

The Society is pleased to record the 90th birthday of one of its Honorary Members Dr. Arthur Raistrick; who has supported the Society since its formation in 1960.

Erratum

British Mining No. 26 - Llangynog Mines.

The author has recently discovered that Plate 5 in the Monograph is not of Robert Myddelton as stated. The Courtauld Institute of Art, (from whom the photograph was obtained) have admitted that due to an error in their record system the wrong photo was supplied. The Institute has apologised for the mistake and have made changes to prevent the situation arising again.

R. Alan Williams.

Forthcoming Events.

15th February, 1987 - Annual General Meeting, Village Hall, Sicklinghall 2pm.

16th May, 1987 - General Meeting (as above) (Annual Dinner)

20/21 June Arkengarthdale

July 3/6 N.A.M.H.O. Conference, Camborne, Cornwall.

This is as good a time as any, I suppose, to make the annual appeal for Meet Leaders. John Mac has had a few offers, he needs people to lead Meets instead though.

Anyone willing to be a leader of men, then please contact little Johnnie - 166, Irlam Road, Flixton, Urmston, Manchester.

Removal of Mine Waste Tips, Cononley/Glusburn Mine.

This mine is located near Skipton, in Yorkshire, and its Main Vein is known to have been worked since the 16th but, more especially in the 18-19th. When the Society prepared its response to proposals related with moving the waste tips, it was decided to object to any work being permitted in the area of the Engine Shaft complex because of its relatively complete archaeology. This part of the mine dates from the most productive phase of mining, between 1836 and 1881, when the Duchy of Devonshire worked it. For those members not familiar with it, the complex includes the steam engine house (pumping, winding and crushing), Engine Shaft, Incline, Brigg's Level, dam and, nearby, Taylor's Shaft and the Upper Adit.

In February, the Society approached English Heritage with a request that the site be scheduled and, in September, this was duplicated by the Archaeological Department of the North Yorkshire County Council. The smelt mill chimney, a prominent local landmark, was also included in the request.

The County Council considered the matter early in October and refused permission for a number of reasons, included in which was the site's archaeological importance. As yet, however, nothing has been heard from English Heritage.

Clogau St David Mine closes

Daily Mail, Tuesday November 11th, 1986.

City investors sunk more than £1 million worth of sophisticated equipment into the Clogau St. David mine at Bontddu near Dolgellau. But it yielded only 40oz. in two years.

On Friday the ten miners will be paid off when most of the recently raised £1½ million from a share issue will be spent on prospecting at two mines in Nevada.

The company's geologist, Mr. David Pelham, said yesterday: 'A miner with low overheads and plenty of time and patience could still find gold. There is plenty left in the mine... the problem is finding it in worthwhile quantities'.

There is enough gold left for two royal wedding rings.

"People have commented that you (meaning me) haven't given a report in the last Newsletter about the N.A.M.H.O. Field Meet" !!!

Sue's reaction to my placid and reasoned reply was "You've no need to think I'm typing anything like that!"

I mean, all I was trying to say was "don't call me, contact the host Society with your complaints and ask THEM to do a write up". I may have used fewer words but it meant the same.

Then that nice John Mac sent me a report, and having mellowed with age, I relented and here it is.

N.A.M.H.O. Field Meeting 7/8th June, 1986.

This year's biennial field meeting was centred on Wensleydale and was hosted by the Earby Mine Research Group.

On the Saturday members were offered a choice of an underground trip to Buckden Gavel Mine, or a "half and half" trip with a surface walk in Arkengarthdale in the morning and an underground trip to Danby Level in the afternoon with a pub lunch in the middle, or a full days walk around the Old Gang, Surrender and Gunnerside Gill Mines. The days events have been listed in order of popularity of those who attended and it was interesting to note that the Old Gang walk consisted of one participant and 4 leaders.

Sunday's activities consisted of either a trip to see the Sir Francis Mine hydraulic engine in Swaledale or, alternatively, a walk round the Keld mines including the now restored Plate Hole Dressing Floors followed by the inevitable pub lunch, with an underground trip to Gayle Stone mines in the afternoon.

