

This part of the Newsletter should really be written in red. It is the bit that tells you that if you've not paid your Subs., then you'll be cut off. If this applies to you, there should be a Reminder form with this bumph. The rest should have a Membership card. Any discrepancies, then we've done it again - so let us know.

Covenanted Subscriptions.

It has been very encouraging to find that over half the members who have so far paid their Subs. have covenanted to continue for 4 years, and hence enabled the Society to recover the appropriate Income Tax when all the paper work is completed. Unless the Treasurer has slipped up, all those signing a covenant form will find a certificate with the enclosed Membership card. This Certificate has to be completed & returned to the Treasurer - G.B. Greenough, 22 Elmhurst Road, St. Annes-on-Sea, Lancs FY8 3JH. Assuming Hon. Treasurer has read everything properly, this completes the paperwork necessary during the life of the Covenant, as far as you are concerned.

To help those able to see double meanings in every innocuous statement, much of the form has already been completed by the Treasurer - you just complete your address; your Employers name & address; your Income Tax district & reference, and sign it yourself. If you later complete an Income Tax return, you will find a slot under 'outgoings' where you put the gross amount (as shown in Col. 2.). Don't worry that any of this will affect the amount of tax you pay, it won't.

Meets.

Easter 28th March - 4th April. Cornwall.

Although this is missed off the Meets card, it was mentioned in the last Newsletter as a holiday. Anyone wanting to join us on the annual pilgrimage to Cornwall can obtain discount of 10% from Chacewater Camping & Caravan Park, Cox Hill, Chacewater, Truro, Cornwall TR4 8LY. Tel. St. Day (0209) 820762.

We have been visiting this site for a number of years now and can highly recommend it. Caravans can be hired over this period from as little as £35. Please write direct for their brochure & price list.

If you decide to join us, it might be an idea to put your mining gear in!!!

April 25/27th. Leader F.D. Heaton.

25: Working Mine visit to Boulby Potash Mine, Cleveland.

Meet at the mine at 4.45pm., NGR NZ762182. Bring underground gear & a change of clothing. Due to extremely high temperatures, boots are recommended, not wellies.

26: Working Mine visit to Kirkby Thore Gypsum Mine, Cumbria.

Meet at Mine at 10.15am., NGR NY647265.

N.B. The above two visits are strictly limited to 22 persons, and only Members may attend. No person under 16 allowed. It is essential that you contact the Meet Leader, David Heaton, Bramham Lodge, Wetherby, W. Yorks LS23 6LL. Tel Boston Spa (0937) 842101, if you intend to attend either/both events. No prior booking means no guarantee of a place on the day.

27: Dufton Mines. Meet at Dufton Village Green at 10.30am. NGR NY688251.

A follow-up to last year's successful Meet, since when several of the old levels have been re-opened and will be available for exploration.

May 11th. General Meeting. Sicklinghall Village Hall at 2.00pm.

Spring Bank Holiday May 24/26th - Lead, Zinc & Copper Mines of Kirkcudbrightshire & Nithsdale Lime Works. Leaders. G. Downs-Rose & W.S. Harvey.

24: Meet at Gem Rock Museum, Creetown at 10.00am.

Visit to Pibble Mine, NGR NX527607 (Sheet NX46/56) a.m.

Visit to Blackcraig Mines NGR NX448644 & NX442647 p.m.

25: Choice of visits to other mines in locality and/or visit to Woodhead Lead Mines, near Carsphairn NGR NX530937.

26: Upper Nithsdale Limestone Mines. Meet at Sanquhar campsite (NGR NS787094) at 10am or at Craigdullyear, NGR NS663153 at 10.45am.

27 onwards: Visits can be arranged to the proposed museum site at Dalmellington; to the Wanlockhead Museum & to the limeworks at Closeburn & Barjarg etc, if anyone is staying on in the area. However, please let Bill Harvey, 23 Orleans Ave.,
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Glasgow G14 9LA know, so that he can plan accordingly.

June 7/8. Swaledale. N.A.M.H.O. Field Meeting. No more details to hand yet.

Further details for Meets after this date will appear in future Newsletters. However, just one addition to the Meets card to mark in your diaries is:-

Oct. 4th. Annual Dinner. More details later

Meet Report

Coal Mines in the Ingleton & Lune Valley area. Sept. 22nd 1985.

