



The Northern Mine Research Society

Newsletter — February 2001

Society Meetings - 2001

Saturday,
24 March.

NMRS Annual Dinner and AGM, at The Wensleydale Heifer, West Burton, Leyburn, DL8 4LS (0196 962 2322)
NGR SE056884 (see below).

Sunday, 29 April

Hendre Mine, Halkyn (N Wales) - Contact George Harvey for details (01352 781 406). Fairly strenuous underground trip (with insurance and equipment requirements). Limited numbers—do not turn up without booking your place. Meet at 10.30 am, NGR SJ201677.

Saturday, 12 May

Grinton Mines / Smelt Mills (Swaledale) - Leader: Ian Spensley (01969 625613) Surface and underground visit.
Meet at layby, NGR SE046977.

Saturday, 23 June

Whiteaside / Summerlodge & Moulds (Swaledale) - Leader: Richard Platt (01204 362892). Mainly underground.
Meet on Askigg - Grinton road at 10.30 am. NGR SD982964.

Saturday, 21 July

Kisdon Hill (Keld, Swaledale) - Leader: Sallie Bassham (01524 241851). Surface walk. Underground available.
Meet 11 am Keld village. NGR SD896011.

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NMRS Annual Dinner and AGM,

The 2001 NMRS annual dinner will be held at the Wensleydale Heifer in West Burton, Leyburn, on Saturday, March 24. Meet at 12 noon. The meal begins at 12.45 pm, followed by the annual general meeting at 2 pm. A menu and booking form is enclosed. Members planning to attend should complete the booking form and return it before Saturday March 17, enclosing a cheque for the appropriate amount, to 38 Main Street, Sutton in Craven, Keighley, W. Yorkshire, BD20 7HD.

2001 Subscriptions - A Reminder.

Subscriptions were due on January 1. If your newsletter contains a membership renewal form instead of a membership card, your subscription for the current year has not been received.

Visit our website: <http://www.ex.ac.uk/~RBurt/MinHistNet/NMRS.html>

Society Meetings - 2001, continued...

Saturday ,11 August	Swinnergill Level (Keld). Leader: Richard Platt (01204 362892). Underground. Meet 10.30 am Keld village. NGR SD896011.
21- 28 September	NAMHO 2001 (Co. Wicklow, Ireland). See brief details below.
Thursday, 27 September	Boulby Potash Mine Contact Derrek King (01609 775811). Limited numbers so booking essential (do not turn up without reserving a place). Please note meet time of 4 pm.
Saturday, 13 October	Autumn General Meeting - slides/social. Details to be announced later.
Saturday, 27 October	Teesdale Hude Valley / Coldberry . Leader Tony Fretwell (01388 605965). Surface and limited underground. Meet 10.30 am Middleton in Teesdale. NGR NY947255.

Meet Leaders

The secretary will always welcome offers from members to organize and lead a field meeting.

If you have a suggestion for a meet, please contact Steve Mitchell (c/o 38 Main Street, Sutton in Craven, Keighley, West Yorkshire BD20 7HD)

NAMHO 2001

Arrangements are well under way for this conference centred on Avondale, County Wicklow. The main programme begins on Friday evening 21st September. On the Saturday and Sunday there will be a choice of surface walks on the various Wicklow mines, underground visits and lectures (mornings only). TARA MINES have offered a tour, but please be warned they can only accommodate visitors on TUESDAY 25th September 2001, not on the Monday as had been originally hoped. Lots of people have already expressed interest in this visit, so please check your travel plans NOW!

For those who wish to stay on and visit other Irish mining areas a choice of three mine circuits is being planned, with guides on hand for each tour, from Monday 24th to Friday 28th September.

The meet is being hosted by The Mining Heritage Society of Ireland, from whom further details will follow soon.

SWALEDALE'S LEAD MINES AND SMELT MILLS

This new book by NMRS President Mike Gill was announced by Landmark Publishing last year. The book, which was tentatively scheduled for publication in April, is now with the publisher and is expected around the end of May.

