

THE NORTHERN MINE RESEARCH SOCIETY



Newsletter

MAY 2000

Diary Dates

Saturday/Sunday, 21st May. Hude Valley, Teesdale. Leader: Tony Fretwell Tel: 01388 605965. Surface tour on Saturday and underground on Sunday. Meet - both days - at 10.00 at Middleton in Teesdale NGR NY947255. Note: You must contact the Meet Leader beforehand if you intend going on this meet.

Saturday/Sunday, 10/11th June. Snailbeach South. Leader; Mike Moore. Tel: 01952 405105. Guided walks, video show and easy underground. Contact the Meet Leader for details of the meet, accommodation and BCRA insurance requirements. Meet - both days - at 10.30 in Snailbeach Village Hall car park at NGR SJ373022.

Saturday, 8th July. Sir Francis Level, Swaledale. Leader; Graham Dobbs. Tel: 01482 871474. A fairly arduous walk in deep water to visit the water pressure engines. Meet at 10.30 in car park near bridge. NGR SD951982.

Friday 14th to Tuesday 18th July. First 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 Email NAMHO@csm.ex.ac.uk or contact Lawrence Holmes at Rivergarrth, Malpas, Truro, Cornwall, TRI ISS. Tel: 01 872-278234.

The conference will be held in the beautiful Cathedral City of Truro, Cornwall. 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 cafes, 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 Inter-NAMHO 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 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.

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

Saturday 12th August. Plate Level, Swaledale. Leader: Sallie Bassham Tel. (01524) 241851. Surface and underground. Meet - 10.00 at Keld village square, NGR SD896011.

Thursday 28th September. Torn Leonard Mining Museum, Skinningrove. Leader: Derrek King. 775811. Meet 13.00 at the Museum, NGR N27121'2.

Thursday 28th September. Boulby Potash Mine (a 2 or 3 hour underground visit) Meet - 16.00 Numbers will be strictly limited; maximum age of 60. Further details of meets will appear in 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.

Mine Heritage Guided Walks

During the season, the Threlkeld Museum offers a variety of guided heritage walks to some of the most interesting sites in the county. Here, the novice and seasoned mine explorer alike, can learn what happened all those years ago. There is also the opportunity to study at first hand the local minerals and geology of the area. Many of these trips take you through the most beautiful and wildest of our Lakeland scenery.

June 4th Sunday RIGGHEAD QUARRIES Meet Rosthwaite car park Borrowdale 5 miles

July 2nd Sunday TILBERTHWAITE MINES & QUARRIES Meet Tilberthwaite car park 6 miles

July 30th Sunday *WYTHBURN MINE Meet car park behind Wythburn Church. 6 miles *HARD"

August 28th Monday GREENSIDE MINE Meet YDNP car park, Glenridding 6 miles

Sept 24th Sunday GOLDSCOPE MINE Meet Littleton bridge car park 6 miles

All walks commence at 10.30am and boots or strong shoes should be worn! Waterproofs and spare clothing should be carried, also a packed lunch. Most walks will take a minimum of 5 hours. (£3.00 per person) Not suitable for young children. Want to know more about our mining heritage? Then why not join M.O.L.E.S. (Mines Of Lakeland Exploration Society)? Tel: 017687 79717 or 01228 561883

Appointment of Hon. Treasurer

Will members note that with the retirement of Colin Hindle a new treasurer has been appointed. He is: **Barry Sudell, 1 Spenbrook Cottages, Newchurch-in-Pendle, Burnley, Lancashire, BB12 9JW. Tel: 01282 692036.**

I am sure that the members will join the committee in thanking Colin Hindle for his sterling work during his time as NMRS Treasurer. We wish him luck for the future.

Greenside Lead Mine Exhibition - 2000

During the first week of August, 1999, an exhibition on Greenside Lead Mine was held at Glenridding Village Hall in Patterdale, Cumbria. This mine was worked almost continuously for over a century before finally closing in 1961.

This exhibition was staged and presented by mine researchers and covered the history of the mine using old documents, newspaper reports, plans, paintings, mineral specimens and approximately 400 Photos. Running concurrently with this was a photographic history of life in the village of Glenridding and surrounding Patterdale where many of the miners resided.

