

THE NORTHERN MINE RESEARCH SOCIETY



Newsletter

MAY 1996

Diary Dates

Saturday & Sunday, 8th & 9th June, 1996.

Weardale Tour.

Leader: Roger Bade. Meet at Rookhope Arch, NGR NY 925430. Surface walks and some underground trips. Roger writes "One of the biggest problems will be parking, which is why I have chosen Rookhope Arch as the starting point. Attenders should anticipate some form of car sharing beyond this point. Visits include a RIGS (Regionally Important Geographic Site), hence no mineral collecting, a Methodist Chapel and a Black Grouse lek, hence no guns. It is also hoped to visit a North African Pool, and while *en-route* to a smelter site with three flues, to pass Fangio's last gasp!" Does this intrigue you enough to attend? - it should.

Saturday & Sunday, 27th & 28th July, 1996.

Grinton Mines.

Leader: I. Spensley. Tel: 01969 624110. Meet at 10.00 on both days in lay-by at road junction above Grinton, NGR SE046977. Surface walks and underground trips.

Saturday, 14th September, 1996.

Alston Moor Collieries.

Leader: Clive Seal. Tel: 01434 382429. Meet at 10.30 at Alston Railway Station, NGR NY 716468. Guided walk to principal sites and an underground trip.

Sunday, 15th September, 1996.

Rampgill Mine, Nenthead.

Leader: Damian McCurdy. Tel: 01942 718192. Meet at 10.30 at Nenthead car park, NGR NY 781437. Underground.

Friday, 27th to Sunday, 29th September, 1996.

NAMHO Field Meet, 1996.

This will be hosted by the Plymouth Caving Group and will be based at Princeton on Dartmoor. Camping facilities are available together with other accommodation. Details from Pia Benson, 7, Marchants Way, Meavy, Yelverton, Devon, PL20 6PW.

IN THIS ISSUE

Diary Dates	1
Meet Report	2
Lead Mine Waggons	5
East Wheal Rose Disaster Poem	6
Books	8
NAMHO News	9
Forest of Dean Free Miners	10

Gambleside Meet - 30th March, 1996

The village of Gambleside on the Rossendale-Burnley border was the venue for the second of what I hope will become a healthy series of meets focusing on the Rossendale coalfield. Our guide for the day was the Rossendale historian John Davies. John endeavours to base this walk on the development of a small Rossendale village which partly, but not wholly, relied on the mining industry, and he certainly achieved this goal despite severe health problems.

We met on one of the most important roads in Lancashire. In former times it would have been a major motorway, so to speak, but alas it is now no more than an overgrown track. Limers Gate was a pack horse route which ran between Rochdale and Clitheroe, and was used mainly to transport lime in one direction, and coal in the other. We made our way the short distance along Limers Gate towards Wholaw Nook (pronounced Whalaw) colliery SD 831 287. Not a great deal is known about this pit at present but it is quite an old colliery dating from before 1840. The colliery had three shafts, though there appears to be a little confusion to the exact location of all of them. The abandonment plan only shows one at the map reference, whilst two others are shown on the western side of Manchester road. Evidence of two shafts has been found at the map reference, though only one is now visible. This shaft was approximately 92 feet deep to the Lower Mountain mine 2'-8". The line of Union ran through the collieries take. This geological line brought the Upper Foot coal to the horizon of the Lower Mountain to form a single seam of 5', though quality did suffer as a result. The shaft still visible was stone lined for at least part of its depth and is approximately 8 feet in diameter. On the shaft side is a nice engine bed which looks as though it provided a home for a beam engine. The stone for the bed is one solid block and most likely came from Crawshawbooth, as did the other two beds that lie around the site of this pumping shaft. Wholaw Nook was officially abandoned in 1887. It had, however, been laid in before that date. Though the coal was owned by the Townley's of Burnley, Brooks and Pickup leased the mine.

