

THE NORTHERN MINE RESEARCH SOCIETY



Newsletter

AUGUST 1998

Diary Dates

12th & 13th September, 1998. Upper Swaledale Mines.

Leader: Clive Torrens. Tel: 01969 624721. Meet at 10.30 at Keld village square, NGR SD 896 011. Underground.

26th September, 1998. Lord Carlisle's Collieries.

Leader: Clive Seal. Tel: 01434 382439. Meet at 10.30 at Alston Railway Station, NGR NY 716 468. Guided walk to principal sites.

18th October, 1998. Autumn Meeting. Ascot House Hotel, 53 Kings Road, Harrogate.

General Meeting at 14.30 followed by a potpourri of members' slides and short talks and a chance to socialise. A savoury buffet is to follow. A booking form is enclosed with this newsletter. (See also page 5). Further details from: Mike Gill, 38 Main Street, Sutton-in-Craven, Keighley, West Yorkshire, BD20 7HD. Tel: 01535 635388. Email: martgill@legend.co.uk

24th to 27th September, 1999. NAMHO '99 Conference.

The next NAMHO Conference will be held in the Forest of Dean on 24th to 27th September, 1999. The hosts will be a consortium of member organisations who are based in the Forest of Dean. The conference will be based at Whitemead Park at Parkend, near Lydney. Chalet accommodation, as well as camping and caravanning will be available.

The theme of the conference will be "Free Mining and the Mines of the Forest of Dean and Other Traditional British Mining Rights Areas." There is a request for speakers to talk on "traditional mining" subjects.

For further information please contact John Hine, The Cottage, 2 Cullis Lane, Coleford, Gloucester. Telephone: 01594 833217. It is anticipated that booking forms and programmes will be available in December, 1998.

NAMHO 2000 International Conference.

It is hoped that a special International Conference will be held in the year 2000 to celebrate the new millennium.

No details have yet been finalised but Carn Brea Mining Society are studying the feasibility of holding the conference in Cornwall in July, 2000.

In This Issue

2.....	Meet Reports
4.....	South Crofty
5.....	Autumn Meeting
6.....	South Wales Coalfield
7.....	Biographical Sketch
8.....	Books
10.....	Devon Gold

Meet Reports

Gillfield Level. 18th July, 1998.

Several NMRS members and a small black cat met in the rain at Greenhow Miners Arms and then at Gillfield Level. Our grateful thanks to Mark Pegden of Leeds University Mining Department who gave up his Saturday to show us round Gillfield Level, explain detailed plans of the mine and tell us the latest information about specimens found in Coldstone Quarry.

We were able to climb up and see the old tub left in the second level and the old rails, wheel marks, scratched dates and old surveying marks. We discussed the mining history of the area and swapped ghost stories. Many thanks to all the knowledgeable people who came and contributed.

After Gillfield Level, the weather had improved remarkably and surface investigations were more appealing. The party divided. People were directed to other local sites of interest such as Toft Gate limekiln and Heathfield Mill. Some looked at Jackass Level, someone went to look for the Sam Oon stone, some went in Cockhill Level, some looked at the remains of Cockhill and Providence Smelt Mills (and compared the remains with the various published plans) and some searched the tips for mineral specimens.

Then some went to the pub. and a few went to look at Prosperous Mill and the levels nearby.

Our thanks again to Mark Pegden and Leeds University for allowing access to Gillfield level and my thanks to everyone who contributed expert knowledge, critical analysis and other skills to an enjoyable meet.

Sallie Bassham

Milwr Tunnel - 4th July, 1998.

Nine members, three guests and two Grosvenor Caving Club leaders met at the old Hendre Mine works for this much anticipated meet. The formalities were completed (insurance details confirmed and equipment checked) before Barrie Johnston and Graham Woolley, the leaders, gave us a brief talk prior to making our way to the locked adit. Several heavy drums of equipment were thoughtfully provided by Barrie and Graham for us to carry from the cars to the adit in connection with the ongoing maintenance work - the task was cheerfully accepted.

