedly packed up after breakfast. The Society's consultant arachnophile (Spider McNeil) arrived, and we set off to examine the arthropods of Salts Level. We were joined by four local cavers, (one of whom joined the Society there and then) who expressed a desire to go down a 'mine', and were soon gathered around the entrance to Salts level. The security door here is of an easier design for the average mining enthusiast to operate, and access was swiftly gained. The climb down the Pipe Working was made using fixed ladders - some original, others recently positioned, but all in reasonably sound condition. At the bottom of the ladderway can be seen the flooded part of the pipe working - going down to some 170 fathoms below adit. Ahead of the flooded workings a passage leads to Ecton Deep Adit, although there was a lack of positive information from the meet leader regarding precisely where the passage lead - the original suggestion that it went to the main nerve centre of the mine, resulted in many unnecessary wet pairs of feet! (The stone arching's good to look at anyway). The main chamber was eventually located (in the opposite direction) and much flashgun power was devoted to securing photographs of this void.

After climbing back out of the workings, several members volunteered their services to Mr Cox for erecting fencing, and ditch digging, around the mine site, and by mid-afternoon most participants had headed for home. The rest visited the mining museum at Matlock Bath.

Our thanks go to all who helped make the weekend enjoyable, and to anyone who didn't get a chance to dig fence post holes - help is always welcome at Ecton.

Roy Starkey & Bob Burns.

Swaps.

David Ifold has the following books to swap:-

'Textbook of Ore and Stone Mining', by C. Le Neve Foster, Third Edition pub 1900, 744 pages + 56 pages of adverts. Book has worn covers and is very limp; still a very interesting book because of its complete coverage of mining.

'Investigation of Mine Air', by C. Le Neve Foster & J. S. Haldane, pub 1905, 191pp inc appendix on Carbonic Oxide poisoning at Snaefell Mine, Isle of Man.

'Lectures of the Bristol School of Mines for 1857', 300pp on general lectures on mine development. Contains lecture on Lund Hill Colliery (Barnsley Seam) S. Yorks.

He is interested in BM 6 'The Mines of Merioneth' by J. R. Foster-Smith and works on Geology, Mineralogy and Mining in South West.

Contact David Ifold, 16 Fairleigh Road, Clevedon, Avon BS21 7XA.

Manchester Mine Canals to Reopen?

A Salford councillor is trying to drum up support to turn part of the Duke of Bridgewater's coal mine canals at Worsley into a museum and tourist attraction. The 53 miles of canal run under Worsley and Walkden as far as Bolton to the North. The ochreous Bridgewater canal issues from the mines at Worsley, and was started in 1759 to take the coal into Manchester, making it the first canal to be built in England. Counc Alexander Smethurst hopes that Salford Council will set up a working party to include Greater Manchester County Council and NCB representatives. The NCB have warned about gas build-ups and rotten brickwork, but have agreed to co-operate in a feasibility study.

Salford Council already have a Museum of Mining at Buile Hill Park which is well worth a visit.

Strontian Mines Reopen.

Strontian Lead Mines in NW Argyllshire have been reopened for barytes. Derbyshire's Minworth Minerals is behind Strontian Minerals Ltd., who are building crushers and calciners on the old rake workings above Bellsgrrove Lodge.

Lead ore was discovered in 1722 and mined profitably upto 1872. The huge variety of minerals on the spoil heaps attracts a surprising number of collectors to this isolated mining outpost. Strontianite (strontium carbonate) was discovered here in 1764, but the element was not isolated until 1790. Strontium was only used for sugar beet processing and putting a crimson glow into fireworks before we entered this nuclear age.

Strontain is 22 miles WSW of Fort William via Corran Ferry, and the mines are spread in a 5 mile line East-West crossing the Strontian-Polloch road at NM833658 (sheet 40 1/50,000).

Strontian is an ideal holiday base, with camping, cafe and shops, and the magnificent mica and garnet encrusted peak of Ben Resipol overlooking the sea Loch.

Lakes Meet Report 24/25th July, 1982.

R.E.Hewer.

Saturday.

It's 10.30am. A glorious morning. You're on your own reading the paper and not a soul has turned up. You get a funny feeling don't you? 10.31. A member arrives. "Sorry, I got the date wrong, gotta go to Kidderminster". As the dust settled I slowly reflected my situation. That dynamic quality was waning. Five minutes later three cars arrived and six members were ready for action. As the day progressed our numbers increased to 16

We hurried across the fells to Goldscope. A mine of antiquity now abandoned, but not because of depleted ore reserves, rather the cautiousness of the owners. We made our way along the flank of 'High Crag' past the large open stope to the end where a small shaft opening dropped some 160' to the lower levels. Acting on information received we hoped to enter the coffin levels some way down the shaft. However upon inspection of the opening several pieces of woollen jersey (green) were observed, or was it decaying flesh adhering to the sides for a considerable distance below. We held an impromptu committee meeting and reversed our way to the large stope behind us. I descended into the void and along towards the opening when I discovered the others had forsaken me. Having climbed out I found them sifting bilberry bushes for sheep droppings and berries (elixir of life). We continued along the flank inspecting the open levels and waterfilled stopes. The final level on this side, cross cutted to a strong sugary quartz vein containing bunches of galena. There were a few stopes, one of which was climbed for some 40'. A combination of wooden and iron rails lay in the level. The latter was quite old, rubbish free, and worthy of the visit.