Leaving Wholaw Nook to slumber on, we carried on down the lane gazing to our left where the workings of Hapton Valley colliery and Townley colliery were separated by a forty yard pillar of coal. Hapton valley was supposed to have had a good deal of coal to work in this vicinity but politics were to prove otherwise.

There are considerable reserves in both the Union and Upper Mountain mine on this hillside, in particular is a nice patch 1800 yards square between the Lead mine fault and the Deerplay fault. A vein of barytes cuts this area also. Unfortunately, the coal is on Water Board land and they refused permission for a small company to mine the coal in 1983.

Clowbridge reservoir was certainly looking a little empty. I looked interestingly at a place where I used to swim as a kid; we would do well if we could manage a drag along the mud with the present water level. When Clowbridge, (or Hapton reservoir, as it was then called) first opened in 1866, it sentenced the village to death. There were no sewage arrangements within Gambleside village and the local board didn't want human effluent contaminating the drinking water. The villagers were asked what they did with the produce of the toilet. Their answer was that they took it up on the moors and punched it around until it disappeared. Although some of the farms remained inhabited for some years, the land was finally closed in 1910.

The old Limers Gate was such a busy road that they actually built a by-pass to avoid the village. This can still be seen today. Pendle Heritage and North West Water have started to preserve the village and have set out a trail with boards to illustrate certain features. After mulling over the old mansion house we made our way to the renovated baptismal font, which was open air. The information board illustrated the events of yesterday, but apparently the straight laced Victorian Baptists of Gambleside entered the font for total immersion in the altogether, not as illustrated on the board. Believe me, there are very few days of the year when even the most hardy of people can get their shirts off in Gambleside.

Not far from the font is the old Gambleside pumping pit. The pumping pit was 40 yards to the Lower Mountain and was the second stage in the evolution of Gambleside colliery. The top portion of the shaft is stone lined but only as far as the rock head. The old headgear was of wood, with a single pulley. There were no guides in the shaft, so the men, who descended in a box, each had a stick to fend the box away from the shaft side. If one of them had upset the winder, he would cause the rope to sway and give them a rather bumpy ride. A very near tragedy occurred at the pumping pit in 1869 when colliers broke through into flooded crop workings. There were 24 men working in the pit at the time. 19 men got out quickly but 5 of them were trapped, and it was feared for a while that they were dead. Most of those trapped men came from Goodshaw Chapel. A drain to the reservoir was opened up to allow the water to drain off. When some of the water had drained, 10 men went to look for their mates. A man named Cropper found them sheltering just above the water level. For five hours they had been in a frightening situation as the water rose to within a few feet of them. They had, in fact, given up hope of being rescued. Two of the trapped miners were only young boys; one, Robert Howarth, went on to become Undermanager at the pit, a position he held for 25 years, retiring in 1925 after 57 years working at the pit.

Our next port of call was the outcrop of the Upper Mountain mine which entailed an up hill climb and a search for the thin streak of coal which I never fail to miss. Gambleside worked a small patch of Upper Mountain coal. Interestingly, in another district of the pit, this coal was discovered by accident, the result of a trough fault which brought the Upper mountain down to the exact level of the Lower mountain. The colliers went from working coal of 2'-2" to 22" then back up to the 2'-2". Only when they went back into higher coal did they realise what had happened. The Upper Mountain coal from the aforesaid district was wound up the new shaft, but the coal from the outcrop came to day via a stone arched drift. Unfortunately the drift has fallen in after 50 yards. Following the haulage road from the drift we arrived at the new pit of circa 1850. This shaft was 144 feet deep to the lower mountain SD 823 273. The surface remains are considerable. Entering from the direction of the Upper Mountain drift, we passed through the remains of an archway which gave the haulage road access to the pit top. The arch was built into the dwelling house occupied by the winding engine man. It was quite a large house and was the home of Harvey Auty for a considerable period of time as he worked at the pit for 56 years. Harvey's wife used to sell ice-cream to walkers as they passed by the pit. Unfortunately, the shop was shut today. Turning towards the back wall we found the engine bed for the shaft winder. The engine and shaft were slightly out of line so deflector pulleys had to be built to shove the rope into the correct position. By the side of the engine bed, the more healthy imagination can discern the portal for the drift which carried all full tubs from Gambleside colliery, through the hill to Swinshaw colliery. From Swinshaw, the tubs ran down to Crawshawbooth on an endless chain haulage to Noclife Eaves, then on an Oldham Jig the remainder of the distance to the coal staith. Whilst the pit was open, the pit top was covered by a wooden roof, the headgear protruding through it.