The event was well attended and there was ample opportunity to get together at the Social event at Aysgarth Youth Hostel on the Saturday evening. A slide show illustrated some of the early activities of the EMRG and was followed by Richard Matthews' "Buckden Bill" lecture about the human skeleton found in Buckden Gavel Mine in 1964. This lecture was previously seen by NMRS members at last year's Pie and Pea do at Sicklinghall, however, the talk has been refined and added to since then. The evening was capped off by an excellent audio visual presentation by Jeff Clegg showing the Yorkshire Dales above and below ground, followed by a fine buffet supper.

Many thanks to the EMRG for all the hard work put in to organising an excellent weekend. It was a pity that there weren't more NMRS members there to enjoy it.

John H. McNeil.

Greenside Lead in America.

An interesting enquiry has been received from a Mr. Mahle, in the U.S.A., who is involved with the archaeological investigation of shipwrecks dating from the blockade of Charleston S.C., by the Union Navy, during the American Civil War.

Amongst the finds have been a number of pigs of lead from the Greenside Mine, in Cumbria, which were destined for the Confederates. Because of their markings, it has been possible for John Hodgkins to locate the particular parcel (500 pigs) in the Greenside Lead Ledger and to prove that it was part of a consignment of 1000 pigs; which weighed 54 tons 18cwt, sold to Messrs Newton Keates in January 1864.

As yet, the trail ends there, without a link from the smelter to the American seabed. Mr. Mahle has supplied the names of some of the ships sunk during the blockade and efforts are now being made to trace their port of loading.

from Geology Today, Sept - Oct 1986.

The fine collection of minerals from Devon and Cornwall, put together by Richard Barstow over a long period and at risk of being split up and sold abroad ever since Barstow died in 1982, has now been saved for Britain through the efforts of Plymouth City Museum. By arrangement with Barstow's widow, the museum had until 24 April to raise the £70,000 needed, but by the previous day had only managed to collect £28,500, some from individual donations (about £3000) and the rest from various organisations. On 23 April the Plymouth City Council's Finance Committee voted unanimously to provide the balance of £41,500, enabling the museum to purchase the collection in the face of a last-minute competitive offer from a consortium. The collection will be curated and then put on display in the spring of 1987.

Further to George French's comments in the last Newsletter The Friends of Killhope present another facet to the controversy.

"I regret George French didn't check his facts before writing to you about Killhope. I feel obliged to put the record straight, as he does less than justice to all those involved.

1. The Killhope Lead Mining Centre is being developed by Durham County Council. The 5 members of the staff whose job is to interpret the site for the public and school parties are employed by the County Council. The phrase "cheap and chatty employment palliatives" denigrates the enthusiastic commitment of the staff to Killhope.

2. Reconstruction and consolidation are being done by Community Task Force, an MSC agency, under the direction of Durham County Council. The standard of work achieved is, by and large, extremely high.

3. Sponsorship of the project, particularly by Blue Circle, Weardale's biggest employer, means free cement, limestone fill and other help. In other words more restoration than would otherwise be possible.

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4. The 'Friends of Killhope' is a voluntary organisation whose aims are to help Durham County Council with restoration at Killhope and to foster an interest in the North Pennines ore field. 'Friends' hold meetings, issue a quarterly newsletter, and help with research and on-site restoration.

5. Killhope is, of course, not the only remaining North Pennines dressing floor. It is though the only dressing floor in the county to have been meticulously excavated and recorded in its entirety by a professional archaeologist. Further archaeological work will precede restoration of the washing floor to working condition.

6. Every member of NMRS familiar with the North Pennines can make his own lengthy list of favourite buildings and mine sites lost through decay, vandalism or demolition over the last few years. Those of us involved at Killhope know that the alternative to what we are doing - saving the site for the future - would have been gradual decay of the whole site. Look at Nenthead! In the real world, where real choices have to be made, Durham County Council deserve all the credit for what they're doing.

Ian Forbes."

The note below may be of some value for inclusion in the Newsletter - should any members be looking at lead smelting performances.

