

THE NORTHERN MINE RESEARCH SOCIETY



NEWSLETTER

MAY, 1994

Forthcoming Meets

Saturday 21st May
Sunday 22nd May

Northern Pennines. Garrigill and Tynehead. Meet both days at NGR NY740417 (on roadside, half a mile out of Garrigill on the Leadgate road, near Tynebottom Mine) at 10.00 am. Leader; Roger Bade. Tel 081 540 6229.

Saturday 18th June
Sunday 19th June

Swaledale. Old Gang and Surrender Mines. Meet both days at Surrender Bridge, NGR SD988999 at 10.30 am. Leaders T. Whitaker (Tel 05242 62269) and L.O. Tyson. Camping and other accommodation available at the Punch Bowl Inn. Contact meet leader for details.

Friday 5th - Sunday 8th
August.

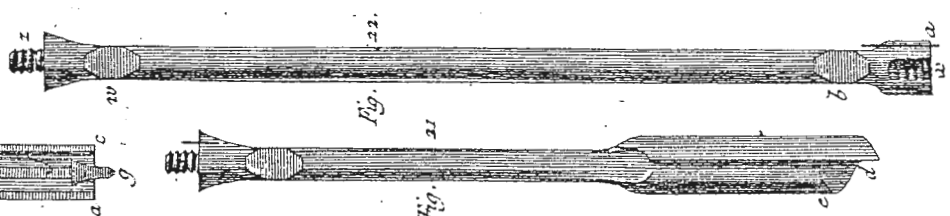
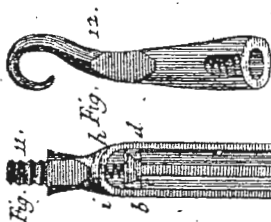
NAMHO Field Meet. Royal Forest of Dean. Wide variety of underground trips for all abilities and several visits to surface mining sites. To include a visit to a working Free Mine. Registration on Friday night or Saturday morning at Clearwell Caves. Pig Roast and Social on Saturday night at the Rising Sun, Moseley Green. Camping and other accommodation available nearby. A4 SAE to J. Hine, The Grottage, 2, Cullis Lane, Mile End, Coleford, Glos. GL16 7QF.

Saturday 11th September

Swaledale. Summer Lodge and Whitaside Mines. Meet at Summer Lodge Smelt Mill (site of : on side of Askrigg/Grinton road) NGR SD965948 at 10.30 am. Leader L.O.Tyson. For details contact Malcolm Street; Tel. (0422) 839749.

Saturday 12th November

General Meeting: Pies and Peas. Slides etc. Village Hall, Sicklinghall, Near Wetherby. Start at 2.00pm.



Society Business

Annual General Meeting : 19th. March, 1994

For the first time in my memory, the Secretary was unable to make it to a meeting; however, his illness didn't prevent him from reaching his word processor and Malcolm had produced an agenda and copied the accounts; these were delivered to the Miners Arms using modern management methods (ie, just in time) by a much travelled Hazel Martell. Fourteen members attended and, in Malcolm Street's absence, Sally Bassham took the minutes. The Treasurer and Editor were able to demonstrate that last year's brave move to increase subscriptions substantially and to publish 3 book - the two Monographs with large print runs - was paying off. The Editor advised the meeting that she proposed to offer existing stocks of British Mining to members at a discount (limited to single copies of each title) primarily so that new members could catch up on the past BMs. With the larger print runs, such sales still represented a reasonable profit.

Discounts for members are as follows:-

- 1 publication - 25% discount, plus postage
- 2 publications - 33 % discount plus postage
- 3 publications - 50% discount, plus postage
- 4 or more publications - 50% discount, plus postage at cost.

The election of officers was straight forward - one nomination for each post - except that Phil Clayton is standing down and we had had no formal nominations for Newsletter Editor. However there have been one or two enquiries and Phil has offered to see this edition out.