We returned to Goldscope Grand Level where we met 4 members of the 'Royal School of Mines'. After a chat we were about to enter the level when we heard a couple of feeble voices crying out from the wilderness. We searched the surrounding fells to no avail, when, from the edge of the tip arose two figures in all their glory, white haired, hunched, gasping for air. Their age, we were not sure, some 3 score and ten. They claimed to have recently applied for membership, but were refused on medical grounds. They had tried again after promising to jog around the farm three times each day and therefore stated that they were eligible to enter the mine. They refused to offer their names. Can anyone help?

We had a look at the waterwheel chamber, and large, wide copper stope. We tried to climb above the waterwheel site to enable us to find the source of the water supply, but this was only partly successful. It was then decided to duck under the old deads and push on to the lead vein. This section is in quite an advanced state of decay, the stulls clearly slipping down the hanging wall from their sockets, the stacked deads following and spilling into the level. Aptly named 'Death Row' (this area is dangerous) and requires a degree of care to avoid a shutter. On the far side part of the wooden rails are still in situ although some have been recently removed. The level into the lead vein has been dug and entry may be gained into a mud-shale rise, the stope having totally collapsed.

We left Goldscope, having said goodbye to the frail gentlemen who felt they had reached the zenith of their endurance, or were they anticipating a second helping of F and C's. The party then attacked Long Work near Dalehead. A ladder was lowered into the only dry stope and the base of this section was inspected. It was hoped a wooden pump section could be seen, but the base was covered with boulders. The adit was entered and could only be described as breathtaking! the water level edging into areas surprised. However we were now climbing the rise which had been driven to drain the dry stope. The last section was a little tricky but with the help of ropes the

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rise and incline were overcome and led to a level where a large drill hole connected to the stope and water was pouring through it. A set of drills lay nearby.

The adit continued to a forehead. Up to a year ago there were several sets of drills standing to one side but they have all gone. It's a pity that they could not have been left for others to see. On that sad note we ended our first day, arriving back at the cars, after inspecting Castlenook Mine, well into the evening. Several members retired to 'The Swineside Inn' for a pint and scampi and chips, watching the sun go down from the patio.

Sunday. Hartsop Hall Mine.

What a surprise! 21 members attended, of which 14 intended going underground. We first visited No 4 level above the Mill site which is interesting and quite safe. The stope was inspected to where a run from above had blocked the level. The hammer gang were soon at work. Some inspected the main vein, others the copper vein which was displaced 6' by the former. We made our exit and guess what? Those two old men again appeared. It's unnerving, isn't it? We hurriedly left, some members kept glancing over their shoulders! We climbed up to No 3 level and viewed the ancient trials until the shaft we required was found. A rope was belayed to a tree. The descent into the workings was a rather awkward affair, a combination of descending 110' down a 60' loose rubble slope through the No 3 workings onto a ledge, then a pitch of 30' to another ledge where the ladders were passed through a small hole for 25' onto a pile of rubble, Hesleps Sump. (If it is there). The transfer of 13 people was a long and tedious affair, Many thanks to the top roper and belay men. One member was overtaken by a large spider - abseiling from some hidden point above - our member said it had red eyes, must have been on the beer the night before. We were now on the far side of the fall in No 4 level. The level soon enters a very narrow, high stope. Worked by the old men and enlarged at the base by later miners. There were many 'Oohs' and 'Ahs' and a shout 'I've found a frog!' A small brown and green frog croaked. He was not happy. He was placed gently to one side, but the afternoon continued with croaks emitting from many strange places. Helens Sump was inspected, as was the large stope and ore chute named Ore Pass Sump. (A connection through to No 2 level where the ore was tipped down and trammed out of No 4 level). Once again the hammers were out. Some members climbed into the stopes in the section viewing the ore pass and stope which nearly connect with No 2 level. The stope is very large and impressive. Others looked at the wooden rails and curves and the last phase of working by W.T.Shaw. We returned to surface to find it raining. The weather soon cleared and we moved on to No 2 level. This was entered and we turned to view the ore pass sump from the top, unfortunately just before the pass a small rise into No 1 workings had run into our level. It could be dug easily, but time was pushing on so we left it for the time being. We worked our way back and continued along the vein over 'Joes Sump' and along into a very old and large stope with a ladderway up into No 1 level towards the far end. After climbing to the summit of a series of cheek collapses the floor before us had dropped away some 15' since our last visit and had left the hanging wall in a very bad state. Some members became excited when a 6" flake whistled passed a caving members toe, and the leader decided it was better to be prudent and abandon any further pursuits. We were near the end of the workings anyway, with only Birdcage incline and a small stope to be seen. We made our way back to the cars.