Having "signed in", a descent of Olwyn Goch shaft, via the ladderway, was commenced. We stopped off about half way down (290 feet) and completed the remaining 200 feet to the Milwr tunnel horizon via limestone workings known as the "Quarry". A safe route has been established by the GCC with fixed ropes and ladders. The scale of the workings was mind-boggling - 80 feet high and 2 miles long!

After a brief lunch stop the abandoned machinery in the workings provided excellent photographic material - in particular several compressed air powered Eimco loading shovels and 2 battery powered locomotives of 1930s vintage. From here a cross-cut (1/2 mile) led us to the foot of Olwyn Goch shaft, where we immediately began the trek to our ultimate destination - Powells Lode Cavern, some 2 miles distant. Water levels were not too bad but two (nameless) members of the party inadvertently made a close inspection of the deeper areas! At the Rhosemor branch tunnel we turned off. Not far along here we came across several man-rider wagons still sitting on the rails (sadly not working). Interesting strands of wet-rot fungus over 100 yards long were floating in the grip (water channel) and an old mine telephone (complete with Leclanché cells) was also found. We were (to coin a phrase) unable to phone home!

Eventually, Powells Lode Cavern was reached. This immense natural cavern is around 400 feet high, 200 or so of which are under a lake. Here a tippler with wagon inside was inspected and a man-made chamber adjacent to the cavern was located. This measured 80 feet by 30 feet and was used for storing TNT in World War II.

Several others were seen during the trip - apparently there are 20 in total. After inspecting Powells Lode Cavern a hasty reconnaissance of stope workings was made, (huge ribs of galena were in evidence) before we retraced our steps towards the foot of Olwyn Goch shaft.

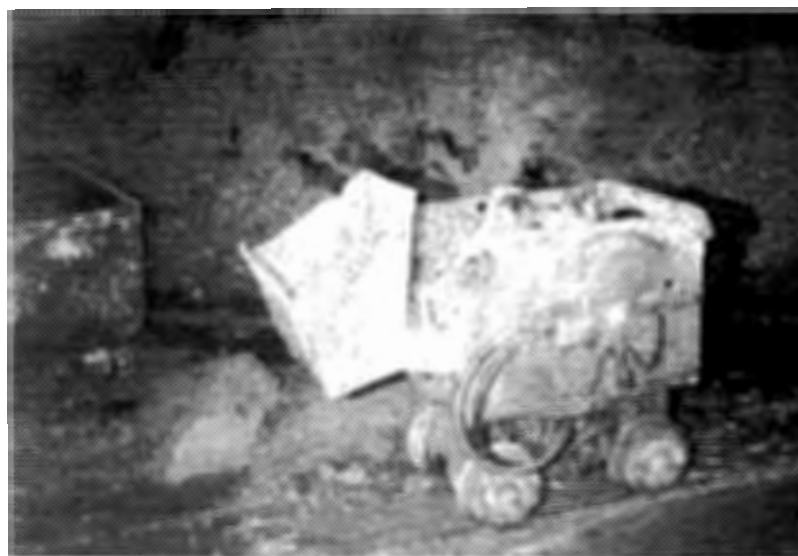
Here are a good deal of interesting artefacts including 2 diesel locomotives with 12 loaded wagons and an electric locomotive battery charging bay with a bank of batteries still connected! There is a workshop area still containing fixtures and tools and a compressed air rock drill. Finally we took a look at the on-setters cabin which is flooded but still contains original items.

At this point, to coin another phrase, the only way was up, and after the damp exertions, a climb of 400 feet up the ladderways completed the fitness programme.