With a translation of Messrs Coste and Perdonnet's work on "Smelting Lead Ores in Reverberatory Furnaces" now available, I should like to correct the confusion (p25) about the weights used at the Grassington Smelt Mill, Yorkshire. These gentlemen correctly give the weight of each charge of concentrates as being 18 cwt, but are wrong in their assertion that these were of 123lbs each. They were actually of the standard 112 lbs each. The pig lead, however, was produced in pieces to the "ton" (2460 lbs). The origins of this "Grassington smelt mill weight" are unknown, but they are most certainly a hangover from the early 18th. From the evidence available, it appears that the two weights were rationalised in 1850, (in favour of the 112 lb hundredweight) when there was the requisite jump of nearly 10% in produce.

M.C. Gill.

Meet Report - 6/7th September, 1986.

Whitaside - Saturday.

Eleven members gathered at the roadside near the mine on a sunny day spoilt by a biting cold wind. We walked up to the entrance shaft where the meet leaders lamp decided to blow afuse, which was repaired by the more electrically minded members who come prepared with Swiss Army knives, spare bulbs etc. "Let that be an object lesson to you all" was his excuse, "Proper maintainance of your lamp is important and spares should always be carried" was mumbled by a blushing and suitably humbled leader.

The party descended and explored this very interesting level with the Virgin Flats providing much of interest including clogs and good samples of Witherite, although the final chamber with lots of hanging death did cause one or two grey hairs.

The Greenhow Mining Group ensemble did experience a very rare underground phenomenon when the phantom lattice pork pie pincher deprived one of this hardy band of explorers of his high (or low) tea.

On returning to the surface we walked over to the two smaller levels to the north. The top level contains an interesting side level about 3' high which demonstrates the mine masons art to a very high degree. The lower level is of massive proportions and also contains some fine arching.

We walked back to the cars, changed and over sandwiches the usual after-trip socialising was made even more pleasant when our Presidents' limousine developed battery trouble. This caused much amusement, needless to say the lady was not amused, and after their car was started the meet soon concluded, prompted by the freezing wind!

Gunnerside Gill - Sunday.

After an unusual committee meeting held on Gunnerside car park, and a false start by our map-clutching Treasurer, leading an alternate surface walk, the party proceeded up the Gill, where we once again had to enlighten the walking party as to the right route (perhaps there was too much brandy passed round at the meeting, or the talk of high finance had inebriated those who attended).

The party of 8, (who were going underground) changed into wet suits and laddered the air shaft, admiring the Society's new ladders, ropes etc., as each descended into the level, and, accompanied by suitable oohs and aahs, experienced the watery delights of Sir Francis Level up to the engine chamber. Here, there was the usual scurry to photograph everything in sight before the place was filled with vapour clouds, and then prompted by the cold the party explored the newly opened extension beyond the engine chamber. This is an interesting length of new ground, which contains much of interest,

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including two large sheaf wheels, a large cog wheel, a nice hopper and some delightfully coloured hydro-zincite formations.

We then returned back along the level and up to the surface, where it was nice to change into dry clothes in sunshine. After walking back to the village, the meet finished about 5.30pm.

My thanks to all who attended the Meets and I hope you enjoyed them as much as I did.
Les Tyson.

Pibble Lead Mine, near Creetown, Dumfries and Galloway. 6/9/86.

The NMRS (then the Northern Cavern & Mine Research Society) published a note in 1968 to the effect that Pibble Mine has "a very fine winding house of the Cornish type".

Wrong on two counts!

First, the house was for a pumping engine, as evinced by the surviving balance pit, not a whim; and

Second, it is no longer a fine house, as the bob wall and front part of the wing walls have collapsed down the shaft!

It is assumed that this has happened due to natural causes, since the 1968 visit was made, rather than by explosive, and is partly explained by the exposed situation on a west-facing hillside, and the fact that there are no tie-rods in the engine house walls. Only the rear half of the house is left standing.

Single cylinder bedstone is in place with hold-down bolt holes at 28-inch centres (3 out of 4 located by excavation). In line with it, at about floor level on the north side, is the opening for the steam pipe and condensate return. By measuring from this to the estimated position of the bob-wall, and from this to the intersection point between engine centreline and balance pit centreline, it appears that the engine had 7 ft equal strokes. Incidentally, finding the intersection point is not easy, as the balance bob makes an angle in plan of about 100 degrees with engine centreline.