A break in the atrocious wet weather, allowed the Meet, consisting of 22 Members, 3 local guests and 2 collie dogs, to visit the surface remains of three collieries and a Hoffmann Lime Kiln in the Ingleton and Lune Valley area. Prompt arrival of members awaited the arrival of "Super Leader Gothy" whom arrived on foot. "Me car ran alright yesterday!" "Try a tow." Eh! The gathered assorties hot footed down the lane to the Assistant Meet Leaders garage, not to view a car engine, but a "mini" collection of artefacts assembled in the garage, and thanks to local people.

Further breaks in the weather allowed members to view a site plan of the Wilson Wood Colliery, brought along by John Bentley. The shafts sunk in 1842 reached a depth of 130yds. The pit closed in 1887. The pit worked 6, 4 and 3 foot Coal Seams by method of pillar & stall. Like many pits its history shows its up's and down's.

In 1865 the pit suddenly flooded, filling the shafts to a depth of 30 yards from the surface, with the loss of valuable equipment and its horses. Standing flooded, the pit changed ownership and was bought by William Bracewell, owner of textile mills, in 1872. Bought for £15,000 it was reopened in 1874. In June 1878, it was announced the "grand discovery of the Six Foot Seam" which was found to cover much ground. In October of that year, a shaft FIRE seriously threatened the pit and the shaft linings.

Again in October, Mr. Bracewell brought to Ingleton, from Burnley, a large boiler, conveyed by the first traction engine to be seen in Ingleton. By its late arrival, the weight of the vehicle had, in fact, made the road collapse and did so on its return the following day.

Our next move, with thoughts of lunch, we hurriedly chased to Meal Bank Limestone Quarry, to which contains a Hoffman Lime Kiln. "You get a better view if you climb that tree."..."Eh! I'm off", says one of the guests, "for a ladder, I've found a hole to get inside." Meal Bank Limestone Quarry N.G.R. SD696736, produced lime of very pure quality, as detailed 1873. Owned by the Craven Lime Works, which formed in 1869 by Messrs Clark & Wilson, whom purchased the rights to use Hoffmans Patent for lime burning in this area.

This oval shaped kiln stands in varied condition of neglect, the west wall gives access to a store capable of holding 90 tons of limestone, when burnt in its 16 chambers gave 60 tons of lime. Thirty feeding holes were fed with coke and coal, each chamber opened into another & divided by iron doors and put up when each chamber was charged with fuel. Two operatives fired them daily, alternately, three chambers being ready to discharge.

The central feeding room to which each of the 30 holes were fed and regulated, measured 20 yds x 45 yds. Each chamber flue combined to one main manifold which led to a chimney on the hillside. Using "ponies" to transport away the lime, greater demands farther afield, a rail line was constructed to the L.N.W. Station at nearby Thornton, completed in 1893. Evidence shows the Craven Lime works to have closed in 1909.

The demands for food for the Meet proved to be too great, and by lpm its ravishing members assembled at the "George & Dragon" at Wray. Pie & Peas, if you're Lancashire or Peas & Pie if you're Yorkshire was kindly put on by Mine Hosts, Bob & Rita. Amidst ale and cigar smoke, our Meet Leader had pulled an ace, a Tibeton guide, Dave Hartnupp, took us to our next visit,- the Blands. (I wish to thank Dave for turning out and for finding Geoff Greenough's wallet) "The Blands" near Wennington is a detached farmhouse, dated 1789. Whether it be fact or fiction, the land contains a labyrinth of hand-dug underground passages. The house looks upon a sunken garden known as "the Garden of Eden" complete with 12 niches, and referred to as the "12 Apostles". The garden is over-shadowed with a large stone beehive, topped with a Norman "Crown Stone".

With Members only too keen to go underground, amidst groans of "we've left our lamps at home" and not to be out-done, our Dave "Indiana Jones" had brought in lighting aids and away they went....

Meanwhile, at Clints Field Farm and Colliery, the party divided, in turn followed M. Goth around the engine house and heaps. Working in the mid 1830's, G.J. Sargentson (the previous owner of Wilson Wood Colliery) had attempted to purchase Clinsfield with

its seams of 18"/20" was overtaking the Ingleton Colliery sales in the local area of Bentham and its mills. On the 30th June, 1842 Sargentson met its owner, a Mr. Roughsedge, at the Bridge Inn, Ingleton with the intention of buying Clinsfield. He was asked £70.00 per year/5 year lease and a further £2500,000 for machinery. The offer was not accepted.