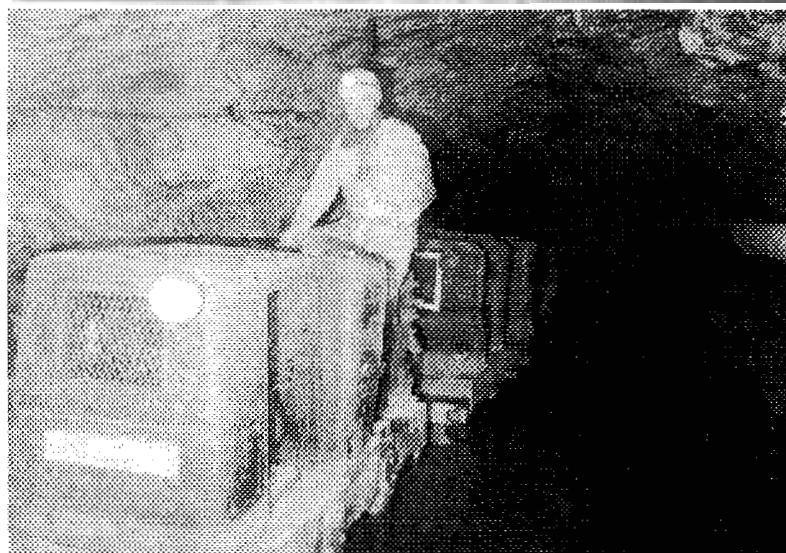
Many thanks are due the Grosvenor Caving Club and particularly to our guides, Barrie and Graham for ensuring our safety and answering questions throughout the day.

Why don't you come to the Autumn meeting where you can see slides taken on this memorable day?

Steve Mitchell



Milwr Tunnel. Eimco 12B Pneumatic Loading Shovel. *S. Mitchell*



Milwr Tunnel. Diesel loco - Driver Roe at the controls. *S. Mitchell*

Meet Leaders for 1999

If you are interested in leading a meet in 1999 please contact the Secretary, Clive Torrens, Jubilee House, Preston-under-Scar, Leyburn, DL8 4AH. Tel: 01969 624721 before the end of October, giving details of date, NGR, meeting point and whether the going will be easy, moderate or difficult.

South Crofty Mine - Text of Letter to Shareholders

Both Mine and Mill are now closed, all pumping has ceased and the Mine has so far flooded up to approximately the 420 fathom level. The cages have been removed from the shaft and are stored nearby and the winding ropes have been retracted on to the drums and properly greased to ensure that if they are required at some future date they will be ready. The shaft has been secured and isolated all in accordance with the Inspectorate of Mines requirements. At the Wheal Jane Mill all tanks and circuits have been cleared and the premises boarded up to keep out the vandals.

You will have read that a Mr. Wilf Hughes wants to buy the Mine, he has offered £1.25 million, subject to arranging the necessary finance, for the mine site and its immediate environs plus the land to the south of the shaft, together with the Wheal Jane Mill and Crusher House and immediate environs on terms which I have accepted in principle. The first approach was on the 17th February, when Mr. Hughes indicated he should be able to complete purchase within six to eight weeks. At that time I not only made available to him the full details of the recent approach to Government for grant assistance and financial forecasts, I have also since allowed his engineers unlimited access to the premises and underground workings. Solicitors acting for both parties have been in contact but I am not prepared to spend a substantial amount of money until I know that Mr. Hughes has the funds to proceed with the purchase. Having heard very little recently, at the beginning of this month, I wrote to Mr. Hughes formally and said that if he was not in a position to exchange contracts and pay a substantial deposit by the end of April, then I must proceed with the disposal of further plant and equipment. Certainly we need to complete sales of equipment salvaged from the mine, bearing in mind we have to repay a loan from Government in respect of the redundancy payments made to the work force as they left. This loan is interest free and has to be repaid within five years. Although our cash flow is restricted it is not proposed that the Company be put into liquidation, we hope to meet all our obligations in due course, including restitution of the sites. The businesses of Contracting, Mine Searches, Mundic Block Testing and the South Crofty Jewellery Collection continue on a reasonably buoyant basis.

Following media coverage many of you will be aware that I am now the biggest shareholder in South Crofty Holdings Ltd, which in turn one way or another owns 96% of the shares of South Crofty PLC. I am not the majority shareholder as was mistakenly reported, neither do I intend to exercise any undue influence on the management affairs of South Crofty Holdings Ltd. This company will continue to be administered by the existing Board of Directors of whom I am one. One or two of you have asked whether we should have an Extraordinary General Meeting, I am quite happy to call this if required. However, as an alternative I would be very happy to meet shareholders together with the Managers that remain here, when we can tell you on a personal basis of what has transpired recently and where we hope to go, albeit the situation with Mr. Hughes as outlined above, does make such a meeting before the end of this month inappropriate.