Mike has uncovered a lot more material on the lead mining/smeltering industries of the area. His book will be well illustrated with plans and photographs.

Existing subscribers will receive their copy upon publication. If you have not ordered your copy, contact Landmark on 01335 347349 for further details.

Library News

Thank you to J K Almond for the donation of a reprint of his article 'The Elmore brothers and the flotation process for separating minerals' which was published in *Historical Metallurgy* 34(1), 2000, pages 31-46.

Many thanks to Tony Oldham for donating a copy of his book "The Caves and Mines of Anglesey" to the library. I am embarrassed to admit that I have never visited the Parys Mines; but this book has renewed my determination and I am now much better informed about what can be seen. As well as a site gazetteer in alphabetical order, there is also an index by grid reference; so I have a good chance of finding smaller mines that I would otherwise miss.

The library has several copies of "Earthwise", the official magazine of British Geological Survey. The latest issue (number 16) has an article on managing mine pollution which is illustrated with photographs of South Crofty, a mine which may have been visited by those who attended the NAMHO Conference in Cornwall last year. With the Committee's approval, I am going to try to get complete sets, as well as odd copies, of journals which are relevant to members' interests. This is in keeping with our being a 'Research' Society, and is also helpful because journal articles can be much harder to locate and obtain than books.

There was an opportunity to obtain six back issues of the journals produced by the "Friends of Williamson's Tunnels" and we now have a full set thanks to the generosity of the Friends in sending us complimentary copies. If you don't know about Williamson's Tunnels, look at the website www.williamsonstunnels.com The website has won prizes and the Friends deserve to receive some too for all they have achieved.

Sallie Bassham
Librarian

Congratulations to Martin Roe for winning the Association for Industrial Archaeology (AIA) Student Award for 2000 for his work on reconciling surface and underground features at Cononley mine. (I learned about this from the Winter 2000 edition of AIA News.)

Sallie Bassham

(N.B. Members wishing to view items in the NMRS library should contact the librarian, Sallie Bassham, at:

Winshaw Barn, Chapel-le-Dale,
INGLETON, LA6 3AT)

NMRS Publications

2000 was another successful year and I hope that you enjoyed the three publications you received. So far this year, I am working on two monographs - one on the Derwent Lead Mines and the other on coal mining in the Oldham area. I also have one other monograph promised for about two years' time.

This means that I have cleared the glut of monographs and Memoirs articles and am now actively looking for more of both. As you know, we accept a wide range of material, on all aspects of mining history, including stone and iron as well as non-ferrous metal mining and coal. It is helpful to me to know what you are working on and so please let me know if you are currently planning/

researching/writing something for me.

Thanks a lot!
Hazel Martell

Correction to British Mining No. 65

There is a type setting error under "Settlingstone" in BM 65. The columns have become mixed up. On page 54 the entry against 1874-6 and 1879-93 is witherite production not lead ore. The second column on page 55 should be headed WITHERITE not LEAD ORE.

A copy of the correct table, as originally submitted, is included with this newsletter and can be inserted into Ray Fairbairn's monograph.

Subscriptions Etc.

GIFT AID - We are very grateful to the many people who have signed a Gift Aid Declaration - thank you. Under the old Deed of Covenant system we have recently been able to obtain more than £800 a year from the government. I hope that we will be able to do as well from Gift Aid, and I am delighted to say that the administration and form-filling is simpler! However, it is important to let me know if you stop paying Income Tax. I must not claim back tax which you have not paid. I can check the NMRS membership lists to see if Gift Aid-ers have paid a subscription, but I have no way of knowing you have stopped paying tax unless you tell me.

Sallie Bassham

The response this year to the new Gift Aid form has been very heartening with over 65% of members renewing completing the form. This in turn gives the Committee much greater leeway for freezing subscriptions, whilst at the same time maintaining our very high standards. Thank you!

