



The Northern Mine Research Society

Newsletter — February 2002

Society Meetings - 2002

Saturday 23 March **NMRS AGM and Annual Dinner** (Haworth) Three Sisters Hotel, AGM begins at noon, followed by the dinner at 2pm.

Provisional Field Meet Programme (Dates & details to be confirmed)

Saturday 11 May **Grinton area mines and smelt mills** (Swaledale) - surface and underground visit.

Saturday 22 June **Swinnergill level** (Keld area) - mainly underground.

Friday - Monday, 5 - 8, July **NAMHO 2002** - (Aberystwyth, Wales). "The application of water power in mining".

Saturday 20 July **Whiteaside / Summerlodge / Moulds** (Swaledale - Arkengarthdale) - underground.

September **Boulby Potash Mine** — underground, limited numbers and subject to approval.

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Annual Dinner Map	2	The 2002 NMRS annual dinner will be held at the Three Sisters Hotel, Brow Top Road, Haworth, on Saturday, March 23, beginning at noon.
Society News	3	This is the same venue that the Society used for the autumn meeting last year. The annual general meeting will be followed by the dinner at 2 pm. Members and guests will be able to order from the à la carte menu for a price of £15.00. There is a good choice on the menu and it is well recommended (by Mike). No booking form is required this time.
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Election of Society officers will take place at the Annual General Meeting, following the dinner. Further nominations for officers are welcome, both before and during the meeting.

Visit our website: <http://www.ex.ac.uk/%7ERBurt/MinHistNet/NMRS.html>

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October **Autumn General Meeting** - slides/social.

Sat / Sun 26, 27 **Teesdale**—details to be announced.
October

Meet Leaders

The secretary will always welcome offers from members to organise 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). Suggestions or offers to organise a field meeting in both April and August 2002 are needed.

Election of NMRS Officers

Nominations are requested from members for candidates to be elected to the NMRS committee at the annual general meeting on March 23, 2002. Suitably experienced nominees are particularly sought for the positions of...

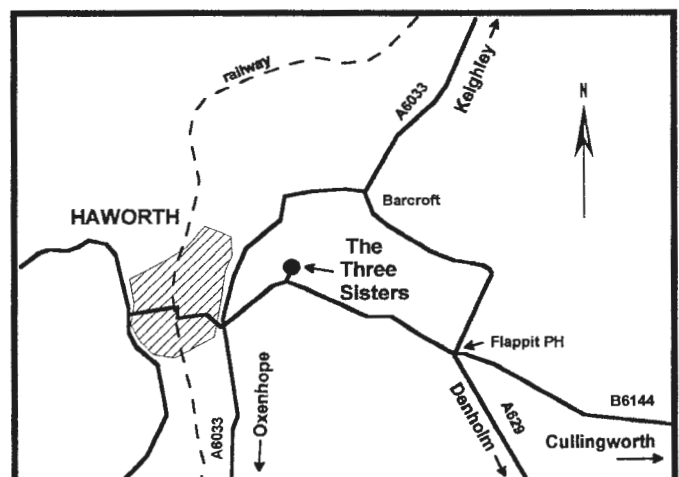
Society President and Publications Editor

Nominations for several alternative positions of sub-editors, each of whom could assume responsibility for the production of a single publication, possibly on a rotating basis, will also be considered.

NMRS Annual Dinner & AGM

The simplified map to the right shows the location of the Three Sisters Hotel, Brow Top Road, Haworth, where the NMRS annual dinner and AGM will be held on Saturday, March 23. The AGM begins at noon, followed by the dinner at 2 pm.

Hope to see you there!



Society News

From the President...

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

The committees of this society and PDMHS have agreed to meet for informal discussions about possible areas in which the two societies might co-operate more closely. Both committees are aware that changes in demographics and in people's enthusiasm for our core subject are having, and will continue to have, significant effects on the way in which the societies operate. For example, their membership profiles are getting both older and more sedentary, with very few new younger members. This is reflected in lower attendances at field meetings and social occasions, and a reluctance to become involved in committee work. As the latter is of prime importance to the continuance of either society, we need to consider ways of using our resources more efficiently, and perhaps co-ordinating some of our efforts.