The Company's Auditors will be attending us within the next few weeks so that the accounts for last year can be completed and I shall then seek to call, as early as possible, an Annual General Meeting, where following completion of the formalities I hope that I and the Managers can talk to you on an informal basis as we did last year and I look forward to that. This may of course take the place of any meeting envisaged above. The situation remains in that I can see very little value in the shares of South Crofty PLC and of course both the bank and South Crofty Holdings Ltd have mortgages over the bulk of the properties. I am seeking to regularise the situation here as matters become clear and this may well lead me to call an Extraordinary General Meeting to ratify any formal proposals.

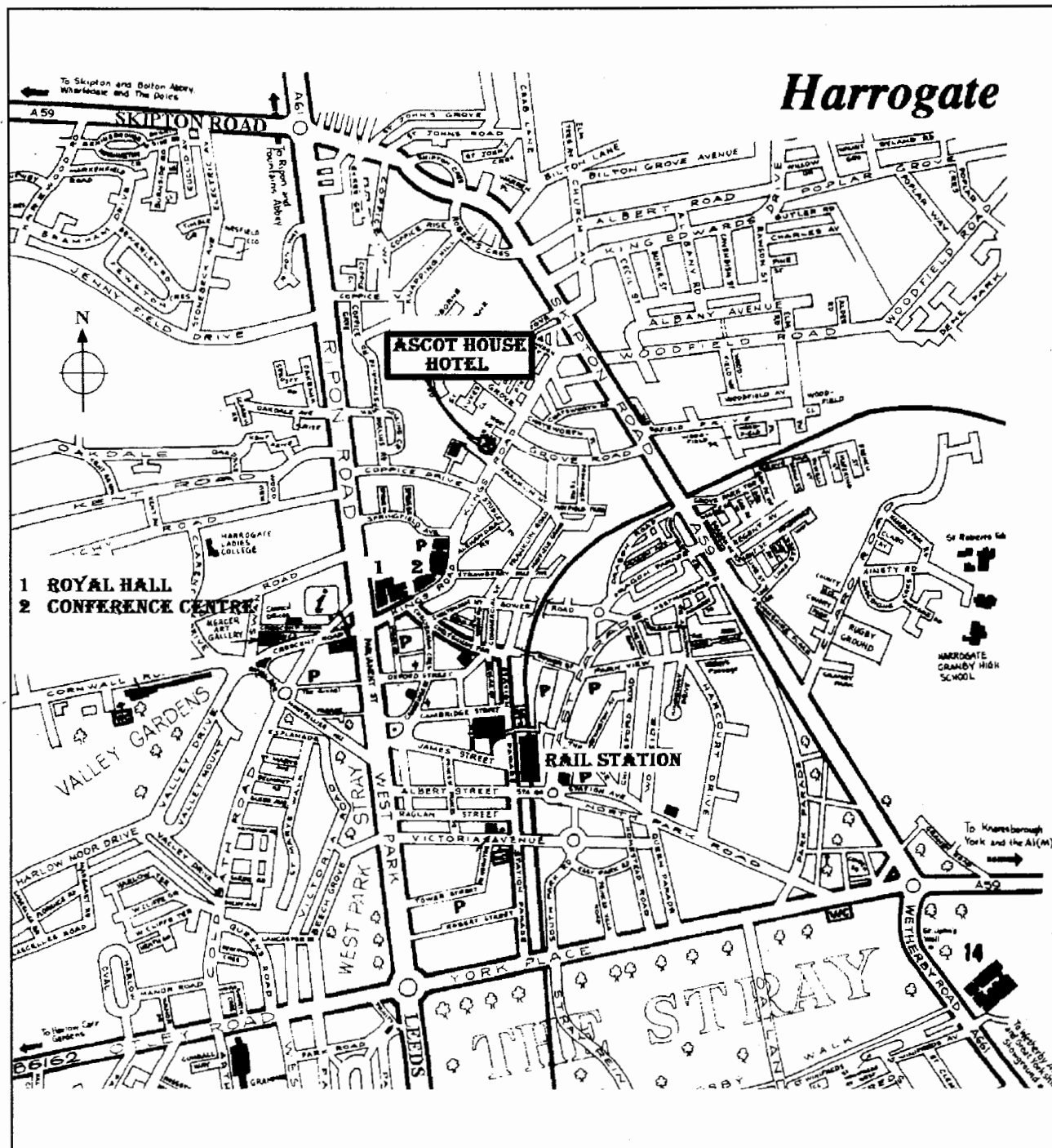
D.M. Giddings Managing Director

14 April, 1998

Mike Goth

Autumn Meeting

For those members wishing to attend the Autumn Meeting in Harrogate the map below should enable you to find your way to the venue.



