

NORTHERN MINE RESEARCH SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER



NOVEMBER 1992

FUTURE MEETS

Sat 7th Nov General Meeting. Sicklinghall Village Hall, NGR SE364484, at 2.00pm. to be followed by President's "Talk-In" and Pies and Peas, slides etc.

27th March 1993 The Society Annual General Meeting and Annual Dinner. This will be held at the Miners Arms, Greenhow, N.Yorkshire. The AGM will be held at 4.00pm. and the Dinner will be 7.30pm for 8.00pm. Further details and a Dinner booking form will be included in the February 1993 Newsletter. For any members wanting advance information, they can contact Malcolm Street on 0422 839749.

SOCIETY BUSINESS

John H. McNeil. Society President.

It is with great regret that the Society informs members of the death of its President, John McNeil, at the age of 39.

John was one of the long-standing members of the Committee who helped to bring stability to the Society at a time of rapid growth. He joined in 1971/2 and was Secretary from 1978 to 1990, as well as being President in 1979/80 and again from 1990. Typically, he set a very high standard in this time. He always had a clear idea of the Society's business and how it should be conducted and, in his quiet way, was instrumental in many advantageous reforms. He was a very active member who attended most of the Society's functions. John was also a superb ambassador for the Society, and his membership of and contact with other mining history societies forged many important links.

His other interests included the study of spiders, geology, industrial archaeology, transport and stationary steam engines, photography and fell-walking. He spent much time in the Nenthead area and had an ambition to climb all the Monroes. Having come into mining history from a caving background, he was also involved with the Cave Rescue Organisation. He graduated from UMIST with a degree in Electrical Engineering and went on to work for the GEC group of companies in Manchester.

On the lighter side, John was well known for his appalling jokes and his love of cheese. The latter earned him the nickname "Mousemeat", but unfortunately a kidney problem eventually meant that he had to cut down on his consumption of his favourite food.

Quite apart from his work for the Society, John was caring and helpful at a personal level and he will be deeply missed by all his many friends and acquaintances. His funeral service on August 24th at St.Luke's Church, Brierfield, Lancashire, was attended by over 250 people and was followed by cremation at Burnley Crematorium. In place of flowers, donations were collected for the CRO and for Kidney Research.

Mike Gill and Hazel Martell.

Vacancies on the Committee

Attached to this Newsletter is a Nomination Form for the Committee for 1993 and this year there are without doubt going to be changes. This is because as you have just read John McNeil will not be with us, added to which the Publications Editor, Dick Bird is resigning after giving 16 years of first class service to the Society. In thanking Dick we should not forget Hilary Bird who has done such a lot of work in handling and promoting the Society's Aftersales which is such a vital source of revenue. Just to pile on the agony, I also will be resigning after 3 years of Newsletter production - I have just got too many other commitments at the moment.

So here is an ideal opportunity for some fresh blood to come forward and re-energise the Committee and prepare it for the fast approaching 21st century!!

If you are interested in any of the above mentioned posts on the Committee please contact the Society Secretary, Malcolm Street, who will be only too pleased to give you details of what is involved.

Malcolm's address is:- 7 Salisbury Street, Sowerby Bridge, W.Yorks. HX6 1EE
Tel:- 0422 839749.

***** SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR 1993 *****

A MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM is attached to this Newsletter. The subscriptions this year are being held at last years level which makes it even better value than before to be a member. It does help if members can renew their subscriptions promptly and send them in before January 1st 1993.

Please complete the subscription form at the back of this Newsletter and send it off today before you forget.

MEET LEADERS FOR 1993

As usual at this time of the year, meet leaders are urgently required for the next years meets programme. Please contact Malcolm Street the Hon.Sec. as soon as possible on 0422 839749.

Please come forward and offer to lead a meet and let Malcolm know before the end of November'92 so that it can be included on the meets card.

MEET REPORTS

NAMHO Field Meet - June 1992

The Shropshire Caving and Mining Club hosted this highly successful event, which was attended by 90 people. This time, however, the Meet was not restricted to field activities, and for the first time, a series of seminars and workshops was also held. Saturday's social evening had a folk group and a very hot chilli!