Other pertinent dimensions include: bob-wall thickness - 5'3" (measured across full-width displaced portion of wall containing the eduction opening); cylinder doorway - 4' 3" measured at the springing point of the masonry arch (the sides of the opening must have been damaged when the engine was taken out); boilerhouse (on north side) - 42' long by 15' 2" wide inside. The stack has gone, but it was separate from the house and on the wrong side for the boiler-house, probably due to difficulty in finding a firm foundation in the peaty ground. The underground flue is still traceable from the back SE corner of the boiler house and runs parallel with the rear wall of the house. One or two stack bricks lie around.

Construction of the house is of local stone with substantial granite quoins on an alternating pattern. The window edges are similarly designed, with arches.

Shaft collar has collapsed and it is full of water, with large lumps of masonry from the house, which act as stepping stones across! Top portion of south wing wall has landed on opposite side from the shaft, on the dump. The balance pit is not set in the ground, but has remains of a wall around, 10' 4" long internally. Bob itself worked in a narrow slot which suggests it was of timber (with King post and bridles). A few of the engine's cistern bolts survive in the shaft area. Length of the balance bob from pump-rod to centre of balance pit is about 31' 3"; much longer than the engine's bob, which would have been about 23' 4" nosepin-to-nosepin.

So we seem to have a Cornish-built engine, probably secondhand to Scotland, with a 28-30" cylinder and 7' strokes in and out, and, possibly, two Cornish boilers.

Other features include remains of a whim track to the north, mentioned by NMRS, (presumably refers to part of a flat-topped circular mound close to the shaft dump) which is probably the capstan plat. A fine reservoir a short distance away to the south still contains water and is presumably kept fed by local streams. Ground in the area is very soggy. Higher up the hillsides are more dumps which, Mr Stephenson in Creetown says, are adit workings.

There is a fine 60' wheelpit ruin with remains of crusher house about 300yds to the west and at a lower level. A second shaft is nearby.

K.M.Brown.

(Kenneth Brown, of the Trevithick Society, sent this with a request for anyone with 'old' photographs of the site to contact him please - send them via me.H.H.)

Rockbottom

No! this is nothing to do with the gyrating posterior of a pop fan, nor has it any connotations with the Editor's bank balance (well! not many) but it is the title of a new journal I was privileged to receive for comment. It announces itself as "A U.K. Journal for the Mining and Mineral Enthusiast" and its birth - after a seemingly fraught gestation period - is in order to fill the gap left by the demise of 'Mineral Realm' two years ago. Much time has been spent agreeing an ideal content mix, of which Minerals,

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Mining History, Micros, and photography (of minerals) are all essential elements, although it is not intended that this new publication should cut across other established ones. The editorial team are all NMRS members anyway!!

In its 59 pages (single sided A4) there are no less than 22 different articles, many illustrated with maps and drawings of commendable quality and some with half tones, which are also well presented. Although too long to list here, one might mention the following contributions to indicate the wide range of material: Red Gill Mine; John Ruskin; Diseases of Special Occupations; London Mineral Show; For your Bookshelf (3Ms 26 & 29 get special mention); Hoover & De Re Metallica; It Rains Turquoise in Cripple Creek etc. etc. In another section, headed New Books on Mining, no less than 13 pages are devoted to the publications of De Archaeologishe Pers, which seems a 'bit over the top', to say the least.

The editorial tells us that the print run is 2-300 copies and all monies received from the sale of each issue is to be ploughed back into future volumes - in other words a non-profit making organisation.

At a subscription rate of £3.50 each, post paid, this is good value for money and it is to be hoped this scheme meets with the success it deserves.

Copies can be obtained from:- Mrs. J. Spence, 3 Oak Tree Drive, Bawtry, Doncaster Yorks DN10 6LD. It is expected to produce 3 issues per year.

Dick Bird.

Buckden Gavel Meet Report 27th September, 1986.

Rather a poor attendance for this Meet.

Ten enthusiasts - five adults, four youngsters and a dog - made the 900' ascent of Buckden Gill up to the mine entrance on a warm overcast day.