In June, 1845, Sargentson gained control of Clinsfield Colliery until the expiration of Roughsedge's lease of $3\frac{1}{2}$ years at £200.00 per year and for Mr. Roughsedge's lease to take 5000 loads of coal at 8d per load and 1d per load deducted upon an increase of quality. The colliery was stopped working from that time and the coal sold to Bentham Mill then came from Sargentson's Ingleton Colliery.

By 4.30pm the Meet was to end, but the owners of Clinsfield Farm, Mrs. Hartley, very kindly directed all the assorties to her kitchen table from where mugs of tea, homemade scones and cakes were passed round. This was a very pleasant end to a pleasant day.

Bernard Bond.

Errata, British Mining 28.

The article in the last Memoirs by Bill Harvey on Gladsmuir contained a bisected figure. Fig. 1 on page 48 showed the debit portion of a page from an old account book, whilst the credit portion to the same figure appeared on page 51, without any indication as to what it is.

The Editor apologises for this error, committed at the paste-up stage and not spotted later. Members might like to endorse their copies accordingly.

R.H.B.

Book Reviews.

Roads and Trackways of the Yorkshire Dales by Geoffrey N. Wright. 213pp., numerous maps, photographs etc. Moorland Publishing Co. £8.95.

Lines of communication like canals, railways and ancient trackways have a certain fascination of their own. Why were they made, where did they go and from what era do they date? These, and many more latent questions on the subject of the Dales trackways are answered in this richly illustrated tome.

Whilst many books have been written about the Yorkshire Dales' those specifically devoted to its ancient lines of communication are few indeed, other than Raistrick's Green Tracks on the Pennines, which deals with the subject geographically rather than chronologically - as this book does.

Of immediate interest to the mining buff, are the trackways associated with the transport of coal, lead and peat, which this book deals with in great detail. Other snippets of interest (vis a vis 'Lilly Jocks' - a drovers inn at Eskeleth; the 'corpse roads' - one of which crosses Kisdon in Swaledale - and much more besides) pepper the text and make most interesting reading.

The addition of Grid References to numerous places described allow easy location on the ground and the O.S. maps of the region, which are obligatory accompaniment, at the reader's elbow.

A book worth having.

R.H.B.

Journal of the Russell Society. Vol. 1. No. 3. Editor - R.J. King c/o National Museum of Wales, Cardiff.

To the miner and most members of NMRS, minerals are natural deposits that may well contain material of commercial value that can be extracted economically. To members of the Russell Society, a long established and respected body of mineralogists, a mineral is a naturally occurring material, usually crystalline, with scientifically interesting properties. Since many of the miners' minerals are deposited from solution both groups are often concerned with the same deposits.

The Journal of the Russell Society has recently been established to provide a vehicle where dedicated amateurs and professional mineralogists might set down topographical data of value, but lacking the systematic mineralogical data e.g. crystal class and optical properties for a new mineral described in a professional journal. This sounds as if J.R.S. should be easy to read, but in fact you must be very well up in mineralogy to appreciate the papers, e.g. "...laumonite may lie in the zeolite facies and not in the prehnite-pumpellite facies."

The longest paper is a part of a serial by the editor on the curation of minerals, ideal for the dedicated amateur but too heavy going for ordinary mortals. If, next time you find a specimen of azurite, your companion (eridite but irritating) says "what a fine specimen of Krohnkite, better put it in a dessicator to stop it going green", you will know he has read this article pity he identified the specimen

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wrongly. It is interesting to read both here and in the Editorial the same points that are important in mining archaeology - record all details while you are at the point of discovery, take a minimum of samples, look after and display (curate) these samples properly.

Amateur mineralogists of a calibre able to appreciate this Journal should already be members of the Russell Society, but it cannot be recommended for the ordinary NMRS member. But if you find an unusual mineral, or a mineral in an unusual place, a short note describing the find could well find a home in the Journal; but first search the literature because unusual means practically incredible in the Russell Society.

G.B. Greenough.

The Coal Mines of Buxton.

By Alan Roberts of the Mines Research Establishment at Buxton, and John Leach, a member of the Derbyshire Museum Service.

This book details the rise of this remote mining field around the Axe Edge area of Buxton from its rise in the 1600's to its closure in the 1900's. The workings, though small, were well developed by 17th century standards, with underground canals used for transport, and were closely connected with the Buxton Lime burning industry.

Cost £3.75 and published by Scarthin Books of Cromford, Derbyshire.