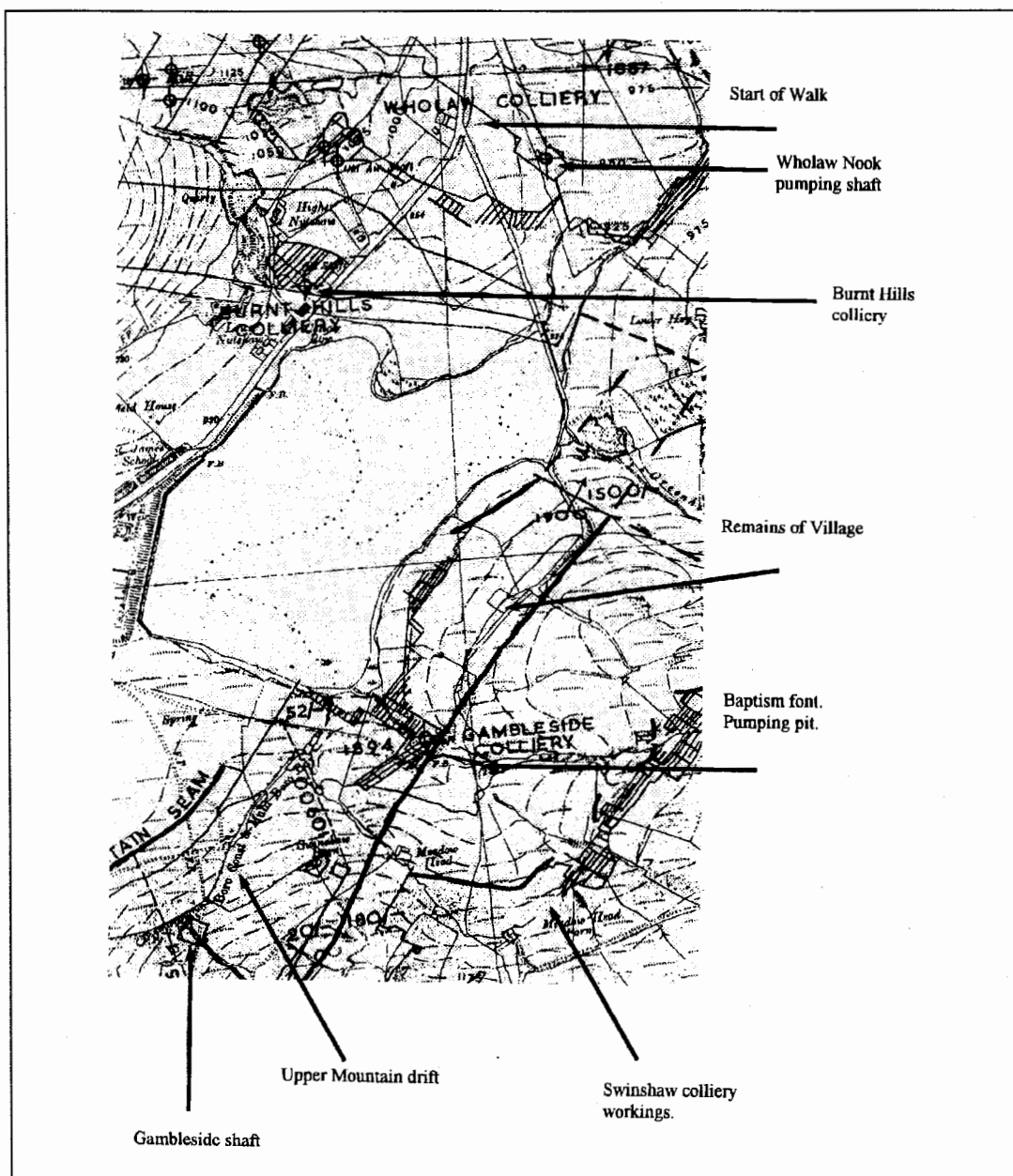
Gambleside shaft has settled slightly giving us a nice view of the top 2 feet. There still remains a steam engine, bolted to the wall just inbye from the pit bottom. The engine was 3 cylinder and shaped like the legs of Man (Isle of Man). The shaft gave access to a large area of coal, districts stretching to the fields above Goodshaw Chapel. It was into one of these fields that one collier holed on Armistice day 1918. All the mills in Rossendale were to empty as the Armistice was signed, but Robert Howarth, Undermanager at Gambleside had said that word hadn't to be sent underground for the men to finish. However, the collier who had holed into Uttley's field was having his bait in the fresh air and heard all the factory whistles in Crawshawbooth blow to signify the end of the war. The collier went underground and told his mates, who all came out of the pit. The manager was blazing, but nobody put him any the wiser as to how the men found out.

