

Northern Mine Research Society

Newsletter September 1987

Hands up all those who attended the Meet in Swaledale in July.

The prize of a free holiday, plus car plus $\frac{1}{2}$ ton of breakfast cereal packet tops that was up for grabs for the first person who spotted the meet leader, has been forfeited, due to no winning ticket being drawn.

To be precise, Les didn't turn up.

(It makes a change for someone else to have to apologise in this spot - so here follows Les's excuse. If nowt else the lad knows how to grovel!!)

"Whilst arranging dates for 1987 meets, I said to John Mac, "pick a nice dry weekend and we'll have a meet to Surrender Mines." "July should be nice and dry." So comes the Friday before and it starts to rain, no worries, then it just rains and rains and rains! and never stops all day, Saturday & Sunday. "No one will turn up in this little lot," thinks Les and trots off to dig at Alderley Edge.

However, it seems that the unfortunate Les reckoned without the water repelling enthusiastic members of NMRS, several of whom turned up at the correct time and place.

So here goes; to those members who turned up, I offer my sincere apologies and hope this does not put you off any future Meets.

Les Tyson."

Like all good tales this story has a moral. Read and take note of the small print on your Meets card and the not so small print in past Newsletters. Phone the Meet leader to see if its still on.

What's On:-

19 Sept (Sat). Wakebridge Mine, Derbyshire. Leader J.A. Jones & R. Paulson.
Meet at Wakebridge N.R.R. SK339556 at 10.30am.

20 Sept (Sun). Carsington Pasture, Derbys. Leaders J.A. Jones & R. Paulson.
Meet at N.G.R. SK251547 at 10.30am.
Tel. 050 97 2125 & 062 984 775 respectively.

14 Nov (Sat). General Meeting, followed by Presidents "Talk-in" and Pie & Pea Supper, Sicklinghall Village Hall 2pm. - see booking form.

16 Jan '88. Lecture "Castleford Sand Mines" by John Hodgkins at Yorkshire Archaeological Society, 'Claremont', 23 Clarendon Road, Leeds LS2 at 11am. (Tea/Coffee at 10.30am.)

For Sale

Mineral Stats - Cornwall: £12 + £2 pp.

If you want a copy, then hurry up and send an order to Hilary before the last few go. Send money & order to Mrs. H. Bird, Publications Aftersales, 41 Windsor Walk, South Anston, Sheffield S31 7EL. All cheques/PO to be made payable to NMRS.

Lord Nelson's Level: Grassington New Pasture

On the north side of the Folds valley, a short distance east of the large opencast, which marks its intersection with the Frankland Folds Vein, there is the portal of Lord Nelson's Level. Mining in this part of the New Pasture dates from, at least, the early years of the 18thC but, as its name suggests, Lord Nelson's Level was driven between 1801 and 1808.

Historically, it has been relegated to a position which does not reflect its desired potential and the fact that its failure was to prove the nemesis of lead mining at Grassington. The identity of the adventurers responsible for it remain to be proved but, on the basis of known events, it is possible to deduce that the Duchy of Devonshire was the most likely instigator,

The reasons for making that assertion are woven into the following sketch of events during the preceding 30 years. Formal leases had been introduced in 1775 and as these came up for renewal, from 1796 onwards, many mines were forfeited. Although this inevitably led to a decline in output, this was part of a deliberate policy of regulation, aimed at imposing new covenants onto the lessees, to take advantage of the prosperity expected to arise from the drainage provided by the Duke's Level, when it reached the mines. It is in this depressed period that there is some evidence that the

Duchy took a direct interest in working some mines, for example Chatsworth on the Out Moor.

The potential importance of Lord Nelson Level was that it would crosscut many of the principal Out Moor veins as they ranged westwards and, likewise, those worked at the Stool Mine which ranged north-east across Burrows Pasture. Moreover, they would be cut at a moderate stratigraphical depth from the top of the limestone, where it was expected that new ore bodies would be found. It was the failure of this and subsequent deep trials to prove any such bonanza which proved a considerable factor in the eventual closure of the mines in 1882.

The first known record of Lord Nelson's Level is in the smelting returns for 1808, when some 13.95 tons of pig lead were obtained from it. The following year, saw a further 24.55 tons but, thereafter, only very small parcels were smelted, amounting to 5.43 tons between 1810 and 1817. The produce of those parcels was often so low (5%) as to suggest that they were being raised from the wastes and the gleanings in the stopes.

