

THE NORTHERN MINE RESEARCH SOCIETY



Newsletter

FEBRUARY 2000

Diary Dates

Saturday 25th March, 2000.

The Annual General Meeting will take place at the Wensleydale Heifer, West Witton (SE 056884), Tel: 01969 622322 at 12.00 followed by the Annual Dinner at 14.00. A menu and Booking Form are enclosed with this Newsletter.

Saturday 15th April. Houghton le Spring Mines Rescue Station. Contact: Tel. (01535) 657090 for details. Meet - 10.00. A strong pair of shoes are needed for this two hour visit.

Saturday/Sunday 20th/21st May. Hude Valley, Teesdale Leader: Tony Fretwell Tel. (01388) 605965. Surface tour on Saturday and underground visits on Sunday. Meet (both days) - 10.00 at Middleton in Teesdale NGR NY947255 NB. The meet leader must be contacted if you intend going on this meet.

Saturday/Sunday 10th/11th June. Snailbeach/South. Leader: Mike Moore Tel. (01952) 405105. Guided walks, video show, easy underground. Contact leader for details of meet, accommodation and BCRA insurance requirement. Meet (both days) - 10.30 at Snailbeach village hall car park NGR SJ373022.

Saturday 8th July. Sir Francis Level, Swaledale. Leader. (01482) 871474. A fairly arduous walk, in deep water, to visit the water pressure engines. Meet - 10.30 in car park by bridge. NGR SD951982.

Friday 14th to Tuesday 18th July 2000. 1st International NAMHO Conference.

National Association of Mining History Organisations 21st Annual National Event hosted by Carn Brea Mining Society and Camborne School of Mines at Truro, Cornwall. Visit our web site at www.ex.ac.uk/~ajbeer/namho/namho.html or E-mail : NAMHO@csm.ex.ac.uk or contact Lawrence Holmes at Rivergarth, Malpas, Truro, Cornwall, TR1 1SS. Tel: 01872-278234

The conference will be held in the beautiful Cathedral City of Truro, Cornwall.

IN THIS ISSUE

- 1.....*Diary Dates*
- 2.....*Lancashire Museum*
- 3.....*1998 Accounts*
- 4.....*Books*
- 8.....*Mining Tours*
- 9.....*From Here & There*

<http://www.ex.ac.uk/~RBurt/MinHistNet/NMRSevents.html>

The City is well served by rail and road connections and the airport is some 15 miles to the north west at Newquay.

Truro has a large selection of High Street Stores together with many small specialist shops. The City has a wide variety of cafés, restaurants and top entertainment at the New Hall for Cornwall.

The conference venue is at the spectacularly sited Truro School and is only 10 minutes walk from the City centre. The venue offers lecture halls, on site bedroom accommodation together with dining and leisure facilities. There will also be ample space for Trade and Society stands, car parking, camping and caravan areas. The Theme of InterNAMHO 2000 will be: Acquire, Record and Display. The four day event will include indoor lectures at the main conference venue and a large selection of excursions to many of Cornwall's Mining Heritage sites. Speakers already booked include Ian Cowburn (France), Jan Verbruggan (Holland), John Morris (Eire) as well as national and local speakers of note.

Saturday 12th August. Plate Level, Swaledale. Leader: Sallie Bassham Tel. (01524) 241851. Surface and underground. Meet - 10.30 at Keld village square. NGR SD896011.

September. Tom Leonard Mining Museum, Skinningrove. Leader: Derrek King. 775811. Meet - 13.00 at the museum, NGR NZ712192.

Boulby Potash Mine (a 2 or 3 hour U/G visit). Meet - 16.00. Numbers will be strictly limited maximum age of 60. Further details of meets will appear in the meets list and subsequent newsletters

Saturday October 14th. Autumn Meeting. General Meeting at 14.30 followed by a pot-pourri of members slides and short talks and a chance to socialise. Further details in subsequent newsletter.

All meets are subject to the weather and permission being granted.