Many thanks to all those who attended. I hope the two frail gentlemen found their way home.

It was very nice to see Geoff Greenough at the meet, recovering from his recent illness and we hope that we will continue to improve.

Camping Barns in the Peak District National Park.

The first one, Losehill Barn, opened at the beginning of September and more will open early next year. The Losehill Barn is cheap (£1.25 per person, per night) and provides simple accommodation - just camping in a barn! It is part of an experiment run by the Peak Board and the Countryside Commission to find new uses for derelict barns as well as to offer basic accommodation to visitors. The Barn is situated in the grounds of Losehill Hall, where bookings can be made by writing or phoning Peter Townsend, Peak National Park Study Centre, Losehill Hall, Castleton, Derbyshire, S30 2WB. Tel Hope Valley 20373 & 20693.

Wanlockhead Update.

J.G. Landless.

A dig at the bottom of the 100' shaft, going the way we wanted, i.e. into the hill, proved a bit tricky, but eventually we broke into a fairly small stope. The foot wall had completely collapsed, blocking the exit, and both foot and hanging wall are extremely dodgy, so no chance of digging here.

This meant that we had to go down the 2nd shaft. A substantial pressed steel girder and scaffolding platform was put in place remarkably quickly. I had pre-constructed the platform on the surface and marked most of the pieces - it went together just like a big Mecanno set. This shaft proved to be 68' deep, very friendly, about 10' square the whole way down. It opened out into the adit, with water flowing right to left. Opposite was a large chamber with a water filled shaft in the floor and beyond that, what appeared to be a large stoped area, some 40' long but only 25' high. However the floor showed distinct signs of large timbers giving way beneath a covering of waste. There was what appeared to be the remains of an old cystem at the far end. This may well be the remains of an old pump system, probably worth some more investigating.

The adit is made up as follows:- A tail race was first put in, the water (any water!) was needed at the washing floors at the mouth of the adit, the sleepers were then laid on top and rails and walk boards put in place. The rails were to one side of the adit as the trucks were rather tall, and the adit, being driven on the vein, had a slight hade to it, and was about 4'6" high.

The cast iron pipe disappeared into mud at the bottom of the shaft, but as water was issuing out, one assumes that it is the bottom. Going into the hill, the way we really wanted to go, a small bore cast iron pipe was disappearing into a collapsed stope some 10yds up the adit, the pipe about shoulder height with an internal diameter of 3" was supported on the foot wall. The stope was very similar to that at the 100' level, and regrettably in worse condition, and it was felt to be too dangerous to dig.

If the stope at the 100' level still looks undigable, then we only have one more hope of reaching the winding engine. This requires us to dig on a very early stope, at the top of the 100' shaft, the level goes on for 75', but has been partially back-filled and also used as a dump.

Our plans now are:- 1) Have a look down the adit, and see what we can find, and dig the bottom of the 2nd shaft to see what we can find; 2) Re-look at the stope at 100' level; 3) Survey, roughly, the workings at 100' level. They go in the wrong direction for about 980' to a collapse. (More of that when we know what we are talking about); 4) After recovering all the equipment, and having no wish to go down the 100' shaft again, we can dig on the very old stope. This will mean pushing a good deal of mud, rock and rotten timbers down the top part of the 100' shaft. However I intend to box behind the cystem so that as little as possible actually goes down the shaft. You never know who might want to go down in the future.

I hope to have some sort of survey for our next report, so hopefully you can see what all this means.

Grassington Tragedy.

from Y.E.P. 14th August, 1982.

Steven & Brian McDermott of Tyersal Road, Tyersal, Bradford went to explore disused lead workings at Yarnbury on the moors near Grassington. After removing sleepers covering the top of the shaft, Steven lowered himself down hand over hand and without a safety line. He had descended about 20' when his hands started to slip on the rope and he lost his grip and fell.

The Upper Wharfedale Fell Rescue recovered the body and found that this man clearly had no idea of how deep this shaft was, because he had about 75' of rope, which could get him about halfway down before leaving him in thin air. Had he regained the top he would have had great difficulty getting out because the rope was hanging under a sleeper and without a lifeline this could be very dangerous indeed.

Oil & Gas search in West Yorkshire.