Gambleside, along with its sister pit, Swinshaw, closed in 1936 when Sunny Side print works, Crawshawbooth, burnt down. No other customer could be found. The pit employed about 30 men producing 50 tons per day.

Leaving Gambleside we walked to the yacht club car park and onto Burnley road. Our last port of call was the site of Burnt Hills colliery, SD 828 285. Unfortunately, a not too friendly dog forbade a close look at the shaft top. The shaft was the deepest in the Rossendale coalfield being 375 feet to the Lower Mountain and 245 feet to the Upper Mountain. A surface tramway ran from the coal staith here, via Porters Gate colliery to Hapton Valley colliery. The coal staith closed down in the 1930's though Burnt Hills had closed in the 1890's. Of interest to our party, in view of the close proximity of the dog, was the old gas retort now built into a wall. The retort was used as a gate post for the staith yard and most likely came from Clowbridge mill.

Despite the fact that we didn't venture underground, I do hope that those who attended enjoyed themselves. Many thanks to those who supported us, and for those who couldn't make it, why not have a walk round on your own? It is a lovely spot on long balmy summer afternoons.

Clive Seal & John Davies.



Gambleside Colliery and surrounding area.

Lead Mine Waggon

Ray Fairbairn demonstrates that he is a brave man for tackling the large subject of "lead mine waggons" and attempting a résumé of their development (British Mining No. 54). It is always enjoyable to draw broad conclusions from limited evidence; and I suspect that Ray is deliberately courting controversy by so doing. In this spirit I must reply to several passages in his book.

Having seen several (undated) waggons found at Boltsburn Mine, Rookhope - a mine which worked until the 1930's - and a photograph of several more waggons of the same design at the same mine, he feels able to state: *"This form of waggon probably represents a standard 19th century Beaumont style"*. Having decided that this waggon must be typical of all Beaumont waggons, he then feels free to comment on the replica waggons at Killhope Lead Mining Centre. *"As the Killhope Museum (sic) is firmly located amongst the Beaumont mines, it seems a little incongruous to see so many London Lead Company waggons on the site, but to be fair no Beaumont waggons were available at the time to use as patterns"*.

The replica waggons at Killhope were built at the time the site was being excavated by professional archaeologists in the mid 1980's. The archeological evidence uncovered at Killhope included a considerable number of parts of mine tubs, and it is on these that the replicas were based.

As the person responsible for getting the detail right, I can confirm that Killhope went to great pains to make these tubs as close as possible to the originals used in the nineteenth century in Park Level mine (the level at Killhope). The only evidence we didn't have was of the overall dimensions of the tubs, so the size was based on a tub from Haggs mine in Killhope's possession.