Earthlines Web Site

Further to the notes on useful internet sites in the NMRS newsletter, perhaps you would like to take a look at our site: www.earthlines.com

As well as hundreds of books relating to earth sciences there are also pages for tools, instruments, accessories, show diary etc. We are also hosting the site for Rockwatch - the young geologists club, and in a week or so the pages for the Russell Society will be live. If you would like any further information please don't hesitate to call Tony Brittain, Endsleigh Book Co, Tel: 01508 531014. Email: sales@earthlines.com

South Wales Coalfield Collection

The website and online catalogue of the South Wales Coalfield Collection is now available at <http://www.swan.ac.uk/swcc/>

The South Wales Coalfield Collection is held by the Library and Information Services Department of University of Wales Swansea. It is a unique collection of documents which provide an insight into the social, economic and cultural history of South Wales during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. The documents concentrate on the employee side of the industry and particularly trade union activities.

The material is held in many media: manuscript documents, photographs, audio and video-tapes, posters and banners. Links to a small number of images of documents in the collection have been provided, in particular to a powerful series of photographs from the 1984/85 Miners' Strike. The catalogue provides item level descriptions of parts of the collection which were previously unavailable: all the photographs, banners, audio and video-tapes and manuscript documents received between 1983-93. It was funded by grants from the Higher Education Funding Council for Wales as part of the NFF initiative for Specialist Research Collections in the Humanities and by the British Library Grants for Cataloguing and Preservation scheme. Contact Elisabeth Bennett, Archivist, Library & Information Centre, University of Wales Swansea, Singleton Park, Swansea, SA2 8PP. Tel. 01792 295021. Email: e.bennett@swansea.ac.uk <http://www.swan.ac.uk/library/archive.htm>

Mining History Tours

The tour of Mexico which was originally scheduled for late September/early October has been re-scheduled to include the IV International Mining History Congress at Guanajuato, Mexico which will be held on the 10th to 13th November 1998. The tour will therefore use this period to cover the original visits planned for the Guanajuato area and will work the remainder of the Mexican tour areas (Pachuca, Real del Monte, Zacatecas, Durango, etc.) around the tour dates. The tour therefore runs from 7th to 20/21st November (exact dates to be confirmed). With the support of block accommodation bookings for the conference and the help of the Congress travel agents we may also be able to reduce the original price. NMRS members, of course, will qualify for a discount.

Anyone interested in the new tour arrangements and attendance at the Congress should, as soon as possible, contact: James Thorburn, Atalaya Tours Ltd, Capel Dewi, Aberystwyth, SY23 3HR. Tel/Fax 01970 828989. Email Lthorb9274@aol.com

A Strange Coincidence

Many society members will be aware of the history of the miners' safety lamp and the controversy as to whether it was invented by Humphrey Davy or George Stephenson.

It appears that both men developed very similar lamps within a short time of each other. Davey's lamp was developed after a scientific investigation of firedamp, examining its chemical and physical properties. Stephenson's approach was that of an engineer and a practical man, based on ideas and instinct rather than a detailed understanding of the conditions which cause explosions. He replaced laboratory analysis with direct testing of prototype lamps underground, amending the design a number of times before a satisfactory lamp was produced. After much heated debate Davey's lamp was deemed the best and he received the accolade of inventing the miners' safety lamp much to the disappointment of Stephenson's supporters. It is therefore ironic that the *Halifax and Huddersfield Express* of 30th April, 1831 carried an account of an inquest into the death of George Stephenson, a collier, who was fatally burned, "despite using one of Sir Huphrey Davy's Safety Lamps".

Martin Roe.