Please contact the appropriate Meet Leader if you intend going on a meet.

Threat to the Lancashire Mining Museum

As the result of a massive overspend (said to be £15 million) by its Social Services department, Salford City Council is seeking to make cuts in its budget. One proposal is to close the Lancashire Mining Museum at Buile Hill Park, Salford.

This is the only coal mining museum in North-West England and its collections ideally complement those of the National Coal Mining Museum for England near Wakefield. They form a significant educational and recreational resource, covering a regionally and nationally important industry most traces of which are quickly being wiped from the landscape. Their loss would, therefore, be a tragedy for mining history and it is up to us to protest vigorously.

Please write to one or all of the following:-

J. Willis, Chief Executive, City of Salford Council, Civic Centre, Chorley Road, SWINTON, Lancashire.

OR

Hazel Blears, M.P. Address as above.

OR

Mark Carriline, Director of Education, Salford Education Offices, Chapel Street, SALFORD, Lancashire.

Mike Gill

Northern Mine Research Society - Summary of 1998 Accounts

Income		Expenditure	
1997 Subscriptions	£7079	Subs to other Societies	£53
Donations	230	Donations	10
Investment a/c interest	666	Annual Dinner/Autumn Meeting	460
Interest on Tax Refund	12	Printing & Stationery	11836
Publications	6087	Publications Storage	158
Annual Dinner/ & Au- tumn Meeting	304	Insurance	30
		Postage	1423
Totals	£14378		£13970

Cash Flow Income - Expenditure = £408

National Coalmining Museum

Please note that the National Coalmining Museum now has a new website. It may be found at:
<http://www.ncm.org.uk>

Lead and Labour - The Miners of Leadhills.

This MSS is too lengthy for a Society Memoir and, as there seems no prospect of it being published by others, I have recently taken two steps to make it available to an interested public.

A copy of the revised MSS has been deposited with the Local History dept. of Glasgow's Mitchell Library and my son George has now put the MSS into a Web site. The address is: <http://msnhomepages.talkcity.com/LaGrangeLn/sandham/index.htm/>

I shall be interested in the comments at: wsharvey@email.msn.com of those members who can access the site, and I will be grateful to have the address passed on to others interested.

Bill Harvey.

Second Selby Pit to Close

RJB Mining is to close the North Selby Mine this year with the loss of about 300 jobs. RJB has already closed Whitemoor Mine and merged North Selby with Stillingfleet. The company has been frustrated by geological problems and poor productivity at the mine. The output from the Selby complex will be less than 6m. tons per year, a figure that is less than half the original planned output. An RJB spokesman has said that concentrating production in areas with lower geological risk will provide the more secure and stable operations required in the current economic climate.

NAMHO Newsletter

Books

Swaledale - Portrait of North Yorkshire Mining Community

Members may have been puzzled as to why my 1988 review of John Hardy's Hidden Side of Swaledale was repeated, without explanation, in the December Newsletter. I put the review on the Mining History Discussion List after the book was recommended by someone and it was lifted from there. After remarking that I had not seen Hardy's latest book on Swaledale, in the introduction to that review, it had to happen - I was loaned a copy. Thank you Steve Mitchell!

This is an improvement on his last book, but that was so dire that this is no great achievement. Once again, the book, with its large format and high quality paper, has been beautifully produced by Frank Peters. It would be peevish not to admit that the book reads much better than the Hidden Side of Swaledale, but basic errors abound. For example, Hardy refers to characters without introduction and regularly changes their names. He remains convinced that the London Lead Company was active in the dale. He clings to an early, incorrect date for the building of the Octagonal smelt mill and is unaware that the cluster of buildings at the Old Gang Mill is actually two smelt mills. All these errors show a lack of knowledge of easily accessible secondary sources.