Two of the fitter members of the party arrived before the rest of us and entered the mine and explored the side passages off Flank Level. Two others stayed at the entrance, while the remaining five and dog proceeded up the short wet part of Flank level, passing No 1 North Level.

We turned left into Wisemans West level North/ at this stage our two early starters caught up with us. Having passed Boudens cross cut we turned right into the Old Mans cross cut, which is rather lower than the main passage and entails hands and knees crawling in part of it. We made our way along this passage to a sump which is crossed by a very springy iron rail and a wooden plank.

At this stage two members of the party and the dog had to retire from the mine, the remaining five continuing across the sump and reaching the end of Old Mans cross cut. We then climbed down 15' into the Main Pipe which was the main haulage route from the far reaches of the mine. All the iron rails are still in place in this part of the mine.

Turning north along Main Pipe and passing Smelters cross cut, we came to the collapse marked on the NMRS Survey which has been dug out by the Earby Mine Group. Getting through this entailed a flat out crawl of about 6', which was negotiated by pulling oneself through on a wooden board whilst trying to avoid the water and keep dry.

We all passed this obstacle and proceeded along the main passage to a walled sump in which the water was a blue colour. This soon muddied as we progressed along the level.

Next there was a complete wooden water tank set into the wall and lead water pipes on the floor. We also passed under quite a few rises going into the high level passages, with the wooden stemples still in place. From here the mine alters, from being one main passage into a maze, with one passage having 19th century graffiti on the wall and a broken drill in one of the shot holes.

After collecting some good ore samples and photographing various items, including a pair of old clogs, we made our way back to the Old Mans cross cut. Two of the party continued along the main level and managed to find a way through the collapse into Sunter North level. The remaining three of us climbed back up into Old Mans cross cut and made our way out. We left the mine at 3.15pm after about 3½ hours underground, the other two members being about 10 minutes behind us.

A most enjoyable trip by all who made it.

Malcolm R. Needham.

The Caradon & Phoenix Mining Area.

This Monograph has been re-printed privately by the author, Roy Shambrook. Anyone wanting a copy can contact him at 29, Fairlawn Grove, Chiswick, London W4 5EJ. or Tel. 01 995 7354. (Sorry no price quoted).

Annual Dinner Report - 4th October, 1986.

Following suggestions that the Annual Dinner should be held further South than in recent years, the venue for this year was the Bull's Head Hotel, Castleton, Derbyshire. Thirty members and friends attended, some of whom were very welcome newcomers to the Dinner.

After a most satisfying meal, we were treated to some excellent entertainment from our guest speaker, Mr. Harry Parker. Harry is probably best known amongst mining enthusiasts for his many superb photographs of mining scenes (both surface and underground) which have appeared in numerous books and specialist publications, but during the evening we were to discover what an eventful life he has lead. He bombarded us with hilarious anecdotes on topics as diverse as his Army career and life as a press photographer (some were even on the subject of mining).

When the laughter had subsided, the Society Awards for 1986 were announced. As there were no nominations for the Founders' Cup, it was not awarded this year. Les Tyson was awarded the President's Piton for leading a number of well attended and expertly led field meets, but the presentation was held over as Les was not present.

At this point a few members with guilt written all over their faces, having remembered embarrassing boo-boos committed during the year, hurriedly departed to the bar to fill their empty glasses, in the hope that they would not be nominated for the notorious Golden Chicken award in their absence. However, potential recipients cannot escape that easily. When Paul Dollery returned evidence was submitted about how he tried to persuade the President and Secretary to follow him crawling along a metal pipe during the Surry Stone Mines Meet. Fortunately the invitation was declined, as it was then discovered that the pipe was a storm drain for the nearby M25 motorway. Despite a few other tales of other goofs, the jury had no hesitation in deciding that Paul's was the greatest act of ineptitude and the Chicken was duly presented to him.

The remainder of the evening was spent drinking and socialising, a most enjoyable time having been had by all present.

Bob Burns.

Review - The Strike at Leadhills Mines, 1836

in The Local Historian. Journal of the British Association for Local History.