Mining Biographical Sketches - Charles Fox (1797 - 1878)

A scientific writer, Charles Fox was the seventh son of Robert Were Fox, by Elizabeth, daughter of Joseph Tregelles, of Falmouth, and younger brother of Robert Were Fox F.R.S. He was born at Falmouth on the 22nd December 1797, and educated at home. He became a partner in the firm of G.C. and R.W. Fox & Company, merchants and shipping agents in Falmouth, and was also a partner in the Perran Foundry Company at Perranarworthal in Cornwall, where from 1824 until 1847 he was the manager of the foundry and the engine manufactory.

He was one of the projectors and founders of the Royal Cornwall Polytechnic Society at Falmouth in 1833, and in conjunction with Sir Charles Lemon, led the way to a movement which resulted in the offer of a premium of £600 for the introduction of a man-engine into Cornish mines, the result of which was the erection of the first man engine at Tressvean Mine in 1842. This machine was a great success, and its invention was the means whereby a considerable saving was made of much unnecessary labour by the tin and copper miners in the ascent and descent of mine shafts. He was President of the Polytechnic Society for 1871 and 1872, in connection with which institution he founded in 1841 the Lander prizes for maps and essays on geographical districts. He was President of the Royal Geological Society of Cornwall from 1864 to 1867, and President of the Miners' Association of Cornwall and Devon from 1861 to 1863. He interested himself particularly in such discoveries, philological and antiquarian, as tended to throw light on Bible history, and with this object in view he visited Palestine, Egypt and Algiers. In all branches of natural history he was deeply read, making collections and examining with the microscope the specimens illustrative of each department. On the introduction of boring machines into the mines, he was one of the first to recognise their effectiveness, and as early as 1867 he wrote a number of papers on the subject.

He made many communications to the three Cornish societies, as well as to the *Mining Journal*, and *Hardwicke's Science Gossip*. *Extracts from the Spiritual Diary of John Rutt, M.D.* was edited by Fox in 1840, and in 1870 he wrote a small work *On the Ministry of Women*. He was considerably interested in the Cornish mines throughout his life, and in later life was much impoverished through the failure of the greater number of these undertakings. For the last twenty-five years of his life he resided at Trebah, near Falmouth, and died there on the 18th April, 1878. He was buried in the Friends cemetery at Budock on the 23rd April. He had married on the 20th December 1825, Sarah, only daughter of William Hustler, of Apple Hall, Bradford, Yorkshire.

References:

Journal of the Royal Institution of Cornwall, Nov. 1878 pp 2-3;

Boase and Courtney's Bibliotheca Cornubiensis, pp 160,165,1186,1189;

Joseph Foster's Descendants of Francis Fox, 1872 p 11; Weekly Welcome, 1879, pp 215 & 216 with portrait.

Coal Mining in Derbyshire

Tony Fretwell

Derbyshire Records Office has added more than 300 handwritten maps to its collection of several thousand. The maps relate to coal workings in the south and east of the county and date from the 1870s to the 1970s. They include surface plans, diagrams of underground workings and surveys of coal seams.

Collieries in Bretby, Linton and Swadlincote are particularly well documented in the plans, which have been transferred by the Coal Authority, successor to the National Coal Board. Some will need conserving by specialist staff at Matlock, but most will be available to researchers by the end of August.

Tim Jeffcoat

Books

Schau & Besucher Bergwerke in Europa - Heinz Walter Wild 1998. (German)

Show Mines and Mines Open to Visitors in Europe is a handy gazetteer covering most countries in Europe with the following omissions: Andorra, Denmark, Hungary, Ireland and Luxembourg. Great Britain is poorly represented with only two and a bit pages on the Geevor Tin Mine Heritage Centre in Cornwall. This is followed by a list of mine names. Llywernog Silver-Lead Mine Museum is listed twice, once under Dyfed and once under Powys! Omissions include: Earby Mining Museum; Haig Colliery Mining Museum; Ironbridge Gorge Museum; Killhope Lead Mining Centre; Lancashire Mining Museum; Levant Beam Engine; Nenthead Heritage Centre; Peak District Mining Museum and Temple Mine; Threlkeld Quarry and Mining Museum; Welsh Slate Museum etc.