Mike Gill

Library News

The library has benefited from a very generous donation of books and journals from Harry and Sue Houghton. There are too many titles to list them all in the Newsletter; but they are being added to the Library List - paper copy from Mike Gill, or e-mail copy from Sallie (sbassham@nildram.co.uk). The library already has copies of some of the books Harry and Sue have given and these duplicates are to be sold for the benefit of NMRS funds. If you are interested, please e-mail Sallie for a list (or 'phone 015 2424 1851 for a copy by post). Bids to Sallie by, or at, the AGM please and books will be sold to the highest bidder above a reasonable 'reserve price'.

We are very grateful to Harry and Sue for giving so many books. (When I first joined the Society, I remember several fascinating meets led by Harry and Sue: they did much to help me learn about the mines of the Yorkshire Dales and were always friendly to people like me who were new to mining.) Many thanks to you for your friendship, as well as your generosity!

Sallie Bassham

Harry and Sue Houghton

As mentioned in the previous article, the Society has benefited from a generous donation of books and journals by Harry and Sue Houghton. Newer members of the Northern Mines may not be aware of the many other contributions Harry and Sue have made over the years.

Very much a team, Harry and Sue served on the NMRS Committee for 15 years, with Harry as the Newsletter Editor and PRO. That was in the days before computers, between November 1975 and March 1991, when Sue typed everything without the benefit of easy correction. It was also before we printed the Newsletter, when copies were made on a manual Roneo duplicator (then the electric one which had been used for publications) and ink got all over your hands and clothes. They then had to collate the Newsletter and post it to members.

Another much valued contribution was in field meets. Harry and Sue were always ready to support others and to lead meets themselves: they introduced many new members to the delights of crawling around underground in the mud, scrambling up streams and learning about new sites and levels. By way of contrast, they helped each year with the Pie and Pea Suppers at Sicklinghall and were always ready to turn their hand to any job that needed doing in order to make meetings run smoothly. Thank you Harry and Sue.

Sallie Bassham

2002 Subscriptions — A Reminder

Subscriptions for the current year were due on January 1. If the membership cards are printed in time and you have paid your subs, your card will be enclosed with this newsletter. If your copy of the newsletter contains another renewal form instead, your subscription for the current year has not been received and your attention to this matter at your earliest convenience would be greatly appreciated!

Book Reviews

The Nent Force level and Brewery Shaft, by Peter Wilkinson, 105pp B5 pb, £9.95 + £1.00 p&p (reviewer can supply).

The author is well known within Mining History circles and this is one of the best known mining ventures in the UK. The Nenthead mines are some of the most visited and yet not a great deal has been written in recent years about their history.

The book includes details of three walks around the area supplemented by sketch maps, plans and colour photos, although the latter are clustered together in a separate section to reduce printing costs. The walks include mining features and the general explanations are clear and concise.

I am pleased to see an 'easy to understand' explanation of the operation of Brewery Shaft which utilised various methods of hydraulics and water power to not only generate electricity but also compressed air. Water was fed from the dam to a the top of a 70ft tower above the shaft and then dropped 400ft, pulling air with it, and then the water was pushed 250ft back up to Rampgill level and allowed to drop down again to power Pelton wheels.

Peter explains in brief detail the very complex history of the area and cleverly uses extracts from historical documents and articles by the likes of Sopwith and Westgarth Forster to explain events and developments at the Mines. There are only 2 pages on the geology of the area, which provides an overview but is very brief. In all this is very good book and it acts as a signpost to further reading and more serious tomes. It is aimed at both the historian and the casual visitor alike and is a worthy addition to your bookshelf.

Mike Moore

WWW.moorebooks.co.uk

Mike@moorebooks.co.uk

Places and People in the Early East London Gas Industry by Mary Mills, 1999, 238 pp maps, illus. A4 SB. Available from M. Wright, 24 Humber Road, London SE3 8LT, price £25.00 post free.