He muses at length about the course and purpose of Hard Level and concludes that it was driven after a fatal accident at Old Rake Whim in May 1778. If so, then it was truly prescient as the level was begun a year before the accident! He does not give a source for the claim that the accident was at Old Rake Whim and the Grinton Parish Registers only tell us that, on the same day, two men were "killed in the lead mines at Old Gang". He refers to a map, drawn in 1821, by Francis Gill. Not bad, even for a Gill, as the man died in 1801!

He returns to his pet piece of conspiracy theory - the cover up (by the bosses, of course) surrounding the supposed events at Water Blast Shaft. In Hidden Side we were told that 24 miners were killed here after blasting into water. We are now told, depending on what page you read, that this involved "a handful of miners", "the loss of many lives" or "a gigantic human tragedy". Hardy's "considered judgement" is that the accident took place, according to his "strong suspicion", in the early 18th century. This date appears to be favoured because of "the viciousness of these times". We are even treated to nine verses of doggerel on the subject of 'Water Blast Vein' from the author's pen! In these times when the crime of Holocaust denial features strongly in historical debate, perhaps there should be a new one of Water Blast denial - for which I want to head the list of offenders!

You've probably guessed that I do not recommend this book, but if you insist on wasting your money it is available from Frank Peters for £15.95.

Mike Gill

Lost Dutchman Secrets Revealed

This book reveals new information on the "Lost Dutchman Mine Of Jacob Waltz" and explains the history of the one hundred year old legend, providing new maps, photographs and clues. Included is a review of the geology of the Superstition Mountains, and an analysis of the "match box" gold. Sites are cross-referenced to the "Hiker's Guide to the Superstition Wilderness". Thomas E. Glover has skilfully crafted a thoroughly researched and logically organized account of the lore and legend of the Lost Dutchman Mine. In this wide ranging story of the mine, and those who have searched for it, Glover has compiled more than the oft repeated tales of Jacob Waltz and his "lost" mine. The 384 page book is published by Cowboy Miner Production P. O. Box 9674, Phoenix, AZ 85068 and is available for \$19.95 plus \$3.50 shipping and handling.

Mason Coggin - via mining History list

The Wigan Coalfield Compiled by Alan Davies with Len Hudson - 0 7524 1724 X

Through documents, the Wigan area can trace its coal mining activities as far back as 650 years, and for a brief spell in the late nineteenth century Wigan itself was proudly known as 'Coalopolis'. Mining machinery such as ventilation fans, winding engines, air compressors, pumps and haulage engines were manufactured around Wigan, the products of Worsley Mesnes Ironworks, Woods & Sons or Walker Brothers. The closure of the Bickershaw, Golborne and Parsonage mining complex in 1992, however, brought an end to the Wigan coalfield's great era.

Over 700 million tons of coal have been produced in the Wigan coalfield over the last 600 years, while a similar amount still lies below the ground. The recent ill-advised rush to wipe out all traces of the British coal industry has temporarily closed the mines of the Wigan area, and sadly thousands of men with the specialist skills peculiar to the industry have found themselves without a career.

The photographs in the compilation have been carefully selected from the collections of the Lancashire Mining Museum, Wigan Heritage Centre and the Donald Anderson/Tony France Archive. It is a book that will provide an intriguing insight into the lives and working conditions of Wigan area miners and is a testament to the region and its proud coal mining legacy.

Cost £9.95 P&P, available from Mike Moore Mining and Caving Bookseller, WWW.moorebooks.co.uk Mike@moorebooks.co.uk

Edited Transcripts of the 1842 Royal Commission Reports on Children in the Mines

For: Cornwall & Devon, Cumberland, Derbyshire & Nottinghamshire, East Scotland, Forest of Dean & South Gloucestershire and North & South Somerset, Lancashire, Cheshire and parts of Derbyshire.

Lead Mines in Northumberland & Durham, Mines & Collieries in Southern Ireland, North Lancashire, North Wales, Shropshire, South Staffordshire, South Wales (1) South Wales (2) West Riding of Yorkshire (1) West Riding of Yorkshire (2) West Scotland. are available from Ian Winstanley, 83 Greenfields Crescent, Ashton-in-Makerfield, Wigan, Lancs Tel:-(01942) 723675.