The present situation is as follows:-

- 1) Enscot Petroleum Ltd (formerly Pacific Basin UK Ltd) has announced that they intend commencing drilling shortly, probably on the former West Riding Colliery site.
- 2) RTZ Oil and Gas Ltd have been carrying out a seismic survey in the Wharfe valley area.
- 3) Amoco UK Ltd are carrying out a vibrosos seismic survey in the Blackburn/Todmorden area.
- 4) Taylor Woodrow Energy Ltd are drilling near Doncaster.

I.J. Brown.

Book Reviews

1. Discovering Lost Mines by P.Naylor published by Shire Publications 1981. £1.25. 63pp incl. 9 mine plans and 3 text figures.

A small book packed full of useful information for persons launching out into mining aspects of industrial archaeology. It includes short sections on the early history of mining, mining methods, the company mine, processing and marketing. The main section of the book describes selected mining areas and typical mines in those areas, many of which are accessible to the public. These cover Cornish tin, chalk and flint mines, iron mines in the Forest of Dean, the gold mines of South Wales, lead mines in Wales, Derbyshire and the Northern Pennines, coal in Staffordshire and Shropshire (Blists Hill Mine and the Tar Tunnel). Much of the material is taken from guidebooks to the respective areas and which are fully acknowledged. There is a bibliography and a list of places to visit at the end of the book.

The one criticism perhaps is that there might be too much on lead mining, substitution of a section on the slate mines of Wales (of which three are open to the public) might have added both balance to the work and additional interest. This is, however, a guide well worth having. I.J.B.

2. The Collier by A.R.Griffin, Shire Album No 82, Shire Publications 1982. £0.95. 32pp incl. 43 photos and text figures.

As the cover explains this "is an illustrated history of coalmining looked at from the standpoint of the people who worked in the industry and their families who were dependant on it". As an industrial relations officer, and the founder of the NCB's Round Hall Museum, Dr Griffin is well qualified to produce such a work. Few, if any, of the photographs have been published before and many although of this century show techniques and scenes so reminiscent of earlier times. They demonstrate clearly how difficult it is to date a period of particular aspect in coal mining. Other photographs particularly those of the construction of a mining town (the main street having a standard gauge railway to carry building materials), the sinkers huts and the Chesterfield Mines Rescue Brigade on their solid tyred fire engine must be unique. The text cannot be faulted.

One criticism however is of the reference in at least two occasions to detail supposedly "in the background" (see pages 2 & 26), for whilst the photos appear very clear, the detail noted cannot really be distinguished!

This is a book well worth having for the pictures alone and good value for money. I.J.B.

3. The Old Copper Mines of Snowdonia by David Bick. Publisher The Pound House, Newent, Glos. Nov 1982. Hardback at £7.95, paperback £3.95. 128pp copiously illustrated with detailed source refs, appendices on copper production and a comprehensive index.

Copper mining in Snowdonia almost certainly began before the Romans came and did not end until within living memory. Mellowed and unrecognised, old workings are scattered widely, even on Snowdon itself, to the summit of which countless tourists tread the paths and causeways made by miners well over a century ago.

The story of the mines and men who promoted and worked them is told for the first time. It is based on extensive fieldwork and original research, with many maps, plans and photographs to aid the explorer and industrial archaeologist.

The author has written a number of books on industrial history and archaeology, including a five-part series 'The Old Metal Mines of Mid-Wales'.

Past Mineral Industry in Swaledale & Teesdale.

Members of NMRS who have felt frustrated at finding Cleveland Industrial Archaeology Society's publications 'out of print' may like to know that fresh stocks of the research reports nos. 2 & 3 are now in the hands of the Distribution Manager, Dr J.C. Rose, 17 Bedford Road, Nunthorpe, Middlesbrough TS7 0BY.

No.2. 'A guide to past lead industry in Swaledale & Teesdale' by A.E.Shayler, J.K. Almond & H.L.Beadle, now appears in handy A5 size and costs £2.60 (collected) and £3.40 (posted).

Reprints of the Society's 1975 publication on North-Yorkshire Alum are also available at £2.00 (collected) and £2.30 (Posted).

All cheques should be made payable to Cleveland Industrial Archaeology Society.

Coal Exploration Contract.

Robertson Research have been awarded a major contract by the NCB (Opencast Exec.) to provide over the next 2½ years a geophysical borehole logging service to several of their exploration regions.

North Yorks Moors Meet - August 14/15th 1902.

The North York Moors and the Cleveland Hills to the North possess a wide variety of mining sites, both ancient and modern. The mainly Jurassic rocks at surface consist of the Oolite series of sandstone, limestone and shale, and the Lias series of dark shales which bear the alum, jet and ironstone beds. There are traces of small coal, alum, and even jet mines, but after about 1850 the Teeside furnaces demanded huge amounts of Cleveland ironstone. The boom lasted until the late 20's, but the last mine closed in 1964, the 700' deep North Skelton mine near Redcar. Boulby Potash Mine near Staithes is working, and boasts the largest Koepe winder of its kind in Britain at the head of its 1100 metre shaft. (Incidentally, if our trip had not coincided with the mine holiday fortnight, the Manager says we would have been welcome to visit the mine, Perhaps next year?).

