

Final Subs Reminder

If your Membership Card for 1984 is not included with this Newsletter, it probably means that we have slipped up again and that you are now a lost particle in the cosmos of the NMRS system. It could, I suppose, also be because you haven't sent us any money yet, if so please rectify same and you will be retrieved and once again become an integral part of the cosmic whole.

If the foregoing drivel doesn't make sense, a rough translation would be:-

"Them as ain't coughed up yet gets nowt else till they do!"

Please send any unpaid subs; complaints; monetary queries; to either The Mighty Galactic Controller OR Geoff Greenough.

(bet you can't guess what type of novel I've had to break off from to write this?!!)

The Annual General Meeting on 12th February, 1984 in their wisdom elected the following Officers to run the Society for 1984.

President	J.M.Dickinson, 8 Hazel Grove Rd, Sutton, Keighley.	0535 34075
Vice-Pres.	H. Barnes, Castle Hill Farm, Higher Westhouse, Ingleton.	
Junior Vice-Pres.	M. Street, 6 Oakwood Park, Leeds LS8 2PJ.	0532 401542
Secretary	J.H. McNeil, 166 Irlam Road, Flixton, Urmston, Manchester.	061 747 365
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 63228
P.R.O.	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

Photocopies from Library

The Library now offers to photocopy articles from journals and post to members. Cost - 10p per page plus postage. This offers a substantial saving to members, and they can keep the copies, and also prevents the risk of journals being lost in the post. (Average costs for sending journals through the post work out at approx. £2.20 per return trip. Average cost for photocopies - 70p including postage.)

Order the item to be copied and on receipt return the cost in the form of stamps please.
R.E. Hewer.

"British Mining" Publications

The next issue is in press and is entitled "The ancient metal mines of the Isle of Islay" by Ron Callender. This will be followed by the Memoirs 1984. Then back to Wales again for BM26, since Alan William's Monograph on the mines of the Tanat Valley (Llangynog etc) is on its way.

I am very pleased to say that there is no shortage of material for our Monograph series and I have a full file for the Memoirs - but don't let that stop you sending in further material.

R.H. Bird.

Pie & Pea Supper Report.

One always looks forward to a particular event during the year a little more so than other more sanguinary happenings. This being the case, I felt that the "Pie & Pea" would turn out to be 'The' event. It was, and well attended to boot, with some 60 plus persons present. When we arrived it was cold in the hall and the heaters would not light. The situation became more perplexing when we discovered that the gas supply to the oven was disconnected. The latter was somewhat embarrassing for Harry who had 57 pies waiting to be cooked together with a large pan of mushy peas. (The pan side was marked with three large crosses. I thought this sign only applied to gunpowder barrels! Perhaps some members found out the following morning or later during the night!! Luck was with us for there was a plumber (of sorts) amongst the members who revealed that the main gas tap had been turned off. Amidst cheers, the oven exploded into life.

The meeting commenced in earnest. Although the hall was cold it soon warmed up with the agenda for the afternoon, if fact, at one point the air was quite heated. For once it was pleasant to be an observer, casually watching the verbal bullets flying from the back

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of the hall to the front. By now an aroma had permeated the air and judging by the amount of heads turning upwards and sniffing, like the Bisto adverts, it was apparent that something was going 'off' in the kitchen. Now this statement could be due to an oven designed to hold 40 pies, now trembling in a corner attempting to disgorge 57, plus bits, over the floor. The family members in charge were unruffled, which cannot be said for Harry who appeared agitated, - was it as a result of the meeting? or was it because he was hungry. Please read on.

Having rid ourselves of the serious business, it was time for a couple of shows before the meal. 12 slide shows were promised so things were rather hectic. Mr. R.E. Hewer presented the first show (that's me by the way) together with his assistant, Steven Hewer, they gave an excellent and most absorbing talk-with-slides about the work their group are involved in at Knockmurton Iron Mines, Ennerdale. Mr. H's son got things slightly wrong by inadvertently inserting a picture of some penguins in during the show. This seemed to be more appreciated than the main show. At least no-one asked any awkward questions. The next presenter was Mr. (Two wheels) Heaton, who showed everyone his long 'thing'. No, it's not what you think, it was a coring sample from a mine recently closed in Ireland. David told us a little about the workings. What I want to know was how he got the 6ft core through the customs? Our last presenter before tea was Mr. W. Mudie, who showed us views of the Whiteside meet earlier on in the year. I must say I thought it a little unfair of members to bury Mr. Tyson up to his neck in snow, however I now understand that the photo. showed Les descending a small shaft into the level, having first dug the way clear for us. This was just as well for it was an excellent trip well remembered by all who attended. The slides were well received.

The main event arrived. 'Pie and Peas'. Lips smacked and fingers tightened around Billy cans, and Aluminium dishes clanked as members pushed and shoved their way forward for: Pie, Peas, Teacake, Mint sauce, Gravy, a cup of tea and Ten Pieces of Toilet Roll!

It was during this time that members browsed around the plans and photos. Friendly? discussion and exchanges encouraged members to continue their good work. Of course there would be a odd disagreement and abuse, but then the pie and peas could have been put to another use, there again when you've paid for it why let it finally rest on some other persons face?