There is no further record of mining there until the late autumn of 1838, when the outwork ledger records a bargain, made with John Rodwell & ptrs, to clear out the level. The absence of further bargains, or smelting returns, suggests that little work was done then. Indeed, comparison of an undated plan (mid 1820's) with estimates of the length, made in a recent exploration report (N.M.R.S. Newsletter May 1987), tend to confirm that conclusion.

The Mining Record Office plan shews the level as a straight crosscut, with no workings, but the above report also indicates that three veins have been intersected. Two of which have been worked. The first, which is undoubtedly Sword and Pistol Veins, appears to have been the source of much of the lead. The second vein, which is described as a natural rift, coincides with the line of New Ripon Vein or one of its siblings. The third vein is more problematical but it may be Burnt Ling which has taken a slightly more southerly random, although surface indications tend to discount that. It also appears that the Piper Plet Flatting was never worked from the level.

The only other level driven from the Folds was John Ripley's Crosscut, which is about 150 metres upstream from Frankland Folds Vein. This was driven south to the Grove Sty Veins and is of uncertain date, but is provisionally placed in the mid 18th C, when mining in this area flourished. During the rest of the 19thC well capitalised mining concentrated upon the Out Moor and Yarnbury whilst the New Pasture Veins remained the province of the small, probably poor, partnerships of self employed miners and waste dressers.

SOURCES - Society Records and May 1987 Newsletter.

Lead Mining Heritage of the North Pennines

There is considerable interest at present in the lead mining remains of the North Pennines orefield. The increasing loss and damage to buildings, structures and artefacts is the cause of much concern and a new initiative to conserve, restore and interpret sites appropriately is greatly needed. An agreed strategy is highly desirable as this would enable a consistent approach to be taken towards individual proposals, resources to be directed appropriately and grant aid to be more easily achieved.

As there is no single body that can effectively achieve this, Cumbria, Durham and Northumberland County Councils have jointly prepared a discussion document to begin the process of developing a strategy. It is readily recognised that there is a considerable body of knowledge and opinion to be sought and reconciled.

The main parts of this report are re-produced here for members comments.

If you've any observations then let John Mac know as soon as possible, but before end of September. His address:- J.H. McNeil, 166 Irlam Road, Flixton, Urmston, Manchester. M31 3NB.

"..... Lead mining is an important part of our heritage; a potentially important tourist attraction and a valuable educational resource. With the exception of the development of the Killhope Wheel Lead Mining Centre, very little has been achieved and decisions are needed on the best way to save and exploit the potential.

This report has been prepared in an attempt to set out a strategy for the consolidation, restoration, public access and interpretation of these fast-disappearing buildings and artefacts. It is intended to stimulate discussion, bring about agreement on what should be done and, most important of all, enable action to be taken. The recommendations are fully in accordance with the approved Structure Plans of the three Counties and with the principles of the designation of the North Pennines as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. The proposed strategy also has the support of the Countryside Commission. It is intended that the strategy be used in determining the value and priority for projects.

The outline strategy set out here is needed if the diverse opportunities and problems in tackling such a large project are to be fully understood and exploited. The strategy's main aims are:-

- 1) to determine the extent of and need for conservation of lead mining sites and the priorities for such work;
- 2) to provide a basis for restoring and interpreting sites.
- 3) the help to provide a tourism attraction, a resource of educational importance and a source of interest and pride for local people;
- 4) to assist with the development and diversification of the local economy.

Two kinds of proposals are needed. The first relates to the need to identify the main aspects of the areas history which should be conserved: the second indicates ways in which this can be achieved. The sites identified in the first group are not intended to form a definitive list; they are simply an attempt to identify some of the most important sites. A more authoritative list will only be achieved after full consultation has taken place, and, in many instances, after further research on sites has been completed. Action will depend on available resources. By working within the strategy it will however be possible for varying activities by different agencies to be complimentary and to a common end.

The pattern of small irregular fields enclosed by stone walls with scattered farm buildings on open hillsides is a characteristic landscape created by the miner/farmer which persists to this day. There are a number of good examples of such landscapes that could benefit from sensible conservation measures. This would not mean that such areas would remain unchanged but simply that grants and advice could be made available to conserve their characteristic appearance. There are also areas where concentrations of lead mining remains exist. These areas would also benefit from similar conservation work. Six areas have been identified for the reason that each could form a focus of interest for the public and ultimately to be linked by a lead mining trail. Their identification will also assist in determining priorities for allocating resources. The lead mining landscapes would then become secondary features (after the main sites) in which restoration, building of car parks, improvement of footpaths and provision of interpretation would allow enjoyment of lead mining relics in an open landscape. In addition, a well-maintained landscape would be an attraction in its own right.

