



The Northern Mine Research Society

Issue
2

Newsletter -February 2003

Society Meetings -2003

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

Sunday March 30th 2003. Ingleton Coalfield and Storrs Quarry (Joint meet with PDMHS).
Leader: Bernard Bond, Tel. (015242) 41857 Meet – 10.30am at 1 Beech Terrace, Tatterthorne Lane, Ingleton. NGR SD688722. At the Mason's Arms, turn south off the A65 into Tatterthorne Lane for 500 metres. Meet outside Bernard Bond's house, which once belonged to Edmund Danson, manager of the nearby Wilson Wood Colliery. From there, it is intended to walk to Storrs Quarry for which Bernard has photographs from 1926 onwards. There will then be the opportunity for a quick lunch at Bernies Cafe, followed by a circular tour of the various collieries, a brickworks site and the New Colliery Village. Around four miles of easy walking across fields.

Saturday April 12th 2003. Teesdale, Hudeshope.

Leader: Tony Fretwell Tel. 01388 605965 Meet at the Memorial Fountain in Middleton in Teesdale at 9.30 for the morning, surface, and afternoon underground tour. Please ring the leader to confirm your intention to attend.

Saturday May 10th 2003. Buckden Gavel Lead Mine.

Meet leader: Malcolm Needham Tel: 01257 452304 email: malcneedham@aol.com
or email Alan mills at: alanfmills@lineone.net

Meet at Car Park just north of Buckden village, map ref SD 942 775 @ 10-30am just off B6160 Road. Note the trip involves a walk of approx. 1.5 miles and ascent of 300 meters but is worth the hike. ps. Don't forget to purchase a car park ticket from the machine before the ascent. The first part of mine is welly deep in water but after that it's relatively dry and easy going.

June Swaledale/Arkengarthdale (Richard Platt)

July Gillheads/Appletreewick (Martin Roe)

August Swaledale/ Arkengarthdale (Richard Platt)

September Faggergill (possibly joint meet with EMRG)

October Goldscope/Newlands Valley Lake District (I Tyler)

Society News

THE SPRING MEETING (ANNUAL DINNER AND AGM)

This is to be held on Saturday 22nd March at The Wensleydale Heifer Inn, West Witton near Leyburn. The meal will begin at 1.00 pm to be followed by the AGM at 3.00 pm. Full details of the menu, with a booking form is attached to the Newsletter.

NOMINATION FORM FOR THE COMMITTEE.

In accordance with our constitution, all nine committee posts become vacant at each AGM. Those who filled the posts in 2002 are listed below and they are all willing to stand for re-election. Nevertheless, nominations are welcome for any other full member who might wish to stand. If you are interested in attending committee meetings, but perhaps do not feel confident enough to stand for office, please contact the Secretary c/o 38 Main Street, Sutton in Craven, KEIGHLEY, Yorkshire, BD20 7HD.

The present Committee consists of:-

President	Mike Gill
Vice President	Bob Burns
Jnr Vice President	Martin Roe
Secretary	Steve Mitchell
Treasurer	Barry Sudell
Editor	John Hunter
Newsletter Editor	Ray Fairbairn
Librarian	Sallie Bassham
Recorder	Mike Gill

SOCIETY GRANTS

The Committee has agreed to establish a fund which will be used to support projects which fulfil the Society's aims of advancing the education of the public in, and encouraging the study of, all historical and technical aspects of mining and associated subjects.

Applications for financial assistance, normally up to a maximum of £500, should be made to the Secretary, c/o 38 Main Street, Sutton in Craven, KEIGHLEY, Yorkshire, BD20 7HD. They should be accompanied with a brief description of the proposed project and its aims, giving an outline of the intended expenditure, the length of project and the methodology to be used.

Recipients of grants will normally be expected to publish their findings in *British Mining* and provide a copy of their fieldwork for archiving in the Society's Records.

GIFT AID

Many thanks to all who have signed Gift Aid forms. This means we are able to claim a substantial sum of money from Inland Revenue each year. I will soon be filling in the forms for 2002. If you have signed a Gift Aid form but did not pay any UK Income Tax (or Capital Gains Tax) last year, please will you let me know. I am not supposed to claim back tax if you did not pay it in the first place.

Unlike Covenant Forms, a Gift Aid form need only be completed once; but if you are not sure whether you have filled one in, then please do so anyway. If in doubt, sign again - there is no problem, or disadvantage if there are two forms and it never costs you anything.

If you have questions about Gift Aid, you can get leaflet IR113 Gift Aid from any local tax office or I will do my best to explain things.