There was also a separate display showing the re-opening of the Lucy Level. Due to the success of the event it is to be held once again this year at Glenridding Village Hall commencing on Saturday 29th July and running this time for two weeks. Included in this year's exhibition are many new photos and documents, amongst which is an archive of colour prints from the 1950s showing scenes both above and below ground, which have never been seen before. Lastly there is also a small model display of old mining machinery new to this year's event.

This will probably be the last chance to see this unique display all together like this under one roof. Admission is once again £1.00 with children under 16 free. Proceeds from the exhibition will be donated to the Village Hall fund.

John Hodgkins

Wanted - Newsletter Editor

I should like to step down as newsletter Editor on or before the date of the 2000/1 Annual General Meeting. I have been Editor for something like six years and feel that it is time for a change.

If you have some spare time and access to a computer with a WP or DTP package and feel that you would like to produce the newsletter every three months please contact me for further details. My contact details are at the end of the newsletter.

Keith Nolan

Society Officers for 2000/01

President	Mike Gill
Vice-President	Bob Burns
Junior Vice-President	Colin Hindle
Secretary	Steve Mitchell
Treasurer	Barry Sudell
Editor	Hazel Martell
Newsletter Editor	Keith Nolan
Librarian	Sallie Bassham
Recorder	Mike Gill

Summary of 1999 Accounts

Income		Expenditure	
1999 Subscriptions	£6277.00	Subs to other Societies	£43.00
Donations	217.00	Donations	75.00
Miscellaneous	277.93	Annual Dinner	315.00
Annual Dinner	315.00	Autumn Meeting	115.00
Autumn meeting	80.00	Printing and Stationery	955.00
Subs in Advance	60.00	To Publications Account	6000.00
Investment Account Interest	617.91	Newsletter Postage	200.58
		Vice President's expenses	27.98
Totals	£7844.84		£7731.56

Cash Flow (Income - Expenditure) =£113.28

Bank Accounts

	Current	Investment	Total
Opening Balances (01/01/99)	£3610.49	£10220.99	£13831.48
Unpresented cheques (31/12/98)	-224.00		-224.00
Unpresented cheques (31/12/99)	25.00		25.00
Cash movement	-3003.08	3117.36	113.28
Closing balances	£407.41	£13338.35	£13745.76

Membership Statistics

Category	1998	1999	Change
Full	406	405	-1
Family	44	44	0
Overseas	11	10	-1
Honorary	5	6	+1
Total	466	465	-1

Summary of 1999 accounts submitted to the AGM on March 25th by Mr. C. J. Hindle, outgoing Hon. Treasurer.

Mining Bibliography CD-ROM

I feel obliged to reply to Peter Claughton's criticisms, reproduced from the Mining History List in last December Newsletter.

"Bibliography" is very widely defied in the dictionary, let the reader look this up if in doubt. At the present time the CD contains details of about 360 books which include most of what has been published in the last ten or twelve years. The practical use is in the ability to print a report of books filtered by author, publisher, or the name of a site or mine. It was written primarily for my own use, with 360 books to consider it is useful to be able to locate the ones with information about a particular site.

Authors are listed in second name alphabetical order ascending, and are intended to be selected from the drop down menu. This is the on screen instruction. However, the full name is displayed as written, therefore typing the name in will produce the result described by Peter. Correct syntax convention would be SecondName, comma, FirstName. However, I feel that this would cause confusion with some non-IT aware people, and I try to discourage people from typing in search entry criteria directly. Large databases often contain a large number of entries, often several people with the same second name, or even the same full name may well exist on the same database. In this case additional information will be shown such as address or a reference. On the Mining History List, Peter continues with advice that I find rather odd, "One would be far better purchasing Access" (It costs upward of £275 and is seldom bundled with a new PC) "and spending three or four hours writing ones own application"! No disrespect intended to Peter, but I have to put this last comment in the same category as "How to fly a Plane"

More pertinent criticism would be that the Publisher database has very little information other than Publisher name. However information such as Phone, Fax, email, contact name etc. are often not available, and probably of little interest to the average user. I included this as standard normalisation, for the benefit of anyone who wants to add this information for business use. My topic grouping is very haphazard, listing by area covered would be far better, but would take little time for a user to change.