Proposal 1: Typical areas of lead mining landscape should be identified and conserved. Grants and advice should be available to conserve the buildings, walls and the small scale field pattern. Priority should be given to lead mining landscapes of particular importance, examples of which might be:-

- 1) Allenheads/Killhope/Nenthead triangle.
- 2) Derwent Mining Field.
- 3) Hudeshope Valley.
- 4) Middlehope Valley.
- 5) East Allen
- 6) West Allen.

Centuries of population growth resulted in the highest population density at the highest altitudes in the United Kingdom. The many small towns and villages populated by miners, smelters and mine officials contained buildings typical of the orefield settlements including schools, churches, chapels, meeting houses, Sunday schools, institutes, libraries, reading rooms, public houses, football and cricket fields, mine offices and workshops and stores. Many of these buildings still exist although their uses have often changed and the vigour of those bustling times has largely disappeared.

The most important sites are indisputably at Killhope, Nenthead and Allenheads. Between them they all exhibit all the major processes of mining, ore crushing and separation (dressing) and smelting. This triangle of sites is in the heart of the ore-field and separated by very few miles with excellent access from main roads. The substantial remains require a major and continuing effort of consolidation, restoration, providing public access, and creating interpretation and other facilities for the enjoyment of considerable numbers of visitors. These sites should be the main priorities for restoration by local authorities (as opposed to consolidation of remains) as there is unlikely to be sufficient finance to extend such investment to other sites. Also it is vital that they do not compete with each other to offer artificial interpretations of facilities which can be seen in the natural state at one of the others. They should complement each other and therefore require very close collaboration at both the planning and implementation stages. The main work required at each site is outlined over:-

Killhope: Killhope will be a main focus of activity for some years yet. The restoration of the wheel, reservoirs and water races, the construction of a visitor centre, the possible opening of the mine and the re-creation of examples of lead mining processes within the adjacent woodland will complete the development of the site. Further archaeological work will be needed to reveal the full history of the site.

Nenthead: This is an area of great potential on which work has begun. The village itself was established in the early 19thC as a 'model' village. Following initial measures to protect remaining buildings from further deterioration, Cumbria County Council is now negotiating to purchase the site including the Scheduled Ancient Monument and is currently preparing a short and longer term work to commence in 1987. This includes land reclamation, archaeological investigations, conservation and the provision of visitor facilities. Initially on a relatively small scale, a phased expansion of the scheme will be carried out as knowledge of the site increases and resources permit.

Allenheads: The mine and surviving buildings at Allenheads could prove a natural focus and have a particularly fine series of house teams. The village itself is a product of the lead mining industry. In addition the levels, washing floor, peat house, rail incline and use of hydraulic engines could all deserve restoration and/or interpretation. The remains of the smelt mill and flues are in open countryside and there are many attractive walks along the valley. The restoration of the carriers route as a footpath between Killhope and Allenheads may also be a possibility. The Allenheads Village Trust is being formed to develop initiatives to encourage tourism and revive activity in the village. Among proposals put forward is a scheme to convert the old inn to provide a heritage centre with a strong lead mining theme.

Proposal 3: Killhope, Nenthead and Allenheads should be the focus of major consolidation, restoration, interpretation and provision for the public.

In addition to the above sites there are many important remains where consolidation (as opposed to restoration) would be appropriate. Some sites are suited to the provision of direct public access or interpretation from roadside locations. The provision of safe car parking will be necessary and sites will need to avoid undue maintenance problems. The priorities for carrying out such work will reflect the urgency of saving the remains, their relative importance and the practicality of carrying out work. This will be decided following consultation on this document.

Proposal 4: Consolidation of Lead mining remains should be undertaken to prevent further loss and damage. The following list includes leadmining landscapes and individual sites where such work might be appropriate.