The workshops were on Single Rope Techniques, Surveying, and Video Recording (an area in which the host club has considerable experience). The seminars were about the problems faced in preserving a range of sites, including nineteenth century engine houses, colliery buildings and twentieth century remains at Geevor tin mine. Sunday took on a local focus, when representatives from the County Council and Freeman Fox and Partners told the seminar group about proposals for treating the Snailbeach site. This was followed by lively, but good natured, debate in which many good points were made. For example, about the correctness of pouring tax payers money into clearing up such sites; possible migration of fill material into lower workings; the need to protect the dressing floor area under the White Heap and the disruption of ventilation by filling shafts.

Thanks to the SCMC for putting together such an attractive package. The weekend was a great success.

M.C.Gill

Cleveland Field Meet - July 1992

The Cleveland Field Meet 1992 produced three members arriving at the appointed time and place. However the leader had taken the precaution of inviting two non-members as well, so we started by looking at the buildings remaining of Boulby ironstone mine. Two significant buildings here have collapsed through sheer exhaustion within the past couple of years but the former office building survives as an artist's studio. Near the cliff edge the foundations remain of "Tin City", the cottages built to accommodate the workforce needed when the mine opened in 1903, then subsequently removed after closure in 1934. Even nearer the cliff edge it was possible to see the tipping cradle where shale was dumped out of an opening in the cliff face onto the beach below. Still nearer the cliff edge, in fact by following the first part of a rope assisted path down the cliff we were able to see where mining of the Cleveland Main Seam from Boulby had broken out of the cliff face and is now marked by a line of projecting wooden props together with the occasional length of rail.

Boulby Alum Works was eventually reached where huge quarries remain from the works which were in production from 1672 until 1871. In the quarries it is possible to make out from where the soft grey shale was dug before being heaped into clamps and then roasted over several months. The burnt material was then shovelled into large stone tanks to be immersed in water before the resulting liquor was run into a trough to the Alum House for processing about half a mile to the south-east. Remains of the stone tanks and the trough can be traced, particularly where they show along the encroaching cliff edge.

A significant part of the Alum House remains converted to residential use. Buried beneath the back garden is the vertical shaft down which loads of the finished crystals were lowered to the seashore for shipment. In recent years the tunnel at the base of this shaft was exposed by erosion but has now been buried again.

With time to spare in the afternoon we visited Grinkle ironstone mine, abandoned in 1934 and now largely destroyed. Tipping is active on the site in a small way from the adjacent potash mine. The main drift is still accessible if it can be

found but the air inside was thick so we did not venture far.

Sunday's meeting place was Margrove Heritage Centre for the four of us that turned up. A pleasant walk through the surrounding valley enabled a view of the sites of Aysdalegate, Slapewath, Spa, Spawood, South Skelton, Boosbeck and Stanghow mines. Another early finish allowed time for a visit to the Tom Leonard Mining Museum at Skinningrove which this year has opened a new display. This reconstruction of an underground working face has received good comment from an important source, mainly those men that worked in the Cleveland mines including the Overman who had the job of closing Skinningrove Mine in 1958.

Simon Chapman.

Nenthead 8th & 9th August 1992

Fourteen members plus the meet leader set off from the Nenthead car park on a dull and drizzly morning and headed for the Rampgill level just around the corner. We had a quick look at Brewery shaft and then travelled on the main horse level along the Scaleburn vein, up the steps and had a good look around the flats and the Rampgill Cross Vein. We then returned to the High Fairhill Cross Vein and made our way to "Whiskey Bottle Corner", where we then proceeded along the Rampgill Vein workings to the Low Whimsey Engine Shaft. This is still a very impressive sight with water tumbling down to be drained away by the Nentforce level. This shaft marks the furthest point of penetration of the Nentforce Level.

After lunch we explored the Hanging Shaw East End flats taking in an excellent example of a ventilating fan which is in remarkably good condition. We then made our way out via Hangingshaw Level and re-emerged to day, which was just as bad as when we had gone underground.

Sunday was another rather poor day for weather and the numbers had decreased to seven plus leader. We spent the morning exploring the Blackburn Level at Rotherhope Fell mine and took lunch in the large brick-lined and remarkably dry engine chamber some 4,200 ft from the level portal. This is where the level meets the main vein having passed the Victoria Vein at 2,900 feet from portal. Plenty of photographs of the cages, which are in situ in the underground shaft, were taken and some limited exploration of the workings was done. Unfortunately it is not possible to proceed further due to the ruinous state of the vein workings.