L.O. Tyson.

Brinsley Colliery and the Lawrence Connection by Ronald Storer.

Price £7.00. 109pp., 18 Photos, 14 line drawings, 9 sketches, 18 charts & graphs.

Mr. Storer's intimate knowledge of coal mining is evident from this book, which charts the colliery's life, from its sinking to the Deep Hard Seam, in 1872, to the early years of the present century. Thanks to his interest, the book records various industrial archaeological features and the working practices, of this small pit, which are now lost to us.

The title's use of the Lawrence name, in this his centennial year, I find a little presumptuous. There is no attempt to analyse the father figure; Arthur Lawrence, who was reputed to have had such an effect on the writer's nature. And whilst the family name crops up regularly throughout the book, it is hard to imagine that it ever made much impact on the working of the pit. Indeed, in later years, the Lawrence name was likely to be none too highly thought of.

At one point, the author goes into an entirely fictional narrative to describe the daily events surrounding the birth of David Herbert Lawrence, and includes a brief, but fascinating, account of life and work in the Brinsley Pit. If this style had been retained throughout, I feel that a good short novel might have resulted; which could have reached a far wider market. The result is, however, a book which is not for the literati, wishing to pursue the "great man", and with a parochial nature which must limit its sales amongst industrial archaeologists.

Available from the author, R.W. Storer, 19 Common Side Road, Selston, Notts.

M.C. Gill.

Killhope Lead Mine - excavations in 1985.

Despite the worst that a Pennine summer could throw at us, the archaeological team at Killhope completed the excavation of the washing floor in 1985 (see May '85 Newsletter for previous work), and the organisation and function of the structures is now much clearer.

The washing floor occupies a wedge-shaped area some 60m long and 10-20m wide, widening eastwards from the portal of Park Level. Bouse from Park level was trammed to bouse teams along the north side, and (at least in the later years) bouse from the Killhopehead workings was brought in by road, and tipped onto the south side. The north and south sides of the washing floor were therefore occupied by various timber platforms for preliminary washing and picking. The central strip was occupied by two sets of ore-dressing apparatus; each set is now interpreted as having consisted of a linked array of grating, collecting box, trunk buddle, and hotching tubs, the box and trunk being used in conjunction with each other. Between the two sets was a flat buddle, and the base for a circular tank that could have been a sieving tub, a dolly tub, or simply a header tank for flushing the underground launder system. It is not certain whether the two sets were used 'in parallel' with each other, or whether one processed the fines, middlings, or waste from the other. Waste waters from all the structures was led via a small collecting tank to a set of settling tanks at the east end of the floor. Sediments from these tanks were re-processed on a set of Brunton Buddles (see May note) which also re-processed the sediments from the mechanised dressing mill. Two tramways

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had been built across the washing floor by 1896 (when the floor may already have been half derelict); one of these had been pegged down onto an earlier timber floor, the only surviving evidence of its presence being the line of peg-holes.

The history of the site is becoming clearer, thanks to the work of Ian Forbes. Driving of Park Level started in 1853, though it did not hole through to the earlier workings on the Killhopehead vein until 1875. The present bouse teams were probably built in 1862, but the washing floor was extended and re-modelled in 1874-5, and most of the excavated structures probably dated from this time. The mechanical dressing mill (an integrated set of waterwheel, elevator, sizing trommels, jiggers, and circular buddles, from Green's of Aberystwyth) was built on higher ground to the south-east in 1876-8; it is not certain whether or not this was envisaged when the washing floor was remodelled. The mine was highly productive from about 1875 to 1890, after which intermittent small-scale production continued until 1917.

My thanks to all in Durham County Council and Community Task Force who helped to arrange and fund the excavation, to all the visitors and correspondents who have helped with its interpretation, and above all to all who worked on site in the appalling weather of summer 1985.

David Cranstone.

Sygun Copper Mine

near Beddgelert is planning to open to the general public at Easter. Visitors will enter along the Deep Adit which eventually connects with the workings, where timbering, mineralisation, ore shutes etc., can be seen. The tour will continue up through the workings and levels, access by staircases. The Victoria Level is then reached where visitors exit onto the hillside some 200ft above the starting point.

The guided tour will take approx. 40 minutes in the mine. An interpretive centre will explain the past importance of metalliferous mining to the area, social history, mineralogy and geology. Surface features, which include Elmore's Flotation Plant and dressing floors c.1838 will help to explain how ore processing has developed.