Saturday dawned hot and sunny, and about 20 members assembled at Rosedale Abbey to walk the 10 miles found the trackbed of the Rosedale Railway which links the mines. Only disturbed ground marks West Mine, closed in 1885, with an incline upto the railway at Bank Top, where there is an impressive row of calcining furnaces. Two miles on to Sheriff's Pit, closed in 1911, with an open shaft 270' deep bringing ore from valley-side drifts upto the railway. (Ian Cornwall had attempted to install his winch here the previous weekend, but his sheer legs were too short. Perhaps next year?). On to the Lion Inn at Blakey Junction to inspect the old photographs in the bar, and the sadly dwindling crew marched onward to East Mines, which are of course North and West of West Mines..... Closed in 1926 during the General Strike, the drifts are all run, but one is marked by a fantastic freestanding arch, a monument to the skill of the mason. Remains of miners cottages and a ventilation chimney, and two monumental banks of kilns stand precariously screaming for Job Creation Scheme sand-and-cement. Back to the village to find the beer tent at Rosedale show still open and equestrian events getting violent.

Sunday started cloudy and 9 of us started late to descend Sil Howe Stone Mine, an extensive pillar-and-stall working near Fylingdales. Between a gated level and a most unstable entrance onto an incline from the bottom of a linear quarry on the Whinstone Ridge lies a remarkable series of galleries, with extremely photogenic mud formations.

Next stop Staithes in blazing sunshine and heavy holiday traffic to marvel at the sheer crumbling cliffs of soft Lias shales and ironstones which were worked by cliff face miners (by strong swimmers, presumably). Between Staithes and Port Mulgrave are many short levels in the cliffs at high-water mark, and several run-in drifts were evidenced by timbers protruding from the cliff. However, the again dwindling crew grew expectably mesmerized by the wealth of fossils in the wave-cut platform, with ammonites, belemnites and pyrite-encrusted bivalves sitting in the shales and the ironstone. Eventually only two of us reached Port Mulgrave, which was originally named Rosedale Docks, and contains above the ruined piers the seaward end of the mile-long railway tunnel that brought ore from Grinkle Mine, now obliterated by Boulby Potash Mine. The castellated entrance also leads to older iron workings beside and below the now-blocked railway tunnel.

To those who enjoyed the weekend, I am relieved. To those who I introduced to a fascinating and much-overlooked area, I am pleased. To those who were disappointed that a so-called Meets Leader didn't know anything about the chosen area, I patiently await our numerous members in that area to organise a meet in the North York Moors.

Leader from behind: John Stott.

Obituary - Richard Barstow.

Died 14th September 1982 after fighting bravely for nearly a year with a serious disease. Buried at Albaston Cemetery after short service at St. Anne's Church, Gunnislake. His untimely death at 35 years of age will leave a gap in the mineral world unlikely to be filled. He leaves a wife, Yvonne.

R.H.B.

Clearwell Caves Ancient Iron Mines

This tourist attraction in the Royal Forest of Dean, at Clearwell, Nr Coleford, Glos, is in an area of outstanding natural beauty. Visited by people from many countries it is an ideal place to spend a sunny day out, or somewhere undercover to visit when it's raining. It is also ideal for students studying Geology and Mining History and associated subjects.

There are eight large caverns open to the public, with mineral samples and mining equipment on display. These are added to continually, as artifacts are often discovered whilst exploring the old workings.

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There is also an Engine House, where several vintage engines in working order can occasionally be seen running.

The Mines were a natural cave system occurring in a bed of carboniferous limestone known locally as 'crease' limestone.

The Caverns open to the public, are part of the mine usually referred to as 'The Old Mens' Workings' (t'owld men), and the pick marks left behind by t'owld men and the effects of their old mining method of fire setting, can still be seen. It is a place where the geology and mining history of the area can be studied in detail.

Mineral samples, guide books, information, and historical literature on the area is available at the Caves.

The Mines are open from 10am - 5pm every day except Mondays and Saturdays, from Easter until the end of September. Guided Tours can be booked at anytime, and educational parties are welcomed.

The Caves are $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles from Coleford. Turn off the B4228 at the Lambsquay Hotel for Clearwell, where a sign at the entrance to Clearwell Caves Ancient Iron Mines Car and Coach Park is clearly visible on the left.

NAMHO Weekend, Coniston, Cumbria. 18/19th September, 1982.

During this meet several of our members joined together with members of other mining societies throughout the country to explore the underground workings of the Coniston Copper Mines. The meet was hosted by the Cumbria Amenity Trust (CAT).