The book is well laid out and contains a mine (pun intended) of information. Location, with post code; Name of mine; Name of company; Postal address; Telephone and Fax numbers; E-mail address; Website; Leader's name; Entrance price; Opening hours and Directions. This is followed by a description, usually two pages long and includes Geology, History, and an account of the Tour. It would have been very useful if the author had noted how long the tour lasts.

More than half the book is taken up with Germany which boasts 89 mines. Other countries are also represented: Austria 18 mines, Belgium 1 mine, Switzerland 5 mines, Czech republic 1 mine, France 3 mines; Italy 2 mines; Norway 6 mines, Holland 1 mine, Poland 1 mine, Sweden 3 mines and Slovakia 2 mines.

The author was born in Idar-Oberstein in 1928 and studied at the TH Aachen Bergbau. He was the Managing Director of a large colliery at Oberhausen and later leader of Exploration and Development of the Ruhr Coal Company. Prof. Wild is well known in German mining circles and has published many papers on mining history. On his initiative, it was in 1975 that the first show mine in the Rheinland-Pfalz district was opened to the public at Fischbach. He was joint author of the Fischbach section of The History of Mining and Metallurgy, he is chairman of the Society for Mining, Metallurgy, Tubing and Environment Technology (GDMB) as well as Professor Emeritus at the Technical University of Clausthal.

I am amazed at the number of mines which have websites. This information alone warrants buying the book and gives one the opportunity to go underground without leaving one's armchair.

Soft bound, 336 pp, photos - many in colour, location maps etc. A5 size, in German. Available from: Tony Oldham, Rhych-y-Dwr, Crymych, Pembrokeshire, SA41 3RB Price £15.00 post free. Telephone/Fax: 01239 831 371. Email anne.oldham@virgin.net

Tony Oldham

The Mines and Mining in the West - Mike Brown Ed.

Under the careful stewardship of Mike Brown this series of long-forgotten articles first published in the *South Devon Literary Chronicle* in 1847, which only lasted for four issues, has been brought to life.

The A6 size booklet of sixteen closely typed pages is very much a period piece and is reproduced verbatim from the original articles. The four articles were meant to be the beginnings of a whole series on mining in the West Country, a series which failed to materialise. It was written from a lay person's point of view.

The first article begins by giving a detailed description of the working of a typical horse whim. The reader is then conducted deep underground into the "solemn, sombre darkness" of the depths of the mine where a vivid description is given of a typical miner's work.

Having been brought safely to the "open blaze of day" the second article studies a device known as a man engine before explaining the "duty" of atmospheric and steam engines. The third article deals mainly with the working of the pumping apparatus used to de-water the deeper levels and gives detailed observations on the dressing of tin ores. The dressing of copper ores "being much less complicated" is outlined in the fourth article before the reader is taken to a "settling" day at the Court-House where tutworkers and tributers are bidding for their next jobs.

I have certainly never come across any references to these articles in any of the standard works and they certainly give a different view to those which I have come across before. Once started, I could not put down this little booklet until the final words. Mike Brown must be congratulated once again on bringing to light these fascinating articles of much interest to anyone who wishes to have an account of the conditions and methods in a typical Cornwall or Devon mine in the 1840s.

The booklet costs £1.50 (post free) from Dartmoor Press, PO Box 132, Plymouth, PL4 7YL. Cheques should be made payable to Mike Brown.

PS. Mike's next mining project will probably be a piece of original research on the Birchtor and Vittrifier Mine, Dartmoor. I will keep readers informed of the publishing date.

Alan Wright

Mines of Devon and Cornwall - Peter Stainer.

Evocative photographs of working Cornish metal mines as epitomised by *'Mongst Mines and Miners'* (1893) by J. C. Barrow live long in the memory. Peter Stainer's new book is based around many excellent photographs from the British Geological Survey's collection. They date from 1903-1907 and 1945 when the essence of the once great industry could still be captured on film. Many of the photographs have appeared in Survey publications, such as Dines's classic work (1956) and map memoirs (1906 onwards), but others are seeing the light of day for the first time.