A chance remark I made to a group of school leavers found a complete lack of knowledge of the coal gas industry. Only a few of those that had gas central heating or used gas for cooking knew that today's gas comes from the North Sea. When one considers that nearly a quarter of a century has elapsed since North Sea gas replaced coal gas, this unfamiliarity becomes understandable.

How many of us, I wonder, can remember the days when the gasometer dominated the skyline? When every town had its gas works and when streets were lit by gas which had to be lit at night and extinguished in the morning by a man who rode round on his bicycle. When gas was the means of lighting the house, and the gas poker was pushed into the coke in the range in the morning to get a good blaze going. When the gas geyser was the means of heating water, and even, in the more well to do families, gas worked the refrigerator. How many of us can remember the by-products of gas: coke, ammonia, coal tar, not forgetting of course the smell and the pollution.

As all the above is well within living memory for a lot of us, it was no surprise to me to find that the coal gas industry is well documented, albeit that the facts are scattered over a wide area, but this book brings together the numerous threads of information to form a virtual encyclopaedia of the East London Gas Industry.

Initially, coal gas lighting was developed for a single building, which could be either private or a business. These evolved into "gas works", a small gas factory to supply a group of houses or a factory. Eventually, these gas works serviced a district or parish. The industry was not nationalised until 1949, so initially there were a wealth of private companies supplying gas.

Mary Mills has researched these companies in great detail, listing in many cases their proprietors and their professions. Some, like William Paxton, who lived at Middleton Hall near Carmarthen, owned coal mines which supplied coal to the early gas companies. Another noteworthy proprietor was John Taylor, the famous mining engineer. Others, like Boulton and Watts, the famous Birmingham mining engineers, also made

gas-making equipment and supplied gas-making plants to factories as early as 1803.

The coal trade benefited significantly from the gas industry. In the 1850's, three and a half millions tons of coal came into London every year, half by rail and half by sea. It is interesting to speculate how much the Durham collieries, one of the chief suppliers, relied on this trade.

What I like most about this book are the footnotes at the bottom of each page. The references occupy 6 pages and the scope is awesome. Mary Mills has carried out a depth of research, and left no page unturned. The book concludes with a 5 page index, making it an invaluable reference work.

Tony Oldham

The Saltpetre Empire of Great Saltpetre Cave and Mammoth Cave by Angelo I George, 2001. 121 pp illus. HMI Press. SB \$18.95. (reviewer can supply).

What is a caving book doing in a Mining History list you may ask. Well, saltpetre was mined in caves as far back as 1805. I always thought that saltpetre was nothing more than bat guano and all one had to do was dig it up, mix it with carbon and sulphur and BANG!, you have gunpowder. But it is not as simple as that. The soil that is found in the cave is calcium nitrate. This is leached out in vats of water and a period from 3 days to 2 weeks, depending on the size of the vat and the amount of agitation, the leachate is drained off into a boiler and the water evaporated. The resulting crystals are then mixed in wood ash in another vat, stirred with water and after a few days they are converted to potassium nitrate and a solution of calcium hydroxide. These processes can be repeated to obtain a better quality of potassium nitrate, with fewer impurities. Now is that not easier than smelting copper or zinc ores?

This book will appeal to those who are interested in the nuts and bolts of mining, not just the extraction of the material, but also the refining and commercialisation aspects. There are some delightful illustrations of long-forgotten mining machinery and a plethora of facts and figures related to dimensions, finance and production.

All this and more is described in great detail in the book. How would the west have been won without these caves which made a great contribution to the military, if not to say, the pioneering history of the USA? At one time the Great Saltpetre Cave and Mammoth Cave vied as producers of saltpetre, so it is all the more surprising that former has faded from public memory whilst Mammoth Cave is now world famous.

The author uses both the English and American spellings of Saltpetre / Saltpeter, which I quite like. He has done his homework, consulted both cave and libraries and produced a very readable piece of mining history.

Tony Oldham

INDUSTRIAL HERITAGE - Industry People Transport. Vol 27 No 4 Winter 2001 40 pp photos. 1 year's subscription £12.50 from Yorkshire History, Proctor House, Kirkgate, Settle, N Yorks BD24 9DZ

An illegal enterprise in Surrey in the Seventeenth century: Thomas Steere's wireworks at Chilworth [Surrey] by Glenys Crocker. An interesting account which also describes the wireworks at Tintern in the Wye Valley, Monmouthshire.