Another chap on the Mining History List writes "He (meaning me) is on the high road to nowhere with it and probably will not sell more than a dozen copies." This certainly produced a chuckle. As a commercial proposition it certainly is a joke.

Seriously though, I do feel that there is a need for something like this. The most complete work is generally considered to be Dr. Roger Burt's "Bibliography of the History of British Metal Mining" Now if this could have its information migrated to a relational database such as Access, it certainly would be useful tool. No, I don't want the project. But would be willing to help anyone who does.

Roy Fellows

Books

The Torbay Paint Company 1848-1961 - Bridget Howard

As its title implies this book is concerned mainly with the production of anti-corrosive paint by two firms, Woolston and Samuel Calley) charting the history of these enterprises.

However, it sheds light on the Brixham iron mines which were significant producers in the 19th century but were unaccountably ignored by R. G. Dines. (*The Metalliferous Mining Regions of South west England* - 2 Vols. HMSO. 1956), and by A & H Jenkins (*Mines of Devon, North & East & Dartmoor*. - Devon Library Services). The booklet A5 34pp with maps and photographs is available, price £3.00, from Brixham Museum, Bolton Cross, Brixham, Devon, TQ5 8LZ.

The author is currently working on a comprehensive survey of the Brixham iron mines which it is hoped will be published in the future.

Coal Mining - Geoffrey Hayes.

March 2000. 32 pp 61 B&W illus. From 1800 to the mid twentieth century the burning of coal provided nearly all the power for British industry and transport. It also provided heat for homes, gas for lighting and cooking and coke for the production of iron. This book tells how mines evolved from simple bell pits into extensive shafts and tunnels and how tunnels were driven through the rock. It explains how the coal was transported from the coalface to the shaft and describes the machines that cut the coal and the winding engines that lowered and raised men and materials to and from the mine. Geoffrey Hayes also explains changes faced by miners and the steps taken to counter them. A good synopsis of the coal mining industry at a very affordable price. SB £3.50 [allow 50p for postage] from: Tony Oldham, Specialist Mine and Cave Bookseller, Duncavin, Rest Home for Retired Cavers, Riverside Mews, Cardigan, SA43 1DH, UK.

Shale Voices - Alistair Finlay

Edinburgh: Luath Press Ltd: ISBN: 0-946-48763-4 Published : 1999 xviii + 254 + 16pp adverts
Price & Availability: £10.99 excl. p/p from Luath Press Ltd., 543/2 Castlehill, The Royal Mile, Edinburgh EH1 2ND. Tel: 0131-225-4326 Fax: 0131-225-4324 Email: gavin.macdougall@luath.co.uk Website: www.luath.co.uk

Apart from geological and technical literature dating back to the days of active mining, rather little has been published on the history of the once important shale oil mining and processing industry of West Lothian. And apart from one or two 'bings' (distinctive orange spoil tips of burnt shale) and the 'Paraffin Young trail' with display boards dotted about the landscape, there is very little left in the area to remind people of the very numerous mines and the huge industrial plants that were here between 1850 and 1962.

This work is unusual in that it sets out primarily to record the human and social aspects of the shale oil industry, and this it does very well through the media of reminiscences, poetry, oral history, local journalism, and the like. The local cultural and political scene is well portrayed. There are also straightforward factual sections, buried within the greater mass, such as (for example) a paper on the history of the industry reprinted from *Chemistry and Industry*, 197 I. Reference is made to David Kerr's booklet *Shale oil: Scotland. The world's pioneering oil industry* (104 pages, published by the author in 1994, and not as well-known as it deserves to be) for those seeking more technical detail. The author/editor, a social worker and poet, was born in the shale-mining area in 1949, and the son of a former shale-miner and (later) journalist and editor of the *West Lothian Courier*. There are two pages of notes and details of sources, but no index. Illustrations show underground mining scenes, surface installations, housing, personnel, social and political events, and the urban landscape. There is a foreword by Tam Dalyell MP.