Information from Phil Amies, Ty Hen, Beddgelert, Caernarfon, Gwynedd.

Carclaise Tin Mine, Cornwall. (Article borrowed from A.I.A. Journal, Autumn 1985.)

Browsing through a recent issue of Country life, the Secretary of A.I.A. suddenly came across an advertisement by Colnaghi's, the London Art Dealers, showing a picture of Carclaise Tin Mine by John Warwick Smith (1749-1831). This was a pencil and water colour work, $5\frac{1}{2}$ " x $8\frac{1}{2}$ " in size. On sale at £1500, it was beyond the Secretary's pocket, but in its representation of the working - for both tin and china clay - it will undoubtedly be of interest to members.

A.K. Hamilton-Jenkin in Volume VIII of his series, Mines and Miners of Cornwall - 'Truro to the Clay District' which was published by D Bradford Barton (and later Town and Country Press Limited) in 1964, gives a surface plan of Carclaise about 1830 and reproduces another engraving of the Mine - recording that "No industrial site in Cornwall was more frequently visited by early visitors because here it seems as if a complete mine had been turned inside out for the benefit of timid travellers who would wish to see the work of mining without the risk and fatigue of a descent below the surface." The site amounted to little more than an open cast excavation of about a mile in circumference and being about 150' deep. The Mine was unusual in that it included a subterranean canal running beneath the openwork during the 18th century. After being quarried, the ore was carried down onto the canal boats via a shaft in the floor of the pit. It was said that the amount of tin ground removed was in excess of one million tons, and that the adventurers had recovered tin worth over £1m.

Alaska - The Summer of '85.

One day, feeling rather bored, I asked a mate of mine, Dr. Graham Russell, if he thought I had anything to offer him as chief scientist of the British Schools Exploring Society's expedition to Alaska. He seemed to think I had.

I'd had my official 3 weeks leave ski-ing earlier in the year, so to then go and ask my boss for 4 weeks unpaid holiday seemed a bit of a long shot. Realising just what was entailed in going to Alaska with 120 young people from 17 to 19 years, was just beginning to dawn on me. Most of them could out-walk me; I did not really like camping anyway!! However, my boss seemed to think it was a good idea, gave me leave, no problem. I was now firmly committed. It was about this time that I felt that I should have been. Committed, that is.

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They call rivers creeks in Alaska, and I found myself at O'Brian Creek at 11pm, with no tent, no sleeping bag, in fact no rucksack - it was on a bus about 100 miles away. So I spent my first night trying to sleep on a plastic sheet behind a sheet of plywood supported by two oil drums, huddled up to 3 of my companions, who were in the same "boat" as myself. I did not last the night!! After only a couple of hours I started shivering, so I arose and took refuge by the fire, sharing the last bit of my birthday cake with several of the YE's (Young Explorers) who were also rather cold. I felt this was a bit of a rough start to 6 weeks in the Wilderness.

By all accounts we had a much better summer than you stuck in the UK, about 6 days rain in all.

But of Mines. My real reason for being there was to look for prospecting sites. The main area was to the North of us by about 70 miles, the Kennicott Mining Complex. It all started with the local Indians "the Atnapaskans". The local tribe is the Atna, they mined copper at the Nicolai mine, which was first seen by the white man in 1885, by Lt. H.T. Allen. However it was not until 1898 before Chief Nicolai signed over the mining rights for a cache of food. The Indians seemed to live near to starvation most of the winter. There seems to be something like 4000 Prospects in the area, of which 8 proved productive and eventually became known as Kennicott. The most productive being The Nicolai; the Bonanza; the Mother lode Mine and Jumbo.

Moving the ore out started to become a real problem by 1900, roads being non-existent. So after several false starts, a rail road, following the Copper River, eventually opened on 29th March 1911, after 6 years hard labour. The most productive year was 1916 with 120,850,000 pounds of copper being shipped, a total value of \$32,400,000 which justified the railroad cost of about \$23,000,000. The venture was short lived however, and the rail line closed 11th November, 1938.

We had a good look at the rail road - or at least 5 miles of its 195 miles. The bridges are very impressive, all bar one are of wood and look just like those in the cowboy movies. The prospecting sites were a little disappointing, the biggest being 18 metres long. Another group found what was probably the main group of prospects in the area, 5 in all, with a good number of tools, including a hand operated air pump. Due to lack of food, my group were unable to get there. I suspect that we did well to find any prospects at all.