Vol 17, No. 2, May 1986. pp 101-106.

Bill Harvey's paper has entered a field of lead mining's Socio-economic history which has hitherto been largely ignored by academics and denied by those romantics who have written on the subject. Both have actively sought to project an image of the metal miner as 'a good solid conservative fellow', castrated of all self-interest, and most unlike his captious brothers in the coal pits.

The growing reservoir of truth, to which Harvey's paper adds, shows that, when the men were faced with the demands of management, no matter how paternalistic, they were not merely compliant automatons; as they have, so often, been condescendingly depicted. As with strikes amongst lead miners elsewhere there is no indication that the men were infused with the radical views of the age, nor were they inculcated by external agitators. Moreover, the Leadhills "Union" shared the common factor of being a temporary vehicle of solidarity for the expression of united reaction to a specific stimulus.

Taking the foregoing model, Harvey notes the absence of contemporary references to the strike's origins but it is regrettable that he has not made more of the general response of bargain rates to the slump of lead prices in the early 1830's. He does offer one example of a bad bargain but, if we accept that the men were not volatile, we must be seeing a response to a more fundamental grievance. Was it, perhaps, that the Scots Mines Company was suppressing bargain rates, during the recovery of metal prices, to enhance its own profitability? As Hastings notes, in his paper on strikes in the Teesdale mines, "the miners did not share in the good fortune to the same extent that they shared in the bad".

There is still much to be added to the story of this aspect of metal mining history and it is to be hoped that Harvey will soon produce a more comprehensive paper on the 1836 and other disputes.

* R.P. Hastings.

Mike Gill.

Strikes without a Union: Labour relations in the Teesdale Lead Mines 1872-1892.
Bulletin Durham County Local History Society, 1981, pp40-58.

Coniston Copper Mines.

The following report should, hopefully, answer most of the queries which we receive from time to time about this area.....

At recent NAMHO meetings, the matter of Coniston Copper Mines has been raised and at the June meeting a representation, on behalf of the site's owner; Mr. P. Johnston,

was placed before the Council by the representative of the Lakeland Mines & Quarries Trust. This move was felt to be desirable on the grounds of equity.

This report of events, which is intended to be impartial, is based on reports by the following: NORPEX, Cumbria Amenity Trust, NAMHO Correspondence with the Lake District Special Planning Board (LDSPB), the local press and that by Mr. Johnston. It may be especially useful for those members not familiar with Coniston.

In the early 1970's, a Senior member of C.A.T., with a strong interest in the Coniston mine, petitioned the D.C.E. to schedule the site as an Ancient Monument. A site meeting was held, in March 1972, which agreed that the site should be scheduled; but that, owing to heavy commitments elsewhere, it would be some-way down the department's priorities. Amongst others, this meeting was attended by an Inspector, a prominent local historian and the C.A.T. member. There matters rested (save a number of reminders) until pressure on the D.O.E. was increased (prompted by the perceived threat to the site by Johnston's proposals) which led to the site being listed as an Ancient Monument in July 1985.

In November 1982, Mr Johnston purchased the freehold interest in the land and buildings on the mine from its then owners, the Rydal Estate of the LeFlemming family. Following this, Johnston claims to have discussed with the LDSPB his plans for the site; for which he felt he was being given verbal support. The Coniston Parish Council supported his plans openly. These plans entailed repairing and converting several of the buildings to provide a centre for residential education. Apparently on the basis of this supposed support, Johnston then immediately converted the existing Powder House into a residential site office. His plan was then officially placed before the LDSPB, in February 1983, and was for "rebuilding and restoration of disused buildings to form Residential Study Centre and construction of 1500 gallon septic tank". By the time of that application, however, it was found that Johnston had already constructed the septic tank and, in so doing, had disturbed part of the site. Work had also commenced on the construction of a four bedroomed timber bungalow. The LDSPB held that these works were illegal and served an enforcement order on Johnston to stop work. On May 6th, the Board met and refused the application on the following grounds.

"The proposed centre, located in an open and remote valley head, would constitute a substantial impairment to the amenities and character of the locality by reason of the buildings proposed, the activity likely to be generated and the increased traffic movements associated therewith. It is the Board's policy to severely restrict development in such locations except for the purpose of meeting an essential need.