Saturday saw about 30 people disappearing into the Simon's Nick workings near Levers Water. From here onwards things just went downhill, abseiling that is to eventually emerge 400' lower in the Grey Crag Level. Abseiling the various pitches was a little time consuming, due to the large number of people involved, but whilst waiting people had chance to admire the stacked deads, rotting stulls and vast stopes and really appreciate the extent of the mining operation carried out in the past.

Several participants, some of ours included, demonstrated their prowess at abseiling with a fine display of acrobatics, (no future for you lot in the S.A.S.) which was all highly amusing to watch.

Once on terra-firma, so to speak, the Grey Crag workings could be explored; the more interesting features included old plate rails, clog marks left in the mud on the levels, the old horse whim chamber serving Paddy End Shaft and the Great Open, a huge stope where the Hospital and Grey Crag Levels meet. From here it was but a short distance to daylight through water just slightly above wellie depth.

The more sedate members spent Saturday exploring some of the smaller levels and just the lower part of the Grey Crag workings.

After a quick session of tea and biscuits back at the campsite (nice field with basic but adequate facilities - cheap too) it was off to the Church Inn at Torver for the evenings entertainment. After a good meal of Hot Pot and Fruit Pie we were treated to a slide show complete with musical accompaniment. The slides were of the old Iron Workings at Hodbarrow which were demolished in the late sixties (nineteen that is) together with a fine collection of slides illustrating the construction of the Hodbarrow Sea Wall, a terrific engineering feat.

By the time Sunday arrived the 'hard' contingent had diminished to about 20 for the trip into the Red Dell workings. The party abseiled down the open stopes, 160', in the Red Dell Valley. The particular shaft was the one which an American Tourist, on holiday at the Youth Hostel, fell down about 9 years ago whilst playing "chicken" and trying to jump across the stope until he missed. Although he fell 200' he only broke an arm, so presumably he landed on his head.

The daylight in this shaft provided good lighting to view the method of working the open stope with timber platforms carrying large quantities of stacked deads. After approximately 160' we landed in Taylors level and the way on from here led us to the Fleming's Mine workings. The mine passage followed Flemings vein which was largely stoped out both above and below the level until Thriddle Shaft was reached.

From here onwards the way out was upwards and hence not quite so easy as the previous day. Electron ladders, however, had been placed in the previous week by the CAT. After 4 pitches we were again at the top of the workings and reached Flemming's level which was just a short, wet (again) walk to daylight. We emerged on the surface four hours after entering the workings two hundred yards from where we started (why do we do it?).

I would like to thank the Cumbria Amenity Trust for an excellently organised
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weekend. They had put in a lot of hard work to make the weekend a success. All underground pitches had been fitted with two "Rawlbolts" and safety lines had been rigged over some of the more precarious holes in the floor. A great deal of emphasis had been placed on underground safety and several members should perhaps try to follow in their footsteps (together with other societies), however, that's just one of my pet hobby-horses at the moment.

John H. McNeil.

Annual Dinner 23rd October 1982.

This was held at last years venue - The Royal Oak Hotel at Settle. Rather a disappointing turnout, only 40 turned up and they were the regulars. Wonder why it is that on these occasions folk can make it from the far flung reaches of the realm, but not when they live locally? Still those who did attend seemed to enjoy it; very good meal, convivial company, plenty of booze - what more could one ask?. The guest of Honour, Mr A.Lewis gave a talk about his experiences at Greenside Mine, both as a miner and as a rescue team member. Some tales were amusing, others sad, but we all got a good idea of life in those hard times.

Unfortunately both recipients of the Society trophies couldn't make it, so they had to be awarded in absense. The Founders Cup went to Jerry Landless for the work he's doing at Wanlockhead, and the President's Piton to Dick Bird for his unstinting efforts as Editor.

The Golden Chicken was finally awarded to Eric Gray-Thomas for no better reason than that he was the only Welshman in the room.

Harry Houghton.

For Sale.

BML3 'The Mines of Grassington Moor & Wharfedale' NMRS records. A4, 95pp, 13 plates maps diagrams etc.

BML6 'The Gallantry Bank Copper Mine, Bickerton, Cheshire' C.J. Carlon. A4 50pp 12 plates etc.

BML8 'The Non-Ferrous Mines of South Wales' J.R. Foster Smith. A4 35pp maps, Photos.

BM20 'The Caradon & Phoenix Mining Area' R Shambrook. A4 47pp, maps diagrams etc.

INDEX & BIBLIOGRAPHY OF NMRS Publications 1960-80 at 50p (post paid).

All the above available at £3.50 (post paid) from Mrs H. Bird, Publications After-sales, 41 Windsor Walk, South Anston, Sheffield S31 7EL.