We then made our way out and walked up to Victoria Level, taking in the interesting leat which fed the reservoir with water direct from the Victoria level. The water in the level was deemed too deep on the day, so we had a quick look and then went back down to the river looking at the extensive earlier dressing floors which served the level.

Thanks to all those who attended and helped to make both days enjoyable for all concerned.

Damian McCurdy.

LETTERS

Plans of Abandoned Mines

There must be plenty of researchers out there who remember the better days in the '70s, when plans of metal mines were held at Millbank House in London. The staff were helpful and copies could be had for a reasonable fee.

In theory the current situation should be an improvement with plans

distributed by the last Mining Record Office, at Bootle, to County Record Offices. That distribution has unfortunately been a shambles, with a number of plans going missing. Added to that, few record offices have the facilities for copying large format plans, and the microfiche/transparencies supplied with the plans cannot be used on machines currently in use at the record offices. The Devon Record Office has had all their plans copied onto microfiche of the correct size, allowing some photocopies to be made.

Dyfed Archive Service received a number of plans of mines from outside their county area, and I believe they have now been handed over to the correct offices; but one plan for Pembrokeshire is still missing. If anyone has come across a small plan, 18" x 10¹/₂" with a small location map attached, titled Greenhill Ochre (6859), please contact me, or Dyfed Archives at the Castle, Haverfordwest.

Peter F Claughton

Bales and Smelt Mills Conference:- Low Row, May 15-17th

The principal aim of this conference held by the Historical Metallurgy Society, was to assess our knowledge of all aspects of the early lead smelting industry in Britain. Apart from some historical detail, and that mainly for bole smelting in Derbyshire, the answer was plainly very little. That lack of knowledge was clearly seen in attempts to force the evidence from Derbyshire, itself based on scant investigation, to fit whatever appears to be an atypical Yorkshire bale. Lawrence Barker's survey of bales in Swaledale and Arkengarthdale (published by this Society in BM 8, 1978) remains the foremost piece of fieldwork on the subject, and it has also produced the only carbon 14 date for a bale site (1464 AD +/- 25 years)

The principal conclusion of the conference was that much more work should be done on bales and earlier or alternative smelting sites, but the writer was not alone in his disappointment that the early modern and more recent periods were dismissed. There is much more work to be done on smelt mills, which have only really been examined in Yorkshire and Scotland. There was also some reticence about the early need for a precise chronology, through C14 dating, because of the desirability for getting samples of charcoal out of known contexts. Does that mean we are only going to get dates from the two or three bales which are excavated? If so, that's of little use to those of us to whom the precise working and layout of a bale is important but nonetheless of secondary interest to the wider concept of interpreting the lead industry.

Nevertheless, the conference was very useful and the speakers dealt with a broad range of topics and, if it stimulates the promised level of research, there is room for optimism that progress will be made. For example, the University of Bradford has begun a non-destructive survey of the Grinton smeltings, using a magnetometer. With the aid of information from this and other surveys, it is intended to design the criteria for excavating a selected sample of bales. There are also projects looking at areas of woodland, to detect signs of management such as copising for fuel supply, and the flora associated with smelting sites, as an aid to their detection. The Historical Metallurgy Society is to publish the conference papers in its Journal.

M.C.Gill

Old Engine Shaft - Coniston Coppermines

During the first few months of 1991 the NMRS made a grant of £50 to the Cumbria Amenity Trust Mining History Society to assist their restoration project in

the Old Engine Shaft winding and pumping gear at Coniston Coppermine. The interim report that follows was sent to the Society Secretary in July 1991, who unfortunately mis-filed it. It has now come to light, so here it is.

The shaft was sunk about 1850 to provide both pumping and winding below the Deep Level. The head gear is 350 feet above Deep Level at the top of an 8 foot square rock shaft with a wooden partition. One side was used for winding, and the other carries the ladders and the pump rods. Power was provided by a 100 HP. water wheel of 45 feet diameter, and the leat, the wheel pit and the stone pillars which carried the launder are still intact. The head of the shaft is underground, and the original 1850 headgear and winding wheel are still in place, as are some 200 feet of the 6 inch square timber pump rods which now hang in the shaft, suspended from a catchwing some 40 feet below the bob plat.

