

Obituary - R.T.Clough

The Society regrets to have to report the death of Robert (Bob) Clough, during the Christmas holidays, at the age of 59. Most members will be familiar with Bob's classic work "The Lead Smelting Mills of the Yorkshire Dales", which still stands as the only serious attempt to record the architectural features of the many dales mills. No such work has been undertaken in any other British mining area.

Bob's interest in mining was first excited during his school days, in the late 1930's, when he was at the Rydal School, Colwyn Bay. On his return to Yorkshire, he became an active member of the British Speleological Association, at Settle, and was engaged in attempts to extend the Stump Cross - Mungo Gill cave system, at Greenhow. He also recorded many sinks and shakes, with associated mine workings, in the Dow Gorge area of Kettlewell.

From the mid 1940's, he commenced his work on surveying and recording Yorkshire's lead smelting mills, this work culminated with the publication in 1962 of "The Lead Smelting Mills of the Yorkshire Dales". This was followed by a reprint of Monnet's work "Traite de L'exploitation des mines" and an extended version of "Lead Mills".

He was a founder member of the Northern Cavern & Mine Research Society and, in 1961, edited its first publication; the Transactions V.1 No.1. for 1960-61. He was made President for the years 1962 and 63.

Thus passes one of the small band of pioneers who, in the twenty years before Societies like our own, did much to record and establish a wider interest in the mining industry, on which we have been able to expand.

The Society was represented at Bob's funeral by Mike Gill and Mike Dickinson.

Will anyone wishing to make a donation please send it direct to the "British Heart Foundation".

Bob Clough's Publications

Will members please note that the various books which had been projected by Bob will not now be published. By the time this notice is circulated, anyone who included money with their order should have had it returned and all subscribers circulated to this effect.

Subscription Reminder.

If your 1983 Membership card is not enclosed with this Newsletter the reason could be:- Subs not paid; card dropped out; Subs not paid; sent previously; not paid; flaw in the system:(delete those not applicable).

All monies, queries, complaints to Geoff Greenough.

Society Officers for 1983 as elected at A.G.M. on 13th February, 1983.

President	H.Barnes, Castle Hill Farm, Higher Westhouse, Ingleton.	
Vice-Pres.	J.M.Dickinson, 8 Hazel Grove Rd, Sutton, Keighley.	0535 34075
Junior Vice-Pres.	M.Street, 6 Oakwood Park, Leeds LS8 2PJ.	0532 654578
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Treasurer	G.B.Greenough, 22 Elmhurst Rd, St. Annes-on-Sea, Lancs FY8 3JH.	0253 723987
Editor	R.H.Bird, 41 Windsor Walk, South Anston, Sheffield S31 7EL.	0909 563229
PRO	H.Houghton, 29 Parkside Rd, Meanwood, Leeds LS6 4LY.	0532 758505
Recorder	M.C.Gill, 38 Main St, Sutton, Keighley BD20 8HD.	0535 35388
Librarian	R.E.Hewer, 36 Benomley Cres. Almondbury, Huddersfield.	0484 33943

Future Meets

Easter - Fri 1st to Mon 4th April. Cornwall. Leader J.H.McNeil
(some members will be staying all week). Meet at Chacewater Caravan Park each day by 10.00am prompt. NGR SW 740440.

Static caravans for hire from £20 per week. Camping £2.25 per night for 2 persons. All enquiries/bookings to Mr & Mrs Flood, Chacewater Camping & Caravan Park, Cox Hill, Chacewater, Cornwall TR4 8LY. Tel St. Day (0209) 820762. Tell them that you're NMRS members and they'll knock 10% off.

Spring Bank Holiday - Sat 28th to Mon 30th May.
Details later.

Future Meets continued

NAMHO Conference - Fri 10th to Mon 13th June. Leeds Industrial Museum.

Please see separate form for details and booking form.

Places are very limited so first come, first served. To make sure of a place send your booking form and money to Geoff Greenough by return post. Any other queries about the Conference - don't ask me - contact our Conference Organiser, Richard (Spotty) Hewer.

Beckermets Mines

Continuing the saga.....

This issue takes up the story by Isaac Walker (retired Mine Manager).

Your 1982 Newsletter was brought to my attention by one of your members, and I read with interest the notes regarding the Beckermets Mines.

I was employed by the Company from 1924 to 1971, first as an apprentice mining engineer, then surveyor and later Mine Manager, retiring in 1971 as Planning and Safety Officer in charge of the Mines Rescue teams. During the period I was the surveyor for the Bigrigg, Woodend and Park House mines, together with the position of surveyor of the Clintz and Rowrah Limestone Quarries, (being subsidiaries of the United Steel Coy Ltd.).

The special ores referred to by Dr. G. Schnellmann were supplied to the German jewelry trade by Park House, and Cleator Moor Mines from the beginning of the 1900's and to the Sheffield Steel Industry in the form of "special High grade Lump ore". I may state that this ore is still being supplied from the Ullcoats mining project at Egremont.

I would point out that the steel industry was not Nationalised until 1967, not in 1951 as suggested by Dr Schnellmann, some 16 years after he resigned from the employ of the Millom and Askam's Florence Mine.