By now most people were sitting prostrate in their chairs wondering about what they had eaten and why it was acting the way it did, however their minds were taken quickly away from the subject by an excellent slide show from Jerry Landless. Jerry told us about the work his group was involved in at Wanlockhead. The accompanying slides held everyones attention as he showed us the three underground engines they had found in situ, how they were proposing to treat them and the history and identification of these machines. Jerry's lecture was followed by a talk on the work done at the Anglezarke Lead Mines. Rod Ireland showed us how his team had progressed from the identifying of small depressions, digging them and developing the site so that the public could see the remains of the shaft, wheel pit and drum area and other stone work in the area. A worth while venture and interestingly presented. Dicko then presented a slide show reminiscent of the R.T. Clough lectures. This was extremely well received although some members thought it was in the style of J.M. Dickinson, (though this could be because they have been lucky enough to have missed one of Bob's lectures.) John Hodgkins showed us some of the mines he worked in, in his youth!! Mainly at Clogau Mines with old photos of the Vigra mill, working the Gold veins. Followed by a few of the old photos of Hartsop Hall Mine when it was worked by the Shaw family of Keswick (a mine a lot of us have a close affection for). A most interesting and well received talk. Geoff (Tie me Kangaroo down) Greenough followed showing us some of the sites of interest he found during his epic trip around 'Orstroilier'. That man can get in anywhere, can't he? Some excellent slides were shown of Broken Hill Lead and Zinc Mines. We clamored for more but he'd left the rest at home. Bring them next year please. Mr. (JC. 2nd.) Crompton continued with a show of the many engine houses he has visited, (engine houses, I said.). Some by now have gone and others are silent for ever, it was an interesting and different subject. How he managed to take some of those photos stood on the fly wheel -- as it went round only he knows. Thanks John.

Mike Gill presented a slide of a graph!!! Well, at least it certainly was different. However he explained, and it was quite clear, as was expressed by the puzzled looks on members faces.... or was that the pie & peas taking effect? Mike dealt mainly with the rise and fall of lead against the prices and population growth all of which was controlled by major political events of the last three centuries in the Greenhow and associated areas. See what I mean? Once understood Mike was bombarded with questions which he could answer effortlessly.

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Our last slide came from Mr. John Jones who gave us a talk about a new discovery near Worcestershire, where in the past a variety of Psilomelane had been discovered. A series of cavern like workings worked out to a dyke forming the roof. An exciting find and a very interesting talk.

May I take this opportunity in thanking all members who attended and especially to all contributors for producing in all, an excellent afternoon and evening.

Many thanks,

R.E. Hewer.

"A large hole suddenly appeared in the front garden of Dr Newsome at Longcrag House, North Stainmore, Brough, Westmoreland. It was big enough to drop a double decker bus into and disappear from sight.

I came across this new phenomina in December whilst researching for a Spring meet in the area. I was told by the somewhat shaken, retired Doctor that 'one day a small hole formed in the garden. Nothing really unusual except that everything seemed to be falling in from the sides, and it got bigger and bigger by the minute'.

It now measures approx. 40ft by 40ft at the top and has a visible drop of at least 90 to 100ft with a dry base, which appears to be gaining in depth all the time. Old mine plans owned by the Dr indicate at least double this depth to the main level below.

Cabbish Lead Mine which caused the trouble closed down 100 years ago. The entrance $\frac{1}{2}$ mile 'Downdale' is clearly visible and easily traced, but is now run in. The National Trust who own the land have thoughtfully fenced in the open mouth in a very thorough fashion".

F.D. Heaton

Life and Work of the Northern Lead Miner

A little background information about this book may be of interest.

As is now well known, this year is the society's twenty fifth anniversary and to mark this, some lasting momento was discussed. Since our membership is so disseminated throughout the U.K. any local 'event' would only be open to those living close at hand. Although celebratory events will undoubtedly take place, the publication of a prestigious volume was considered the best form of 'milestone' and would be available to all, no matter where they live. It was known that Dr. Raistrick, Arthur Roberts and Beamish Open Air Museum were looking for a publisher for an illustrated book on Northern lead mining and approaches were made by us to see if NMRS could produce the volume in collaboration with the latter, to mark our silver anniversary.

The scheme was well received and following protracted negotiations (eminently conducted by Mike Gill & John McNeil) the green light was given. The legal help and co-operation of the NMRS solicitor member Jeremy Wilkinson has been incalculable and we are greatly indebted to his kindness. Moreover, Dr. Raistrick has most generously decided to waive his royalty payments in favour of the society.

The book is being financed as a separate entity to other society business so as not to compromise our normal run of publications in any way. This is why a cash-with-order-form arrangement was put in hand and also to gauge potential response. Enough orders were received to begin production and the volume is now in press. It should be available about March. I have little doubt that it will quickly become a collector's item and if for no other reason than an investment, - although it is much more than that - I would urge those who have not ordered one to do so without delay. If you have lost the original order form, write to Geoff Greenough (his address is elsewhere in this newsletter) If you can't afford it, tell the wife her fur coat is an extravagance; if the kids shoes are full of holes, try a little pitch and oakum - you won't get this chance again!!

R.H. Bird.

From Daily Post November 25th, 1983.