A major supporting beam some 10 inches square and ten feet long has dropped out from the head gear, so that the seven foot diameter sheave winding wheel had partially collapsed to lean against the side of the shaft. The first job was to fix ropes to gain safe access to the wheel, below which is a 310 foot drop down to Deep Level. When we examined the structure, the remaining timbers were found to be complete and in reasonable condition, and the original iron pins driven into the rock, which were used to hoist the wheel into position, were still in place. Before disturbing anything the wheel was secured to these pins with steel rope to make it safe. The next stage was to obtain a replacement for the missing support which had been some 10 inches square by 113 inches long. This was made by laminating three 10 inches by 3 inches timbers. The wheel was then winched upright and the new timbers located in the old rock niches. Whilst this was being done one of the bearers for the wheel gave out alarming cracking sounds, for it had been located beneath a small drip from the roof, and had rotted down to a third of its original girth. A fifth visit was made to support this beam by inserting a prop from a large stemple a few feet beneath it. The conservation of the headgear is now complete, and we will inspect it again in a few weeks when it has settled, and if all is well we shall then remove the working ropes, leaving a single wire strop fixing the wheel to the roof as a safety precaution. A notice was fixed to the wall, out of the reach of the public, and reads "This 19th C winding wheel was restored by CAT Mining History Society. Please do not throw anything into the shaft."

About 200 feet of the original wooden Victorian pump rods remain in the shaft. They are made from pitch pine which was specially imported from Canada. We estimate them to weigh about three tons and they are supported by a catchwing in the Bonsor East Crosscut. This is also deteriorating, and in the course of time the rods will plunge down the shaft to their destruction. We shall prevent this by attaching them to the rock at intervals down the shaft using galvanised wire rope and 10mm rock bolts. Now that the structure above is safe this work can commence, and it is hoped that it will be completed in the Autumn. After that we intend to carry out some repairs to masonry of the wheel pit and tower which form such a striking landmark in Coppermines Valley, and are also showing signs of age.

Ian Matheson (CATMHS)

BOOK REVIEWS

Dartmoor Atlas of Antiquities, by Jeremy Butler. Published by Devon Books. Vol.1. The East £9.95. Vol.2. The North £12.95.

These two volumes cover the period from the chambered tombs of Neolithic man, through the extensive occupation of the Moor by the Bronze Age people, early tin streaming activities and mining from the early eighteenth century to the beginning of the twentieth century.

Mines, including Birch Tor, Vitifer, Golden Dagger and Bush Down are well described, detailing the surface remains to be found and their interpretation.

The volumes are set out in sections each covering an area of the moor and containing a description of the items to be found, a very detailed map and an aerial photograph.

One small criticism is that the aerial photographs are not orientated and are sometimes difficult to relate to the section map. A very good buy for anyone interested in the history of Dartmoor.

K.Franey.

A Gazetteer of the Welsh Slate Industry by A.J.Richards. Published by Gwasg Carreg Gwalch, Capel Garmon, Llanwrst, Gwynedd. 239pp, maps, sm 8vo, £6.90.

This book which contains the locations (NGR references), short historical notes and archaeological details of more than 400 slate quarries and mills in Wales represents 20 years of fieldwork by the author. It is packed with information and although not exhaustive it does bring together all the sites of significance.

The author has divided the slate producing areas of Wales into 14 sections and these form separate sections in the book. Each section begins with a location map in which the sites are indicated numerically. This is followed by a numerically ascending list of NGR numbers with names of sites. After this the main text for each site is arranged alphabetically. This system, although comprehensive, makes the cross referencing from the map to the text a little tedious. I also found the boundaries for the sections somewhat confusing. The word "Gazetteer" has been spelt incorrectly on the cover and throughout the book, apart from in the Foreward by Merfyn Williams who has got it right; ie. two t's.

Apart from these small criticisms, this book is an excellent compilation of good, on the ground, information and combined with the transport information which was an integral part of the Industry provides a good overall picture of how the industry developed. Its nice handy pocket size makes it easy to take into the field and for the price it must be a good buy for anyone with any interest in the slate industry of Wales. I only wish it had been published 20 years ago.

Damian J.McCurdy

GENERAL NEWS ROUND UP

Cornwall

Cornwall's sole surviving working tin mine, at South Crofty near Camborne, which was almost killed off last year, should be able to continue well into the next century, according to Mr.Kevin Ross, managing director of Carnon Holdings, the mine's owner.