'A Catalogue of Abandonment Plans, 1924, Durham' will soon be available.

More details at the Coal Mining History Resource Centre wkweb5.cableinet.co.uk/ian.winstanley

Mike Gill

Walks around the Caves and Karst of the Mendip Hills/A field guide by Andy Farrant.

BCRA Cave Studies Series No 8, 1999. 40 pp, 8 plates, 9 maps and diagrams. Price £3.50 post free. Subtitled "A guide to walks illustrating the karst landforms and some accessible caves within the Mendip Hills", this handy little A5 guide describes many features of interest to the mining historian. The walk around Charterhouse includes Blackmoor Swallet (mine drainage), Ubley Warren Rakes (Roman opencast) and Stainsby's shaft (sunk by Cornish miners in the 1840's to a depth of 108m), Waterwheel Swallet and Roman Mines (includes the gated entrance to an 18th century lead mine - Glebe Swallet), Velvet Bottom (buddle pits, slag heaps, some re-worked in the 1800's). The Priddy walk takes in Five Buddles Sink (dug by cavers searching for a cave but found instead one of Thomas Bushell's drainage adits), St Cuthbert's Leadworks (a collection of ruined mine buildings and a rare late 19th century photo). The Wookey Hole walk includes High Pitts Farm Iron Mine, even unknown to me! Easy walking country. Even the unfit could easily combine a morning walk with lunch at a Mendip pub, with a further walk in the afternoon in preparation for dinner in the evening! This book would ideally lend itself to anybody planning a short break - possibly with Wells as a Centre. From: Tony Oldham, Specialist Mine and Cave Bookseller, Duncavin, Rest Home for Retired Cavers, Riverside Mews, Cardigan, SA43 1DH.

W H Auden / Pennine Poet by Alan Myers and Robert Forsythe 1999

60 pp, 8 colour, 9 B&W photos, maps, SB. Publisher: North Pennines Heritage Trust £3.50

I had always thought Auden to be the cavers' poet, because of his "In Praise of Limestone" but, it appears that Auden is also the mining historian's poet. Auden spent his childhood in Birmingham. This gave him a fascination for what today we would call, 'industrial archaeology'. He gushes enthusiastically over gasworks and industrial landscapes and writes

"Tramlines and slagheaps, pieces of machinery,

That was, and still is, my ideal scenery".

In another poem he fantasises with himself as a mining engineer. Family holidays took him to mining areas and his love of the underworld repeatedly appears in his works, for instance when he refers to putting carpets on his bed to give the impression of being underground. This is further emphasised by his predilection for travelling on the Underground. When Auden offered to show his friend photos of his former loves, Alan Ansen was surprised to see pictures of pumping engines, water turbines, winding engines and roller-crushers. Throughout his life Auden hankered after "high wind and driving rain, autumnal weather". He was not to be disappointed. The northern Pennines provided the landscape and the inspiration for his works which constantly refers to mines and mining.

This book will appeal not only to the northern Penniner, who will revel in his glorifying of the northern landscape, but all those with a love of literature allied with industrial archaeology.

Tony Oldham, Specialist Caving and Mining Bookseller.

Lead Smelters in the Yorkshire Dales - Review of Internet Site

There are a growing number of web sites devoted to mining related topics and, as with publications, there is a widely varying level of quality. One unfortunate effect of the relative ease with which material can be published on the web is that basic grammar, spelling and sentence structure have gone to pot. Even more frustratingly, material is often presented on a 'take it or leave it' basis, with a total absence of reference to sources.

This is a review of a site (<http://www.ayresnet.swinternet.co.uk/msmelter.htm>) covering the 47 [really 44] lead smelting mills in Swaledale, Wensleydale and Arkengarthdale, which I was told about by someone working on their family history. Rod Ayres and John Archbold had a good idea when they set up this web-site "to make the beauty of these places better known to the world and provide extra interest by providing some short accounts of their histories".