Sallie Bassham (sbassham@nildram.co.uk)

NAMHO 2003

The Mining Heritage Trust of Ireland is hosting the NAMHO 2003 conference (Saturday 7th - Sunday 8th June 2003). The conference will be located at Avondale House in County Wicklow, close to Avoca ("Ballykissangel"), about 40 km south of Dublin

The conference will consist of talks, surface and underground trips. In the week following the conference there will be opportunities to visit some additional mine sites in western and southern parts of the Country, plus a visit to the active Tara lead-zinc mine (the largest in Europe).

In addition to the talks and visits, there will be a reception in Avondale House on the evening of Friday 6th June and conference dinner on Saturday 7th June.

Accommodation will be available at Avondale House, in local B&B's, hostels and camping

For details, see the Mining Heritage Trust of Ireland's web site: www.mhti.com

For further information contact the Conference Co-ordinator -

Matthew Parkes

MHTI

c/o Geological Survey of Ireland

Beggars Bush

Haddington Road

Dublin 4

Tel +353 1 678 2858

Email matthewparkes@gsi.ie

Recent Archaeological Work in the Yorkshire Dales

A day school organised by the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority

Saturday April 5, 2003

10.00 am - 4.30 pm

Grassington Town Hall, Grassington

The Yorkshire Dales has some of the best preserved and extensive historic landscapes in the country.

This day school will cover some of the results of recent archaeological and historical survey and research in the area.

Fee: £10 (£7.50 - full time students)

Recent Archaeological Work in the Yorkshire Dales

Name:

Address:

.....
.....
.....
.....

Daytime telephone number:

.....

Please book places.

The fee includes refreshments but not lunch.

**I enclose payment of £
Park Authority)**

(cheques should be payable to the Yorkshire Dales National

Please return to the National Park Centre, Hebden Road, Grassington, Skipton BD23 5LB

For further information please telephone 01756 752774 or e-mail grassington@ybtbic.co.uk

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The Grassington day school on April 5, 2003 will include papers on:

Historic parks, gardens and designed landscapes in the Yorkshire Dales Moira Fulton (Yorkshire Gardens Trust)

Field Monuments Chris Knowles (English Heritage)

Rock Art and context in the Northern Dales Tim Laurie

Stint and agistment - understanding historic landscape in Craven Tom Lord (Lower Winskill Visitor Centre)

Out Of Oblivion : access to information about the historic environment Karen Griffiths (YDNPA)

Peat - growth, conservation, exploitation Sallie Bassham (NMRS)

Lime in Craven David Johnson

New Approaches to Lead Mining. Martin Roe (University of Leicester/NAMHO)

as well as Book Stalls and Poster Displays

LIBRARY

The library has benefited from two generous donations recently. Our very grateful thanks to Ian and Jean Tyler at the Threlkeld Quarry and Museum for several back issues of MOLES Newsletters and to Chris and Bridget Irwin at The Bookhouse in Ravenstonedale for boxes of Journals (mainly Historical Metallurgy, Industrial Past and Industrial Heritage). These will all get added to the Library List - probably at Easter - and be available electronically from sbassham@nildram.co.uk or on paper from Mike Gill. It is very generous of people who make a living from selling books and journals to donate items to the library in this way, so remember to support Threlkeld when it re-opens in March and to visit The Bookhouse when you are in the Kirby Stephen area.

Sallie Bassham, Librarian

BOOK REVIEW

MINING IN WORLD HISTORY

by Martin Lynch

2002, 350pp.

ISBN: 1 86189 125 3

Publisher: Reaktion Books Ltd, 79 Farringdon Rd., London EC1M 3JU.

(www.reaktionbooks.co.uk)

Price: £25 hardback.

I came across this new book whilst browsing in Foyles, and bought it on spec. I am glad I did, for this book is excellent. I found it as readable as a good novel, and as informative as any historical narrative I've ever read. I devoured it cover-to-cover. The dustcover notes claim that the book aims to help readers "discover the startling interplay of personalities, politics and technology that have shaped the metallurgical industries down to the present time". I would say that the book fully achieves that aim. At many points while reading the book, I found myself thinking: "So THAT'S how such-and-such a mining development was connected to that other one!". The book demonstrates that economic globalisation, which is currently discussed in the popular media as if it were a new phenomenon, has been the bread-and-butter of the metals mining sector for many centuries. Reading this book with the former Pennine lead-zinc mines in the back of your mind, for instance, you suddenly understand how global developments provided the impetus for mining companies to develop these mines in what now seem to us such hopelessly remote and inhospitable locations.