"We currently have 20 years of reserves and I am very confident that we can continue mining well into the future," he said yesterday.

South Crofty was now operating profitably following the recent strong rise in the international tin price, which has been at its highest level for 18 months, he said.The mine was not far off full break-even at present prices.

Mr. Ross said break-even was at £3,750 to £3,800 a tonne. Last night tin for delivery in three months closed on the London Metal Exchange at \$7.052.50 a tonne, equivalent to £3,715.

Mr. Ross said South Crofty would produce about 2,000 tonnes of tin in concentrates this year - all of it sent for refining to the DKS smelter in Malaysia.

Carnon's Wheal Jane tin mine, near Truro, was killed off by the extraordinary low prices in 1990. In February last year it seemed that South Crofty was also doomed, when the UK Government withdrew promised funding without warning and refused to pay the final £1.7 million of a £24.7 million interest-free loan.

Carnon had to make all its 415 employees redundant and covered the cost of redundancy payments and other outstanding debts by selling equipment from Wheal Jane, surplus land and processing 40,000 tonnes of stockpiled ore, most of it underground at South Crofty.

Some 205 volunteers came back to work on new contracts - everyone, including the managing director, worked for £4.25 an hour or about 60% of the previous average wage at the mine - which so changed the economics that it became worthwhile mining again. As the tin price has risen, miners pay has been lifted to "near the local average", said Mr. Ross.

Carnon was bought by its managers from the RTZ Corporation, the world's biggest mining company, in March 1988. Managers shared 80% of the equity and the rest was held in trust for employees. The company had a £10 million interest-free loan from RTZ as well as the Government loan.

In July last year, Carnon won outline planning permission for a £35 million leisure centre on the Wheal Jane site. Mr. Ross said this had been shelved until the property market improved, but Carnon was continuing to go through the planning process.

Financial Times 14.7.92

Yorkshire Dales

During 1991 the Old Gang Lead Smelting Mill in Swaledale once again dominated the archaeological work of the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority. The project is grant aided by English Heritage and consolidation works were preceded by a second season of excavation and building recording directed by D. Cranstone. In the Lower Mill (19th century) the base of one of the four ore hearths was exposed. It consisted of a stone platform with a burnt stone-lined pit (for a sumpter pot?) in front and a larger tank with a water supply to one side. Between the Upper and Lower Mills rubble removal unexpectedly revealed the remains of a 19th century smithy with a hearth, quenching trough, wooden floor and anvil socket and an assemblage of mining and smithy tools. The adjacent flues connecting the Lower and Upper Mills were partially cleared and samples of slag and of "fume" (deposits inside the flues) were taken for metallurgical research. The earthworks surrounding the mill buildings, including a 500m long spoil tip, hushes, shallow shafts, a complex water supply system and a large dressing floor, have been surveyed by Northern Archaeological Associates. It is intended to supplement the topographical survey with a vegetational survey to record the various metallophytes (metal tolerant plants) which have colonised the site. When the project is completed a report on the work at Old Gang will be published in the National Park's Research series.

Major consolidation works to the Peat Store at Grinton Lead Smelting Mill complex have been commissioned. The mill building itself was re-roofed and partially re-pointed on behalf of the National Park Authority in 1987. The works to the Peat

Store include the installation of new axio eccentric pyramid trusses to support and supplement the existing failed roof trusses, four hidden reinforced concrete buttresses, re-roofing and re-pointing.

At Marrick Lead Smelting Mill English Heritage have utilised Section 5 of the 1979 Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act for the first time ever. This followed a long period of consultation and negotiation with the land owner, including the offer of 100% grant for him to carry out maintenance works. English Heritage formally entered the monument in July to carry out emergency consolidation works estimated to cost £80,000. These works concentrated on the Upper Mill though some work was also carried out on the Lower Mill, particularly at the rear where the flues leave the building. Unfortunately however, Section 5 of the Act does not permit entry for the purpose of recording, so the condition of the mills prior to the emergency repairs was only photographically recorded. It is hoped that English Heritage will be able to negotiate some public access to the mill.

Survey work on other aspects of the lead industry has continued, in part, as an identification process to select areas and features suitable for consolidation projects once work has been completed at Old Gang and Grinton.