Over 85 photographs have been carefully grouped together in chapters dealing with mining landscapes, underground scenes, tin ore dressing and so-on. Each section includes a brief summary of the history and the technologies employed. Stainer's style is knowledgeable and well referenced but his touch is light enough to appeal to a wide range of readers. Informative captions for each photograph include a grid reference and even the time of day. The historical accounts are brought right up to date with references to the closure of South Crofty and the activities of the Trevithick Trust at Tolgus tin works. Besides classic pictures of the Camborne mining landscape, with a key sketch of the visible mines, several topics normally neglected are covered. The tin dressing chapter has sharp but enigmatic photographs of concave and convex buddles, not to mention the peculiar vanners. Even the opencast workings on tin lodes possibly worked in antiquity at Wheal Coates and Great Wheal Fortune are included.

One slight criticism is that comments on prehistoric mining are a little shallow. Cornish archaeology has a lot of catching up to do to complement the recent magnificent Bronze Age copper mining discoveries in Wales and Ireland. Stainer's statement that "the earliest tin workings were in streamworks" sits uneasily with later captions of "very ancient" surface lode outcrops. In truth, nobody knows which were worked first. The available photographs mean that Devon is not very well represented and yet the Teign Valley mines covered are very unusual (barytes, micaceous hæmatite and ball-clay).

The book is printed on good quality gloss paper, of 108 pages containing 115 photographs, maps and line illustrations. It is available for £15.00 post free from Twelveheads press, Chy Mengleth, Twelveheads, Truro, Cornwall, TR4 8SN.

R. Alan Williams

Thar's Gold in Them Thar Devon Valleys!

Test drilling has been carried out at since 1997 on three sites at a secret location codenamed "Watford" which lies within an area known as the Crediton Trough, Devon. The company, Crediton Minerals PLC in association with a Dublin-based exploration company called Minmet have now been granted a further twelve month extension of the exploration licence by the Crown Estate Commissioners amid hopes that the sites may provide commercial quantities of gold.

The company is investing £1 million and is awaiting results from the drilling samples taken from bores as much as 200 feet below the surface at the three sites which lie within the "Trough" area, a 300 million year old geological feature, 12 kilometres wide, being a kind of "rift valley" running for some 50 kilometres from Holsworthy in the west to the Exe villages of Huxham and Thorverton in the east. The geology is very similar to areas in Germany, central Europe and Queensland where gold is already commercially mined.

The levels of gold already found in the early stages of drilling are very encouraging and the company, with the help of a British Geological Survey team, intends to use laser technology during its next phase of exploration which should begin later in 1998, now that the licence has been granted. It will still be some time before consideration can be given as to whether to make a full application for a mining licence to open what will be England's only commercial gold mine.

A public enquiry would probably have to take place in view of the outstanding natural beauty of the area, but until the company gets the next assay results no decision can be made on what scale the next phase will take.

Evidence of gold came to light in this and other areas of the south-west when it was surveyed for signs of lead, tin and zinc some years ago, and we are no stranger to recent exploration for gold; witness the frantic explorations at sites in the South Hams of Devon during the 1980s and the gold prospecting three years ago near the tiny hamlet of Tregeare near Launceston in Cornwall, where samples proved eventually to be unpromising.

Alan Wright

New Mining Heritage Centre

A new tourist attraction planned for Newcastle-under-Lyme could attract thousands of visitors. Plans have been submitted to establish a £1 million mining heritage centre at the abandoned Bassey drift mine at Apedale. The former Silverdale railway station will also be demolished and put back brick-by-brick at the tourist venue as a focal point for a narrow gauge rail system providing steam rides for visitors. A café, toilets and shops, as well as parking facilities for more than 400 vehicles are proposed.

Tim Jeffcoat

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 welcome - ASCII text (.txt) or (.tif) format only please. Discs will normally be returned with the following newsletter unless otherwise requested. Contributions for the December newsletter by 20th November, please, to:

Keith Nolan, West End Cottage, Woodhall, South Duffield, Selby, North Yorkshire, YO8 6TG. Telephone or Fax: 01757 638503. Email: kjn100@york.ac.uk

The views expressed in this newsletter are those of its correspondents and are not necessarily agreed with or shared by the Northern Mine Research Society, its Officers or the Editor. The accuracy of submissions is the responsibility of the authors and will not normally be checked by the Newsletter Editor for validity. Neither the Society, its Officers nor the Newsletter Editor accept responsibility for the content of articles submitted by individual members or groups.