Some of our members have requested a standing order form, which is included as an insert with this newsletter. Please fill in your details and return the form to me, the Treasurer. NOT TO YOUR BANK. The form can also be used for donations, either annually or occasionally.

Barry Sudell
Hon Treasurer

SUBSCRIPTIONS STANDING ORDER - Many thanks to all our members who paid their subscriptions within the last month or so. Thanks also to all the people who included a donation towards the Society's work along with their subscription. Whatever the amount, large or small, it is very much appreciated by the Committee and benefits all of our members collectively.

YELLOW CARD ! A polite reminder that, if you find a yellow membership renewal form enclosed with this newsletter instead of your new membership card, your subscription for 2001 is now due. If no subscription is received, this will be your last newsletter.

Mining History & Related Articles in Other Journals

Smith, H., Jan 2001. Going Underground. *Sixer - The Magazine for North Sheffield*, p.40. A one-page article, with photographs, on the gannister workings in the northwest Sheffield area and the connection with steel making.

Torrens, H., Coal Hunting at Bexhill 1805 - 1811: How the Science of Stratigraphy was Ignored. *Sussex Archaeological Collections*, V.136, p.177-191. This paper describes the lengthy, expensive and ultimately unsuccessful efforts to discover coal at Bexhill in an attempt to revive the Wealden iron industry.

Wealden Cave and Mine Society, 2000. News of the Weald 39. Newsletter containing articles on underground quarries and stone mines in Surrey. (editor: Don Wood, tel 020-8647-9961).

Ireson, P., 2000, Roscobie Quarry and Blue Limestone Mine. *Bull. Grampian Speleological Group* Vol. 5, No. 4, p.21-24. An account of the largely flooded limestone mine to which at least nine entrances connect from a flooded opencast pit, located southwest of Roscobie Reservoir, Fife. One dry entrance leads to a separate and limited area of mine workings. The remaining entrances are only accessible by cave diving. Sketch plans of surface and underground workings are included. The mine operated from 1925 to 1957.

Pearman, H., 2001. Caves and Tunnels in south-east England, pt.14. *Records, Chelsea Speleological Society*, Vol. 26, 64pp. Includes notes on several sand and chalk workings in Kent, Surrey, Berkshire etc.

Mining on the Internet

Following on from my last set of reviews I have changed the format slightly to a star rating. One set of stars for presentation and one for content. What is very clear is that material on the web varies greatly and a well presented site is no guarantee of good and factually correct content. It is also clear that the professional sites run by museums and heritage organisations are falling behind the private sites in terms of content and sometimes presentation quality. These days web space is cheap or even free, current software makes site building and maintenance easy and there is a lot to learn from the sites run by enthusiasts. Feedback and messages left in guest books indicates that the public are genuinely interested and want more information so take a look and learn.

HAIGH COLLIERY MINING MUSEUM

<http://www.haigh1.freemove.co.uk>

Presentation *****

Content *****

A very professional layout. This site gives lots of background information on mining in the area. This is a standard to aim for, modest but very effective.

IRON MINING IN WEST CUMBERLAND AND FURNESS

<http://geocities.com/ironmining>

Presentation ***

Content ***

Despite the title, this site mainly refers to Florence Mine and its visitor centre. Generally nice presentation but the constant adverts are distracting.

COAL MINING IN NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE

<http://www.archive.sln.org.uk/exhibit/coal/default.htm>

Presentation *****

Content *

Beautiful presentation, this site was built as a college project by a student studying for an MSc in IT. It is such a shame that the research for the content is not so professional. Our understanding of coal mining history has come on a great deal in the last 30 years and most of us are aware that there were important regional differences in the coalfields. This site repeats all of the old generali-

sations, many of which are not relevant to the North Staffordshire area and are therefore misleading, as is the use of photographs from other regions without acknowledgement.

NATIONAL COAL MINING MUSEUM

<http://www.ncm.org.uk>

Presentation ****

Content **

Very little background information to prepare the visitor and so is quite a disappointing site for a national collection. There is more emphasis on corporate entertaining than what there is to see at Caphouse Colliery, but I guess that's what brings the money in!