" A gold mine - for tourism

A gold mine could become a tourist attraction with visitors being taken on guided tours to see where the gold for Royal wedding rings is mined. The Wales Tourist Board are supporting the venture following the considerable interest shown in Clogau St David's mine, near Dolgellau, in recent years by visitors to Wales.

Representatives of the tourist board, local councils and the Snowdonia National Park have discussed the venture with the mine owners but there has been concern at the effect of tourist pressure on the nearby village of Bontddu.

Poor access to the mine along a country lane was also taken into consideration.

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In order to overcome the difficulties there was a suggestion that a reception and interpretative centre could be built on land which was owned by the national park near the main Dolgellau to Barmouth Road. It was then suggested that a shuttle mini-bus service could be introduced to convey the tourists to the mine."

I've often vowed that the next time I get a "report from my roving reporter", especially when addressed to The "Jedi Knight of Meanwood" and starts with .. "May your Lasers always throb" that I'd re-title his blurb to the effect of "The Planks screw works loose again". However, time mellows so maybe at some future date....

More about Stontian (this was received a few months ago - hence no mention of snow; lost skiers etc.)

"Once again your roving reporter returns with the news from far afield - Scotland. Having taken the family for a short holiday in Scotland I managed to deviate from the chosen road via a few ditches, gravel paths and mountain passes to the village of Strontian where I took a wrong turning and after 5 miles of twisting had to be guided back. At last we reached the Strontian Mines and immediately walked into (actually ran into!) an engineer along the road. We managed to obtain some information from him whilst I was passing a few minerals behind my back and Steven was pocketing them.

Mill input 30 Tons/hr. Output 8 Tons/hr.

Minerals. Dressed Barytes and Lead

Ore obtained from tips, open cuts and one level. 2 shifts at present increased to 3 shortly. Rock drilling and blasting by Messrs. Zuggi Ltd. 1 Reservoir, 1 Slime pond.

The mine is now coming onto full stream production. The mill is of medium size. A great deal of energy was being displayed whilst I was there. A heavy investment must have been put into the workings and therefore it would appear that there are reserves sufficient to repay costs and produce a dividend.

We came back over the tops to where the Strontian vein surfaced. We stopped to view the Mine at a track entrance. Steven & I went to read a notice by the roadside. I felt I was being watched, which I was! A couple of binoculars were trained on my back. Shortly afterwards a jeep bearing the name 'Zuggi' careered out of the site and headed our way. Not knowing what to do Steven & I stood by the roadside, they drove by offering Anglo Saxon English to the wind, which was surprising for we were in Scotland. Apparently we were parked by the track leading to the magazine. So we drove slowly away wondering where all that investment came from".

R.E. Hewer.

A bit more Scottish news. This time from Jerry Landless (see also Pie & Pea report)

Wanlockhead

What a summer!!, even the adit was partially dried out, - so we went down it from the bottom of the 2nd shaft. This idea was abandoned because only two of us had wet suits. This was a mistake, but more later. Only one small collapse hindered our progress for the next 1400ft. Not very interesting - some shafts, the biggest being Lorimers, and one shaft in the floor about 400' down the adit. This was the main point of water input, and showed that the dams on the lower levels were as intact as they were in 1953.

To get the engines out we will probably have to drag them the full length of the adit to the old pump shaft. So it is important that we know what condition the rest of the adit is in. To this end it was decided to do a dig on the adit portal, 3 meetings being put aside to do this. Unfortunately a very large collapse about 80' in proved too much for us, but we improved the drainage. Our next big meeting on 9th October, 1983 was a bit of a mess! Summer had well and truly gone. The adit was rather full of water - we eventually gave up with waterlogged ears some 100' further than our previous trip.

3 of the group had gone straight to the engines and were doing some measuring and collecting of bits for the Museum. We met them at the engines only 2 hours after we had started down the adit. At this point moral was at a low ebb. Our resident nutter did a bit of clever rope ($\frac{1}{4}$ " teroline) work to get over a large and unstable collapse at the far end of the engine house. This proved to be the saving grace of the day. At this stage 3 of our party gave up, leaving 3 of us to see what was at the otherside of the collapse. Rob found our 4th engine - not much to look at - a wooden "Jerry" in very poor state but still recognisable - under a flooring of very heavy timbers. This needs photographing and measuring properly - but is undoubtedly a very important historical find. It will have to be brought out and preserved. The adit continues on more here for about 2000', even

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though all the plans we have lead us to beleive that this was totally blocked.

I will send a better description of this part of the mine for the next Newsletter - but it has some fascinating bits to it, and has been undisturbed for many years. Our finds so far include fuses; det. boxes; an old shirt(?); and a wooden truck. Unfortunately this was "parked" in a bad position and the side wall has collapsed onto it. We should be able to do a re-construction with what is left, and undoubtedly there will be more to find.

It may have occured to those who look at their meets card that this mine does not appear on it, and that the members of the group "up here" don't come on your meets. It's not that we don't like you - the explanation is very simple; our holidays do not coincide. In fact only Christmas & New Year coincide with English holidays - not even the public holiday in Scotland coincides - Glasgow's are different to Edinburgh's, and of course we still have our access restriction.

J. Landless.

One of our members, John Lawson, who lives in Galloway at Castle Douglas, has a Mineral and Jewellery shop. Anyone visiting the area will be made very welcome if they drop in to see him. John can usually be found at:- Galloway Gems, Lapidary Workshop, 7 Carlingwark St. Castle Douglas (opposite Brown's Filling Station).