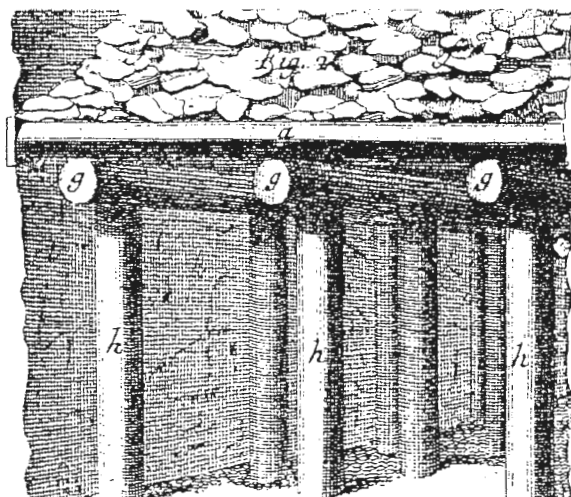
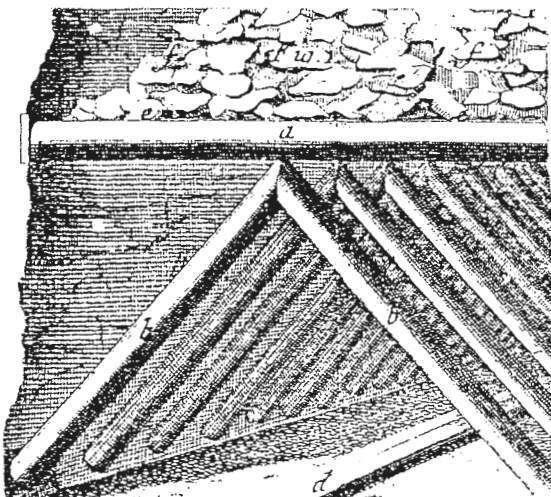
Thankyou to those who were able to attend the AGM and thankyou to those who have made donations to the Society.

An additional note to John's. Treasurer Colin Hindle is able to report that the Society has received £570 in donations from members. This is a superb response to the request last year so, once more, many thanks for supporting the Society so generously.

The AGM was followed by the annual dinner (at the Miners Arms, Greenhow for the second year running) and, although the service was slow, the food and the company (twenty two members and guests) was good.

Both the AGM and the Dinner are opportunities for members to let the Committee have their views and neither is a stuffy or formal affair - for the dinner, dress is "come as you are" but if you've just emerged from a level, it is preferred if you take off at least your overall and boots !

John Hopkinson. President.



Editor's Report and Accounts

EDITOR'S REPORT to the AGM at The Miners' Arms, Greenhow, on March 19th 1994

As you will see from the Accounts, the situation is looking much more promising than it did at last year's AGM and I think that the great gamble with the Society's cash is beginning to pay off. Although the total closing balance of £1273.42 looks a little disappointing this is only the figure at the year end and since that date I have banked over £750, bringing the amount in the bank at the moment to just over £2000 - and there is well over £300 to come in from orders recently despatched.

Although the value of the stock looks relatively low at £6396, this value is based on what it cost to produce the books and not on the price they sell at. Even if they were all to be sold through trade outlets, they would bring in rather more than double that amount, while those which are sold directly to members of the public bring in just over treble.

Work on BM49 is well advanced, but this will now be a different publication from the one announced at November's General Meeting as the authors of The Grinton Mines suddenly found a large amount of additional material which they want to check before presenting the final version of their manuscript. The Grinton Mines will therefore be published at a later date and BM49 will now be THE WHARFEDALE MINES by Mike Gill. (I hasten to add that this is not a case of nepotism: Mike's manuscript was the only one I had that could be edited to a publishable standard in the time available to me.)

NORTHERN MINE RESEARCH SOCIETY PUBLICATIONS' ACCOUNTS

JANUARY 1ST 1993 - DECEMBER 31ST 1993

Income	£	Expenditure	£
Sales	4536.55	Typesetting	926.84
Donations	1180.00	Printing	10654.78
General Account	9100.00	Postage	1532.31
Bank Interest	48.26	Stationery	409.01
From Old Account	<u>91.69</u>	Min Stats etc	151.89
		Bank Charges	<u>8.25</u>
TOTAL	14956.50	TOTAL	13683.08

	Current Account	Deposit Account	Total
Opening balance	00.00	00.00	00.00
Closing balance	67.39	1206.03	1273.42

Income + Opening balance (£14956.50 + £0.00) is equal to the Expenditure + Closing balance (£13683.08 + £1273.42).

The value of the stock, at cost, on the 31st December 1993 was £6396.00.

Hazel Would like to add that, due to pressure of time, she hasn't yet been able to reply to the members who took the trouble to write about the publications in the last Newsletter. Hazel will reply to them as soon as she is able.

Meet Report

NMRS Cornwall Weekend. 9th - 10th April, 1994.

Saturday - Tywarnhale Mine.

A total of 14 NMRS members and 2 guests assembled in the Power House, for a comprehensive introduction to this survey training mine by Rob Smith, who is in charge of the course which is run for students of the Royal School of Mines, every Easter. Due to flooding, access to the mine was via the inclined Railway Shaft on top of the hill. The last ladder led down to Shallow Adit West. The area above this level is stoped out and is supported by some substantial timbers. The ore shoot continued down dip and had been stoped out in the so called Big Stope which led down to Deep Adit via a convenient ropeway.