R.White. CBA Forum 1991

Rosedale Ironstone Industry Conservation Project

This major conservation project is focussed on Rosedale's ironstone mining landscape which was in use between 1856-1926 and which has survived due to its almost total reversion to moor and marginal land. An initial survey carried out in 1989 located nearly 198 separate archaeological features, 172 of which could be identified, which represent a range of activities associated with the extraction, processing and transport of ironstone, and with the accommodation of the workforce. A further study of the associated mineral railway in the summer of 1991 has considerably extended these totals.

Conservation priorities were drawn up based on the 1989 survey and consultation with English Heritage and local amateurs. The top of the list features three scheduled ancient monuments, namely both sets of calcining kilns and the ventilation chimney at the East mines (SE 7055 9850). The kilns served to reduce impurities which exist within the ore in order to improve its quality and reduce transportation costs. The ventilation chimney was used to remove stale air from the mine workings, causing fresh air to be drawn in.

In order to assess their structural condition and options for consolidation a report was commissioned, funded by English Heritage, and carried out by the Alex Gordon Partnership of York. In summary the foundations proved to be sound but the structures themselves were suffering gradual deterioration due to weathering and neglect.

A consolidation programme is currently being designed to include the northern kiln units of both sets of kilns and the ventilation chimney with a projected cost in excess of £300,000. It is hoped to commence works on the surviving bay of the North (or Iron) kilns by Spring 1992, and to this end a management agreement under section 17 of the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act is being negotiated with the land owners. Work has also been carried out on one of the culverts built during the construction of the associated railway.

G.Lee. CBA Forum 1991

Scotland

Wanlockhead

On the 22nd May 1989 I recorded 161 in my diary, "not a particularly good day". The entry ends "is this really the end?". Trip 163 24th February 1990 "farewell trip only into horse level, then soup and a gift to Geoff and Zoe".

The underground research group had held together for nearly ten years, and much had been achieved, but with Geoff and Zoe leaving the village and Joanne Orr still finding her feet, all the underground research was put on hold.

Gilmour Harris had returned to the village in 1987 and had started looking at the water courses, mapping them and trying to date them. It was obvious that Gilmour had a great love for the village, and was soon on the village Council. By August 1991 he had gained considerable knowledge of the waterways and had found a pipe high up on Glencrieff and by late August he had unearthed a substantial cistern.

On the 31st August a small team met Gilmour to see if a level could be found. All the plans show a "High level" on Glencrieff and Geoff had told us it was first worked in 1710 and by 1725, 1200 tons of ore had been removed. Like most other mines these old levels were kept accessible so that if the lower levels became flooded the men could be re-deployed to older but still worthwhile workings.

Phill Allan, one of the original team members, literally just happened by on his way north, so we gave him a shovel, pointed to a large rock and said "dig there". Always a willing lad, he did! Within 20 minutes we had ourselves a mine entrance, the quickest to date.

If you remember we were well high, in fact some 700 feet above adit, so imagine our surprise to find the level brim full of water.

There is something very special about first footing a re-discovered mine, and as Gilmour has done all the work he was first in. The initial exploration was done without wet suits, not at all pleasant.

Much work has been done since then. The level drained, mapped, videoed and dug. A further 50 yards of passage located behind a fall, and the reason for the water? We believe it is a high level reservoir for the winding engine in the adit. It was brought into use in 1898 to combat a water shortage problem. The valve gear and all the dam walls are still in place.

We appear to be about 1000 feet of passage missing, behind a large nasty fall, so we will see if we get enough courage to try and get through it. So trip 161 was not the end, but just a short period of rest, goodie!

As to the museum this has gone from strength to strength. The extension is now complete and the inside is coming on well. The tea room is finished and open as is the shop and with the village now having a sewerage system, the new public loos are up and running. A considerable improvement over the portaloos.

On the 7th August Jimmie MacGregor, a well known Scottish radio and TV man, opened the new visitors centre. The sun shone, the food was good and the speeches were short - an excellent day. I hope you can visit it, its well worth it.

Geoff's name is on the plaque, just as it should be, for without him it would not have got started. Joanne Orr is now at the helm and is doing a great job. So it is back to hard work for the underground group. Ken, a newcomer to the village has got himself involved, so its time to look at the problems and priorities and see where we go from here.