Geologist David Greenwood, of whom I have the most pleasant memories and the highest regard, wrote a few notes on "Beckermets and Florence Mines, does the rivalry live on". He compliments me (or condemns me) as the scourge of mining geologists. He may be right, as he is entitled to his opinion, but I must point out that from 1950 (approx) to the time of my retirement I was working in close co-operation with company geologists such as Raumann, Livingstone, Davies, Potts, Hargreaves and others whose names I cannot now recall. The most important of these geologists, with whom I spent many instructive hours in the 1930's and 1940's, were Messrs Dixon, Smith, Trotter and Templeman of the Geological Survey (two of whom later became Directors of the Survey). We owe a deep debt of gratitude for the information on the geology of the West Cumberland Iron Ore field which we received from these great experts.

The best mining geologist of the West Cumberland Iron Ore Field was Mr William Sherwen of Seascale, Mining Engineer for the United Steel Coys Iron mines. Originally of the firm of Dixon and Gill Mining Consultants he was later employed wholly by the United Steel Coy. Mr Sherwen eventually became Mining Agent for their Mines and Quarries. It is to him that credit must be given for the discovery of the secondary ore deposits of the Company including the Haile Moor discovery.

The history of drilling for ore in the field began, as D. Greenwood states, at the end of the 1800's, when the Ullcoats Mine was sunk in the Moore Royalty. Drilling was continued into the 1900's by the Beckermets Mining Coy, newly formed under the chairmanship of Mr J.B. Turner of Calderbridge. This programme continued until stopped by the recession of 1921, by which time 29 bore holes had been drilled. The drilling programme was restarted by Mr Langton Highton in 1929 with No. 30 borehole. It continued until the mines were closed by the British Steel Corporation in 1980. During this period some 200 bore holes were drilled, the most southern being at Holmrook. Further drilling was carried out by the Barrow Hematite Coy near the village of Haile, between Grange and Ullcoats. Ore was proved which has never been exploited. These were drilled during the early Ullcoats phase. A second series of exploratory holes were drilled in the Sheepfields farm area by the Egremont Mining Coy at the end of the 1914-18 war. A considerable body of ore was indicated. This information was eventually taken over by the Beckermets Mining Coy in the late 1930's and developed as the Sheepfields/Robertgate deposits which were producing ore at the time of closure. The other ore deposits discovered by the Highton drilling programme were the Lowther School, Whitehead Head, South Dip 31 bore hole area, 101 bore hole area, (near Townhead Farm). The last area to be discovered was in the vicinity of the mines railway bridge south of Thornhill but when developed later it was found to be of very poor quality ore.

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It will be seen that the Beckermat Mining Coy's geologists, referred to above not in their employ at this time.

The last working deposit to be discovered was the Haile Moor orefield in 1937, the shaft being sunk in 1939 to a depth of 780 feet.

It is of interest to note that in the Haile Moor Mine area the Geological Survey had published a map showing that there was no carboniferous limestone to be found in the area east of Haile village. (all the iron ore in West Cumberland - with one or two exceptions such as Knockmurton & Boot - is found in certain strata of the carboniferous limestone).

In conclusion of this short history I must state the plans that were under consideration in the last 20 years of the life of the mine but were never put into operation possibly owing to the lack of confidence in the industry by the modern management:-

1. To sink a shaft in the Sheepfields area.
 2. Deepen No 1 shaft a further 400ft to work the Sheepfields deposit.
 3. Connect Haile Moor and Beckermat No 1 pits.
 3. Continue the Haile Moor Shaft to a depth of 1200ft.
 5. To drive exploration west to areas over the River Ehen in the Catgill Farm area.
- Though by this time I had retired.

Isaac Walker.'

Old Men of India.

Whilst researching on one of the Managers at Leadhills, Bill Harvey found out that he had worked at Kolar. Thus sidetracked he wrote the next article.

'Gold was worked in India since biblical times, and the gold fields of Kolar, Mysore, were regarded as one of the great sources of the precious metal. In the second half of the nineteenth century, John Taylor & Sons obtained a concession to work the ground, and began to sink shafts in an attempt to find the reef.

It was thought that the ancient workings could not have been deep, but attempts to find rich ore proved fruitless. Interest ebbed and in 1884 a Capt. Plummer was advised to abandon workings he had sunk to 170 feet in hard ground. It seemed impossible that the ancient miners could have reached such a depth, and the British efforts had to be in the wrong area. However Plummer persevered and at 216 feet his men broke into old workings that went even deeper into rich gold bearing quartz.

It eventually transpired the old miners had worked the ground by sinking pairs of shafts a short distance apart. Once the reef was reached these were holed together and the quartz worked by fire setting. The shafts had niches in the walls, spiralling upward, and it seemed water had been removed by hand, the natives standing one above the other and passing up earthenware pots.

Plummers perseverance reaped a rich reward for between 1896 and 1900 the Mysore gold mines produced milled gold valued at over £6,000,000 an enormous sum in those days.

Haematite Mines

While researching in back copies of the Transactions of the Federated Institutions of Mining Engineers I came across two references to haematite mining which may be of interest to members in the North West.

Vol. 8. 1894-95 pp. 31 - 50.

The Working of Haematite in the Whitehaven district. and Mining the Soft Ores of Furness.

Bill Harvey.'

Other Field Courses/Conferences.