Deep adit is a coffin level just big enough for one "small" man and a wheelbarrow. After heading back towards the power house for 350 yards progress was halted at John's Shaft by flooding. James's Shaft is next to the Big Stope so after a quick look, it was back up the rope to Shallow Adit West. One ladder length up Railway brought us to Shallow Adit East which led to Gardiner's Shaft. Initially inclined, this straightened out once the balance bob was passed, three ladder lengths from surface.

Tywarnhale remains under threat due to financial constraints, so it may well be concreted by this time next year. If it is not, there is a possibility of repeating this open morning. If members wish to attend perhaps they could let me know before the end of September. I would need at least 10 members to make a viable visit. I would also like some suggestions for other sites to visit preferably inland on Saturday afternoon was blown away, and Cligga Head has now been well and truly done.

Sunday. Cligga Head.

A total of 8 members assembled near the hangars at Perranporth Airfield. A short walk and investigation proved that the upper level was flooded. Fortunately the wind had dropped so a walk to the foot of the cliffs could be contemplated. Everything that could be explored on the lower level was investigated, before the large stope on the right was entered. Half way along a short ladder into another level gives access to the upper level. This comes to day one third of the way up the cliff. After investigating every level a return to the upper flooded level was made. By now members had reduced to three. The flood wasn't too bad, just above the point where my waders leak. It was worth the effort as the contact shaft was seen for the third time, the top of ore shoots which had been seen from below were investigated and a very substantial grizzly was examined.

Roger Bade.

Thanks to Roger for organising the weekend. It served as a splendid introduction to this fascinating area. The cliffs at Cligga Head are most spectacular and the walk down on to the beach is full of mining and geological interest.



Reading Matter

Simon Taylor, NMRS member and proprietor of **Greyfriars Books - Rare and Secondhand** has published his catalogue of rare, out of print and not-so-rare mining and mineralogy books - **Catalogue Number Six**. There is much of interest in the catalogue. Simon also writes that he is usually more-or-less desperate to buy good books. Thanks to Simon for his contribution to the "ball rolling" fund !
Simon can be contacted at 92B, East Hill, Colchester, Essex. CO1 2QN.
Tel (0206) 563138.

He also notes that Monsieur J.B.Denarie has recently formed a club for collectors of mining bonds and share certificates, and is keen to contact any collectors or interested societies in Britain. His address is C - CALM (ie. Club des Collectionneurs d'Actions et Literature Minieres), 16, Bocages - Marines, 95000 CERGY - PONTOISE, France.

Rhosydd Slate Quarry

Members may know this interesting example of a north Wales Slate mine, high in the Moelwyn mountains above Blaenau Ffestiniog. [There is a straightforward through trip starting along the main level and then working a way up inclines and chambers to appear back at day in a large hole further up on the slopes of Moel yr Hydd. Just the job for a wet day in the hills ! A guide to the mine was produced twenty years ago, written by Dr. Michael Lewis and J.H.Denton. This has long been out of print but a facsimile edition has now been published. It is printed on quality gloss art paper with all the original photos, drawings, diagrams and two colour underground plan.
Your Newsletter Editor has a poorly photocopied version of the original and can vouch for the quality of the book. He will certainly be acquiring the reprint in order to see what the photos actually show !

The Book - Rhosydd Slate Quarry is privately published and is being distributed by friends of one of the original authors. Copies are available from: John Knowles, 6, Ferncroft, Hightown, Liversedge, West Yorkshire. WF15 8DT. (0274) 871012.

The book costs £9.95 plus £1.45 for postage and packing.
104 pages 203mm X 253mm with 16 black and white photos, many plans diagrams and line drawings.

The Bailiff of Blackmoor

by Thomas Beare

Special Pre-publication Offer. Hard bound c.150 pages £17 including post and packing. Scheduled for release early summer 1994.

Written in 1586 this manuscript is the most important previously unpublished book on the Cornish Tin Industry. It covers all aspects of the industry, including early history, organisation, legal status, charters, economics, wages, weights, measures, different types of tinworks, including dressing and blowing, tinners' working practices, social habits and customs.

Unique opportunity to obtain an accurate transcription and translation of the most complete early account of Cornish mining, streaming and blowing.

Send cheque to: J.A. Buckley, 25 Carn Brea Lane, Pool Redruth, Cornwall TR15 3DS

Honister Slate

For his third book on Lake District Mining, Ian Tyler visits the wild, upland terrain of slate. At Honister and Yewcraggs, swept pitilessly by the "wind in the crack", men moved along airy ledges, on precipitous walkways reaching upwards to the heavens in the quest for the beautiful, silver green Honister slate. Ian traces the 300 year history of Honister slate, introduces the companies, successful and otherwise, which worked the quarries and tells the story of the lives and work of the quarrymen.