Jeremy Landless.

Wales

Anglesey Mining plc

Anglesey Mining floated on the London Stock Exchange in 1988 to develop Britain's first base metal mine for decades, at Parys Mountain, Anglesey, is raising another £620,000 (£515,000 net of expenses) from Institutional investors and its biggest shareholder, Imperial Metals of Canada.

Work at Parys Mountain came to an abrupt halt at the end of last year when Anglesey, which had spent £8.5 million on the zinc-lead-copper project, failed to raise another £25 million to take it through to production.

Mr. Hugh Morris, Chairman of Anglesey and Imperial, said yesterday the latest financing ensured that Anglesey would be self sufficient and in a stable financial position for the next two years. It also showed that Anglesey continued to receive financial support from Imperial.

He hoped that now metal prices were rising and the world economic situation seemed likely to improve, the search for more equity capital for Anglesey would resume soon.

Imperial's shareholding in the UK company would remain at about 43 per cent following the latest share issue. It is proposed - provided shareholders agree - that Anglesey issues 12.4 million new ordinary shares at 5p each to Imperial and the institutions.

Imperial would also take another 4 million new ordinary shares at the same price (worth a total of £200,000) in satisfaction of part of a loan made to Anglesey.

The shares fell by $\frac{1}{2}$ p to $4\frac{1}{2}$ p.

Financial Times 6.8.92.

The Welsh Mines Preservation Trust

The Welsh Mines Preservation Trust has been set up this year in an attempt to preserve at least some of the buildings and surface features of the mines in Wales and the Border counties. These are disappearing at an alarming rate due to the availability of various forms of land grants. It became clear to those concerned that a trust needed to be established as a vehicle to obtain grants etc. and to work with local authorities to preserve the mining heritage of Wales.

Several projects are currently under consideration and membership of the trust is invited to all interested individuals.

Further details can be obtained from the Hon. Sec. 7, St.Johns Way, Cuddington Cheshire

British Mining No.44.

Peter Richardson the author of BM44 wishes to bring to members attention the following errata in the publication. Page 5: Heading of Chapter 9, for "Bulkamore mines" read "Bulkamore Mine", also Heading of Chapter 14, for "Excelsior Tunnel" read "Excelsior Mine". Page 26: Line 5 of text, delete fullstop after word "killed". Page 93: Line 19 of text, for "wheelpits" read "wheelpit".

WANTED/FOR SALE

Members who are interested in the romance and history of metal mining throughout the world, rather than only in the British Isles, will be interested to know that Gold Hill Books. P.O.Box 1523, Longmont, Colorado. 80502. U.S.A. carries a fascinating and extensive list. Below are a few examples:-

Bisbee, Queen of the Copper Camps.
A Little Mining, A Little Banking and a Little Beer.
The Battle for Butte.
The Gold of Ophir.
British Enterprise in Brazil. (St.John d'el Rey).
My Adventures with your Money.

There are many others and the exchange rate is very favourable just now! (Aug'92).
(But not now!!!! Oct'92 ed.)

G.W.Hall

THE MINERAL STATISTICS OF THE UNITED KINGDOM, 1845-1913. No.10

The Mines of Flintshire and Denbighshire by Roger Burt, Peter Waite and Raymond Burnley. Published by the University Press of Exeter. Price £12.95.

The book is the tenth volume in the continuing series The Mineral Statistics of the United Kingdom, 1845-1913 and continues the coverage of central and north Wales. It gives details of the output, ownership, management and employment at several hundred mines, mainly around the lead districts of Halkyn and Minera mountains. The data provides an invaluable aid to the interpretation of surviving site remains and the book's use as a field guide is facilitated by the addition of modern Ordnance Grid References. The only volume currently to be available on this nationally important mining area, it provides a brief overview of the development of metal mining from the eighteenth century to modern times and essential material for future research.

Available from:- University of Exeter Press. Reed Hall, Streatham Drive,
Exeter EX4 4QR. Tel.0392 263066

EDITORS COMMENTS

Thanks. Thanks to all the contributors to this newsletter both those named after certain articles and the following who have also sent in information which has been used:

The next Newsletter will be published in February 1993. Please send any material for inclusion to the Newsletter Editor, at the address below before 31st December 1992.

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