Paul W. Sowan

Whitequarries Shale Mine, nr. Abercorn, West Lothian - Ivan Young

Bull. Grampian Speleological Group 3rd ser., 5(1), 44 - 52 Published: 1999. Price & Availability: £2 (+p&p) from Grampian Speleological Group, 8 Scene Gardens, Edinburgh EH8 7DQ

Oil shale mining in West Lothian ceased in 1962, and much of the evidence for the mines, characteristic bright orange spoil-tips (bings), and distillation plants has now been swept away. This article reports the investigation of an area of subsidence features, and rediscovery of access to old mine workings on the Hopetoun estate. The exploration of mine-tunnels in steeply dipping strata is described, with sketch plans and sections. Geological details and extracts from the official abandonment plans for the Whitequarries Shale mine are given, and some historical data mostly taken from David Kerr's booklet *'Shale Oil Scotland.'*

Paul W. Sowan

The Independent Hostel Guide 2000 Britain and Europe edited by Sam Dalley.

336 pp illus price £4.95 + £1 post and pack, from The Backpackers Press, 2 Rockview Cottages, Matlock Bath, Derbyshire, DE4 3PG Tel/Fax 01629 580 427 or any good bookshop.

Mine explorers no longer have to rough it! There is a rapidly expanding network of independent hostels in both the UK and Europe. These hostels vary greatly from lonely camping barns in mining areas to lively backpackers' hostels in historic cities. Each hostel is privately owned and no two are the same. Some are run by real characters who will tell tales of their exploits in Nenthead and for others you will need to collect the key from a neighbour. Even the terminology differs from hostel to hostel and you will find them listed as camping barns, backpacker hostels or bunkhouses. The only thing independent hostels have in common is that they all provide budget accommodation to individuals on a nightly basis.

A Glance back at Bream (No 3 in the Glance back Series) - Ruth Proctor

Hirst 1999 40 pp numerous photos. SB £4.50 + post from Black Dwarf Publications, 47-49 High Street, Lydney, Glos GL15 5DD. Bream is the largest village in the forest of Dean and one of the largest in England. Bream can trace its history back over 700 years, whilst the nearby ancient mining site known as The Devil's Chapel was created in Roman times. Most of this book is taken up with tales of village life, illustrated by numerous photos, many of which I had not seen before. Six pages of text and photos are devoted to coal mining. In its heyday in the 1920's Flour Mill Colliery, or Park Gutter, employed nearly 1200 men, only to finally close in 1962.

Other books in the series in preparation, which also cover mining areas - Lydbrook, Coleford, and Mitcheldean - are eagerly awaited.

Tony Oldham

Gypsum in Cumbria - Ian Tyler

From the little "pits and puddles" of the early alabaster workings in the lovely vale of Eden in the east of Cumbria, sprang one of the largest and most important industries in the world, British Gypsum. It has its roots deep in Cumbrian soil, and from the humble rubbing stones of yesteryear to the vast plasterboard mills of today, Ian Tyler recounts the history of the industry in this, his sixth book. The characters live again as we hear of old George Railton, building in Carlisle in the 17th Century, the wealthy Thomlinsons of beautiful Englethwaite Hall whose extravagant living bankrupted them and the old women who scraped around for the gypsum to crush it and bake it into rubbing stones in their ovens. We read of the giant Druid stones of Long Meg and her Sisters, guarding their ground above the mine which took its name from them and of the old steam locomotives which played their part in the story too, replacing the horse-drawn carts, and no less lovingly tended than their four legged predecessors. Later came the giants of the industry, the Hunters and the Trimbles, who brought the company forward into modern times, building new plant and creating jobs in the post-war years. On the west coast, we find Billy the Hermit at Port Hamilton, and the tragic Clark family, doomed Keepers of the Light on St. Bees cliffs. Then came the mighty Marchon company, mining anhydrite for their products above the old Whitehaven coal seams. *Gypsum in Cumbria* describes an industry which still thrives around the world but which began modestly, with hard working men swinging picks and shovelling rock into carts. Ian Tyler's latest book by Blue Rock Publications is available from either the Threlkeld Museum shop at Threlkeld Quarry or from good booksellers in the county. The book is in soft back with 285 pages, 125 photographs, plans and illustrations and retails at £15.99. For mail order, please add £2.00 for p & p and make cheques payable to Threlkeld Mining Museum. Please state whether or not you would like the book signing. Books may be ordered from Jean Tyler, 33 Townhead Rd, Cotehill, Carlisle, Cumbria CA4 0DF Tel: 01228 561883 (evenings) or Threlkeld Mining Museum, Threlkeld Quarry, Threlkeld, Keswick Cumbria CA12 4TT Tel: 017687 79747 (daytime).