The whole trip was a great experience and certainly I am very glad I went.

J.G. Landless.

For Sale.

From Industrail Railway Society, Mr. I. Thomas, 33 Porchester Road, Woolston, Southampton:-

British Mining Nos. 10, 18, 19, 20, 21.

From Peak District Mining Museum, Matlock Bath, Derbyshire:-

British Mining Nos. 17, 18, 20, 21.

Caving Supplies, 19 London Road, Buxton, Derbyshire also have back issues.

N.B. Dont forget that we also hold back issues, mostly after the above, which can be obtained from Mrs. H. Bird (NOT Mr. S.H. Bird, as many of you seem to think) of 41, Windsor Walk, South Anston, Sheffield S31 7EL.

Wanlockhead - slow progress.

Perhaps a re-cap on what the Wanlockhead dig is all about would not be amiss.

In 1980 we started looking for a winding engine on South Glencrief. In 1983 we found this, along with a pumping engine and a water balance engine. It took us nearly a year to fully photograph and survey these engines. In November 1984 we started digging for another - a vertical pumping engine this time - on the other side of the valley. At present we are 30' into the dig itself, and have at last found some real evidence, This level was used as a water cross-cut, as proved when we found a glazed pipe about 9" in diameter. This pipe has been roded and goes for about 52' before the rods stop.

The dig is at a very interesting stage. Up till now we have been forepoling with stationary false sets, and supporting, eventually, with traditional 3 piece sets. Now we are getting into a stope, the floor is decidedly soft!! This has necessitated the use of four piece sets; to ensure all is safe we use oak in floor and roof, stretched initially with a dowty. This exerts up to 100 ton, which hopefully settles the foot

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timber well. It's a bit scarry actually doing it, but good experience. I feel we are now coming to the end of this particular dig; the ground has changed considerably and the draughts are increasing all the time, but I think the mine has still got some tricks up its sleeve yet. What do we expect when (if) we get through - well we are 150' above the engine, so we expect a long drop in some form or another. Only time will tell.

Jerry Landless.

For Sale.

Hard-rock miners' safety hats, small brim and ribbed for strength. Lamp bracket & fully adjustable head harness. £5.75 each + 65p p&p.

Contact R.I. Gunn, 3 Corn Hill, Porthmadog, Gwynedd.

Officers elected, to serve for 1986, at the A.G.M. held on 16th February, 1986.

President	R.E. Burns, 22 West Hall Garth, South Cave, Brough, N. Humberside.	Tel. 04302 2767.
Vice President	Mrs. L. Dollery, 19 Osbourne Gardens, Harrogate, Yorks. HG1 2EE.	Tel. 0423 501109
Jnr. Vice President	M. Street, 6 Oakwood Park, Leeds LS8 2PJ.	Tel. 0532 401542
Secretary	J.H. McNeil, 166 Irlam Road, Flixton, Urmston, Manchester M31 3NB.	Tel. 061 747 8652.
Treasurer	G.B. Greenough, 22 Elmhurst Road, St. Annes-on-Sea, Lancs. FY8 3JH	Tel. 0253 723987.
Recorder	M.C. Gill, 38 Main St, Sutton in Craven, Keighley, BD20 7HD.	Tel. 0535 35588
P.R.O.	H. Houghton, 29 Parkside Road, Meanwood, Leeds LS6 4LY.	Tel 0532 758505.
Librarian	D.J. McCurdy, 111 Barn Lane, Golbourne, Warrington WA3 3PR.	Tel 0942 718192
Editor	R.H. Bird, 41 Windsor Walk, South Anston, Sheffield, S31 7EL.	Tel 0909 563229.

I won't bore you with the details of the A.G.M. and I'm sure the other Officers won't get upset if I don't mention their reports in any more detail.

The only ones, worthy of quoting, besides Geoff's explanation of how he's fiddled our Subs., as shown on the balance sheet, is the Editor's report from Dick:-

Two changes to the presentation of British Mining were carried out last year, these being the switching to art paper throughout to allow illustrations to be placed within the text and, also, the use - where volume thickness allowed - of glue binding to obviate the tape on the spine. I have had one or two favourable comments on this changeover so presume the 'silent majority' are happy with this new look.

My main comments refer to the future. We have numerous monographs in preparation. Those that have been received are of a very high standard in terms of research content and are well and interestingly written to appeal to the layman and to be of use to the 'specialist'. This, in my view, is where the strength (and sales potential) of our publications lies.