We can also still obtain from Exeter University copies of the Mineral Statistics of the British Isles parts I and II (Derbyshire and Yorkshire respectively) at £2.50 each. Please state which part is required when ordering from Mrs Bird.

British Mining No 21 The Greenhow Lead Mining Field by M.C. Gill & J.M. Dickinson. A4, 90pp approx. 12 plans, 8 sections, 18 plates. Provisional price to members approx. £2.75 plus postage.

Have you remembered to ORDER YOUR COPY of the above which is due from the printers in a fortnight. If not contact Hilary straight away (there is an Order Form attached to your August 1982 Newsletter). Send no money now - you will be invoiced.

Final Reminder - don't forget to pay your Subs to Geoff;
attend the A.G.M. at Sicklinghall at 2pm on Sun 13th Feb, 1983.

Next Newsletter to be issued in February 1983 together with your membership cards as receipt of subs. All contributions in good time to H. Houghton 29 Parkside Rd, Meanwood, Leeds LS6 4LY. Tel 758505.

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year to all our readers.

Some notes on where to start with a project.....Part 2.

Following the suggestions in part 1, on the use of libraries, the next source of information is the :-

COUNTY RECORDS OFFICE.

These are public depositories of all manner of information. They have often have copies of "large scale" ordnance survey sheets, Estate Papers, Company Records, Private MSS, Census Returns, etc.

Most Records Offices are open at regular hours, some with a late evening. Some may make a small admission charge. It is advisable to write and, on the assumption that it has the records required, make an appointment, giving an idea of the material that you wish to use. Public Records Offices are generally understaffed and get lots of requests from genealogists - make it plain that you are not one! Make full use of any indexes to the deposit, often something of interest is slipped away in seemingly irrelevant material.

You must also keep in mind that material may be in a Records Office far removed from the area of interest. For example, material relating to Wensleydale has been located in Hereford, and for Lancashire, in the Scottish Record Office.

Some general points to remember when using a Records Office are :-

1. State clearly the subject and purpose of your enquiry.
2. Smoking, eating and drinking are not allowed in the Search Room.
3. REMEMBER! Material may be subject to copy-right, or other restrictions, on its use, consult the Archivist, who will advise you and provide appropriate forms of acknowledgement. This is particularly important - PLAGIARISM IS A SIN!
4. USE ONLY PENCIL - Ink or Biro should NEVER be used when working with documents.
5. Permission should be obtained before tracing any document or plan; which should be covered with a transparent sheet before starting.
6. Please take care to keep documents in the order and condition in which you find them.
7. If you have any problems, AT ALL, ask a member of staff for assistance.

FIELD WORK.

Besides all this Library work, it is imperative that the researcher acquires a comprehensive knowledge of the area with which he is concerned. This knowledge cannot be too detailed and should include such things as relative heights of the major features (from O.S. Sheets), sources of water power, rock and vein outcrops, tracks - especial care should be taken to note older ones which may be abandoned. This will enable you to draw up sketch maps of the area at any time, for discussion with other researchers, farmers etc.

The importance of keeping lucid notes cannot be overstressed. Make sure that your file is up to date, preferably on the same day as your last visit. There are many forms of compiling this information, the most convenient being a card-index. This is cheap to establish and easy to update. It is also relatively simple to include cards in the form of cross-references. A diary is useful for keeping a record of visits and work done, but is not so convenient for detailed notes.

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES.

When writing up your project (for publication in British Mining!), it is most imperative that you list precisely all the sources from which you have drawn. The following are standardised ways of giving such citations.

1. BOOKS (ie. the whole publication)

Author (surname followed by initials). Title of work. Edition number. Editor. Place of publication, surname of publisher, year of publication. Number of volumes, if more than one. Title of series and volume number in such series.

Example:- NOALL, C. St. Just Mining District. 1st ed.
Truro, Bradford Barton, 1973. Monographs on Metalliferous Mining History - Vol. 5.

2. PARTS OF BOOKS (eg. Chapters, sections, passages, contributions to a collection)

Author of contribution (surname followed by initials). Title of contribution. IN:- followed by author/editor of whole book. Title of book. Edition of book. Volume number. Place of publication, publisher, year of publication. Pagination, or chapter or section number.

Example:- HENWOOD, G. Gwennap Pit. IN: Burt. R.
Cornwall's Mines and Miners. 1st Ed. Truro, Bradford Barton, 1972.
pp. 125-130.

3. PERIODICALS AND OTHER SERIALS: COMPLETE OR LIMITED RUNS OR SINGLE VOLUMES.

Title of periodical. First and last volume and part numbers. Period covered.

Example:- Peak District Mines Historical Society. Bulletin. Vol. 1-2, 1959-65.

N.B. Where the name of the issuing body forms an integral part of the title, the title should be reversed, if necessary, so that the name of the issuing body appears first.