Blood on Coal/The 1926 General Strike and Miners' Lockout in the Forest of Dean - Ralph Anstis 1999

120 pp numerous photos. Available from Dwarf Publications, 47-49 High Street, Lydney, Gloucestershire GL15 5DD. Price £9.99

The General Strike in 1926, and the lockout of miners which followed, took the heart out of the Forest of Dean. The calamities of that terrible year, so well documented for the larger coalfields of Britain, have not, up to now, been recounted for Dean. In this book Ralph Anstis tells the story of the 1926 events in the Forest with all the anguish and misery that descended on the miners, who wanted only a decent wage for their labour. In spite of the hardships, the creeping hunger and the despair they endured, they, and their families, stood up to the employers for seven months, stubborn and persistent in their determination to win. Finally, however, when flesh and blood could stand no more, they were forced to capitulate.

This is a grim record of heroism and self-sacrifice culled from contemporary newspapers and other sources, including first-hand accounts from Foresters who lived through those bleak times. It is a welcome addition to Ralph Anstis's other well-researched books about Dean's industrial and social history.

Industrial Heritage - Industry People Transport. Vol. 26 No 1 Spring 2000.

36 pp photos, colour cover. Price £2.90 or 1 years subscription £11.50 from Hudson History, Proctor House, Kirkgate, Settle, N Yorks BD24 9DZ This revamped edition has plenty to interest the industrial archaeologist cum mining historian:

The 'Iron' Bricks - Notes on brick making in the Accrington Area by Phil Hudson and Lewis Gregory. Brick production closely followed the rise and fall of the cotton industry. The local Mudstone contains just the right amount of iron oxide to give hard and durable red coloured brick.

The Dunaskin Experience by J C Presely and staff members of the Dunaskin Open Air Museum. In 1848 life in the rural Doon valley in Ayrshire was changed for ever by the coming of the Dalmellington Ironworks. Rich local deposits of coal, ironstone and limestone provided all the necessary ingredients for a successful iron making industry. When the iron ran out the company concentrated on coal mining. When the mine went bankrupt in the 1930's a succesful brick making industry was born and continued until 1976. The National Coal Board then used the site as a regional office until 1988. It was at this time that the Dalmellington & District Conservation Trust emerged on the scene and began restoring the site to its former glory.

A coastal mining project is planned for Durness for such specialist minerals as pegmatite, quartzite and marble. There is a new book on the Halesowen Coal Mines and Nigel Chapman is working on a history of the Van Lead Mines.

The Falkirk Wheel. A £78 million project, funded by the National Lottery etc. will restore the Antonine Wheel.

Canal and River Currents. This has all the latest news: the re-opening of the Huddersfield Narrow Canal; Ripon Canal now open to Town Centre, etc.

The Millennium Wall Project. Organised by the Dry Stone Wall Association at the National Stone Centre in Wirkworth, Derbyshire, this is an imaginative plan to offer for the first time ever a permanent exhibit of vernacular dry stone walls - in various regional styles from all over Britain.

Concluded with 3 pages of book reviews which include *British Mining No 63* and *The Rise and Fall of the South Wales Coal Industry*, the editor is to be complimented on the stimulating variety of articles.

Tony Oldham

From the NMRS Librarian

Covenants

Many thanks to all who have completed Covenant Forms, this enables the Society to claim several hundred pounds from the Inland Revenue each year. Unfortunately for me the paper-work has been changed yet again. However, the good news is that it is all going to be simpler in future! You may remember that the style of the green forms - R185(Covenant) - changed a few years ago. Then the frequency of completion altered. Now the green forms are being done away with completely. This means that you only need to fill in a Covenant form and then for the next three years I check the membership list to see that you are still paying a subscription before completing the annual paper-work. I have no way of knowing if you are still paying Income Tax - and we ought not to try claiming it back if you never paid it in the first place!. If you think you have signed a Deed of Covenant in the last four years, but no longer pay tax, please will you let me know. According to my reading of the press, in future Deeds of Covenant may be superseded by other forms of charitable giving; but I have not received any formal communications about this yet.