We are, after all, an amateur society "doing it for fun" as it were, and I think we can be justly proud that those writers have entrusted their work (often the result of many years research) to us for publication.

In fairness to these people, your Committee decided that every effort should be made to keep delays in publication to a minimum by issuing three volumes per year if possible. Even by doing this there is the inevitable log jam since logistics and finances just do not permit anything else.

I must, therefore, apologise to our contributors for any delays experienced. Please continue to give the Editor this headache, since this is a much more acceptable malady than starvation and, if nothing else, indicates that we are still on the right lines.

I have been informed by David Bick that the Royal Commission for Ancient Monuments in Wales have agreed to a substantial grant towards the publication of the Frongoch monograph, which the Society has been offered. The sum offered represents about $\frac{1}{3}$ of the estimated production costs. If this comes to fruition (and we should know by the end of March) then we shall be duty bound to give this work precedence as BM29. We cannot afford to turn down such a large cash injection! This is another 'shot in the arm' for our standing as a capable and respected mining history society.

Mike Gill, as our NAMHO Rep., brought the following points (which are extracts from his report,) to our attention.

There is still some confusion as to the position regarding access to mines in the Forestry Commission's Gwyder Forest at Llanrwst, so perhaps it will be helpful if I was to reiterate.

The problems first came to the Association's notice early in 1983; when members of the North Wales Caving Club and the Plas-y-Brenin Outward Bound School fell foul of the Head Forester. The problem appears to have been precipitated by the F.C. purchasing the Mineral Rights for the area, and the growing awareness of changes to the Occupier's Liability Act. The line taken was that, despite being abandoned, all mines and quarries are subject to the Mines and Quarries legislation and that no access could be allowed. In fact, this is not strictly true; the problem lies in other legislation.

Immediately the moratorium was in place, the Association made representations to the Commission, both in Wales and nationally. Having once identified the problems, it was agreed to proceed, in what has become the Association's accepted policy; that is, on the basis of conservation first, access second. As a result of this lobbying, an invitation was made to a meeting at the Commission's H.Q. in Edinburgh. This was especially important because it confirmed, with very senior officials, that there was not only a demand for access to mines, but an urgent need for conservation of sites; which could enhance tourist attractions.

Since that time, great progress has been made on the conservation side, with liaison between the Commission, Snowdonia National Park and the Association. The latter being represented by Rob Vernon; to whom all thanks will be due when matters are resolved. As discussions have progressed, other difficulties have arisen - probably the most significant being the Government's requirement that F.C. land should be sold off - this has meant the transfer of such mines as Catherine & Jane Consuls, to the E.F.G. In these cases, the process will have to be repeated; probably with a much reduced chance of success. Indeed, yesterday's (15.2.86) Guardian carried a piece which suggests that moves are now well in hand to "sell off" the entire Commission. As yet, as far as I am aware, nothing more than initial approaches have been made to the private companies but, as their "raison de etre" is radically different, I see little room for optimism.

During this long period, we have been fortunate that members have shown great responsibility and have respected the F.C.'s position by keeping away. At a recent meeting, however, it was noted that unlawful entry was still a problem, primarily at the Pen Machno area at the Rhiw Bach slate mines. As a result, the Police has instructed its officers to monitor the site.

At a meeting in December, Rob was told that "whilst F.C. Headquarters have agreed to a policy encouraging access to mines, it was still left to the Regional Conservators to implement policy." So, the latest move, dated January 28th, is a letter to the Regional Conservator for North Wales; in which the Association's interest is restated and the request for access repeated.

The bibliography of mining history articles published since 1946 is well advanced. The data bank being held in computer files at Exeter University, is currently being edited and a few additions made. On the longer term, it has been suggested that an index of the Mining Journal would be of value. Those of us who have ever worked with that magazine will realise the size of that task; it would be necessary to approach some of the mining companies for support.

During the past years, there has been an increasing interest shown, by all levels of government, in the problem of disused mine shafts. The D.O.E. has established two working parties, one to study the associated engineering problems, and the other to study the establishment of a data bank to record such holes. The Association has been invited to sit on each one, and its present representatives are Dr. Ivor Brown, Minerals Officer for the Wakefield Metro, and Dr. Roger Burt, of Exeter University, and they have already participated in a couple of meetings. Both found that the initial work was based on that undertaken by the N.C.B. following the Lofthouse Colliery inrush, and took no account of the problems associated with metal mines. They were able to change this.