To this end, they have taken on the challenge of trying to cater for all levels of interest, from the casual visitor or walkers to the industrial archaeologist. Pages of text are devoted to describing "From outcrops to mine", "From baille [sic] hills to smelters" and the "Leading families". Regrettably, in their attempt to present a simple description, the message has become corrupt. For example, we are told that "lead ore occurs in long seams, known as veins" and, whilst talking of outcropping veins, "these veins were called rakes, presumably because the ore could be exposed by raking off the surface soil". There are also a number of references to 'bell pits', which is a term borrowed from coal mining and mis-applied to shallow shafts on lead veins.

Unfortunately, the site's authors have given no means of contacting them to draw new material to their attention. This is an especial problem as their core data is almost totally lifted, without acknowledgement, from Arthur Raistrick's book "The Lead Industry of Wensleydale and Swaledale: Volume 2 - The Smelting Mills".

When published, in 1975, this was the first attempt to identify and fix a chronology to the area's smelt mills. Raistrick's model was followed assiduously until it became clear to some that it had some serious flaws. In order to expose these, in 1992 I wrote a paper on "Yorkshire Smelting Mills: Part 1 - The Northern Dales" which was published in *British Mining*. This changed many of the spatial and chronological elements of Raistrick's model and showed that his Applegarth smelt mill never existed. Since then, others have refined my model and also published their work in *British Mining*. For example, Les Tyson discounted one of Raistrick's four mills at Clints and greatly improved our understanding of their chronology and ownership. He also showed that the Cupola Mill, at Marrick, was not built in 1854 but in 1701 - making it a very important site (now a Scheduled Ancient Monument). Subsequent work, by Dennison, Lamb and Vernon, is likely to revise our knowledge of early smelt mills even further.

Strangely, their notes on the condition of the mills fail to mention the consolidation work done by the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority (Old Gang, Surrender, Blakethwaite and Grinton) or by English Heritage at Marrick. Not all the mills are described, but the authors propose to add more as they visit them. It is to be hoped that they do not use their own map for this task as they will have some long and fruitless searches! For some reason, Keld Side Mill has been moved from near the head of the dale to Gunnerside Gill - being put almost where the Blakethwaite Mill is, while the latter has been moved about a mile up the gill. Cupola Mill now stands on the Arkle, between Grinton and Reeth. Scott's Mill has moved to near Grinton Youth Hostel. Moulds Low Mill has changed liberties and stands alongside Surrender Mill. None of the four smaller, 17th and 18th century mills on Barney Beck are shown.

I would be the last to discourage people from putting information on the web, but I hope that it will not become the home of vanity publishers whose work would not pass the mildest of peer reviews.

The Archbold-Ayres site is well worth visiting, if only to get some ideas on what should and shouldn't be done, but the content should come with a health warning. It's like digital Hardy - John not Thomas.

Mike Gill

Rookhope Site Bulldozed

An ancient smelt mill at Rookhope, which was first used during the seventeenth century has been wrecked by Environment Agency workers. The old lead mill, one of the best preserved archaeological relics in the country was bulldozed in error after the Agency decided to help stop contaminated water seeping from a disused underground mine into Rookhope Burn.

After Grove Rake fluorspar mine was closed down last year, the water seeped up through the ground. Environment Agency bosses decided to dig three deep lagoons to isolate the contaminated water and in the process, ruined the old lead site, much of which lay beneath the surface. It had lain undisturbed for three centuries and included a wheelpit.

The Agency admitted their mistake after a letter from Durham County Council, warning them about the location of the site, went astray. A spokesperson for the Agency said, "We are sorry for what has happened but it was done with the best of intentions."

"It was a project that we needed to carry out urgently, to protect wildlife and the eco-system. A survey is being carried out at the site to assess the extent of the damage."