28-30th May. Welsh Mines Society weekend Conference to be held at Kings Youth Hostel, Dolgellau. This Conference brings together speakers involved in research into the geology and industrial archaeology of mine sites in Wales, and includes a field excursion and underground mine visit. Attendance is open to anyone interested in old mines, but early booking is advised as places are limited.

The charge for the conference including accomodation and meals from Friday evening to Sunday lunch will be £19.00 (£17.50 for participants under 21). It is hoped to use private vehicles for the field excursions on the Saturday afternoon, with passengers sharing fuel costs.

Booking forms from Graham Hall, Kings Youth Hostel, Dolgellau, Gwynedd LL40 1LL.

The next 2 courses will have limited appeal, but seeing as how they were addressed to "The Managing Editor" I've included them. (Those sent to such creatures as the "Poisoned Dwarf" etc don't get the same courtesy).

6th-13th June Short Summer Course in X-Ray Spectrometry. No previous knowledge or experience required. The first week will cover elementary principles and the second week (that's what it says) will cover advanced techniques and principles.

Cost - 2 weeks 1500.00 US dollars. Either week 800 US dollars.

June 20-July 1st 1983 X-Ray Powder Diffraction. Similar format to the former and same price applies.

Further information from Professor Henry Chessin, State University of New York at Albany, Dept of Physics, 1400 Washington Ave, Albany, New York 12222

Book Reviews.

1. Lead and Lead Mining by Lynn Willies. 32pp., 29 plates, line drawings, maps etc. Shire Publications Album 85, Bromwell House, Princes Risborough, Bucks. Price 95p.

A handy little booklet this, primarily aimed at the casual reader and the type of booklet one would find in those little revolving dispensers. Lynn Willies is well known for his writings in the PDMHS Bulletins and elsewhere and he has here produced a history of lead mining in the British Isles crunched down into thirty odd pages. Despite the lack of space, he has squeezed in four chapters dealing with lead and its uses; geology and prospecting; history of mining and smelting and miners, smelters and owners. The slant is, naturally enough, on the Peak District, but other areas get an honorable mention. Some slight mix up has resulted in East Wheal Rose's photo being titled West Chiverton Mine (Balters Shaft.?) and, also a Pelton Wheel at Nantiafo Mine in Wales being moved up to Greenside. Since this reviewer 'pressed the button' on the latter, I don't think the date can be quite right at 'about 1920'. I wasn't even thought of then!! These errors apart, the book is excellently produced and worth 95 pee of anyone's money - even the so called experts! NMRS get a good plug too.

R.H.B.

2. A Short History of British Metal Mining Technology in the 18th & 19th Centuries.
By Dr R. Burt. Price £6.50.

3. A Short History of British Ore Dressing Techniques in the 18th & 19th Centuries.
By Dr R. Burt. Price £3.75.

November 1982 saw the publication of the above two complementary books, written by Roger Burt. In these books, Dr Burt has set out the various advances during this major period of British mining and also discusses their value using both contemporary statement, by men like Taylor and Hunt, and research by many authors, for illustration.

The scope of these books is such that they cover a large gap in the published work of mining history societies, which often assumes that the reader is armed with this knowledge. This, of course, is often not the case and now these books will provide an invaluable aid to both novice and experienced researcher alike. It is hoped that they will also provide the basis for further, more detailed work. The idea of discussion is one which we would all do well to note, all too often a glib statement is repeated as fact when it will not sustain a critical examination.

These highly recommended books are published by De Archaeologische Pers Nederland, Lelielaan 3, 5582 GH Aalst-Waaije, Holland.

I understand that Dr Burt can supply the books in paperback at the above prices, including p & p, and can arrange for the two volumes to be bound together in a hard back for £12 inclusive. (Dr. Burt's address is Dept of Economic History, Amory Building Rennes Drive, Exeter EX4 4RJ.

New Museum

Bradford Gems, Rocks and Mineral Museum, Heaton Road, Bradford. This is near Manningham Mills (Listers Mill). Open every day except Monday.

I am told that this is well worth a visit - some magnificent specimens, and a great deal of enthusiasm from the Curator who has been known to give personal guided tour to interested parties.

Preserving Mining Artifacts.

At one time the Society held a considerable collection of artifacts which have now been donated to various museums. On viewing most of these again after a lapse of 15 years, and finding that their exhibition finish is still perfect, as against the standard museum Black Lead polish (tell 'em what black lead is dad), the method used is now given.

Sound Iron heavily rusted

1. Carefully chip away rust nodules keeping metal and rust wet, do not clean down to the metal at this stage. A set of stone masons chisels and a light hammer are well suited to this purpose.
2. Now rub down with the roughest grade of wet type glass paper.
3. Dry the object in an oven on a low light. N.B. Barytes imparts a very funny flavour to the Sunday joint.
4. Rub down to base metal with a fine sand paper.
5. Apply two coats of Gloss Polyurethane Varnish, followed by one coat of Matt Polyurethane Varnish.
6. Any numbering or lettering is written onto white panels painted onto the object in water based emulsion paint, an ordinary drawing pen and indian ink have been found suitable. The latter is carried out prior to the Matt Varnish coat.

Wrought Iron. Cable. Tin Plate.

These items are usually badly rusted and quite fragile. Wrought iron can be chipped and rubbed down but great care must be taken not to separate the leaves of iron or carryaway lumps of metal and rust combined. Cable and tin plate are best left alone apart from removing loose rust with a fine glass paper or wire wool.