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Late Renewals

Members who renew between now and the May Newsletter won't get a Membership card until then, unless they enclose S.A.E.

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Contributions for May Newsletter to:- H. Houghton, 29 Parkside Road, Meanwood, Leeds LS6 4LY. Tel 0532 758505, as soon as possible.

Northern Mine Research Society
General Account

Statement of Income and Expenditure for period 1/1/85 to 31/13/85.

INCOME

Subscriptions 1985	£1649.75
1986	1704.46
Donations: Research	350.00
Exhibit	75.00
General	22.10
Interest	66.99
Misc.	2.74
Dinner	187.50
Talk-in	37.75
Insurance (visitors)	7.50
From Book Account	679.65
	<u>4783.64</u>

Excess Expenditure over
Income.

5190.48

EXPENDITURE

Publications	2195.00
Postage on Publications	681.84
Stationery	297.40
Officers' Expenses: PRO	80.16
Secretary	34.06
Treasurer	23.64
NAMHO Insurance	149.25
Subs to other Societies	46.00
Hall Hire	21.00
Dinner	175.00
Talk-in	31.70
Research Grants	350.00
Embsay exhibit	350.00
Newsletter equipment	743.75
Audit Fee	11.48

5190.48

CASH STATEMENT

	<u>Current A/c</u>	<u>Building Soc.</u>	<u>N.S.B. Investment A/c</u>	<u>Total</u>
Opening Balance	£705.21	£2261.24	£ 0.00	£2966.45
Movement	+ 254.40	- 2261.24	1600.00	- 406.84
Closing Balance	959.61	0.00	1600.00	2559.61

Bank Balance as per Statement
at 31/12/85 1170.42
less cheques not
presented 210.81
959.61

I certify that this statement is a true and fair record of the accounts of the Society for 1985.

J. Pulford ACMA 30/1/86.

Treasurer's Remarks

The financial aspects of the Society's normal recurrent activities in 1985 are presented below. An estimate of the interest due on the Investment Account (due 1/1/86) is included as is the net expenditure on the Embsay exhibition.

<u>Income</u>		<u>Expenditure</u>	
Subscriptions	£2920.25	Publications	£2876.84
Interest: Bldg. Soc. £66.99		Stationery	297.40
est. on Inv. A/c. <u>139.51</u>	206.50	Officers' Expenses	137.86
Misc., donations etc.	25.04	NAMHO Insce. (net)	141.75
Surplus on Dinner & Talk-in	18.35	Subs, to other Societies	46.00
	<u>3170.14</u>	Hall Hire & Misc.	32.48
Loss in year	637.19	Embsay Exhibit (net)	<u>275.00</u>
	<u>3807.33</u>		<u>3807.33</u>

Cash balance at year end: £2559.61 from Audited cash balance
- 1704.46 '86 Subs.
855.15
+ 139.51 estimated interest due.
994.66

The Society acknowledges with many thanks the receipt of a grant of £350.00 from Billiton UK Ltd for research work, and a grant of £135 (£75 so far paid) towards the cost of a mining exhibit at Embsay Railway Station from the Craven District Council.

1985 is the third successive year where the financial activities were unusual; the Committee decided to use the surplus funds generated in the last two years to fund a new duplicator for the Newsletter production, and to provide a third issue of British Mining with the help of a major contribution from the Publications Account.

Publications Account

Statement of Income and Expenditure for period 1/1/85 to 31/12/85.

INCOME

Sales to Society	£2195.00
Aftersales	2770.83
Bookbinding	30.00
Building Society interest	76.14
Bank interest	144.87

5216.84

EXPENDITURE

Artwork & setting	£ 751.90
Printing	3290.00
Bookbinding	30.00
Postage	303.38
Stationery	71.53
Editor's Expenses	26.51
Aftersales Expenses	17.31
Mineral Statistics purchase	316.80
Misc.	31.02

4838.45

Income over expenditure 378.39

5216.84

CASH STATMENT

	<u>Current A/c</u>	<u>Building Soc.</u>	<u>Dep. A/c</u>	<u>Total</u>
Opening Balance	£ 609.14	£2337.61	0.00	£2946.75
Movement	+ 1377.38	- 2337.61	+ £1338.62	+ 378.39
Closing Balance		0.00	1338.62	3325.14
as per statement	1986.52			

I certify that this statement is a true and fair record of the Publications account.

J. Pulford ACMA 5/2/1986.