Weardale Gazette. February 2000

Mining Tours 2000

Atalaya Tours have run study tours to major international mining regions since 1988. The itineraries cover aspects of mining history and archaeology, both ancient and recent, and the geological setting. Tours are accompanied by expert guides and, where possible, feature visits to working mines.

Rio Tinto & Southern Spain - 9-19 April, 2000

This is our long-established itinerary to southern Spain, an area that remains one of the most interesting mining fields in Europe, dominated by the mines of Rio Tinto. The itinerary includes the major sites in the Spanish Pyrite Belt and other mining fields of southern Spain.

Mexico - 20 May to 1 June 2000

This tour, planned in conjunction with the Historical Metallurgy Society, will cover the main Mexican sites including the famous names of Taxco, Guanajuato, Zacatecas, Fresnillo, Pachuca and Real del Monte. The tour starts in Mexico City and includes the major mining areas of the central and western highlands.

Mines of Northern Spain & Portugal - 23rd June to 1st July 2000

The northern Spanish regions of Galicia, Asturias and Cantabria, form rugged "Green Spain". Our tour includes the major Roman gold mining sites in Portugal and the provinces of Oviedo & Leon (including the spectacular site of Las Medulas), copper and lead mines in the Cantabrian Mountains, and tin mines in Galicia and Portugal.

Germany - 15 to 23 July 2000

This tour covers the major German metal mining areas: the Harz Mountains and the Freiberg/Erzgebirge region. These are among some of the oldest mining areas in Europe with a particular role in the history of mining due to the work of Georgius Agricola.

Western Britain - 29 July to 8 August 2000

This tour itinerary has been designed as an introduction to the UK mining heritage, in the western British mining areas of Wales, and Devon and Cornwall, in south-west England.

Peru - 19 August to 2 September 2000

The major mining areas of the Central Highlands are included in this itinerary, together with the opportunity of an extension tour to Cuzco and the Sacred Valley.

Greece and Cyprus - 17 to 24 September 2000

This tour coincides with the 5th International Mining History Congress, and includes the main classical sites of Laurion, ancient sites in the Cyclades islands, and the copper mines of Cyprus.

For the full 2000 programme details please write, fax, or phone Atalaya Tours. Please indicate any interest in particular itineraries. Atalaya Tours Ltd, Ceinionfa, Capel Dewi, Aberystwyth, SY23 3HR, UK. Fax/phone (24hr): +44 (0)1970 828989 Email:atalayajt@aol.com Web Site:www.atalaya.co.uk Members of NMRS are eligible to a 5% discount.

Llechwedd/Maenofferen Slate Quarries

The main productive part of Llechwedd Quarry has been closed due to an Inspectorate Prohibition Order regarding the safety of a face after a rockfall. They are now digging up in Floor 2 and a half in Maenofferen (this is near the old mill, which was razed to the ground a couple of years back) and also in Votty (location of work unknown to me). 39 men have been laid off and the situation is looking bleak.

A. Knight

Plans to Develop Irish Cave

A plan to develop Pol-an-Ionain cave which according to the Guinness Book of Records contains the largest free-hanging stalactite in the world - as a tourist attraction has been given the go-ahead by Clare County Council.

The applicants, John and Helen Browne, of Roadford, Doolin, were also granted planning permission by the council to develop a visitor centre with interpretative facilities, a shop, restaurant, sewage-treatment plant and space for 70 cars on a six acre site at Craggydorryan West, Doolin, subject to 66 conditions. The council made its ruling although it had been advised by independent consultants it had hired that the applicants had failed to identify fully and assess the impact of the proposal on the renowned seven-metre stalactite.

Planning and geotechnical consultants Mr. John Barnett and Associates Ltd. stated: "Our review of the latest batch of additional information provided by the applicants is that it is more notable for the issues it fails to address and the additional concerns it raises in respect of the proposed development."