	<u>Landscape Area</u>	<u>Site</u>
Cumbria	Allenheads/Killhope/ Nenthead triangle	Capelcleugh; Rampgill; Smallcleugh; Chimney & Flue south of Nenthead/ Killhope Road.
	Individual sites	Low Rotherhope Fell; Nentsberry Haggs; Whitesike
Co. Durham	Derwent Mining Field	Jeffries Smelt Mill; Ramshaw (including chimneys); Sikehead
	Hudeshope Valley	Coldberry; Lodgesike; Marlbeck
	Middlehope Valley	Low Slitt; Middlehope Sniel
	Individual sites	Ashgill Head; Baltsburn; Brandonwalls; Copley Chimney; Greenlaws; Groverake; Lodgegill; Low Manorgill; Stanhopeburn.
Northumberland	Derwent Mining Field	Shildon Engine House
	East Allen	Langley Smelt Mill; Stublick Chimney; Allen Smeltmill/Allendale chimneys.
	West Allen	Barneycraig & Scraithnle
	Individual sites	Mohopehead

To implement the strategy will require a considerable effort of co-ordination and co-operation and commitment by the organisations involved. It is hoped that the consultations on this document will lead to the pooling of knowledge and agreement on most of the priorities. It is clear that the County Councils are in the best position to

prepare the strategy and to seek grant aid as a basis for a realistic programme of work. There is also considerable private interest in lead mining remains. In addition to private initiatives, there are also individuals and mine exploration groups who have knowledge and expertise to offer whose efforts must be allowed to flourish within the strategy. It will be necessary to find ways of harmonising such resources in helping to exploit the heritage.

Proposal 5: In consultation with other interested parties the three County Councils should identify a programme of work to implement the strategy.

There is a great need for research to be carried out on many aspects of lead mining. Such research would have a considerable influence on the priorities for expenditure on developing, consolidating and interpreting the sites. Discussions will be required to establish the directions of such research and how it should be financed and organised.

Proposal 6: The County Councils with other interested parties should promote research into the lead mining history of the area and the value of individual sites.

Proposal 7: An interpretive, tourist promotion and education resource plan should be produced by the three County Councils.

An immediate priority will be to set up a small team to carry out consolidation and safety work on a number of sites. Such work should not require excessive resources if attached to one of the existing agencies already active in the North Pennines. It will, however, be necessary for sufficient research to have been carried out in order for a brief to be available before work commences.

Proposal 8: Urgent consolidation and safety work should be carried out on a number of sites as resources permit.

A number of sites now have little or no interest except that they once existed. Of those, some remain as scars on the landscape, others are either out of sight or have been softened by decades of revegetation. The more obvious cases of unpleasant dereliction should be reclaimed although under current derelict land criteria they would be unlikely to receive a high priority without an element of commercial after-use. However, as part of a total lead mining heritage strategy, it might be possible to attract grant for some of those sites as, indeed, has already been offered at Nenthead. In addition, the opportunity should be taken to carry out associated environmental improvement works, particularly at Nenthead where initial proposals are already being drawn up.

Proposal 9: Sites which require reclamation and environmental improvement should be identified and proposals considered.

In the first instance action will concentrate on the 'major lead mining sites' at Killhope, Nenthead and Allenheads. Experience from these developments, their effect on visitors and the local economy, will help decisions on further appropriate action. Work on the 'major sites' will be complemented by a programme including consolidation, improved access, interpretation, safety works and environmental improvements. The local authorities will be able to promote such a programme as their funds allow.

Proposal 10: Finance for the proposals should be sought from a range of possible sources.

Book Reviews.

1. Tin in Antiquity. R.D. Penhallurick, The Institute of Metals, 271pp; 138 figs; 29 maps; ISBN 0 904357 81 2. £29.95.

With the fate of the Cornish tin mining and associated industries very much in the balance, due primarily to market imbalances rather than geological exhaustion, this book is the first comprehensive account of the prehistory of the tin industry. The book also includes chapters on early copper working in Europe in relation to its use in the alloy bronze.

The author is both well placed, being the Assistant Curator at the Royal Institution of Cornwall's County Museum and well qualified, having graduated in geology and archaeology to have embarked on this ambitious book.

The author's stated main objective is to describe the occurrences of tin in Africa, Asia and Europe. The introduction gives a very brief account of the geological and mineralogical occurrence of tin. By far the largest part of the book concerns the Cornish tin industry although the reader will find little space devoted to the smelting of tin. There is a very extensive bibliography.

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Being the destructive extraction industry it is mining leaves little trace of its earliest beginnings. The location of prehistoric and later sites is often mere speculation, for example the myth and romance which still flourishes and surrounds Phoenician involvement in the Cornish tin industry is convincingly laid to rest by the author.