1. Dry away from direct heat.
2. Apply two thin coats of gloss polyurethane varnish brushing well into cracks in the metal or rust.
3. When the rust is stabilised apply one coat of Matt varnish.
4. With all canisters and flasks do not forget to treat the inside - dilute some gloss varnish with thinners and pour into vessel, swirl to ensure a good coating of all parts.

Lead (metal)

Items made of lead can be cleaned by boiling in several changes of water. Then place in a bowl containing 9 parts water to 1 part of vinegar. Rinse in water containing a little washing soda.

Glass.

Leave badly stained glass overnight or as required in a mixture of water, detergent and a few drops of ammonia.

If lime has become deposited, soak in distilled water for a week before scrubbing the crust gently.

Soak badly stained glass in a solution of 1 cupful of Caustic Soda, in four pints of warm water. Rinse well afterwards.

Leather

1. Dry between layers of old newsprint well away from direct heat, change newsprint every day until leather is reasonably dry.
2. Apply Kneats Foot Oil, rubbing or painting, dependant on the article being treated, at a rate of one coat per week over a period of two months.
3. Extra bullshit can be applied in the form of a good wax dressing, or the use of a harness cream, when the leather has taken up all the Kneats Foot Oil.

J.M.Dickinson.

A model coal mine in Yorkshire

In the cellars of the Bagshaw Museum, Witton Park, Batley there is a little-known 'model' coal mine. Visitors enter through an air lock, after collecting their checks, helmets and handlamp and travel to the workings in a cage (the shaft lining can be seen going past!). On leaving the cage there is about 50yds of tortuous passageway (steel arched in part) necessitating much stooping. Past a journey of tubs in the main road, alongside the main conveyor in the face road and another conveyor on the face itself. A unique survivor can be seen here - a large disc cutter complete with c/a gear and other face machinery. Return to surface via a backroad and through the stables. Elsewhere and in the 'coal' gallery there are lodge banners (from closed collieries) wooden shovels and a visket, manufacturers models and all the usual

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smaller artifacts connected with mining. It is beleived that the collection was formerly in Leeds Museum but was brought here 17 years ago.

Admission if free but the mine is only open for a short period each day (11.30 - 12.00 and 2.30 - 3.30, closed Sunday and Monday) but it is better to telephone Batley Museum (Batley 472514) in advance.

I.J.B.

Nent Force Level - A Preliminary Report by NORPEX.

For many years the Northern Pennine Orefield has been rather neglected by mining history groups. Though various Mining and Caving Societies from all parts of the country have made regular visits to the Alston Moor area in particular, there has been no apparent group carrying out detailed, long-term research into mining in this region, though a number of individuals have independently done much useful work.

About 4 years ago several such individuals with a specific interest in this area got together and formed a group called Norpex, using sunny Nenthead near Alston as their base. All the happy band are NMRS members and meet at regular intervals, combining their specialist interests in the common cause of mining research. The groups activities generally include surface and underground investigation of the numerous mine sites, photographic surveys and collection and recording of data, much of it from original source material, together with a number of special projects. These have included work on several of the larger mines near Nenthead such as Caplecleugh, Middlecleugh, Smallcleugh and Rampgill and the proving of underground connections between them. A detailed study of the Nent Force Level or Admiralty Low Level, known locally as Smeatons Folly was also undertaken.

The original level entrance under the Scar Limestone on the north bank of the River Nent, some 300' downstream from the Nent Force Waterfall, was commenced in 1776. It ran E then SE as a boat for $3\frac{1}{3}$ miles to Nentsberry Haggs Shaft, from here continuing 150' up from the shaft bottom in the shale above the Scar Limestone, as an ordinary level for a further $1\frac{2}{3}$ miles to end under the Stamp Mill site at Nenthead - a total distance of nearly 5 miles. It was driven by the Greenwich Hospital Commissioners and completed in 1839, a period of 63 years. A continuation branch level, later known as Rampgill Deep Level, was driven NE in conjunction with the various lessee mining companies (L.L. Co., Nenthead and Tynedale L & Z Co, V.M.Zinc Co.) past and connecting with Brewery Shaft and out on Carrs and through the Fairhill Veins to end in 1906 just beyond Engine Shaft on Rampgill Vein. It did not continue to connect with Rampgill Underground Shaft.

Along its length there are 9 shafts from the surface connecting with the main N.F. Level and there is no 210' rise and waterfall at Lovelady Shield Shaft as often documented.

The calendar of investigations to date are briefly as follows:-

1977-79. General background research by several group founder members both in the field and from source material. It was realised that there were serious inaccuracies in previously published works.

1979. On site investigations of entrance area in Alston Foundry yard revealed possible access by short crosscut level immediately below waterfall. Original entrance further downstream was removed by quarrying operations between 1890 and 1930 and the area later refilled with silica moulding sand from the Foundry. The crosscut entrance was barred by concrete dam and channel with water pipes to Foundry furnaces. Partial temporary removal of dam took place to lower water level and entrance explored by diver (he wasn't keen, but we employed the latest "pointed-stick" technique!)

1980 (July - Sept). The closure of Alston Foundry allowed total removal of dam and channel, lowering water by $3\frac{1}{2}$ '. Clearance and deepening of crosscut within allowed the group to crawl the 60' into the N.F.level on Sept 24th. The main level runs E & W and is 9'square with wooden boat-pull pegs along S wall. It is standing in 4' of water with 2-3' of debris on floor.