MINERS LAMPS

<http://www.asi.fr/~minelamp/>

Presentation ****

Content ****

Interesting site illustrating miner's lamps in museum and private collections. The site is French but there is an English translation of most of the information.

BECLWAS NAVIGATION COLLIERY MUSEUM

<http://freemove.virgin.net/david.harris9/index.htm>

Presentation ***

Content ****

This site has a good, varied content with plenty of interesting pictures backed up by solid facts. Unfortunately, it is let down a little by its presentation. This has improved recently, so an extra star for presentation.

There are also many factual errors which make it clear that this site has not been vetted by anyone with a knowledge of mining history. The site asks for feedback and when I pointed out some of the many errors the response was that as it was meant to be an educational resource for school children, the accuracy did not matter, and that it was better than having nothing. Have a look at this site carefully and if you find as many errors as I did use the feedback button and let the site administrator know.

Martin Roe

**THRELKELD QUARRY & MINING MUSEUM
THRELKELD
KESWICK CA12 4TT
017687 79747**

OPEN DAY ON SUNDAY, MARCH 11th 2001

We are pleased to invite all members to our Museum Open Day on Sunday, March 11th 2001.

As in previous years, the format will be:

10.15am - SHORT GUIDED WALK - Meet at THRELKELD MUSEUM for a walk to Wanthwalte Mine or Threlkeld Quarry.

12.30pm - MUSEUM OPENS OFFICIALLY

1.00pm - BUFFET LUNCH - Hot soup, sausage, cakes, tea, coffee etc.

**HOPEFULLY, THE LAUNCH OF IAN TYLER'S LATEST BOOK WILL NOW TAKE PLACE:
"2000 YEARS OF CUMBRIAN MINING & QUARRYING"**

The Open Day bash has now become an important annual event for those interested in Cumbrian Mining Heritage. Usually we have generated around 150 - 200 visitors, old and young, miners and quarrymen, mine owners and management of yesteryear including some contemporary operators. Curators, writers, lamp enthusiasts, mineralogists and geologists have attended. Not to mention our modern day explorers and other members of groups such as West Cumbrian Mines Research Group (WCMRG), Mines of Lakeland Exploration Society (MOLES), Cumbria Ore Mines Rescue Unit (COMRU), Cumbria Amenity Trust Mining History Society (CATMHS), the National Association of Mines History Organisation, British Geological Survey, the Russell Society and many others.

The one thing we all have in common is mining and quarrying exploration, the history and the conservation of our important Cumbrian Heritage. On this special day, people meet to talk and debate the subject and generally to just come and have a great day out.

Also, its all FREE! Free food, free parking, free guided walk. So please come and enjoy it!

JUST BUY A £1 RAFFLE TICKET

The whole of the site is open, excavators and machinery, new exhibits, new layouts, extended mine experience.

Threlkeld Mining Museum opens its doors for your enjoyment and interest - don't miss it!

Jean Tyler - Ian Hartland - Ian Tyler

THRELKELD QUARRY & MINING MUSEUM MINE HERITAGE WALKS 2001

FORCE CRAG 6 miles	Sunday April 1st	Meet car park opposite Hope Memorial on Whinlatter Pass
CONISTON MINES 6 miles	Sunday May 6th	Meet LDNP car park Coniston
ROUGHTEN GILL 7 miles	Sunday May 27th	Meet Fellside near Caldbeck
EAGLECRAG 8 miles	Sunday June 3rd	Meet Patterdale road end near the church
DUFTON MINES 8 miles	Sunday July 1st	Meet public car park Dufton
SEATHWAITE WAD 4 miles	Sunday July 22nd	Meet at Seathwaite, Borrowdale
GREENSIDE MINE 6 miles	Sunday August 5th	Meet LDNP car park Glenridding
TILBERTHWAITE MINES & QUARRIES 6 miles	Sunday August 19th	Meet Tilberthwaite car park
ELTERWATER QUARRIES 6 miles	Sunday Sept 2nd	Meet Eiterwater car park
GOLDSCOPE MINE 6 miles	Sunday Sept 23rd	Meet Littleton bridge car park