NAMHO News

Dr Stebbings, of the Institute of Terrestrial Ecology, is especially eager to hear from members with knowledge of any proposals to block mine entrances, whether they be adits or shafts. Under the Wildlife and Countryside Act it is illegal to disturb likely sites of bat habitats without informing the Nature Conservancy Council. It is probable that Dr. Stebbings, who is aware of the needs of mining historians, will be able to negotiate for continued, if limited, access. Will anyone with information on threatened sites please contact Dr. Stebbings at:- The Institute of Terrestrial Ecology, Monks Wood Experimental Station, Abbots Ripton, Huntingdon, PE17 2LS.

(the only snag with this is that we have to keep out also as at Hilton. Ed.)

Occupiers' Liability - Access Problems. One piece of welcome news was that the "Occupiers' Liability Bill" was introduced in the House of Lords by the Lord Chancellor, on June 23rd 1983, and had its second reading on July 12th. It then had to wait until after the summer recess before continuing its remaining stages in the Lords and entering the Commons. There was, however, every hope that it would receive Royal Assent by Christmas or early 1984. The Secretary has arranged for a "legal opinion of the bill" and hopes to be able to advise a future meeting of any likely problems that will still remain. Copies have also been forwarded to the Forestry Commission with a request for its views on the likely new situation.

Hilton & Scordale Mines, Warcop, Cumbria. These mines remain closed to all visitors and members are requested to respect this unfortunate situation. The M.O.D. is to review its policy soon and hopefully there will be a favourable outcome.

Mines at Orton & Great Ashby, Westmoreland. Mr Partison, of the Institute of Geological Sciences, Ring Road, Halton, Leeds LS15 8TQ, is interested in obtaining information on this group of mines, in the neighbourhood of NGR. MY 655113.

For Sale

Transactions IMM, Sec B Applied Earth Science 1970-78. Any offers?
Also from same source still available the Nexus Mineral Map of G.B. still only £8.
(1:1 million dyeline print)

Please contact Tony Webb, 6 Chelwood Close, Epsom, Surrey KT17 3AF. Tel 393 2406.

Mineral Statistics

Big H still has one or two copies of Mineral Statistics for Derbyshire; Yorkshire; Cumberland; and the latest covering Durham/Northumberland.

These are the last of the stock and will then be out of print. First come, 1st served. Hilary sends her thanks to all members who have paid for extra publications promptly - it does make her job easier. I won't repeat wot she says of the others, it may destroy the myth that she is a lady!

Orders to Mrs. H. Bird, 41 Windsor Walk, South Anston, Sheffield S31 7EL.

I am getting to be eternally indebted to Kamisole Kate for the fund of invaluable and often amusing items for consideration for inclusion in the Newsletter (is this enough groveling to warrant you waiving a fee for use of this item, Pete?) It's amazing where the man (man?!!?) gets it all from.

Area Mining Plans

The following is a list of plans of some of the main mining areas in Cornwall. The reference numbers to the plans, the scales and the sizes of the plans are given.

Photographic prints may be obtained at the given costs which will be maintained to Jan. 1984. The costs do not include postage and 15% VAT but please do not send money until an invoice has been received. The prints will be actual size of the plan and will be black and white. There may be some variation in quality depending on the state of the original.

1. Map of St. Agnes Mining District - R.Symons & Son, 1870. CRO. Ref. LC XLIII/6 (0.45)
6" to mile. 42" x 30". Cost £12.50
2. Plan of Wheal Alfred Mining District - R.Symons, 1863. CRO. Ref. RH 809 (I.10)
6" to mile. 45" x 36". Cost £12.50
3. Geological Map of Camborne & Chacewater - R.Thomas, 1819. CRO Ref LEE 27a, b, c. (T)
4½" to mile. (a) 40" x 27" £12.50. (b & c) 36" x 20" £10.00
4. Plan of Camborne & Illogan Mining District - R.Symons, 1850. CRO Ref AD.147/2. (E 4)
10" to mile. 60" x 42". £15.00
5. Map of Camborne, Illogan, Redruth & Gwennap Mining District - R. Symons, N.D. CRO Ref AD. 147/3 (0.68). 5" to mile. 44" x 30" £12.50
6. Geological Map of Caradon Mining District - N.Whitley, 1845. CRO Ref RD 1151
5" to mile. 21" x 20" £7.50.
7. Plan of Chiverton Mining District, Perranzabuloe - E.H.Brenton, 1869. CRO Ref AD 220/8 (0.70). 5" to mile. 38" x 27". £10.00
8. Mining Map of the parish of Gwennap - R.Symons, 1845. CRO Ref ME (281) 58 (0.74)
6" to mile. 34" x 26". £10.00
9. Geological Map of St. Just Mining District - R.Symons, 1857. CRO Ref X. 144/8/2 (T).
6" to mile. 37" x 27". £10.00
10. Plan of Uny Lelent Mining District - R.Symons, 1853. CRO Ref WH 6623 (I.22)
10" to mile. 47" x 30". £12.50
11. Geological Map of Wheal Vor - R.Symons, 1863. CRO Ref FS3/1192 (0.149)
Scale ?. 32" x 24". £10.00
12. Map of Lovell & Helston Mining District - E.H. & W.Brenton, 1870. CRO Ref H.166/5(T)
6" to mile. 40" x 30". £12.50
13. Plan of East Wheal Rose Mining District - R.Symons, 1847. CRO Ref AD 220/24 (0.71)
6" to mile. 51" x 32". £12.50
14. Plan of Tavistock Mining District - R Symons, 1848. CRO Ref ME (281) 60 (T)
6" to mile. 44" x 32". £12.50
15. Geological Map of West Cornwall Mining District. - R.Symons, 1856(?). CRO Ref CL(P)51 (0.15). 5" to mile. 38" x 27". £12.50.