Library

Thank you to all those who have donated items for the library. They include Mike Breakspear who along with R. B. J. Smith won the Brunel Essay Prize for his paper "The Ochre Mines and Works at Wick, South Gloucestershire.". Congratulations to Mike and his colleague and thanks for the donation of Bristol Industrial Archaeological Society Journal 31 which includes the paper.

Thank you too to Keith Nolan who donated several copies of *Archive*, the Quarterly Journal for British Industrial and Transport History. There are so many mining related articles in these that we have purchased the other back copies so that we have a complete set. Many issues include excellent photographs, so these are journals which are better borrowed, rather than just requesting photocopies of individual articles.

Sallie Bassham

Scottish Gemstones

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 spotted chromites, often an indicator for the presence of gemstones.

Cambridge Mineral Resources (CMR), a Bristol based exploration company has; spent the last 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 for examination 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 latest hunt is based on the belief that, in Scotland there are deposits of the type found in the Australian fields. Geophysicists have also become increasingly interested in Scotland because its rock structure is quite similar to that found in Donegal, in the Irish Republic, where Cambridge Mineral Resources is poised to begin drilling for diamonds next year.

"It is early days, but we are enthusiastic about what we have been finding," said David Bramhill, managing director of CNR, who declined to give the precise locations of the potential sites. "In Scotland unlike in Ireland, there is no proper licensing system for prospecting so we have to be careful not to let others know where we are looking. I would not advise the ordinary public to start looking. You could trip over a rock containing a sapphire and you would not know what it was."

The Independent - 27th November, 1999

Contributed by Allan Williams

Heat from Old Mines

For more than a century the Shettleston coal mines provided the fuel to power the steelworks of Glasgow's east end and warm the homes of the men who worked there.

Now, decades after they were closed, the mines are again heating the neighbourhood's houses. In an environmentally friendly project expected to cut domestic fuel bills by more than 75 per cent. In what is believed to be the first project of its kind in Britain, heat will be extracted from naturally-hot flood water which now fills the mines and used to warm the tap-water and radiators of a specially designed housing development. Developers believe that the system, known as geothermal heating, could allow tenants at 16 new homes in Glenalmond Street, Shettleston, to enjoy heat and light for less than £100 a year - less than a quarter of the cost of conventional energy sources.

The innovative system was the idea of Stanley Johnston, the managing director of Enconsult, a Dunfermline based consultancy for energy, environmental and engineering systems.

Since closing at the start of the century, the Shettleston mines have flooded with water found naturally in rock strata. Heat generated in the earth's core gives the flood water a natural temperature of about 12 degC. To create hot water in the Glenalmond Street homes, mine water is extracted from a depth of 170 metres and collected in pumps in the housing scheme's heating system. The pumps extract the heat from the mine water and transfer it to fresh mains water, warming it to about 55 degC.

The fresh mains water is then stored in a 10,000 litre reservoir within the housing complex, before being distributed to homes. The mine water can be used to flush toilets before being returned to the mine and recycled. Solar panels situated on the roofs of the houses also transfer energy to the system, helping heat the water stored in the huge reservoir.

Scottish Mine's Future Secured

The future of Scotland's last deep mine was secured yesterday when the first coal from its new face was brought to the surface writes Hugh Dougherty. The Seam at Longannet Colliery in Fife stretches beneath the Forth and is expected to last at least 20 years.

Professor Ross Harper, chairman of Mining Scotland, which owns the colliery, said the £35 million investment in the seam meant it had produced the first saleable coal from the Kincardine reserves. The seam is estimated to have 40 million tonnes of coal in the reserve, but Prof. Harper warned any faults in the geology could threaten the jobs of the 650 people who work at the mine.

The mine is the last of the once-huge Fife coalfield, and provides fuel for the nearby power station.

The Scotsman - 4th December, 1999

Finally

Alastair Lings

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 August, 2000 Newsletter by 22nd July, 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.
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