All walks commence at 10.30am and boots or strong shoes should be worn. Waterproof and spare clothing should be carried, also a packed lunch. Most walks will take a minimum of 5 hours (£3.50 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: 0176 877 9747 or 0122 856 1883

Book Reviews

THE BRONZE AGE COAST PROJECT / The Great Orme Explained, by Diane and Nigel Campbell Bannerman. 81 pp, illus, map, loose leaf photocopy. Price £8 from Diane Bannerman, 27 Abbey Road, Llandudno LL30 2EH. [a printed full colour edition with lots of photos is also planned next year, costing about £10.00]

This is an excellent multi-disciplinary introduction to Great Ormes Head, a limestone promontory, at Llandudno in North Wales. The Bronze Age Coast Project was started in 1994 and this gazetteer lists 221 sites of which over 70 are mines or sites associated with mining activities.

The study of aerial photos and associated field work has led to the discovery of many small mines, potential washing sites, jetties built for the export of ore and limestone. Also revealed are piles of copper slag ballast that was jettisoned by sailing ships which came from the Swansea and Warrington copper ore smelting works.

One of the first finds was the discovery of Badger Cave, already known as a Neolithic habitation site, but as a result of charcoal dating it has now been designated as a Prehistoric mine. The book is an interesting insight into current mining history research in North Wales

Tony Oldham

KING COPPER / South Wales and the Copper Trade 1584 - 1895 by Ronald Rees, May 2000. 179 pp 22 photos / illus. University of Wales Press. SB £14.99, HB £30.00

There are numerous papers, pamphlets, theses etc. on the Swansea copper trade but this is only the second book to be published on this topic in the last hundred years, the first being Grant-Francis, "The Development of Copper Smelting in the Swansea District", 1881. The author of this latest work was, until his retirement, Professor of Geography at the University of Saskatchewan. Clearly an expert in this field he writes with verve and style and has produced a work of rigorous scholarship.

During the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries a belt of coastal smelters used locally produced

coal and copper ores from, Cornwall, Anglesey, Cuba and Chile to produce virtually all of Britain's copper and indeed that of much of the world.

Copper brought amazing wealth and prosperity to Swansea, and fortunes were made the remnants of which can still be seen today in the estates of the industrialists. However, this prosperity came at a price and led to conditions which would never be tolerated today. The smelting process produced not only mountains of slag but the smelters disgorged billowing clouds of toxic, foul-smelling smoke, laced with sulphur and arsenic. The pollution led to the death of crops and grazing animals and although farmers and landowners sought compensation from the copper companies, their appeals failed. The consequence was a series of dramatic 'smoke' trials that set industry against country, but such was the contribution of copper to the economy that questions about public health and the loss of attractive landscapes came a poor second best.

Eventually, the prohibitive costs of shipping the concentrates shifted the balance of advantages from siting smelters near the coalfields to locating them at the ore fields, and, in 1906, Rio Tinto moved its smelting operations to Spain. Today copper is mined and smelted at remote mountain and desert locations like, Sudbury, Ontario and Flin Flon, Manitoba. The pollution is still there, and environmentalists may deplore the wastelands of bare and blackened rock, but there are no farmers and landowners to complain.

Tony Oldham

UNDERGROUND CLWYD / The Armchair Explorer's Guide / A pictorial expedition into the nether regions of Northeast Wales by Cris Ebbs. December 2000. 72 pp 64 B&W photos, 3 colour photo on front and rear covers. SB £9.95*

The sub-title "Armchair Explorers' Guide" is very apt as this book depicts many mines which I am never likely to visit. They have either collapsed, been filled in, or are just too difficult to get to. So instead of diving a sumped passage or abseiling down a 400 foot shaft, Cris takes one on an underground journey from the comfort of one's own armchair. The book is conveniently divided up into 6 sections: stone mines, slate mines, collieries, lead mines, bone caves and sporting caves. In an ideal world each section would warrant one

or more books each, but Cris has condensed this down into one gem of a book by selecting the best photograph for each topic, often calling upon other photographic experts to provide some of their best photographs. For example Martyn Farr provides a superb shot of the limestone mines at Hendre. Here, a massive pillar and stall passage is shown, nearly 100 foot high, and invisible to the ordinary caver with his everyday caving light. But Martyn has somehow managed to illuminate this passage and show its true size with seemingly minute figures for scale.