Honister Slate is an in depth history of the quarrying and mining of the Honister green slate, and the story of a local community. The book contains approximately 200 pps, over 60 photos, some never before published, several diagrams, plans and illustrations. Soft backed, it is priced at £12.99 plus £1.45 p&p. and is available by mail order direct from the publisher: Blue Rock Publications, Caldbeck Mining Museum, Priests Mill, Caldbeck, CA7 8DR. Tel. (0228) 41255 or (0228) 561883.

Cheques payable to Caldbeck Mining Museum.

Ian's previous books in the series are Force Crag, the History of a Lakeland Mine and Greenside, A tale of Lakeland Miners.

Caldbeck Mining Museum and Shop is a small private museum specialising in quarrying, mineral mining in the Caldbeck Fells and the Lake District. The museum arranges a series of guided walks to mine sites. Walks organised for 1994 are on 29th. May - Eagle Crag Mine

26th. June - Honister Slate Mine

31st July - Greenside Mine

28th August - Roughten Gill Mine

25th September - Goldscope Mine and Newlands Valley

Further details are available from the Museum - address and phone numbers above.

Other News

Arthur Raistrick Lecture, 1994 Upper Wharfedale Field Society.

This has been postponed until November 28th. Dr Marjorie Sweeting will be giving her lecture "From the Yorkshire Dales to China".

Course

MSc Mining & Industrial Heritage Management.

A joint venture between Camborne School of Mines and the Institute of Cornish Studies, both elements of the University of Exeter in Cornwall.

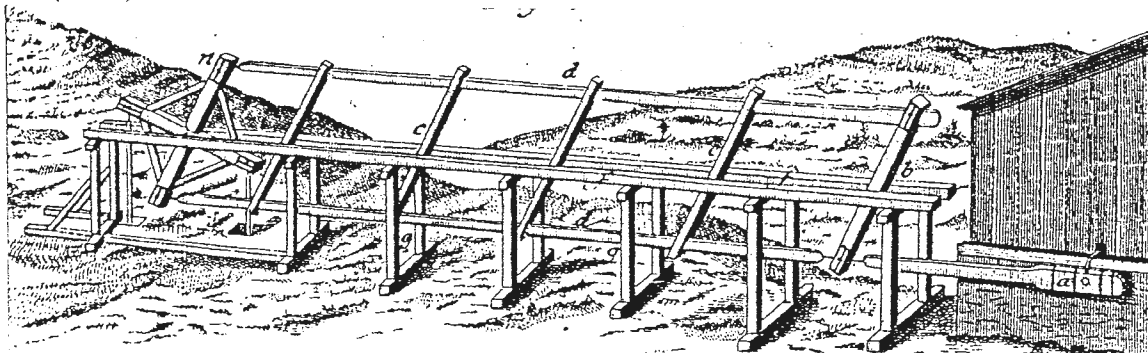
The Masters and Diploma programmes are designed for those already working or wishing to work in the heritage sector of museums, management, archaeological units, local authorities and conservation.

Applicants will normally be expected to have at least a second class honours degree.

Course fee for full time UK students £2260 (excluding summer field trip)

Application forms and further advice from the Course Director, Mr. A.W.Brooks, Camborne School of Mines, University of Exeter, Redruth, Cornwall. TR15 3SE.

Tel (0209) 714866.



Minewater Pollution.

The National Rivers Authority views the rapid contraction of the British coal industry with great concern as they foresee the problems with minewater pollution which have existed in South Wales for some time being repeated in all other mining areas.

One solution to this growing problem is a wetland treatment system for discharges which is about to be trialled on the River Pelenna, a tributary of the tautological River Afon. The £1M scheme is an attempt to solve the problem of iron deposits which have given the Pelenna the local name of Yellow River.

The system will involve the planting of reed beds over a five year period with the aim of bringing fish and other wildlife back to a 17km stretch of the Afon catchment.

The discharges will be filtered through beds containing certain types of reeds, like common reed mace and bulrushes, which help to remove iron and other metals from the minewater.

The reeds will be planted in an enclosed area lined with clay or an artificial membrane and covered with a peat free compost. No machinery will be involved in this "green" process. The impact of the trial will be closely monitored to see whether it will be able to be replicated elsewhere.

Thanks to Dave Blundell and other contributors to this Newsletter.

Copy for the next Newsletter should be sent to your new editor :

Keith Nolan,
West End Cottage,
Woodhall,
South Duffield,
Selby,
YO8 7TG.

Tel(0757) 638503

by July 1st. I would like to thank all those who have contributed articles and encouragement during my short spell as Newsletter editor. Please do the same for Keith !