A careful examination of the replica Killhope tubs will show that, although they are substantially similar to London Lead Company tubs, there are differences in detail. For example the strapping at the ends of the chassis members is different, and there are two vertical timber members on each side rather than three. Thus, the Killhope tubs are closely based on sound evidence taken from the tubs actually used at Killhope, and should be recognised as a valid Beaumont (or perhaps Weardale Lead Company) type. If Ray Fairbairn had contacted me at Killhope before writing his book I would have been able to reassure him on this point.

Secondly Ray refers to "Crawhall's" drawings (pages 11 and 38). Although he doesn't give a reference, these drawings are in the Science Museum Library in London. Here they are unattributed, and I am interested that Ray confidently attributes them to Crawhall - although he doesn't say which of the several Crawhalls. I wonder what his evidence is for such a definite attribution?

Thirdly on the subject of "vogues", the peculiar looking waggons depicted in one of the Science Museum Library drawings.

Although Ray states baldly *"the earliest reference to the use of vogues was at Wolfcleugh Mine near Rookhope in 1775"* and further claims that vogues seem *"to have been restricted to the Blakett mines of Weardale and Allendale"*, there are of course earlier references to vogues and vogue levels, and references to vogue levels elsewhere in the northern Pennines.

Ian Forbes

Castle-an-Dinas Mine

This little mine, near St. Columb in Cornwall, was worked for wolfram from 1917 to 1957. Tony Brooks is researching the history of the operation and would be grateful to hear from anybody who has any information, photographs, personal experience, notes, etc. of the mine. If you can help, please contact Tony at Polstrong Cottage, Polstrong, Camborne, Cornwall, TR14 0QA. Telephone: 01209 713506.

East Wheal Rose Disaster Poem

This year marks the 150th anniversary of the worst mining disaster known in Cornish mining history. On Thursday July 9th 1846 at East Wheal Rose, one of Cornwall's greatest lead mines, 39 miners lost their lives as floodwaters swept into the mine, which is situated near Newlyn East. As a result 22 women became widows and 60 children lost their fathers. Extracts from a newspaper report¹ of the time vividly describes the "appalling accident" :-

"A catastrophe of a most awful and unprecedented nature occurred at [East Wheal Rose] by which 39 individuals have been hurried into eternity. This mine... runs north and south through the middle of a natural amphitheatre surrounded on all sides by hills.....About one o'clock on the day mentioned, dense thunder clouds gathered around the hills from the north-west and a storm came on in a few minutes, as terrific as has ever, perhaps, been seen in this country: The thunder roared - the lighting in most vivid flashes, lit up the murky atmosphere - and the rain poured down in such solid streams, and rushed from the surrounding hills in such impetuous torrents, that....they rushed into the shafts of the mine, and in an incredibly short time filled it from the bottom (100 fms) up to the 60 fms level, which had been driven on about one mile. At the time there were upwards of 200 men and lads in the mine ...clusters of them were saved by hanging to kibbles and chains.....The rush of wind in the levels caused by the inundation, blew out the men's candles, and they thus obliged to grope out in the dark their way to the shafts, or, probably, many more would have been saved.the adventurers in the first instance provided for the funeral expenses."

Thousands of the "morbidly curious" visited the mine the following weekend. A relief fund was set up and the inquest "exonerated the agents and adventurers from all blame." Mining resumed in some areas within a week and it must be remembered that the miners could not be choosy during the "Hungry Forties." A new leat was driven across the mine following the accident and this saved any further disaster when another storm struck the following year.

Longer accounts of the disaster have been published within books by Douch (1964)² and Noall (1989)³. However they both sadly omitted to reprint the poem¹ written at the time by Henry Daniels lamenting the tragic event. Although many such poems can be dismissed as doggerel this poem, although lacking any literary merit, does have a certain dramatic charm as well as being of historical interest.