Other memorable photos are the Suspension Bridge at Moel Fema, the 5.75 ton Howitzer in Grange Caverns and the heavily scaffolded entrance to Gas Pot. A memorable collection of photographs and an essential addition to every mining historian's bookshelf.

Tony Oldham

(* I got my copy from Mike Moore:
mike@moorebooks.freeseve.co.uk)

COPPEROPOLIS / Landscapes of the Early Industrial Period in Swansea by Stephen Hughes, 2000, 358 pp, 339 figures [many are photos], 4 colour plates. HB DW price of £38.00, post free from: Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales, Plas Crug, Aberystwyth, SY23 1NJ.

In a previous review (King Copper / South Wales and the Copper Trade 1584 - 1895 by Ronald Rees) I commented on the dearth of books on the Swansea copper trade since Col Grant-Francis wrote, *The Development of Copper Smelting in the Swansea District* in 1881. However, we now have three excellent books on this topic! Copperopolis is different again, a coffee table book (2kg!), a monograph and a gazetteer all rolled into one. Printed on art paper, with detailed maps and fine drawings for which the RCAHMW are renowned, this is a book to treasure.

During the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries 90% of Britain's copper-smelting capacity was located within 20 miles of Swansea. At the same time it was also the world's largest copper-smelting centre with copper ores being imported from Cuba, Chile, the United States and Australia. Swansea was noted for the development of the "Welsh method of copper-smelting"

which consisted of repeated roasting of copper ore in a succession of specially designed reverberatory furnaces.

It takes 3 tons of coal to smelt each ton of copper ore so it makes economic sense to bring the copper ore to the smelter and, with a lack of coal in the copper rich counties of west Devon and Cornwall, Swansea was the nearest available supply of coal. The boats bringing the copper ore could return with a load of coal to stoke the engines which drained the mines.

The coal industry fuelled other industries, like the production of Alum from coal and salt from sea water. The most famous of these industries was the Swansea Pottery, which produced fine porcelain for a limited period on a totally uneconomic basis. It is now in great demand by collectors throughout the world. The larger and longer lived earthenware pottery industry was of considerable importance to the local economy. The arsenic industry was a by-product of the copper ores from Devon and Cornwall, and today the remains of Clyne Wood Arsenic Works can be found in the Clyne Valley Country Park.

Swansea was at one time a world centre for tinplate production. In 1913, four out of every five tinplate workers in the UK lived within 20 miles of Swansea. In 1837, the development of Munz metal was followed by the process of coating iron sheets with zinc. Known as "corrugated iron", these galvanised sheets were exported by the million to the New World where the frontier towns of the west were springing up.

The first smelter was established by the German, Ulrich Frosse at Aberdulais in 1584, but copper smelting finally ceased in 1924 and most of the works were demolished. This book is therefore a fitting commemoration of the world's first Industrial Revolution

Tony Oldham

INDUSTRIAL HERITAGE - Industry People Transport. Vol 26, No 4, Winter 2000, 44 pp, photos, colour cover. Price for a one year subscription £11.50 (includes p & p), from Yorkshire History, Proctor House, Kirkgate, Settle, N Yorks BD24 9DZ.

This larger-than-usual issue has plenty of interest

to the industrial archaeologist cum mining historian:

The "Dorothy Pax" is the last remaining timber sailing keel by John Keavey. This is a special boat with a wide beam of 15 feet and a length of 61 feet. The keels were built not only to navigate the Broad Canals of Yorkshire but also to sail the treacherous tidal Humber estuary, in order to reach Hull Docks with cargoes that included coal, iron and steel.