Up to the 17thC most of Cornwall's tin output was from tin streams. The author devotes considerable attention to this aspect of the industry, including the occurrence, formation of the 'tin grounds', the methods employed to exploit the tin and detailing the considerable and surprising wealth of prehistoric finds from the widespread tin streaming activities. The presence of placer gold is believed by the author to have acted as a considerable stimulus to the tin streamers to concentrate their efforts on gold rich deposits although the presence of gold was never a major or prime motive objective of the tin streamers. It is perhaps on the Cornish alluvial tin deposits and the wealth of archaeological finds from the tin streams which makes the book such absorbing reading.

There is a vast and seemingly ever increasing literature concerning the mining and associated industries of Cornwall and Devon and the author has made full use of this legacy to provide a lucid account and fascinating insight into the early history of the tin industry. There are one or two mistakes; one, the misspelling of 'Alderley Edge' in Cheshire, is unfortunate as it leaves slight misgivings as to the correct rendering of the more obscure world-wide localities and despite the otherwise excellent and copious illustrations it is infuriating not to be able to locate the primary source of one particular illustration.

In conclusion although primarily of interest to archaeologists and historians, for the geologist interested in the pre and early history of the tin industry the author has saved much searching among the often obscure and scattered literature on the subject. It is to be hoped that similar works on other metals may be forthcoming.

P.J.Challis.

As yet unseen, but of potential interest are two further titles of Cornish mining interest:-

2. Cornish Mining Heritage. R.K.Johns, Special Publication No. 6. The Dept of Mines and Energy, South Australia. 50pp; 54 plates.

The book is described as "a neat 50 page history of Cornish mining, ... an attractive synthesis of geology, mining history and industrial archaeology, all supported with a very full picture illustration..... the map of mines and mineralisation in Cornwall, is the clearest seen anywhere". Produced seemingly to mark the Cornish influence during the formative years of the Colony of South Australia now that they are celebrating their 150th Anniversary, slate and china clay working is also dealt with.

3. Classic Minerals of Cornwall & Devon. P.J.Embrey & R.F.Symes. British Museum (NH), 120pp; approx 80 colour plates & 30 figs; approx £8, was due for publication a few months ago but publication is now said to be imminent.

The book will be prefaced by an introduction to Cornish mining, including maps & diagrams and recent and contemporary photographs. The mineral photographs have been chosen for their aesthetic quality whilst the captions will describe the crystallographic features and give information on extraction and exploitation.

This sounds like a must for just about everyone's bookshelves.

P.J.Challis.

The following information is taken from advertising material, so can't really be classed as Book Reviews as such:-

From Michael Moon, 41,42 & 43 Roper Street, Whitehaven, Cumbria.

Elizabethan Keswick, Extracts from the Original Accounts Books, 1564-1577 of the German Miners, in the archives of Augsburg, by W.G.Collingwood, Kendal 1912.

This book which was only printed once in 1912 has been virtually unobtainable for a quarter of a century. The 227 page translation makes fascinating reading, as the accounts retell, in minute detail, the everyday comings and goings of the German miners working in Keswick in the 16th C. The book is illustrated and has two very useful indices, one of places and another of people. This latter index will be of great benefit to those researching their family trees, who have reached the stage of needing material earlier than that to be found in parish registers.

The price for a clothbound jacketed reprint copy is likely to be in the region of £16-20. If you would like to indicate your interest in the project, we would be pleased to record your name and keep you informed if we go ahead.

Elizabethan Copper by M.B. Donald (1955) A history of the Mines Royal 1568-1605. The book deals with the lawsuit between the Earl of Northumberland and Queen

Elizabeth I over his right to mine at Goldscope Copper mine near Keswick, and also about the mining activities of the German miners at that period in the area.

This book is also expected to be published in mid-September, at a cost of £25. 400pp well illustrated, many references.

The Alum Farm by Robert Bell Turton.

This book tells the fascinating story of the first chemical industry. In it, Major Turton chronicles the origin, development and eventual decline of the Alum Trade in north-east Yorkshire.

Surprisingly, this is not a new book. It was printed and published in Whitby 49 years ago, in 1938. What you see here are some of the original sheets, rescued from a Whitby warehouse and bound up for the first time, together with an attractive dust jacket. The edition is limited to the sheet stock we have found - some 400 copies. £16 + £1 p & p.

Postlethwaites Mines & Mining in the English Lake District.