Coal - In Lincolnshire by ROTA. And why not one might ask? As there were fortunes being made in the coal industry in neighbouring Yorkshire and Lancashire local entrepreneurs sunk trial shafts at Woodhall Spa. They failed to find coal but did find water with amazing curative properties.

Castlefield, Manchester / The regeneration and sustainable development of historic industrial site (part two) by Derek Brumhead.

Happy Valley No More by Jack Nadin. On the morning of Thursday 22 March 1962, a methane gas explosion tore through the Rise Two District of Hapton Valley Colliery on the outskirts of Burnley in Lancashire. Sixteen men were killed and 20 injured. All proceeds of this book go to the Hapton Valley Colliery Disaster Fund.

Coal seams and mine workings below Moorhead and Meggs Farm by Phil Hudson. More information has appeared since the publication of the book "Coal Mining in Lunesdale". An extensive

colliery under Hornby Castle Estates is described with many useful references.

Faversham Bricks, anon. A million bricks every 10 days! That was the number used to build the 878 arch railway viaduct from London Bridge to Deptford.

The Warwick Siphon by John Brace. The story of the problem involved in supplying the town of Warwick with a clean water supply.

Russian Mining History by E Zablotski. From about 1703 to 1840 the Russian Mining Industry was dominated by English Mining Engineers. The author has made a detailed study of these men and listed their names, years of service, end of service, place of work and references (in Russian). Eventually these men were replaced by graduates of the Mining Institute in St Petersburg.

The development of the Clitheroe Union Workhouse is a review of Keepers of the House by F H Lofthouse.

The Kilbagie Canal by John M T Howat. In 1780 a canal from the River Forth in Scotland was constructed to transport grain and export whisky.

The Tramshed and The Arsenal by Jack Vaughan. The so-called Woolwich Tramshed had a colourful history. First as an electrical generating plant, then as a theatre with a popular lunchtime bar presided over by the Mayor of Greenwich no less.

As usual. something of interest to everybody.

Tony Oldham

Lead Miner's Heyday, by Ron Slack. Published by the author, with 90 pages, 15 plates and 4 maps. ISBN 0 9509746 4 1.

Ron Slack's book concentrates on the heyday of mining in Wirksworth and the Low Peak during the turbulent times of the 17th century. He tells of the Gell family and its influence as parliamentary supporters in the Civil War, when Colonel John Gell took control of Derbyshire and denied the king access to revenues from mining. He kept his mines working and traded with local royalists!

Throughout the century there were disputes caused by the miners' reluctance to pay tithes

(1/10th part) on their ore to lay tithe holders and vicars alike. Such claims were resisted despite legal battles and were only settled in 1780, when the vicars of Wirksworth, Bonsall and Cromford settled for a fortieth part. He also covers the rise of Dovegang mine, thanks to Vermuyden's soughing activities; the early use of gunpowder for blasting, and the introduction of reverberatory furnaces in the 18th century.

This is a useful and interesting book, which allows you to get easily to the core of what was happening in 17th century Derbyshire. Sorry, no price available.

Mike Gill

West Shropshire Mining Fields, by Ivor Brown. Published by Tempus Publishing Ltd, 128 pages. ISBN 0 7524 2363 0. Price £10.99.

The South-west Shropshire orefield fits in a radius of six miles around Shelve, and if you've never been it is well worth a visit. Ivor Brown's contribution to Tempus's series of pictorial studies of the British mining industry is the result of nearly fifty years of work. He has assembled around 200 photos showing the area's copper, lead, zinc and barytes mines. A small number of coal mining, quarrying and peat cutting scenes are also included. The captions are well written and informative, but some have been rather squeezed into the available space. A useful feature is an index of mine and smelt mill locations, which also gives national grid references. It is also good to see some shots of the consolidation work at Snailbeach and Tankerville Mines. What we need now is a comprehensive new history of the Shropshire mines to accompany it!