The Castle Mill at Quermore: the water powered mill in rural landscape by J W A Price. Built in 1818 and now in ruins, this is a fitting time to publish a good description.

Fire!? Things Phoenix, by Rota. Founded in 1781 the "New Fire Office", later to become the "Phoenix Assurance Company of London" started by mapping the town, an essential prerequisite for an insurance company with its own fire brigade. In 1975 the Phoenix joined with the Deutscher Automobil Schutz of Munich in setting up a new company the DAS Legal Expenses Insurance Co Ltd.

King's Cross 'Lighthouse' by Robert Carr. The Greater London Industrial Archaeology Society describe a visit to this unusual building.

The London and Birmingham Railway in Early 1838 (part two) by Peter S Richards. The biggest engineering problem was the Kilsby Tunnel. The excavations hit quicksand and 18 or 20 navvies were drowned. The contractor was so upset he killed himself.

News From the South / News From the North. A touch of the Watford Gap? describes the latest happenings in the world of IA.

The advertisement for The Fleur de Lis Heritage Centre caught my imagination. They stock a wide range of books on explosives and gunpowder.

John Keavey 1922 - 2000 A fitting obituary to man who, in 1974, edited Industrial Past, later renamed Industrial Heritage. He published bus and train timetables, and also formed the Embsay and Grassington Railway Preservation Society. He was one of the early pioneers of both Industrial Archaeology and Railway Preservation and his death is a great loss to both.

The Ellenroad Engine House (Milnrow near Rochdale, Lancs). This former cotton mill was powered by a 3000 hp, triple expansion horizontal steam engine. The Ellenroad Trust took over the site in 1985 and organises events etc. It costs £100 worth of coal to fire up to steam. The site also houses the Whitelees Beam Engine and several steam-driven generators and pumps.

Something to interest everybody.

Tony Oldham

THE GREAT COUNTY ADIT, by J.A. Buckley, Redruth 2000. Price £9.99 incl. P&P to NAMHO members. Tel 01872-562004 (office hours only) Email: books@cledha.freeseve.co.uk. Web site: www.cledha.freeseve.co.uk/penhellick.

This book describes the making, from 1748 onwards, of a system of 40 miles of mine drainage adits in Cornwall, illustrated by maps, plans, sections, diagrams and photographs above and below ground. Details of the mines served and the associated pumping engines are included. The list of sources consulted extends to over four pages.

Paul Sowan

MINING FROM KIRKINTILLOCH TO CLACKMANNAN, & STIRLING TO SLAMANNAN: / an illustrated history of mining in the former counties of Stirling, Dumbarton and Clackmannan, by Guthrie Hutton, 2000, 112pp. Stenlake Publishing, Ochiltree, Ayrshire, 01290-423114 (www.stenlake.co.uk), price £12.95 + p/p.

This latest volume from Stenlake, whilst largely devoted to coal mining, reminds us that ironstone, fireclay, gannister and limestone were also mined in this area, and several underground views in mines other than for coal are included.

With the assistance of maps, the historical introduction charts the progress of industry from the Scottish coast to inland locations which followed the opening of the Forth & Clyde Canal, in 1790, the Union Canal in 1822, the railways and the establishment of the Carron Ironworks on the Firth of Forth. Numerous well-reproduced photographs show underground mine scenes, head-

frames, drift entrances, plant, personnel, housing, associated canals and railways etc. There is extensive and informative text as well as lengthy captions to the illustrations. Reproductions of official notices, paperwork and contemporary advertisements assist in conveying the nature of life in this former busy coalfield.