Orders for the above to Cornwall County Council, County Record Office, County Hall, Truro, TR1 3AY quoting reference Area Mining Plans.

Wanted FOR THE LIBRARY

If any member has a spare copy of the following books would they be willing to donate a copy to the library due to the only copies we had have now been lost in the post, and you can't borrow what I ain't got, can you?! :-

Memoirs, 1968; 1969; 1972 Vol 2 No.2; BM8.

Any other spare copies would be most welcome too.

If you can help please contact Spotty Hewer, at Library Building, 36 Benomley Cres., Almondsbury, Huddersfield.

Pennine Heritage Project

An oral history project has recently started at Pennine Heritage. They would like to hear from people in the South Pennine Region who have memories; details of social life; work; political movements; religion; trade unions etc, with a view to recording these experiences on tape as part of our heritage.

Please contact Kitty Williams/Janet Hainsworth at Pennine Heritage, The Birchcliffe Centre, Hebden Bridge HX7 8DG. Tel. 0422 844450.

Book Reviews

1. Mines & Miners on Malham Moor. by Dr. A. Raistrick. Published by George Kelsall Publishing, 22 Church St. Littleborough, Lancs OL15 9AA, 1983. ISBN 0 9505577 9 X. pp42, 14 plates & 3 plans. Price £1.50 (£1.85 inc. P & P.)

Dr. Raistrick is the only author to have written authoratively on this small, but interesting, mining field. And, probably, is the only person capable of so doing. Over the past 50 years, he has devoted a number of articles to various aspects of the Malham mines, in publications which are not readily accessible to all. At last, he has been able to assimilate this effort into a single text; and the result is a very welcome addition to my bookshelves.

To my joy, the importance of the neighbouring coal pits in the story of the mines has not been negated, as is usual with many authors.

To anyone interested in the history of Yorkshire Mining, I strongly recommend this book.
M.C. Gill.

2. A History of Lead Mining in the Pennines. by Dr. A. Raistrick & B. Jennings. Published by Kelsall & Davis, 1983. Obtainable from bookshops or George Kelsall, 22 Church St, Littleborough, Lancs OL15 9AA. ISBN 0 4946571 01 5. OR from Davis Books, 140 Westgate Rd, Newcastle upon Tyne ISBN 0 946865 00 0. pp367, 5 plates & 3 plans. £15.00 Post FREE for cash with order.

This is a limited reprint (500 copies) of the book first published, by Longmans, in 1965, and for those few who already have a copy - move on to the next item!

The first 140 pages are devoted to developments from the Romans, through the Monastic period, to the mid 18th Century. This period, all too often ignored, set the foundation for more grandiose works of the 19th century, and provides many fascinating insights of the society of the day.

The remaining chapters take us through the 19th century, the capital and social structure, smelting and ore getting improvements, the 20th century and future prospects; which, to say it is 20 years old, only missed the short-lived fluorspar boom of the northern pennines. (When, and by whom, is this going to be written up?). It also raises a series of questions on the decline of the industry which mining historians are only just starting to explore.

The book represents the only realistic attempt to take an "overview" of a large section of the English lead mining industry (i.e. Excluding the S.W.) - This was true in 1965, and remains so in 1984! In summary then, this is neither a pedestrian work, nor is it light reading. It is, however, one to which any researcher must return for guidance, and hopefully to debate some of the questions raised by its authors, and still left undeveloped. For these reasons alone, it is a book which should be part of the mining historian's standard reference collection.

M.C. Gill.

3. Geevor. by Cyril Noall. Published by Geevor Tin Mines plc, Pendeen, Penzance, Cornwall, 1983. Price £7.50 plus postage. Hardback. ppl67 inc. 41 plates, diagrams & photos.

Geevor Tin Mine, situated near Lands End has been one of Cornwall's most consistently successful producers of tin and this book gives full justice to its most interesting history. Its neighbours Levant & Botallack are also given a substantial amount of space. The book covers the history of the mine from its primitive beginnings in the early 19th C. to the sophisticated enterprise that it is at the present day. In 16 chapters the subjects range from the more usual "geology of the district" and "the story of Cornish tin" to the most unusual "workings beneath the sea", and a description of the sealing of the breach to prevent sea water from entering the submarine workings. There are also fascinating (although short) chapters on the new tin mining museum, the Levant winding engine and the disastrous attempt at introducing a steam loco underground in Levant. It is a very readable, authoritative book but there is a heavy dependance on material gleaned from the annual reports and the more human aspects, the failures, accidents and personal tragedies tend to have been overlooked. Despite this however it is a book well worth having.

I.J. Brown.