4. ARTICLES IN PERIODICALS.

Author of article (surname followed by initials), Title of article. Title of periodical, volume number, date of volume or part, pagination.

Example:- GILL, M.C. A History of the Hebden Moor Lead Mines in the 19th Century. Northern Mine Research Society - British Mining, No.3, 1976, pp. 29-33.

By using this system of noting citations it is possible for you, and Librarians, to identify clearly any work to which you wish to refer.

OTHER SOURCES OF INFORMATION.

Members of the Association for Industrial Archaeology have published at least one "Directory of Local Organisations" which gives valuable information on other groups with an interest in a particular area or topic.

The National Association of Mining Historical Organisations now has all the major Mining History Societies and Museums in its membership. Addresses of members are available from its Secretary (Mike Gill).

WRITTEN SOURCES.

These may be found at most large reference Libraries and will give useful clues, though not absolute proof, as to the state of industry at any period from the early 19th century onwards.

TRADE DIRECTORIES...These were very popular in the 19th century. Most cities and large towns had one. The ones which will normally be available are:- Kelly's, Whites and the Post Office.

PARLIAMENTARY PAPERS...Again, in the 19th Century, it was fashionable for Parliamentary Committees to tour the country, taking evidence on various matters. The most famous of these relating to mining is that of the Kinnaird Commission, entitled, Mining Accidents.

MINERAL STATISTICS...Another useful guide, but with many pitfalls. Published originally by the H.M.S.O., they have been reorganised into a more readily useable form and are being re-issued, with the absolute minimum of editing, on a County basis, by the Department of Economic History at the University of Exeter.

NATIONAL CENSUS RETURNS...Taken at ten yearly intervals, the details are released after 100 years have elapsed. From 1841 to 1881, the returns provide details of age, employment and county of birth.

PARISH REGISTERS...These are often of value for the mid 18th century onwards. Often, details of trades were included in the Births, Marriages and Deaths register. Many Parish Registers have been transcribed by the Parish Register Society and are available, in printed form, in Reference Libraries.

LOCAL NEWSPAPERS...A very good Source of general information on the mines and social happenings within an area.

GEOLOGICAL SURVEY MEMOIRS...General Memoirs have been published for every area and usually contain some details of interest. More specific memoirs have also been published for both coal and metal mining areas.

MINING RECORDS OFFICE...Established as a repository for plans of abandoned mine workings, this body is currently restricting access to its collection on the grounds that the Health and Safety at Work Act precludes it. Usually, the discerning researcher will not find this particularly galling.

The Libraries, Museums and Art Galleries Year Book gives all public and special libraries, museums and art galleries in the British Isles, with an indication of their scope and of any special collections they may have.

The ASLIB Directory (Association of Special Libraries) lists and describes in some detail all the specialised libraries in Britain.

University Libraries will normally allow bona-fide researchers to use their facilities. Remember to state clearly the nature of your work.

REMEMBER, when looking for information, or carrying out research, first go to the places where access is no problem and only then worry about other restricted sources.

SOME RECORDS OFFICES AND LIBRARIES IN THE NORTH OF ENGLAND.

Lancashire Records Office,
143, Corporation Street,
Preston,
Lancashire.

Cumbria County Records Office.
County Offices,
Kendal,
Cumbria,
LA9 4PQ.

North Yorkshire County Council,
Records Office,
County Hall,
Northallerton,
Yorkshire.

Cumbria County Records Office,
The Castle,
Carlisle,
Cumbria.

York Archives,
Exhibition Square,
York,
YO1 2EW.

Leeds City Libraries,
Sheepscar Records Office,
Chapelton Road,
Leeds,
LS7 3AP.

Leeds City Library,
The Headrow,
Leeds,
Yorkshire.

Sheffield City Library,
Sheffield,
Yorkshire.

Rylands Library,
Deansgate,
Manchester.

Burnley Central Library,
Burnley,
Lancashire.

Wakefield Records Office,
Library Headquarters,
Balne Lane,
Wakefield,
Yorkshire,
WF2 0DQ.

The North of England Institute of Mining &
Mechanical Engineers,
Neville Hall,
Westgate Road,
Newcastle upon Tyne,
NE1 1TD.

SOME MUSEUMS WITH MINING COLLECTIONS.

Earby Mines Research Group,
School Lane,
Earby,
Lancashire.

Craven Museum,
Town Hall,
Skipton,
Yorkshire.

Upper Dales Folk Museum,
Station Yard,
Hawes,
Yorkshire.

Nidderdale Museum,
Council Offices,
Pateley Bridge,
Yorkshire.

Otley Museum,
Otley,
Yorkshire.

Upper Wharfedale Museum,
Grassington,
The Square,
Yorkshire.

Beamish North of England
Open Air Museum,
Stanley,
County Durham.

Buile Hill (Colliery) Museum,
Buile Hill Park,
Salford,
Lancashire.