Paul Sowan

STONE QUARRY LANDSCAPES: The Industrial Archaeology of Quarrying, by Peter Stanier published by Tempus Publishing Ltd, Stroud. This is a long over due book dealing with an often overlooked aspect of the extractive industries. In-

troduced with a series of chapters which discuss the quarried landscape, history and working of quarries along with the archaeology of quarries there is then a detailed discussion of various local quarry traditions from Cornwall to Cumbria. This will not tell you everything you want to know about every type of quarry but it is a good varied introduction to the subject and it provides a useful background for anyone contemplating research on quarrying in their own area. My only complaint is the lack of a glossary, it would have been useful to have a guide to many of the technical terms used, but this is a small problem in an otherwise excellent book.

Martin Roe

More Reports of the Unfortunate Legacies of Past Mining.....

There have been a number of articles in newspapers in recent months describing the problems which are occurring in various abandoned coalfields throughout the UK.

The Guardian (Society supplement) of January 31, 2001, included a two-page article by Paul Humphries entitled "Deep Concern". This is an account of a number of problems caused by emissions of methane and stythe from abandoned coal mines, with examples from Barnsley, Arkwright (Derbys) and Widdrington (Nthbld). Studies are being undertaken in some areas by the BGS and also by members of the geology department at Newcastle University. No party has accepted responsibility for mine gas-related problems.

The Scotsman of Nov 18, 2000 described how the heavy rainfall last autumn was blamed for causing subsidence problems to terraced housing in Edinburgh. According to the author, Frank O'Donnell, it is likely that several of the houses will have to be demolished after they subsided by up to 18". The area is known for past subsidence resulting from old limestone mines. (this item supplied by Alastair Lings).

New Mines, Nevertheless.....

It is reported that Scottish Coal plans to extract up to two million tonnes of coal from an open cast site at Glenmuckloch, north of Kirkconnel. (*The*

Herald, Nov 24, 2000. Article supplied by Alastair Lings).

Also of interest....



Old room and pillar workings exposed during opencast, remnant coal recovery operations by RJB Mining PLC at Eldon Deep, Co. Durham.

(Reproduced from International Mining & Minerals, December 2000, Vol 3, No. 36, with kind permission from the IMM, who holds the copyright).

Back Issues of British Mining Wanted

Barbara Sutcliffe has been a member of the society for some time and would like to complete her collection of the British Mining publications. She is missing most of the older A4 format series.

If any members have unwanted copies of these and would like to sell them or otherwise dispose of them, Barbara would be pleased to hear from you. She can be contacted at:

The Old Manse
93, Halifax Road
Nelson
Lancs, BB9 0EQ

Email: mansemins@cs.com

Blaenavon Ironworks

The Blaenavon ironworks and associated coal mining area has been nominated for registration as a world heritage site with UNESCO, according to *The Guardian* (Dec 1, 2000). Opened in 1789, Blaenavon was one of the largest iron works in the world. It is hoped that the historical importance of the preserved remains, including railways, canals, quarries, mines and tunnels, as well as the ironworks, will be recognised internationally.

Blaenavon also featured recently on Channel 4's *Time Team* programme. More information can be found on the web site: www.world-heritage-blaenavon.org.uk

John Hunter

Moving?

If you change your address, please help us by notifying:

The Secretary
c/o 38 Main Street,
Sutton in Craven,
Keighley,
West Yorkshire BD20 7HD

Finally...

Thanks to all who contributed to this newsletter. The editors would also like to thank those who were kind enough to write or send email with feedback (all complimentary, we are pleased to say!).

Please keep sending articles and other material suitable for publication - it is greatly appreciated. Items relating to mining in the northern Pennines are particularly welcome. Contributions can be in text (*.txt) format by email or diskette, but please don't hesitate to send submissions on paper if necessary. If sending printed text, 12 point Arial scans nicely. Photos, plans and sketches can also be scanned, but please advise us of the copyright ownership. Diskettes will be returned with the following newsletter unless instructed otherwise. Contributions for May newsletter by 15th April please, to:

John & Alison Hunter, 3 Leebrook Drive, Owlthorpe, Sheffield S20 6QG
Tel: 0114 251 4883. Email: john@hunteruk.freemove.co.uk

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