The establishment of the proposed study centre would conflict with the conservation and interpretation of a proposed ancient monument.

Insufficient information has been provided about the methods and programme of working to ensure that the archaeological value of the site is not damaged,"

In September 1983, an application to display information boards at the Foreman's Hut was approved. Also, in that month, Johnston employed a team from the University of Lancaster to undertake an archaeological survey of the site.

Johnston decided to appeal against the decision of the LDSPB and to contest the enforcement order; which was done in May 1984. The appeal was lost, one of the reasons being the Inspector's view that the site should remain undisturbed until it had been designated, and subject to statutory controls. Johnston then submitted another Outline Application; which was also refused. An objection was lodged and, early in June 1985, the Inspector found in Johnston's favour by quashing the enforcement order. On the 16th June 1985 the, by now complete, bungalow was gutted by fire; there were claims of arson, but no prosecution has yet been made (it is understood that, in Oct. 1986, a suspect has been questioned by the Police). The bungalow was subsequently rebuilt in stone and a circular window cut into the gable wall of the powder house; all apparently without planning permission.

In January 1986, a series of detailed plans were submitted for the conversion of the Saw Mill, Carpenters' Shop and adjacent store to form what was described as an "up-market residential field study centre". Others included the full renovation of the foreman's hut for the display of information boards and the change of use of the (illegally erected) stone bungalow to residential accommodation for the staff of the study centre. In March, the position was that the LDSPB had: deferred the first application, granted the second and refused to consider the third; on the basis that it was not prepared to consider an application for "change of use" of a building for which planning permission was required but had never been granted. This latter decision was also, no doubt, to leave the LDSPB's options open, should it appeal against the

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Inspector's decision of June 1985.

Johnston's next step was to apply for Scheduled Monument Consent to allow him to undertake work on the site. This was for "Emergency preventative maintenance work" on eight major features of the site, including the buildings. The restoration of external detail on the Foreman's Hut and internal conversion to allow for its use as a public information point. Restoration of the external features of the buildings known as the Saw Mill, Carpenters' Shop and Copper Store and their conversion to a residential field study centre. The excavation of service trenches associated with the conversion of the above buildings. It is not known if the Secretary of State, through the English Heritage, has granted such consent.

It was the Association's view that the various matters concerning planning consent were the province of local groups and the LDSPB; especially as they apparently raised questions about its central plans. In respect of the site's status as an Ancient Monument, however, it was agreed that this was not a local matter and should be represented nationally. It was recognised that the Copper treatment site was unique and cautious treatment was imperative. It was felt that because the excavations at the Hope Level Dressing Floor, at Killhope, had discovered great quantities of decaying timber structures, it would be inappropriate for permission to be granted for this monument to be disturbed until the Durham County Council's Archaeological Report was available and had been studied. It was also felt that, like Killhope, all excavation should be done under the supervision of a competent archaeologist. Johnston's own view of the Coniston site confirms its importance "Coppermines Valley contains a unique collection of the remains of a water powered copper industry from mining to ore processing dating from the 16th to the early 20th. The layout of the various works, adits, and structures are largely undisturbed and have been considered so important in the National context that they have now been included in the schedule of ancient monuments". It was agreed that these views should be transmitted to the English Heritage.

M.C.Gill. 9/10/86.

Pie & Pea Supper Report. 8th November, 1986.

The General Meeting preceeding the Talk-in at one stage discussed whether or not we could muster any good speakers to give talks before the Annual Dinner. Going by the high standard of the talks given during the rest of the afternoon and evening then we shouldn't have any problem at all.

John Jones started us off with a talk on Wakebridge Mine, Crich, Derbyshire, and Carsington Pastures, Brassington, Derbyshire. Both of which are proposed as field meetings in September, 1987.

Geoff (this is my last slide) Greenough stayed in Derbyshire to give us a geology experience with many endings. ".... My last slide is of ..." "Oh" - Well this is the last.""Hope this is". "Phew! at last!"

From Derbyshire we went to Grassington Moor, where Mike Gill exploded a few myths, and gave us a further insight into the working practices that have come to light of late.