Footnote. Since the book was written, the owner of Lea Cross Geophysical Co. Ltd, Mr Barnett, has died and the company has ceased trading.

Mike Gill

Life and Times of the Dales Lead Mines

David Carlisle, of the Earby Mines Research Group, is to be the Earby and District Local History Society's guest speaker at 7-30 PM on Tuesday 16th April 2002. Dave's subject is the "Life and Times of the Dales Lead Mines". The venue is the New Road Community Centre, New Road, Earby, and members of the Northern Mine Research Society will be made most welcome.

Other News

Threlkeld Museum Open Day

The Threlkeld Museum's 11th open day will be held on Sunday March 10, 2002, commencing with a guided walk to Gategill Mine. Visitors intending to participate in the walk are asked to meet at 10.30 am by the old power house on the road near Four Seasons Food, Threlkeld. The museum will be opened officially at 12.45 pm, followed by a light buffet lunch.

There are more exhibits to see in the museum, including a completely new mineral room, where the extended collection is displayed to better advantage, and new features on the gunpowder industry in Cumbria. The 'mine experience' will also be open to visitors on that day.

E.A. Metal Mines Strategy for Wales

From the Environment Agency web site:

Abandoned metal mines in Wales present a significant source of surface water pollution and are recognised by the Environment Agency in a number of Local Environmental Action Plan (LEAP) objectives. However, in other ways the legacy of metal mining has created valuable and in some instances internationally important archaeological, mineralogical and biological sites. The Agency therefore recognises the need to address and consider all views to create a strategy in partnership with the other organisations who also have an interest in the future of these sites.

Environment Agency Wales has developed a draft metal mine strategy which has incorporated all the information provided from stakeholders. The strategy is designed to enable a clear assessment of all the issues at each of the Agency's top 50 priority sites and present various site management options. The Agency now invites you to examine the draft strategy, with a view to:

- highlighting any areas which you feel the strategy does not fully address
- checking that the strategy accurately portrays your mine issues

- gauging your opinion on the Agency's proposed future actions and recommendations
- and where necessary recommending any improvements.

The consultation process will be for 3 weeks from 29 January to 19 February 2002. The final printed version of the Metal Mines Strategy for Wales will be published at the beginning of April 2002 on the Environment Agency's web site.

Please respond to:

Greg Howarth, Environment Agency Wales,
Ffordd Penlan, Parc Menai, Bangor, Gwynedd,
LL57 4DE

(Responses due by 19 February 2002)

Email:

greg.howarth@environment-agency.wales.gov.uk

Pendeen Community Heritage Bid For Geevor

In July 2001 the bid by Pendeen Community Heritage (PCH) to manage the preservation of the Geevor site was approved by Cornwall County Council. The aim is to preserve, protect and interpret the mining heritage of Geevor Mine and other mining sites in the Pendeen - St. Just mining area, to educate the public about the history of mining in Cornwall, to create opportunities for skills training and to improve the environment and quality of life for local inhabitants.

PCH is a charitable company that has formed a business partnership with Heritage Projects Ltd, who manage sites such as the Jorvik Viking Centre and Dover Castle. Priority projects include a gateway at the top of the site, rebuilding of the headgear and refurbishment of the buildings. A small number of buildings on the site have the potential to be adapted for other uses, such as workshops etc. (from articles in Stone Chat, autumn & winter 2001).

New Books

Cumbrian Mining, by Ian Tyler, 2001. A limited edition hardback book, A4 format, 232 pp with more than 300 photographs and illustrations, many never published before. Price £22.50 +

£5.00 p&p, available from Threlkeld Mining Museum, Threlkeld, Keswick (cheques payable to Threlkeld Mining Museum Shop). The book includes chapters on such diverse topics as the formation of the Mines Rescue in Cumbria, early underground lighting, methods of extraction, raising of capital finance, surface transportation and underground graffiti.