1980 (Oct) - 1981 (May). Further clearance of crosscut and gating of entrance took place. Level is intact for about 55' downstream and 60' upstream to large blockage. This was partly cleared to reveal a further blockage at 30' with water to roof. Level here was under large gas tank in Foundry yard above. This tank has since been removed.

1981 (Sept). Detailed examination took place of the 9 shaft sites up the Nent Valley.

1981 (Nov). Watergreens Shaft - sunk in 1789, diameter 8', depth approx 170', partially stone-lined, in good condition. A descent was made using Ian Cornwalls winch (Mk I type - heated cab but no tea-maker), At shaft bottom the N.F.level is open both E & W for about 200' each way to shale falls and deep water.

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Nentsberry Hags Shaft - sunk between 1814 and 1816, diameter 10', depth approx. 360', mainly cut in solid rock (top 60' stone lined) part bratticed, in good condition but very wet. Descent again by winch, stopped 30' from bottom due to volume of falling water and breakdown of telephone communications. Several side levels examined, the most important being the oval chamber at 200' from where the N.F. level continues up valley. 1981 (Dec). Wellgill Shaft - sunk in 1825, diameter 10', depth approx 200', stone-lined throughout, in good condition, dry. Descent by ladder with mass of timber and rubble partly blocking shaft 170' down. The bottom is rubble filled with no access to N.F. level downstream, though the water drains away. Upstream the level is quite clear and lined throughout with VMZ Co concrete blocks - a tramway is still in place plus a tub (as new!). This was explored SE for 3000' under Nenthead village to large shale fall where lining ends. The air was very bad at upper end. 1982 (April). Wellgill Shaft revisited but still no way found through rubble into N.F. downstream.

1982 (May). Just for a change, shaft descents by ladder and winch of several other shafts at Nenthead NOT connected with N.F. level - High Thrummy and Woodhouse Whimseys. Interesting - but that's another story.

1982 (May 31 - June 1). Brewery Shaft - sunk in ? (I wish we knew!) Probably an old L.L.Co shaft, enlarged and concrete lined by V.M.Z. Co to accomodate pipework and machinery for compressed air system during 1897-98. Depth 320' to sump and 12' diameter. This shaft originally carried 90' water pipe tower above it for necessary "head". Electric generator later installed at bottom for supply to mill and several street lights in village.

The first day of winching (Mk II version with tea-maker) was spent clearing a way through the several stagings and removing debris blocking the descent - metal ladders, pipes, steel cables and timber were cut away. A base with telephones and other equipment was then set up at the shaft bottom.

The second day was spent examining and photographing the shaft bottom area, the N.F. level and its continuation the Rampgill Deep level. Details were taken of pipework, valves, large air receiver, two Pelton wheels, generator, engine bases, workshop contents etc. Some of the machinery was situated in two chambers (one with 12' high vaulted roof) adjacent to the shaft bottom, both being connected to the adjoining R.D. level. This level was followed downstream (SW) through a concrete lining for about 150' to the N.F. level proper, at the junction of which is a 15' overshot water wheel, fed from an underground shaft above. The N.F. level from here runs down valley for approx. 250' towards the shale fall seen from the other side on the Wellgill trip. R.D. level was followed N.E from Brewery Shaft for 600', SE along Carrs Vein into deep water and E through the Fairhill veins for several hundred yards to a large blockage. This drive by the VMZ Co continued to a point 50' beyond Engine Shaft where it was abandoned in 1906.

1982 (August). Another descent of Hags Shaft by winch (Mk III with padded drivers seat) took place, down to the bottom at 350' onto piles of debris covered by 2-3' water. Entry into boat level section of N.F. is obviously under some 10' of rubble, though water is draining off. Shaft bottom widens out to about 18' diameter but visibility is almost nil due to falling deluge.

1982 (Sept). Lovelady Shield Shaft - sunk in 1812, diameter 10', depth 237', in good condition. A very large earth and rock cap was removed and a winch descent made to water at 100'. Two short levels run off E. A disappointing result at this shaft.

This report briefly summarises our physical investigations of the N.F. level up to the end of Sept 1982. A "tome" describing the historical details is in preparation.

B.P.Wilkinson. Jan '83.

Wanted

Barry H.Gibson would like to procure British Mining 1, 3 to 11, and 14. Any offer to him please at 12 Eilean Rise, Ellon, Aberdeenshire, Scotland AB4 9NF.

S.J.Punchard of Hay Park, Tiverton, Devon EX16 4EL wants to know if anyone has a copy of Hunts "British Mining" to sell.

Help Wanted

Peter Holmes is interested in aerial ropeways and would like to hear from anyone with a similar interest. Has anyone noted references to ropeways in the engineering and mining literature; the mineral industries once used ropeways extensively but lately

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they seem to have gone out of fashion. If anyone has any manufacturers' literature on ropeways, he would be interested in acquiring or having a sight of it. He is also looking for manufacturers' literature on light railway materials, wagons and industrial locomotives. Does anyone have any likely material for disposal? Age and condition is unimportant. Let him know at 83 Longley Street, Arthur's Hill, Newcastle NE4 5EE.