THE LATE FRIGHTFUL CATASTROPHE AT EAST WHEAL ROSE MINE

by Henry Daniels

The morning shone as fair a morn as ever smiled on earth,
Since from the sun's unceasing fount the glorious light had birth;
The pastoral vales and breezy hills, in summer beauty clad,
Seem'd Edens, where the human heart could never long be sad,
Who had believed that morn so bright, the herald of distress,
Or that it wore a traitor's smile beneath such loveliness?
The deep blue Heaven without a cloud - so calm, so wondrous fair-
Who had believed the thunder-shaft of death was lurking there?
There is a valley where the works of human hands are seen,
Where many a darkling shaft descends below the surface green;
'Tis there the miner plies his task, in peril night and day,
To gather riches at a price that worlds could ne'er repay.
The "bucker" sings some lovely tune, for light of heart is she-
The whistling "whim-boy" with jest, laugh out right merrily;
The iron giant lifts his arm, by thee, thou wizard steam!
And from the sunless caves of earth is drawn the gushing stream.

The work goes on, and no one dreams of death, or danger near.
 But, oh! when brightest looks the world, then have we most to fear,
 When lips breathe friendship, and when eyes so kindly glance the while-
 Prepare thee, then, to bear the change of coldness for a smile.
 Deep booming on the startled ear the thunder voices crash-
 Peal after echoing peal resounds, and flash succeedeth flash;
 Behold! a sudden darkness spreads across the sultry heaven,
 And in a blaze of dazzling, the pall-like cloud is riven,
 As if the deep had broken there the spell of its control,
 Wide sweeping from the deluged hills, the gathering waters roll;
 Down-down-the mighty torrent pours-Great God! it thunders down!
 And in their agony unseen the gasping victims drown.
 Yet, dauntless in this hour of dread, the unconquerably brave,
 (True heroes!) venture limb, and life, to shelter or to save.
 Above the fearful place of doom, is heard the widow's cry,
 And unavailing tears bedim the lonely orphan's eye;
 And stern strong men, of iron nerve, are seen to quake and quail,
 And nor a lip but trembles there - no cheek but what is pale.
 Above the thunder's pealing sounds is heard the torrent's roar-
 The valley seemeth to the eye a sea without a shore;
 And, lo' the early rescued cling to kibble and to chain;
 Down with the speed of lightning - down again - again in vain!
 Link after link, the last appears without its living freight;
 No word is breath'd, but speaking looks proclaim it all too late.
 Too late! the death knell of our hopes and dreams, so bright before
 The sentence passed by Destiny, to be revoked no more.
 'Tis mockery now all human aid - but yet the human will,
 So strong is nature in the heart, would nobly struggle still.
 The "shop," the "bucking-shed," the "floor," in ruin swept away,
 Like leaves before the whirlwind's wing in autumn's brown decay;
 What is the power, or pride of man, in which he takes delight,
 When all elements at war, arouse them in their might?
 With solemn tone from Newlyn's tower is heard the funeral bell,
 The living of the shrouded death have ta'en their last farewell;
 But not in vain the living plead to Britain's liberal land,
 The mitred and the rich step forth, with open heart and hand.

References:-

1. Mining Journal 1846 p.304 (report), p.306 (leader), p.350 (poem)
2. Douch, H.L. (1964, rep.1979), East Wheal Rose. (Bradford Barton).
3. Noall, C., (1989), Cornish Mine Disasters. (Dyllansow, Truran).

R. Alan Williams

Books

The Rise and Demise of a Dartmoor Mine:

The Wheal Friendship Minute Books & Ledgers 1816-1875.

Mike Brown.

As the title suggests, the author has based his research on the three ledgers/minute books still in existence and held at the West Devon Record Office to produce a succinct history of this ancient mine which closed in 1875. It is full of interesting insights and comments by directors and officials, giving much new information on the involvement of John Taylor, the great mining adventurer, and his sons who made such a great impact on this and other areas in the nineteenth century.