Skelton Park Pit Ironstone Mine, by Simon Chapman. A5 booklet with photos & maps. Publication: Guisborough, Peter Tuffs Cleveland Ironstone Series, 64pp. Available from Embsay Steam Railway Trading Co., Ltd., Embsay Station, Skipton, North Yorks BD23 6QX. Describes the discovery and exploitation of ironstone in North Cleveland, near Guisborough, and railway construction and mining at Slapewath from 1861 onwards. Skelton Park Pit was developed in 1872 and closed in 1938. The Cleveland ironstone industry in general was closed down in 1964, just as the interest in industrial archaeology was expanding.

Nidderdale AONB

I've attended four meetings of the AONB (Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty) Archaeology sub-committee in the last year. The most recent, in January, was also attended by Martin Roe. Amongst other things, we have spent the last three years putting together proposals for archaeological survey and consolidation work in the AONB. This has been used to write an application for funding which has been submitted to the Heritage Lottery Fund.

The core of officers, who have been getting the AONB established, is about to be expanded and they are eager to make progress on getting projects established. This includes using funds from Yorkshire Forward for a feasibility survey of Prosperous smelt mill and dressing floor in Ashfold-side Gill. The findings will be used to devise a consolidation programme for the site, which has an open shaft, ruined buildings and unstable spoil heaps. It was also suggested that consideration be given to holding a competition for the design of a footbridge to cross the beck. A similar survey of Providence smelt mill has already been done, but the consolidation requirements would have to be assessed as part of the proposed scheme to consolidate and interpret the Cock Hill Mine buildings.

Work is also to begin on devising a scheme for providing access to the area's reservoirs and interpreting them.

Contractors were about to start work on the access paths to Toft Gate Limekiln, which has been consolidated. Preparation of the necessary interpretation is also in progress and a public opening is planned for mid-March.

The proposed scheme for Cock Hill Mine was discussed in some detail at a separate meeting. The site is well served by public rights of way, but car parking was a major problem – especially for routes leading from Greenhow village. It is hoped to use parking at Toft Gate and a new footpath (to be built by the owners of Coldstones quarry) to keep walkers off the main road.

Mike Gill

Cleveland Potash

(from: Engineering & Mining Journal – January 2002).

Anglo American plc has agreed to sell Cleveland Potash Ltd., a wholly owned subsidiary, to Israel Chemicals Ltd for \$45 million. Cleveland Potash is located in North Yorkshire and is the United Kingdom's only potash mine. In 2000, production totalled one million metric tonnes of potash and more than 500,000 metric tonnes of road salt.

Israel Chemicals is a global company that manufactures and markets fertilisers and fertiliser raw materials, Br and Br-compounds, and speciality and performance chemicals. Commenting on the sale, Robbie Robertson, CEO of Anglo Industrial Minerals, said, *"Since our acquisition of Tarmac, the focus of Anglo Industrial Minerals in Europe has moved to aggregates and heavy building materials. We believe that the future development of Cleveland Potash will be better served as part of a major potash producer and marketer like Israel Chemicals."*

Supplied by Paul Webster

SWEMP 2002 Conference (October 7-10, 2002, Cagliari, Italy)

Sardinia boasts a centuries old mining history (base metals, iron ore, coal, industrial minerals, silver and gold, dimensional stone). A great num-

ber of mines, processing plants, smelters, refineries and chemical plants have been put into operation since Roman times. Unfortunately, large portions of the land and the sea are now heavily affected by mining (soil and water pollution, dumps and tailings embankments, landscape deterioration, safety, slope instability and subsidence). A very important rehabilitation plan is being carried out in the abandoned mining areas throughout the Island. The wealth of industrial archaeology has been recognised by UNESCO and it is being recovered and preserved in the frame of a unique Geo-Mining Heritage Park.

Conference participants will find: A leading technical program featuring authors and exhibitors from various countries, a number of very interesting field visits, accommodation in a pleasant hotel by the sea near the city of Cagliari, a charming social program and tourist attractions, and options for post-Conference tours. Information (contacts, abstract submission, registration, travel and accommodation, programme, useful links about Sardinia) can be seen on the web site:

<http://www.swemp.com> or:

<http://geoing.unica.it/digita/swemp/index.htm>

Mining History & Related Articles in Other Journals

A Railway Find, by Tim Smith, in Wealden Iron Research Group Newsletter, 2001, V34, 6-8. Report on mid 19th century ironstone mine galleries at Snape Wood (TQ634302) south of Wadhurst, East Sussex. The siderite ore was discovered during the making of a railway cutting. Mine galleries were driven from August 1857 but abandoned the following year.