2) "I am working on the Account of the Gladsmuir Coal 1759-61. An ideal bit of research as all between two covers! Are there any NMRS members who have, or are interested in, 18th cent mine accounts? It would be very helpful to swap notes".

So writes Bill Harvey. Please contact him at 23 Orleans Ave, Glasgow G14 9LA.

More on Future Meets

After duplicating the first page, the following offers of meets have been received:-
13th March. Whitaside Mine. Meet at Askrigg Church at 10.30am. Leader - L.Tyson.

28/30th May. Spring Bank Holiday in the Dales (Wensleydale/Swaledale.) Please contact M.Street, (address on page 1) for details.

25/26th June. Wales. Meet and camp Beddgelert Forestry Commission Site. Leader E.GrayThomas

24th July. Pikedaw Calamine Mines (near Malham) Leader M.Street.

15th October. Annual Dinner. Full details later. Mark your diaries.

Officers Reports.- from the A.G.M.

1. Editor. I regret to say that we have been struggling this last year since we have seen a dramatic plunge in our aftersales receipts. This is attributable to a number of factors such as the economic situation, the heavy cost of postage due to two very heavy volumes, the lack of surplus on these weighty publications (where we virtually made a loss) and last, but not least, the fact that we issued a Memoir which has a market attraction of virtually zero.

It has been necessary to draw heavily on reserves to keep things in the black and the whole situation has been made worse on account of subsidising members' subs. I hope that now subscription rates have been increased this will greatly assist matters.

Moves are afoot to make changes to rectify matters, such as keeping volumes down to an acceptable size - and by that I mean the Memoirs, since it is not really possible to prune a Monograph without destroying it - and also an experiment with a change of printer. Members may have noticed that BM20 left much to be desired on text legibility and BM21 had defects with the cover illustration.

On the plus side, I am pleased to report that there seems to be more contributions flowing in for the Memoirs and as to material for our Monographs, we are having difficulty fitting in all manuscripts which continue to arrive, so that unfortunately, writers of these papers have no option that to 'join the queue' with an assurance that their work will eventually see the light of day!

Negotiations with Dr.Raistrick, Arthur Roberts and Beamish Museum have been taking place this year with a view to the joint publication of a book to mark the society's 25th year. This will be a volume of some 200 historic photographs, plus text, entitled 'The Life & Work of the Northern Lead Miner' and, being a hard back-case-bound volume, this will be the society's most ambitious project to date. Although I initiated the negotiations, things did not quite go to plan and so I managed to successfully pass the buck to Mike Gill who, with John Mc. has, I understand, managed to come up with an agreement. Mike will be outlining this at this meeting for consideration.

It is one thing preparing a volume for the printers, and quite another to sell this outside the society successfully. There is a tremendous amount of 'behind the scenes' work in this and I know for a fact that numerous customers have written in to thank Hilary for the return-of-post service she operates. In addition, she has managed to build up an impressive clientele whose financial contributions go a long way to keeping things in the black. At the risk of being accused of nepotism, I would like to thank Hilary for all the hard work she has undertaken over the last twelve months or so.

BM22 will be issued with the next Newsletter (due in May); it is Marilyn Palmer's monograph entitled "The Richest in all Wales!" and deals with the history and recent excavation work at the Esgair Hir and Esgair Fraith Mines in Cardiganshire.

R.H.Bird. Editor.

2. Recorder's Report.

1982 was a busy year for the records, material from the B.C.R.A. Mining Records was copied and redrawn. Les Tyson produced copies of a great number of Swaledale

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plans and sections and I continued work on the Ingleton Coalfield.

The Greenhow publication absorbed a great amount of time and as a result, the Society now has a comprehensive set of 1/2500 sheets of the area.

I am especially thankful to Les Tyson for his very high quality work involved in tracing both B.C.R.A. and North Yorkshire Records Office material. He has put in a vast number of hours at this work, allowing me to concentrate on Greenhow.

The Cumbria County Council has requested comment on its proposal to produce a similar leaflet to the "Mind That Mine" booklet of the Peak Park Joint Planning Board. This is in hand.

M.C.Gill. Recorder.

N.A.M.H.O. Report

Access to Mines on Hilton Fell, Cumbria. Most members will be aware that the Army has artillery ranges at Warcop, which include the Scoredale Mines. The land holdings have been extended to include the area of the Hilton Mines.

Access has now been denied to two NAMHO members and it was requested that the Association should become involved. Little progress has been made to date - it appears that the Nature Conservancy Council and the Warcop Conservation Group have requested this restriction but no reason has yet been given.

Please keep away from this area 'till this matter has been resolved.

The Walls of Jericho - no, the Association has not gone international. These particular walls are at Egypt, near Bradford, and were built to retain large amounts of spoil generated by quarrying and stone mining. They form a narrow cutting, in which runs the road to the hamlet of Egypt, and reach a maximum height of 11 metres.

In recent years the stone has rotted and parts of the walls are now unstable. As its answer to the problem, the City of Bradford Metropolitan Council proposes to demolish the walls and fill in the cutting (which now have D.O.E. Grade 11 listing).

The Secretary has written to the Council requesting that it revises its plans and pressures the Secretary of State for assistance with the repairs to this impressive structure.

Abandonment Plans. Further representations have been made to H.M.I. Mines, regarding the decision to cease providing copies of the above. As yet, no reply has been received.