4. Cornwall's Central Mines: The Southern District 1810-1895. by T.A. Morrison. ISBN 0 906720 11 7. 216 x 138mm, cased, 495pp, 16 figures & 48 plates. £15.00 plus P & P. From Publisher - Alison Hodge, Bosulval Farmhouse, Newmill, Penzance, or from bookshops.

This is the companion volume to the one, published in 1980, covering the northern region. Thankfully, this book is not intended to join the ranks of the veritable plethora of Cornish "tourist" books; which tend to treat the whole subject in a most superficial manner.

Allowed the luxury of two, quite fat, volumes, the author has had the opportunity to
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assimilate information from numerous archival sources. Alas, this he has failed to do! As remarked in my review of the first volume (Aug. 1980) the author has made far too heavy a reliance on the Mining Journal for source material. Thus giving a hollow ring to the introductory note that: "until recently the massive resources of archive information on 19th century mining at Camborne-Redruth remained almost untouched by the historian."

Despite this criticism, the author has made a scholarly attempt to delineate the historical development of mining around Camborne. The book reads well, and, with its companion, allows the non-Cornish reader an insight to this area, which does much to supplement the few satisfactory earlier works.

M.C. Gill.

Tours - Courses - Conferences

Industrial Past Walking Tours - 7 days Yorkshire Dales. Staying Guest Houses, average daily distance 15 miles. Real Ale Pubs Lunch & Evening. Visits to old industrial sites en route. Escorted by dedicated Real Ale man. Cost Approx. £125. Dates - May, June & Sept. Full details from Tony Farrell, 5 Ranelagh Road, Winchester. Tel. 0962 69555.

Plas Tan y Bwlch is offering the following courses of mining & industrial Archaeological interest in the following months:-

Introduction to Ind. Arch. March 17th - 23rd. 6 days for £81.53. Walking in Snowdonia examining remains of mining & quarrying.

Early Iron Industry in N. Wales. March 23/26th. 3 days for £43.20.

Industrial Arch. Excavation. May 12/19th & 19/26th. Join for any part or all of the two weeks. Typical cost 3 days for £45.36. This will be the first season excavation of a late 16th C blastfurnace at Dol y Clochdydd near Dolgellau.

Mining in N. Wales. 16/23rd June. 7 days for £99.44. Methods used & the processes involved from the copper mines to the gold mines & including the vast caverns of slate workings.

Mines, Mills & Furnaces. July 28th - August 4th. 7 days for £99.44. Introductory course.

Practical Ind. Arch. Aug 11/18th. 7 days for £99.44. Final week of surveying the oldest slate complex in the Ffestiniog area - Diffwys Slate quarry.

For further information contact:- Merfyn Willaims, Snowdonia National Park Study Centre, Plas Tan y Bwlch, Maentwrog, Gwynedd. LL41 3YU.

Subterranea Britannica - East Kent Study weekend 22/24 June, 1984. Very extensive and varied programme - cost £5. Send s.a.e. for details to Valerie Bannister, 7 Moat House, Rhodaus Close, Canterbury, Kent.

Letter from Dyfed County Council to I.J. Brown.

"The Extent of Derelict Mineral Workings in Dyfed, and their potential for Industrial Archaeology, Research & Recreation"

Dyfed County Council is sponsoring a project under the Manpower Services Commission Community Programme to investigate the range of potential uses for derelict mineral workings and related industrial sites in the County.

Over the years several surveys have been carried out by local authorities, the Welsh Office, the Welsh Development Agency, and various consultants, to draw up records of derelict sites. In some cases, private individuals have published pamphlets and books which provide further information, especially about the history of lead mining and slate quarrying. At present the information in these sources, all compiled for different purposes, is not correlated.

More recently there has been increasing awareness of the potential of some derelict sites for recreation, for example, rock climbers use abandoned quarry faces, cavers explore old mine workings, geologists seek specimens in workings and dumps, and historians and industrial archaeologists study the remains of buildings, plant, leats, aqueducts and reservoirs. Although they may be minority activities, and their extent is not well documented at present, they offer scope for expansion and are likely to attract increasing numbers of people to Dyfed. At the same time, the local authorities and the W.D.A. have responsibilities for removing dereliction and sources of pollution. If carried to extremes, reclamation schemes could remove the potential for activities such as those indicated above.

It is intended to produce a register of information about the various sites, and in particular to show the relative amounts of potential which different sites have for reclamation compared to other activities, in the hope that any future conflicts of interest can be minimised.

I shall be most grateful if you will advise me whether any such sites in the County of Dyfed are of interest to your organisation. To what extent do you make use of them, and for

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what purposes? Please advise me of any specific items which you consider to be of interest or worthy of preservation."

If anyone has anything to offer on this, please contact:- Dr.I.J. Brown, at 95, Manygates Lane, Sandal, Wakefield WF2 7DL.

Future Meets

April 20/28th. Cornwall. Leader R.E. Burns.

Meet each day at 10.30am at camp site Langstone Manor Caravan Park, Moortown, Tavistock, Devon PL19 9JZ (Tel. 0822 3371) NGR. SX525738.

We understand that 4 & 6 berth caravans are available (I don't know prices but understand that they are in region of £45/£50 and dependant on No's booking it may be possible to arrange a discount. Ed.) and there are camping facilities. Please contact Mr. R.W. Rice at the above address as soon as possible and mention NMRS.