The consultants also said the applicants had yet to address the matter of how vulnerable the stalactite was to detachment from the roof, given its geometric and geotechnical properties and those of the overlying rock mass. The council earlier disregarded a recommendation from the consultants that an environmental impact assessment (EIA) be carried out by the applicants into the plan. The move by the council to grant planning permission for the development was severely criticised yesterday by An Taisce and the Pol-an-Ionain Action Group. Both groups have said they will appeal the decision to An Bord Pleanála.

Irish Times 2 December, 1999.

Roger Bade

Diamonds in the Highlands

Diamond hunters are increasingly confident that the Scottish Highlands hold untold wealth and may yield Britain's first haul of diamonds. After panning rivers and lakes on five potential sites, they have subjected the fine dust to microscopic examination and have spotted, chromites, often an indicator for the presence of gemstones. Cambrian Mineral Resources, a Bristol-based exploration company, has spent the past six months searching sites which include Orkney, Uig on the Isle of Lewis, the area around Ben Hope in the north of Sutherland, the Isle of Colonsay and Lochaber.

Dust samples were sent to a company belonging to Chuck Fipke, the explorer who discovered the multi-billion pound Ekati diamond deposits in Lac de Gras, northern Canada.

The Independent, 27 November, 1999.

Alan Willaims

Miner's Cottage - Pant y Fachwen

Countryside Service volunteers have found the remains of a miner's cottage on a Prestatyn hillside. Part of the wall could be viewed through the thick vegetation, and currently volunteers are helping to clear the area. The cottage was cut into the hillside and uses the limestone bedrock in places for its walls. The remains of the lower floor are divided in two with a large fireplace at one end. It is however considered that an upper floor existed as census records show that at the end of the 19th century 11 to 12 people from one family lived there. Records show that it was a mining household and that members of the family worked in the Talargoch mines on the outskirts of Meliden.

It is hoped that in the coming year the environmental task force with the guidance of Denbighshire Countryside Service will be able to perform conservation work on the cottage.

Archaeology Journal - No. 20.

A. S. Mousdale

Malcolm Newton

One or two people have been in touch asking about his health, I sorry to inform Mailbase he that he passed away on 12 November 1999, his funeral was held on 27 November. He leaves behind his wife Sheila, sons Russell and Andrew and daughter Lindsey

He was well known for his superb drawings of Mine Buildings which were published in various books and have featured regularly in Descent. He also built amazing replica models of Engine Houses, the largest of which will be placed in the Former Miners Dry at Snailbeach which will become a heritage interpretation building.

Mike Moore - Mining History List

Frank D. Woodall (1912-1999)

The world of model engineering lost a much respected member with the death of Frank D. Woodall on November 20th. He died in his sleep, but those who knew him will not be surprised that he was active to the end - having tended to his models at the Earby Mines museum only a few days before. Frank's other interests included mineralogy, photography, local history and the history of mining. His book Steam Engines and Waterwheels: A Pictorial Study of Some Early Mining Machines was published by Moorland in 1975.

Examples of Frank's models can be seen at such diverse places as Kew Bridge Pumping Station, Wheal Martin, Windermere Steamboat Museum, Craven Museum (Skipton), and the Museum of Yorkshire Dales Lead Mining at Earby.

Mike Gill

2000 Subscriptions

This is the last reminder for 2000 subscriptions. If you have not yet paid, please do so as soon as possible.

Finally

Apologies to those who have sent in material which has not appeared in this newsletter. Once again I have had a bumper crop of items and regrettably, time for the preparation of the newsletter has been short, so those which have not appeared will be held over until the next newsletter.

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. Discs will normally be returned with the following newsletter unless otherwise requested. Attachments to Emails in text (.txt) only format please. Contributions for the May 2000 Newsletter by 22nd April, please, to:

Keith Nolan, West End Cottage, Woodhall, South Duffield, Selby, North Yorkshire, YO8 6TG. Telephone or Fax: 01757 638503. E-mail: keithn@woodhall.u-net.com

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.