Land Owners' Liability. The Lord Chancellor's Dept informs me that consultation has shown that the amendment to the Unfair Contract Terms Act 1977, is desirable. The Lord Chancellor has approved the preparation of a Bill to implement this policy. Owing to pressure of business, however, such a Bill will not find space in this session.

Planning Applications for Greenhow. The North Yorkshire C.C. has informed me that the applications for removing tips at the Prosperous and Providence Mine, and mining at Cockhill have both been approved. The Pros./Prov. tips operations to be completed by 30/1/'84. The Cockhill operation has permission until 19/1/1988.

M.C.Gill. NAMHO Sec.

Secretary's Report.

1982 has continued to be a busy year for me in terms of NMRS work taking up, on average, two nights per week.

Inquiries continue to come in, however, there has been a slight tail off during the last year. Is this due to the recession or do we need a new advertising drive?

Since I took office in 1978 the rate of inquiries has been as follows:-

	Inquiries	New Members resulting
1978	36	24 (67%)
1979	30	18 (60%)
1980	51 *	36 (70%)
1981	48	33 (69%)
1982	40	24 (60%) =

* The peak in 1981 was, I think, due mainly to the advertising poster "Are you interested in Britain's mining history" which was distributed nationwide.

= Note some replies still to come to inquiries for 1982.

The rest of my time is spent dealing with more general inquiries. Professional bodies continue to write to us for information which is encouraging and shows that our name is quite firmly on the map. The list of specialist corresponders which was prepared is often useful in answering some of the queries. Requests are usually for specific details of mines or plans of mines and we have on the whole been able to provide helpful answers to inquirers.

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Several libraries have details of our society and we are included in their lists of local societies.

The Society continues to be consulted by Lancaster City Council where planning applications may conflict with mining history/archaeology interests but fortunately there have been no conflicts.

Eden District Council also continue to consult us regarding shaft capping on Alston Moor. Work is due to commence shortly on capping some 600 shafts mainly with concrete railway sleepers. (Eden District had said in the New Year but I suppose they had forgotten about the Alston weather in Jan/Feb). Anyone having any interest in specific shafts on Alston Moor should contact either myself or Mike Gill so that their views can be passed on to the council. Beamish Museum has agreed to liase on a day to day basis with the council should any points of interest or concern emerge during shaftcapping.

Earlier in the year the society supported Mr. Sorensen's application to open West Mine at Alderley Edge, by writing to the local council. Sadly I have just received the news that Mr. Sorensen's Appeal has been rejected.

I am pleased to report that this year members appear to have been behaving themselves or at least not getting caught, and I have received no written complaints about members behaviour (although Harry Houghton did get one). This does tend to make life easier.

The response to requests for meets has been disappointing resulting in a sparse programme.

John McNeil. Secretary.

Librarians Report.

During 1982 a total of 75 publications were loaned by the Library to NMRS members. 1983 has started well with 21 publications already out on loan..

If any member would like to donate to the library Mining Reports, Club & Society Journals, BCRA, Descent etc. post 1979, these items would be most welcomed.

Richard Hewer. Librarian.

----- At Last - the economy version of the Mineral Map of Great Britain.

A detailed compilation drawn from the wealth of literature published since the pre-eminence of Britain's mining fields in the last Century. The map is at the scale of 1:1 million and superimposed on a reduced intensity geological base map.

Individual deposits/veins/occurrences are tabulated by tectonic setting and shown with their metal/commodity content: Cu, Pb, Zn etc., phosphates, potash etc.

Mineralized areas are indicated and each accompanied by a concise description of geology, deposit genesis and mining history. Graphs show metal production of all major mining fields. Tables show the importance of areas for lead, zinc, copper and tin output with mine production order.

A companion report is also available, containing similar information and an extensive bibliography of over 600 titles on mineralization in Great Britain, listed by area.

Mineral Map of Great Britain - Dyeline print at scale of 1:1 million	£8.00
Bound report and bibliography on mineralisation in Great Britain	£24.00

The above is available from one of our members Tony Webb, Nexus Geological Systems, Chelwood Close, Epsom, Surrey KT17 3AF.

Next Newsletter to be issued in May together with BM 22. If you haven't paid your subs this missive will be the last you receive.

Please send all contributions for next issue to H. Houghton, 29 Parkside Road, Meanwood, Leeds LS6 4LY. Tel 758505, by 23rd April at the latest, but please don't leave it till the latest!

The NAMHO Biennial Conference 1983.

The NAMHO Biennial Conference of 1983 is to be hosted by NMRS and is to take place between Friday 10th and Monday 13th June at Leeds Industrial Museum, Armley Mills, Leeds (NGR SE276341) commencing at 2pm on Friday at the Museum, where a guided tour has been arranged for a walk along the adjacent canal viewing industrial sites etc.

Saturday and Sunday are the main lecture days commencing at 9.30am each day. The programme subjects include:-

'Carrying Coal from Middleton'; 'Explosions in Coal Mines'; '20th Century Fluorspar Mining on Greenhow'; 'Conditions in the Coal Mines during the 19th & 20th Centuries'; 'The Wheal Owles Disaster'; 'The Scottish Gold Rush'; 'The Selby Coalfield'; 'Finding out about Collieries - Sources for Historical Research in W. Yorkshire'; 'The Metal Mining Remains of Western Europe'; 'The Leadhills Company 1903-14'; 'Getting to the Bottom of it'; 'The Mining Industry and the Enthusiast'; 'Wanlockhead'; 'Mining in West Devon and East Cornwall'; 'Iron Ore Mining in West Cumbria'. There will be several displays of mining interest. Slides of old mining photographs will be shown in the 1920's theatre.