Britain's Largest Explosion, Anon, in Descent, V163, 2001, p14-15. Describes the gypsum mines at Fauld, Staffs, their use by the RAF for munitions storage and the accidental detonation of 4000 tons of bombs in November 1944.

Combe Down Mines, by Lynn Willies, in Descent, V163, 2001, p34. Brief report on progress of surveying underground stone quarries being scheduled as an ancient monument.

Archive Sources for the History of Quarrying, by the Institute of Quarrying. A5 booklet, 12pp, 2001? available free from the Institute of Quarrying, 7 Regent Street, Nottingham NG1 5BS. Outlines at a very basic level the general nature and availability of most of the more obvious types of printed and manuscript sources available for quarry history. There is a useful list of addresses & contact details for a number of national organisations.

Mendip Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty: A strategy for the Historic Environment, by

the Countryside Agency, 2001, 15pp. This booklet addresses the total landscape of the Mendip Hills, including over 200 scheduled ancient monuments. Research in progress is described in an appendix and includes studies in: caves and the Pleistocene, mining, the brick and tile industry and lime kilns.

Secret Liverpool: Magical Mystery Tour, by Robin Everleigh & Paul Quayle, in Geographical Magazine, Feb 2002, V74(2), p46-51. An illustrated feature on Joseph Williamson's folly tunnels at Edge Hill and the work of local societies in clearing them of rubble and creating public access.

Above information supplied by Paul Sowan

A visit to Laxey Mine, an Extract from Dr. Bradbury's Guide to Laxey, by Egbert Rydings, in Stone Chat, Journal of the Norfolk Mineral & Lapidary Society, Winter 2001, p2-5.

Coalfield Discoverer, by Tony Mills, in International Mining & Minerals, Jan 2002, p.29-31. A short biography of the author's grandfather, George Dunston, who is credited with the discovery of the extension of the Midlands Coalfield east of the Great North Road. Dunston, involved in shipping cargos of coal, learned from discussions with fishermen during trips across the North Sea how lumps of coal were brought up in nets cast around a sea-floor fissure near the Dogger Bank. This developed into a theory about a coalfield extension which was successfully tested by a borehole completed at Southcar in 1893. The Barnsley seam was intersected at a depth of 3185 feet.

More Interesting Web Sites

www.freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.com/~cmhrc/lom45.htm - the coal mining history research centre. A site listing coal mines, owners, managers etc. throughout the country in 1945. Also includes some metalliferous mines and a number of scanned maps from the Colliery Guardian (1950).

www.dmm.org.uk/ - Durham Mining Museum. A site operated by the Friends of DMM with a wealth of information on collieries, including de-

scriptions of disasters (with lists of victims), photos, scanned sections of 19th century OS maps and more.

www.bgs.ac.uk/mineralsuk/home.html - always worth checking the BGS site for latest news, including free downloadable reports & access to the Geoscience Data Index

www.coal.gov.uk - The Coal Authority web site, currently containing the 2000/2001 annual report (with photos), mining reports on-line (£15 charge), details of abandonment plans at Mansfield etc.

The Leadhills Miners.

I have changed my service provider so the WebPages Lead and Labour will now be found on

www.wsharvey.dial.pipex.com/leadandlabour/index.shtml

Bill Harvey
wsharvey@dial.pipex.com

Wanted - A New Home for Newsletters

Mrs Ashworth is looking for a good home for a near complete set of NMRS Newsletters (1978 to date). If anyone would like to acquire them, please contact her at: Station House, Gargrave, North Yorkshire, BD23 3NE or by phone at 01756 749422 (evenings).

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. Material received and not used this time should appear in the next newsletter. 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 mid-late April please, to:

John & Alison Hunter, 3 Leebrook Drive, Owlthorpe, Sheffield S20 6QG
Tel: 0114 251 4883. email: johnhunter.2000@btinternet.com

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