Anyone planning on giving a family history talk should take a few hints from Dr. R.M. Henry, who made a very entertaining talk out of a potentially very dull subject. Many know of Westgarth Forster Jr., the author of "A Treatise of a section of the Strats....". He never married but he was only the most notable of a large family in mining for 6 generations. Early connections are far from clear but there was a possible link with Sir Thomas Forster M.P., who rose in the 1715 rebellion, was captured at Preston, taken in chains to Newgate from where he escaped. Their neighbour, the Earl of Derwentwater paid with his life!

The Harz mountains in Germany provided the subject for Dick Bird. This region provided Agricola with his inspiration, which must have rubbed off on Dick as a fellow author. Why wasn't De Re Metallica littered with those funny signs like everywhere else?

I suppose Turkey was the next natural spot really, and John Virgoe chose Borate Mining as his subject. He concentrated on the Bigadiz area of Turkey, mainly in the period 1970-73. At that time the mines were privately owned and labour intensive. They have since been nationalised.

Lancashire is classed as foreign parts to a Yorkshire man. Never the less Alan Sinars slides and anecdotes about the Haydock Collieries of the late 19th and early 20th C had immense interest to the industrial historian. Especially if he also likes trains.

Back to Gods own County for a talk about the Castleford Sand Mines by John Hodgkins. John has researched this area now for about 15 years, and still continues to find miles of unknown and unexplored workings. One gets the impression that entry is usually

cont'd.....

gained when a house falls into the workings and so provides an access point.

I would like to thank all those who provided the entertainment and made the 'do' a success.

I wonder if any speakers at these do's would like to put pen to paper and do a write-up about their subject for inclusion in future Newsletters?

Harry Houghton.

Subs.

You've had the good news, now here's the bad.

Your Subs for next year are now due. Because so many members have covenanted their Subs and prudent management by the Committee, we can afford to keep them to the same level as last year. Anyone who doesn't already do so should give further thought to covenanting their Subs too. By so doing, you are, in effect, giving an extra 40p in the £, at no extra cost to yourself. It's the taxman who has to cough-up. I can't understand the need to go out mugging old ladies when it's as easy as this to make money. It's legal too!

To make the whole process as painless as possible, we've herewith included a renewal form with all the current rates and categories shown for your enlightenment.

A receipt/Membership card will not be issued until the February Newsletter (to save on manpower and expence) unless you enclose a S.A.E.

All contributions for February Newsletter to H. Houghton, 29 Parkside Road, Meanwood, Leeds LS6 4LY. Tel (0532) 758505.

A Happy Christmas and New Year to all our readers.

Please detach form and return duly completed.

Northern Mine Research Society

Membership Renewal Form 1987.

Name	Subscription Enclosed (tick category)	
Address.....	Full (individuals)	£9.00
.....	Associate (Libraries, Institutions, Organisations)	£12.00
.....	Overseas	£11.00
Tel.	(those using a non-U.K. bank add 80p).	
	Family	£ 0.75
	(being a member of a Family in which there is one FULL member of the Society. Please note the fee is 75p for each family member). Please state name of each	

For insurance purposes, please give name & date of birth if any member is under 16 years.
.....

IMPORTANT

IF you do not already do so, are you prepared to Covenant your Sub. Yes / No.

If yes, a form will be forwarded to you for completion.

Are you prepared to assist with queries of a specialised nature?

If so, please indicate subjects

Do you wish this information to be restricted to NMRS? Yes / No (delete as applicable).

Please complete and return with subscription to the Treasurer:-

G.B. Greenough, 22 Elmhurst Road, St. Annes on Sea, Lancs. FY8 3JH.

All cheques/PO to be made payable to NMRS.

Do not overlook nomination form on reverse.

Election of Society Officers for 1987.

A.G.M. to be held at Sicklinghall on Sunday 15th February, 1987.

<u>Position</u>	<u>Candidate</u>	<u>Proposer</u>	<u>Seconder</u>
President			
Vice-President			
Junior Vice President			
Secretary			
Treasurer			
Recorder			
PRO			
Librarian			
Editor			