On Monday a surface trip to Woolley Colliery has been arranged which will tie-in with one of the lectures. There may be an underground trip.

The Conference Fee is £5.50 for any person wishing to listen to any/all the lectures. It is appreciated that family members may not be interested in these and will not want to pay the fee - merely include them under 'Full names of all additional members of party' so that they will be issued with passes to entitle them to free entry to the Industrial Museum at Armley Mills; Kirkstall Abbey; Abbey House Museum and Leeds City Museum. Remember - No Conference Fee paid - no access to lecture hall.

P.T.O.

Meals. The Conference Fee includes teas and coffees. (Lunches and Evening meals are extra).

Sat. & Sun. Lunch. £1.50 for Steak & Kidney Pie, potatoes & 2 veg., followed by Apple Pie & Custard.

Sat. Evening Meal. 7.30pm. £3.50 for 'Traditional Yorkshire Cold Table' comprising, among other things, Roasts, Pies, Yorkshire Ploughmans Salad, Cheeses and wide range of bakery; Dessert will include Trifle, Fruit Pies and Cakes. Wine will be included.

It is possible to provide meals for members of delegates parties who have not paid the Conference Fee - please include them in the appropriate box/es on booking form.

It is regretted that no meals will be provided unless previously booked and paid for.

Bar Facilities - are available.

Accommodation. A list of hotels etc will be supplied with your receipt.

Parking. There will be ample parking with NAMHO direction signs.

Route Map. Will be provided with your receipt.

Camping. A site has been made available within the Museum compound, however cars will not be able to remain on camp site. Gates to site will close at 11pm. (Please complete booking form).

Registration. Will commence from 2pm - 5pm on Friday; 9am - 5.45pm on Saturday and 9am to lunch on Sunday when delegates will be issued with Conference packs including programme; identity tags; meal tickets; Museum passes etc. No tickets/passes etc are transferable.

If you have any problems, please contact Conference Organiser - R.E.Hewer,
36 Benomley Crescent, Almondbury, Huddersfield. Tel 0484 33943.

Northern Mine Research Society
General Account

Statement of Income and Expenditure for period 1/1/82 to 31/12/1982.

INCOME

Subscriptions 1982	£1053.75
Subscriptions 1983	1245.50
Donations	30.50
Interest	101.88
Badges	5.00
Dinner	301.00
Talk-in (Pie & Pea)	43.75
NAMHO Insurance (Guests)	8.00
	<u>£2789.38</u>

EXPENDITURE

Publications	£1664.50
Stationary	167.90
Officers Expenses	
P.R.O.	111.18
Secretary	23.38
Treasurer	22.88
NAMHO Insurance	81.80
Subs. to other Soc.	31.00
Hall Hire	13.00
Equipment Insurance	19.80
Dinner	286.00
Pie & Pea Supper	33.31
Miscellaneous	22.37
Bank Charges	6.90
Audit Fee	6.55
	<u>£2495.07</u>
Excess of Income over Expenditure	<u>294.31</u>
	<u>£2789.38</u>

CASH STATEMENT

	<u>Current a/c</u>	<u>Deposit a/c</u>	<u>Building Soc.</u>	<u>Total</u>
Opening Balance	£300.29	£894.95	£14.51	£1209.75
movement	11.88-	305.05+	1.14+	294.31+
Closing Balance	<u>288.41</u>	<u>1200.00</u>	<u>15.65</u>	<u>1504.06</u>
Cash in bank (per Statement)	312.72			
- cheques not presented	<u>24.31</u>			
	<u>288.41</u>			

I certify that this statement is a true and fair record of the affairs of the Society for 1982.

J. Pulford. 3/2/1983.

Northern Mine Research Society
Publications Account

Statement of Income and Expenditure for period 1/1/82 to 31/12/1982.

EXPENDITURE

Editor's Expenses for '81 & '82	£ 40.25
Printing	3370.51
Origination (negs, plates etc)	506.20
Draughting & artwork	239.19
Postage	731.68
Stationary	44.63
Misc. (Including purchase of Mineral Statistics	340.98
	<u>5273.44</u>

INCOME

Aftersales receipts	£2621.39
Sales to Society (BML9 & 20)	1664.00
Building Society Transfer	950.00
	<u>5235.39</u>
Excess of expenditure over income	38.05
	<u>5273.44</u>

CASH STATEMENT

	<u>Current a/c</u>	<u>Building Society</u>	<u>Total</u>
Opening Balance	£337.25	£1200.00	£1537.25
movement	38.05-	881.62-	919.67-
	<u>299.20</u>	<u>318.38</u>	<u>617.58</u>
Cash in Bank (per statement)	1674.44		
less cheques not presented	<u>1375.24</u>		
	299.20		
Stock of publications on 31/12/82 at cost		£1267.78	
Cash in hand (postal float)		2.80	

I certify that this statement is a true and fair record of the Publications Account for 1982.

J.Pulford. 3/2/82.