This is without doubt one of the most sought after books on the Lake District. Known affectionately as "Postlethwaite", it has had a long and distinguished career. Those who are interested in the geology and industrial archaeology of the area and others who would like to give an added interest to their walks in Lakeland, will find this an invaluable book. Three editions were published between 1877 and 1913, since when it has been out of print. The third edition, from which this book has been reprinted, is by far the most important, since it contains much of the material on Lakeland Geology which had previously been published separately. We are indebted to E.H. Shackleton F.G.S., one of Cumbria's most respected Geologists, for his elucidatory biographical sketch of the author. £15 + £1 p & p.

Another Reprinter:-

Mining Facsimiles, 41 Windsor Walk, South Anston, Sheffield S31 7EL has the following books on offer:-

Special Reports of the Mineral Resources of Great Britain

Vol. XV. Arsenic & Antimony Ores by H. Dewey et al. 1920
combined with

Vol. XXI. Lead, Silver-Lead and Zinc Ores of Cornwall, Devon & Somerset by H. Dewey. 1921.

This combined volume contains 131pp; 5 plates; 16 text figs and will be the last reprint in this series. Approx. £14.50 + p & p.

Britain's Metal Mines; a complete guide to their Laws, Usages, localities & statistics. by J.R. Pike 1871.

This little book ran into six or more editions between 1860 & 1871. Chapters deal with: Mining as an investment; geological and mineralogical characteristics; mines of Cornwall and Devon; Mines of England, Wales, Scotland and Ireland; system of raising, dressing and selling ores; the Stannary Court; cost book system and share market. (We are also adding a brief note on the author and a few contemporary illustrations.)

Approx £7.00

Did You Know?

i) Geevor is in its last stages - just stoping out the ore that has already been blocked out.

ii) Hemerdon has the biggest proven reserves of tungsten in Europe, but because it is a sheeted vein structure, like Cligga Head, it would have to be open-cast. Plans are in abeyance and the results of the Public Enquiry are "with the Minister".

iii) Ball clay - a type of China clay - is mined at Bovey Tracey at depths of a few hundred feet. A type of pillar and stall working, but the pillars squash flatt after a month or two.

iv) The extraction of heat at the geo-thermal experimental site in Cornwall is not as easy as you would think - not all the cold water they pump down comes up the hot water pipe; it obviously leaks away into fissures in the granite.

Meet Report - Arkengarthdale June 20/21. - Les Tyson.

As if to atone for the sackcloth & ashes bit at the beginning of this Newsletter, Les has sent this report:-

Saturday. Fourteen members gathered at the C.B. Inn, Arkengarthdale on a dry but overcast day. We drove up to Windegg and walked up the shooting road to Windegg Scar and scrambled up the Hush where an excellent panorama of the Dale allows a good view of

the Mouldside Mines on the opposite side of the valley. we then walked down to the Braz Pump Floats area then back above Sleil Gill to view the North Rake and Tanner Rake Hushes which suitably impressed all with their size. A walk back over the shafts on the Blackside Vein brought us back to the cars for lunch.

We then changed into underground gear and walked along to Windegg Level where the ease of access via the plastic pipe lulled us all into a false sense of confidence as to the means of exit. The various passages were explored and as the only veins seen consisted of clay it is difficult to believe this mine ever produced any ore. When the party returned to the entrance pipe then the fun began. The pipe set at near vertical, approx 3' diameter and 7' high coated in mud was ascended successfully by the first two members, but then the rot set in with the leader and several others being hoisted unceremoniously out by their arms, much to the delight of our beloved Secretary who has the wierdest sence of humour for miles around.

A visit was then made to the Stang Mine dressing floors much thrown about by the thunderstorm and consequent flood caused by a burst dam last August Bank Holiday. The party then walked on to the Show Level and after walking in the large sized level with a sream flowing vigourously underfoot we tried to strike a match about 100' inbye without success, so a hasty retreat was called for. The meet finished about 5 o'clock. A walk up the Old Gang mines on a pleasant sunny evening concluded the days activities.

Sunday. The same number of members gathered once more at the C.B. Inn and despite pleas by the leader to stay and watch the Beamish Vintage Car & Bike Rally, the party drove in convoy up to Fothergill where we changed into underground gear on a dry, but once again, overcast day.

The first point of interest was the remains of a wooden buddle uncovered by the thunderstorm mentioned previously, which was wellphotographed, it being the only example left in the Dales. We then walked round the tips and proceeded to explore the old No. 2 level. Although a lengthy level with one or two very interesting and promising rises, it has the distinction of being one of the mudiest mines in the area, with clinging, smelly knee deep mud guaranteed to bring a sweat to the forehead of even the fittest. After emerging most people agreed that watching the car rally was not such a bad idea after all. Coated in this foul-smelling stuff the party walked over to Sloat Hole where the narrow and now extremely difficult entrance deterred all but one brave chap from Rossendale who was coaxed down and on reporting the passage to be silted up to about 18" from the roof, huge sighs of relief allowed us all to seal up the entrance again with a clear conscience.