It also contains full accounts for the period 1816 to 1873, listing production figures for copper, lead, tin and mundic - which differ somewhat from those previously given in *Cornish Mines* by *Burt, Waite & Burnley* - and even tabulates running costs for such things as agent's salaries, tutwork bargains, surface work, tribute and subsist, which gives a fresh view into the workings of a large mining enterprise.

Mike Brown has brought to life the "dusty tomes" to produce one of the best monographs on a single mine which I have read for some time, and his masterful use of his sources gives an intriguing insight into some of the shady dealings behind a typical Victorian mining concern.

The book is in A4 format of 50 pages together with a fold out map based on the OS map of 1906 which gives details of the main lodes, shafts and surface remains of this once famous mine. At only £4.49, post free, it is excellent value. It may be obtained from the author at: Dartmoor Press, 24, Lipson Court, Greenbank Road, Plymouth, PL4 7JG. Please make cheques payable to M. Brown.

Mining and Quarrying in the Teign Valley - Stafford Clark

The author, a local man with an intimate knowledge of the locality gained during his working life with his family building firm which made considerable use of some of the minerals discussed in the booklet, has produced an informative, non-technical survey of the main mines and quarries plus a small section on the Bovey Basin and Devon Ball clays.

A geological picture of the river valley and basin is given by R. C. Scrivener which provides the backdrop, and full map and grid references are given for each site. There are also chapters on the main towns (i.e. Chagford, Chudleigh, Christow, Hennock) concerned with these activities plus an amusing section on the "Legend of Old Scator", of which I was totally unaware before reading this booklet.

Numerous photographs and some drawings bring to life the personal reminiscences of the author and within the constraints of 60 pages, gives some fascinating information about this often neglected backwater of mining and quarrying. This is another book which represents terrific value for money - The cost is only £4.50 + 50p p&p.

The book is published by and available from: Orchard Publications, 2, Orchard Close, Chudleigh, Newton Abbot, Devon, TQ13 0LR.

W. A. R. Wright

President Retires

Our President, John Hopkinson announced his retirement at the Annual General Meeting. We are sure that our members will join the committee in expressing our thanks to John for his efforts during his presidency.

As a consequence, the Society does not now have a president. Will any member who is interested please contact the secretary, Clive Torrens, or any committee member?

NAMHO News

The following has been received from Peter Cloughton:

Seen recently in the journal of another mining history organisation was the suggestion from NAMHO that their newsletter be circulated with that of member organisations. Feedback was requested through NAMHO reps. Well, as nothing on the subject has appeared in this newsletter, and presuming that our rep. reads it anyway, it is worth airing my views in public.

Whilst I am a member of a number of mining history organisations there has always been that nagging feeling that important information is passing me by. That has occasionally been confirmed on seeing, in borrowed journals, items which came from NAMHO but never appeared in those newsletters I subscribed to, and it is prohibitively expensive to subscribe to all.

Short of forming the Peter Cloughton Mining Society and applying for affiliation to NAMHO how do I gain access to all the information. Circulation of the full NAMHO newsletter is to my mind an ideal solution. Bulk production of NAMHO newsletters for inclusion in society mailing is suggested. A more cost effective method (for NAMHO) might, as most if not all newsletters today are compiled on a PC, be to circulate the text on disc for inclusion with the society's own newsletter. Editors could then use discretion to delete items which are duplications of their own copy.

The idea of providing the NAMHO newsletter as part of a home page on the world wide web is fine if you have the technology available. SCMC have already gone down that road so Adrian Pearce probably has access to the skills required to set it up. However, at the moment not many society members are going to have the ability to access the web. But that will change and an early start could be beneficial, supplementing what Roger Burt has done so far with the Mining History Network. In the meantime some form of subscription to the NAMHO newsletter might work.

What do other readers, and especially our NAMHO representative think?