It is hoped to visit:- Devon Great Consols; Bedford United; Wheal Friendship; Devon United; Drakewalls; Little Duke; South Tamar Consols; Wheal Frementor and Virtuous Lady.

May 13th - General Meeting. Sicklinghall Village Hall NGR SE364484 at 2pm.

May 19/20th - NAMHO Field Meeting Snowdonia Copper Mines. Leaders E.Gray-Thomas & D.Bick. The Welsh Mines Society will be hosting the weekend and leading visits to several copper mines in the Snowdonia area of North Wales.

On both days meet at 10.30am at the Forestry Commission Snowdonia Forest Park Camp Site which is 1 mile north-west of Beddgelert, off the A4085 at NGR SH577492. Sandwiches etc., should be taken.

Those camping can use the above-mentioned camp-site which has good facilities. A list of hotels and B & B accomodation in the area can be obtained by sending a SAE to 5 Longshaw Common, Billinge, Wigan, WN5 7JD.

Any queries about the meet can be directed to Eric Gray-Thomas on 0286 2842 (home) or 0286 2602 (work).

June 2/3rd. West Arkengarthdale & Great Punctard Ghyll. Leader F.D. Heaton

Meet in lay-by opposite C.B. Inn NGR NZ000031 at 10.30am. Camping in small field immediately below C.B. Car park (entry from car park) free of charge. Caravanettes may use bottom end of pub car park. Archaeological & underground exploration of the west side of the Upper Dale including Turf Moor Hush (6 mile round walk) followed on Sunday by investigation of Routh Level in Great Punctard Ghyll large spoil heaps & Dam Rigg Level etc.

June 16/17th. Cwm Penmachno Slate Quarries near Bettws-y-Coed. Leader D.J. McCurdy.

Meet at NGR SH753472 at 10.30am. Lots of interesting archaeological features both above and below ground. More details later.

Greenhow Excavation Leader J.M. Dickinson. Please note that this excavation is now to take place between July 21/29th and NOT as stated in your Membership card - put this down as a printing error.

At the Annual General Meeting on 12th February, 1984 the following proposition was passed:- "That the Committee be permitted to present such proposals regarding charitable status and constitutional changes, as it feels necessary, to a future General Meeting. The said meeting having full constitutional powers, designated by this A.G.M., to discuss and put to the vote such resolutions. Full notice of this meeting, when called, and all proposals to be given to the membership, in compliance with item 27 of the constitution."

I would like to comment, as a means of illumination, on the rather bald proposal above, and the thinking behind it.

Bearing in mind that the Society has doubled its membership and changed its emphasis in the 10 years since the majority of the present Constitution was agreed, and the decision, of a general meeting, to explore the possibility of taking up charitable status. The Committee felt that it should examine the Constitution. This work was undertaken, over the last three months, and a number of changes made. Some are merely pedantic changes in grammar, others are to clarify, and preserve, the rights of members whilst removing a number of points seen as constricting the development of the publications office, and in turn the Society.

The Committee has arrived at a draft, with which it is happy, but is awaiting comment from the Charity Commissioners (on both draft and present constitutions) and it would be

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premature to circulate anything at this stage.

I requested the moving of this proposal, not because it is strictly required, but to ensure that members were aware of the Committee's deliberations, and that there will be full opportunity for them to comment, and vote accordingly.

M.C. Gill.

More from NAMHO

The Association is in the process of producing a Guide to the Exploration of Mine Workings - this is part of a general requirement, and because the Forestry Commission has requested it as part of any eventual access arrangements to mines on its land.

Mike Gill was all set to attend a public meeting, at Bradford City Hall, about the demolition of the "Walls of Jericho" at Egypt, but the snow arrived and so he submitted the Association's case by post. The final decision does not appear to have been released.

Recorder's Report

The last year has been very successful, and has seen the influx of much Yorkshire material to the Records. This has been very much because of the continued efforts of Les Tyson, with Swaledale, and my own work, assisted by Hazel, on the Craven area. Nigel Chapman has also saved me much effort by arranging the copying of Boulton & Watt's drawings of the Craven Cross Engine. There are of course others who unstintingly drop in the odd item - and I thank them very much too.

Much of my spare time this year seems to have been taken up with work on "The Life and Work of the Northern Lead Miner", and I would like to thank Dr. Raistrick, Arthur Roberts and Bob Clark, of Beamish. We have all put in some very long hours, and I am confident that the result will reflect well upon all concerned.

Besides that, I was also able to write a short chapter on Exploration of Mine Workings for David Judson's recently published book on "Caving Practice and Techniques".

M.C. Gill.

Editor's Report

A considerable upturn in publications sales was experienced over the last twelve months as a glance at the balance sheet will show. We sold a large quantity of Mineral Statistics and expenditure for these is shown as a separate entity. We are Exeter University's best customer in this series, which has now covered the Northern area. I understand Wales and the West Country are the next districts to be highlighted and we will presumably continue to act as agents for Exeter in this series.

Our own publications continue to be well patronised by contributors and purchasers. The society's Monographs have - and continue to have - outstanding success and sell much better than the Memoirs. Both series compliment each other and serve equally important functions.

The Raistrick & Robert's book is now in press and should be available - barring snags - within the next two months or so.