A hasty retreat was made down the tramway to eat our delayed lunch.

The party then drove over to the other side of the valley and a trip down Danby Level to view the underground Horse Whim chamber etc. brought an excellent meet to its conclusion. The only sour note being as to the most effective method of cleaning off the mornings mud which was by now smelling more akin to a sewage farm or a septic tank!!

Thanks to all who came and I hope they enjoyed both days as much as I did.

Les Tyson.

You'll have to imagine the black border around this next bit.

Somerset Mines Research Group.

This, sadly, is no more, with the Groups disbandonment on the moving of the Chairman. The records and library have been placed under the care of Dr. R. Burt, Dept. of Economic & Social History at the University of Exeter where they can be inspected by appointment.

If anyone wishes to purchase copies of the Group's Journals, these are available from Woodspring Museum, Burlington Street, Weston-super-Mare. Vol 1 No. 1,2,3 & Vol 2 No. 1 costing £1 each + 50p P & p & Vol 1 No 3 costing £2.80 plus 50p p & p. Please make cheques payable to Woodspring District Council.

Andy Bowman.

Subscriptions & Membership cards

It may reduce irritation all round if the general system of issueing membership cards was explained to new members (and old members reminded).

We operate at minimum costs and, in particular, try to reduce postage costs. Membership cards, which are a formal receipt for your subs. and give most of the coming year's programme, are sent with the next issue of the Newsletter following receipt of your sub. Newsletters are issued in February, May, September and Novemebr, the November issue includes the reminder about next year's sub. Thus, if your sub.

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reaches the Treasurer by the date it is due (1st Jan) your card will be in the February posting. In practice, subs. coming in during most of January will probably catch the bus. But if you miss that, and do not send an s.a.e., it will be late May before your card arrives. Nominally, names are removed from the membership list for non-payment of subs. on April 1st., but again some 3 weeks grace is given. After this, the committee has to endorse re-instatement of the member.

It would greatly help Geoff Greenough, who keeps the records of those paying, Mike Gill, who prepares the address labels, and Sue Houghton, who sends out Newsletters and reminders, if everyone could pay promptly. Apart from a few cases involving covenants, the membership no. on your card shows how many paid before you did; 1987 was a bad year, by January 1st. only 125 had paid, with another 95 early enough to catch the Feb. posting. 237 have come in since then!

The bright spot has been the number of additional covenants that have been made - thank you.

Geoff Greenough.

Help!

Hydraulic Pressure Engine, Combe Martin Mine.

In 1846 the Combe Martin and North Devon Mining Co. installed a 7" hydraulic pressure engine in Vivian's Shaft. Used to pump below the 87 fathom level, it was only in operation for 2 years as the mine closed in 1848.

I should be interested to hear from anyone who could supply more details, perhaps knowing of a manufacturer supplying such an engine. Offered for sale at auction along with the other plant, a 50" pumping engine (from William's Shaft) and a 14" double acting whim (from Maxwell's Shaft), in June 1848, having failed to sell at an earlier date, it was probably bought for use at another mine.

Information on this or any of the plant from this mine would be most welcome.

I should also be interested to hear from anyone having knowledge of lead workings in the manor of Thornton in Lonsdale in 1443 or at any subsequent date. In that year the mines, and two thirds of the manor, were granted to a John Cla(u)ghton; "he rendering therefrom to the king's officers there 10 measures (modios) every tenth year, as is customary in 'Le Peke'." (Cal. Fine Rolls, Vol.XVII).

So writes Peter F. Claughton of Blaenpant Morfil, Rosebush, Clynderwen, Dyfed, SA66 7RE. If you have any information on these items how about sharing it with the rest of us via the Newsletter? Ed.

Recruit-a-member scheme.

Showing a total commitment to their own personal recruiting campaign, Mary & Roy Starkey are now a family of 3.

The newcomer is probably a girl 'cos its being named as Carol Anne. She weighed in at 5lb 14 $\frac{1}{2}$ oz and her membership will be backdated to 2 Sept. Congratulations to all 3.

Now that the Starkeys have shown how easy it is - fingers out (?) and do your bit.