Mining Sites on the World Wide Web

For those with access to the World Wide Web, the following sites may be of interest:

Roger Burt's Home Page - <http://www.ex.ac.uk~RBurt/>

Mining History Home Page - <http://www.ex.ac.uk~RBurt/MinHistNet/>

NMRS Page - <http://www.ex.ac.uk~RBurt/MinHistNet/NMRS.html>

NMRS future events - <http://www.ex.ac.uk~RBurt/MinHistNet/NMRSevents.html>

Perhaps members would tell us of any interesting or useful sites they find.

Mineral Sites in Clwyd

Extract from "The Deeside Chronicle" - 1st March, 1996.

The County council of Clwyd have prepared the first list of mineral sites within their area. The list shows sites as "dormant", "active phase 1" or "active phase 2". The phase 1 & 2 apply to the consent of planning permissions. The list may be inspected at various council offices.

However, Clwyd County Council ceases to exist on 1st April, being replaced by the resurrected counties of Flintshire and Denbighshire.

A. S. Mousdale

Forest of Dean Free Miners

For well over 700 years the Free Miners of the Forest of Dean, who were born in the hundred of St. Briavels and worked a year and a day underground in a mine, have dug for coal without such bureaucratic niceties as planning permission. However, history is about to be overturned and their future is now in the balance.

These fiercely independent miners will not see their birthright eroded without a fight, as it was the skills of their forefathers in tunnelling under castle fortifications that brought them this right to mine "without hindrance or encumbrance anywhere in the Forest of Dean," an area delineated by the Rivers Severn and Wye.

Gerald Haynes, who still owns one of only two full-time mines still working, has been told that he will require planning permission if he wishes to continue mining at Hayners Bailey, Cannop. He works this mine as a one-man organisation digging out 400 tonnes per year at the face, 200 metres underground. There are still over 200 Free Miners surviving but just over 2 dozen continue to mine. Mr. Haynes states that it has always been accepted that Free Miners did not require planning permission, but consent may prove difficult in what is now an environmentally sensitive area, and most of his output goes to local households only.

Donald Johns, chairman of the Forest of Dean Free Miners, Association said the whole issue was complicated, but was critical of new Coal Authority directives for insisting on planning permission. At stake is an important tradition for the area and the local MP, Paul Marland, has backed the miners' fight to ensure that the Free Miners and their ancient rights are protected and preserved.

However, Roy Piggott, the Forest of Dean Mineral Estates Manager - known by the ancient term of Deputy Gaveller - says that Free Miners do need planning permission. He states that what the miners say is folklore and that there is a tendency to accept and believe the literal meaning of free, but that is not the case. He said that there was still some confusion, and a Coal Authority spokesman has admitted that the whole issue is complex and governed by arcane regulations. Currently, the Deputy Gaveller and the Coal Authority are having talks to try and find a compromise solution, but it seems more than likely that this ancient way of life will disappear under the signature of an unknown bureaucrat's pen.

W. A. R. Wright

Finally

Thanks to all who contributed to this newsletter. Please, keep the contributions rolling in - they are very much appreciated. Contributions on 3½" discs are welcomed. ASCII text format only please. Discs will normally be returned with the following newsletter unless otherwise requested.

Technology moves on apace, and it is hoped that from the next newsletter it will be possible to include photographs at a reasonable quality of reproduction. Suitable subjects could well be photographs taken on meets or to illustrate sites in conjunction with articles submitted. Colour photographs can be accepted, but owing to printing costs, only black and white reproductions will appear in the newsletter. So, if you have a good quality photograph which you think would enhance your piece, please send it in. Please say if you want it back and it will be returned to you with the next newsletter.

Contributions for the August newsletter by 6th July, please, to: **Keith Nolan, West End Cottage, Woodhall, South Duffield, Selby, North Yorkshire, YO8 7TG. Telephone or Fax: 01757 638503. Email. [kjn1 @ york.ac.uk](mailto:kjn1@york.ac.uk).**

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