My thanks to all those who continue to support our publications by their contributions large or small and whose efforts have been instrumental in putting the society's name before a national and international readership.

R.H. Bird.

The next edition of the Newsletter is to be issued in May, hopefully along with the next publication.

Please send all contributions for the Newsletter in good time to H. Houghton, 29 Parkside Road, Meanwood, Leeds LS6 4LY. Tel 0532 758505.

Errata.

Please note typing error on attached Balance Sheet on sheet headed General Account, near bottom under Treasurer's remarks, Income - Subs should read £2830.00 NOT £3830.00. Sorry.

Northern Mine Research Society
General Account

Statement of Income and Expenditure for period 1/1/83 to 31/12/1983.

<u>INCOME</u>		<u>EXPENDITURE</u>	
Subscriptions 1983	£1593.50	Publications	£2000.00
" 1984	1181.50	Stationary	116.04
Donations	10.93	Officers' Expenses	
Interest	96.25	PRO	114.62
Misc. & Sales	14.70	Secretary	23.63
Dinner	371.00	Treasurer	30.02
Talk-in (P & P)	55.75	Library	10.14
NAMHO Insce. (Guests)	10.00	NAMHO Insce	129.61
NAMHO Conference	1318.95	Subs. to other Societies	41.00
Book Pre-publication orders	2234.25	Hall Hire	18.00
		Dinner	363.55
		Talk-in (P & P)	39.35
		Misc.	5.11
		Audit Fee	7.09
		NAMHO Conf.	1077.51
		Book - advert & preparatory	87.95
			<u>4063.63</u>
		Income-Expenditure	<u>2823.15</u>
	<u>6886.83</u>		<u>6886.83</u>

CASH STATEMENT

	<u>Current a/c</u>	<u>Deposit A/c</u>	<u>Building Soc.</u>	<u>Total</u>
Opening Balance	£283.41	£1200.00	£ 15.65	£1504.06
Movement	+ 138.30	- 1200.00	+ 3864.35	+ 2823.15
Closing Balance	427.21	0	3900.00	4327.21
Bank balance per statement at 31/12/83	487.91			
less cheques not presented	60.70			
	<u>427.21</u>			

I certify that this statement is a true and fair record of the affairs of the Society for 1983.

J. Pulford 27/1/1984.

Treasurer's remarks on 1983 accounts.

Financially, 1983 was a wholly exceptional year for the Society. Not only was the Soc. responsible for the NAMHO conference, but orders were taken for the proposed book "The Life and Work of the Northern Lead Miner". Together they more than double the cash flow through the Society accounts and 195 book pre-payments have increased the end-of-year balance very greatly. Next year's accounts will show this has much decreased.

More useful to most members than the total balance sheet will be a selection of items relevant to "normal" business.

<u>Income</u>		<u>Expenditure</u>	
Subs	£3830.00	Publications	£2000.00
Interest	96.25	Stationary	116.04
Donations, Sales etc	25.63	Officers Expenses	178.47
Surplus on Dinner	7.45	NAMHO Insurance	129.61
Surplus on Talk-in	14.40	Subs. to other Soc.	41.00
		Hall & misc	30.20
			<u>2495.32</u>
		Income-Expenditure	<u>478.41</u>
	<u>2973.73</u>		<u>2973.73</u>

Total membership is now 464, an increase of 34 (net) on last year, but this conceals that 41 1982 members did not renew their subs. in 1983. Subscription income is well up because of this & increased subscription rate. Transfer of funds to the Publication a/c is well up at £5 per member receiving publications. Third party insurance rates arranged by NAMHO have also increased significantly. Officers' expenses, of which the major part goes on postage, show a modest increase, partly because of increased business, but it is worth remarking that the total is still exceptionally low because all officers do not seek to recoup much of their incidental expenses. The surplus on the normal Society's activities was £473.41 - very satisfactory if the Publications A/c remain viable. The net surplus on the NAMHO Conf. was £241.44. This has been taken into the General A/c and can be regarded as a hostage against any loss on the book.

G.D. Greenough.

Northern Mine Research Society
Publications Account

Statement of Income and Expenditure for period 1/1/83 to 31/12/1983.

INCOME

Sales of Publications to Society £2000.00
Aftersales Receipts 4245.42

EXPENDITURE

Artwork & drafting £ 605.77
Printing 2487.86
Postage 697.78
Advertising 14.86
Stationary 44.76
Editor's Expenses 28.03
Building Soc. Transfer 700.00
Purchase of Mineral Stats. 1109.00
Misc. (including unpaid & unrepresented cheque) 44.71

Income-Expenditure

6245.42

5733.07

512.35

6245.42

CASH STATEMENT

	<u>Current A/c</u>	<u>Building Soc.</u>	<u>Total</u>
Opening Balance	£299.20	£ 318.38	£ 617.58
Movement	+ 512.35	+ 767.17	1279.52
	811.55	1085.55	1897.10
Cash in Bank (per statement)	775.83		
less unrepresented cheque	28.45		
	747.38		
Plus credits unrepresented	64.17		
	811.55		

Stock @ cost on 31/12/83 £888.99
Cash in hand " 10.63½

I certify that this statement is a true and fair record of the Publications Account for 1983.

J. Pulford 27/1/1984.