Society Project

Whilst on holiday we saw a poster advertising a lead mining display being held in a village hall not too far away from where we were camping.

In the village hall at Carsphairn, Kirkcudbrightshire, we found a very interesting display relating to the Woodhead Mine. It transpired that this was the work of two of the villagers which had started in a small way and, like Topsy, grew & grew. They had done a great deal of research into the social background of the Miners, an aspect often ignored by others, as well as accumulating plans and documents of the mine, smelt mill and associated workings.

As well as the exhibition, conducted tours were being run to show interested parties round the nearby mine site. This is quite a compact set-up, comprising smelt mill, miners cottages, Manager's house, school & library together with dressing floors, shafts, wheel pits and other unidentified remains. It appears that the mineral owner had very advanced ideas and was very benevolent with regards to the welfare of the miners and their families, compared to most other places at that time. A sort of Scottish version of the London Lead Co, though in miniature.

In view of all the potential of this site, we discussed the possibility of the Society giving a hand with the interpreting, exploratory excavation and recording of these remains.

cont'.....

By coincidence, when we arrived back at the village hall, Geoff Downs-Rose from Wanlockhead was availing himself of free tea & biscuits, as becomes any famous personality, and as it turned out was thinking on the same lines as us (The idea being triggered by the sight of a Society poster I'd left).

Now to the nub of the article.

Have we any members interested in taking part in a project to help out with the ground work. I don't anticipate having it all done at one go, but can't say how long it will take to finish.

We will need people to dig, survey, draw, explore a couple of shafts etc. If we do participate I hope to arrange camping on the site for, say, Easter/Spring Bank Hols for starters. If you're interested please contact me as soon as possible 'cos there are lots of arrangements to be made. - H. Houghton (address as at bottom of page).

Pie & Pea Talk-in

Sat 14th Nov at Sicklinghall village hall.

Starts as soon as we finish the General Meeting.

For the uninitiated this do is open to anyone who completes a booking form and/or sends me the brass. Members do their own thing; stage displays, show photos, maps, plans and owt else they wish. Supporting all this is an extravaganza of pictorial wonderment, interspersed with numerous cups of tea and that gastronomic delight - a pie & pea supper.

So that the lanternist doesn't fell rebuffed it would be appreciated if some of you will volunteer to bring some slides to show, as well as the other exhibits.

Also please bring dish & spoon otherwise your hands & fingers get a bit messy holding your mushy peas!!

You will find the booking form elsewhere in this Newsletter, so let me have it a.s.a.p. with full cash. Ta! - HH (again address as at bottom of page).

When I received an entry form for the Deiniolen 10k Fun Run starting & finishing at Ysgol Gwaun Gyfni, I thought "someone's pulling my wotsit!" I mean, I can't even pronounce this, never mind run it. Upon glancing at the reverse the light dawned. It was all part of a Celtic economy drive, perporting to be all the latest news from the land of Singers & Bards. If you've never had correspondence from Eric Gray-Thomas, you've never lived. I want go as far as to say its like having an orgasm, its more of an editors nightmare. "Where to start and with wot?" I ask myself.

i) The Caernarfon Herald of Aug 14th, 1987 carried an article about Clogau Gold mine hoping to be a tourist trap next summer. Plans are afoot to open it as a show mine, letting the punters pan & drill for gold. The Snowdonia National Park Planning Dept. aren't over-keen on the idea. "Bontddu is a sensitive area in terms of its environmental quality, and there is a presumption against mining in national park areas".

An uphill struggle seems certain to obtain planning permission.

ii) Sygun Copper mine has won the British Tourist Assn's top award. In 1986 it had 40,000 visitors.

iii) D.Bick has published a new book on Sygun. Price £1.50 but no other details given.

iv) I've had a look at Bwlch-y-LLd (Prince Edward Mine) says Eric. (At Trawsfynydd).

"The Adit has been gated & wire mesh fencing put up all round the top of adit. Also the incline higher up has been fenced & gated. I went down the incline (over the gate) 20 feet down the incline has been blown up - pity. I've no idea who is responsible for blowing up the incline and the gating.

v) Gwynfynydd is working again."

Well that's about it this time around folks. Please keep sending in your articles/snippets, after all no contributions no newsletter, and we wouldn't want that now would we? So, just to remind you -

All contributions to :- Harry Houghton, 29 Parkside Road, Meanwood, Leeds LS6 4LY (tel. (0532 758505) as soon as possible for the next edition due in November.