There were only two items in the text which had me saying "that's not quite right":

(i) In relation to the location of the world's first School of Mines, which was actually in Potosí, Bolivia, not in Freiberg, Germany (though the latter location can legitimately claim to have the world's oldest SURVIVING School of Mines).

(ii) As to the oldest professional association of mining engineers, which was not AIME, but the North of England Institute of Mining and Mechanical Engineers (founded in 1852, and thus celebrating its 150th Anniversary this academic year).

One other minor quibble (which is predictable from me, as a Geordie) is that the book is heavily focused on metal mining, with only scant coverage of coal production (and that

typically in relation to the support it offered for developments in smelting).

However, I must conclude by emphasising that this book is in the "must-have" category, and I can see myself turning to it again and again over the years to come.

Paul L. Younger

MR LEAN AND THE ENGINE REPORTERS

By Bridget Howard

ISBN 0 904040 56 9 : December 2002. Published by The Trevithick Society. Available from Torment Ltd, P.O. Box 4, Redruth, Cornwall. TR16 5YX. Price £9.99. A5 Perfect Bound, 99 pages, 15 illustrations, 108 references.

What could easily have been a dry account has been turned into a most interesting book. It describes the people that measured and calculated the duty, i.e. performance, of Cornish steam engines that were published throughout most of the 19th century.

In the 18th century, both John Smeaton and James Watt had calculated the efficiency of steam engines in terms of the quantity of water raised by burning a standard quantity of coal. It was not until 1811 that Joel Lean started to publish the results of such calculations on a regular basis for Cornish engines. The book follows the involvement of the Lean family and the pressures to which they were subjected to produce reports favourable to particular engines or engineers.

As the name indicates, the activities of the Lean family, and the events leading to a split, form the core of the book. Well known names associated with the Cornish mines are involved, including Arthur Woolf, John Taylor and others. Competing accounts written by Tonkin, Brown and Eddy are described, though few of these have survived. Brief histories of each of the compilers are included.

An interesting comment on p.94 puts the subject into context, '*Duty was subject to a number of variables. At best, it was achieved honestly by men of integrity. At worst, it was falsified as a result of dubious practices or downright intention*

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to deceive. There is always a tendency to take anything in print as gospel, but obviously caution is needed.

The book will be of particular interest to Cornish steam engine enthusiasts, but should also be of interest to a wider mining history audience, reminding us of the importance of considering the objectives of the recorder when working with documentary evidence. A useful addition to the book is Appendix 1 which gives the method used to calculate 'Duty', while Appendix 2 lists the whereabouts of copies of the surviving 'Reports'.

Ray Fairbairn

DURHAM COLLIERIES-

A Listing, by Jennifer Gill, County Archivist, that was published in 2001 by Durham County Record Office, price £6.00 plus £1.50 postage. ISBN 0 9500492 5 5

The book is in A4 landscape format and has 113 pages. It contains basic information about collieries in County Durham from c1850 to c1990, using information obtained from a clearly-defined range of sources. The listing provides;

- a list of colliery names, their location and ownership.
- alternative names that were used for particular collieries and shafts.
- names of individuals and companies who owned the collieries at different times.
- evidence of dates of operation
- an index of owners, listing the collieries owned
- an index of townships, showing the named collieries in each township
- a list of map sheet references, showing the named collieries and the number of unnamed shafts within each map area.

Alan Vickers.

The review appeared in
mining-history@JISCMAIL.AC.UK, 5.2.03

PEAK DISTRICT MINES HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER 105:

Published: 2003 1 2pp Author: various. Available from Peak District Mines Historical Society, Peak District Mining Museum, The Pavilion, South Parade, Matlock Bath, MATLOCK, Abstract: The main contents are:

John Barnatt - The High Rake Project - an interim report (hPages 4 - 6) [Archaeological excavations at the surface at a 19th century lead mine near Great Hucklow, Derbyshire (SK 1636 7775)]

Ivor J. Brown - Collyweston slate mines, Northamptonshire 20th October 2002 (pages 7 - 8) [Report of visit and notes on observations made during a previous visit in the 1960s]

John Barnatt, et al. - Peak District mines - observations and discoveries - Part5 (page 9) [(1) Evidence for fire-setting with coal at Long Tor Top mine, Matlock Bath; (2) Adit, Hitter Hill near Earl Sterndale, Derbyshire; (3)

Mines at Black Rakes area, Middleton-by-Wirksworth, Derbyshire; (4)

Two Sheds mine, near Buxworth, Derbyshire]

Paul W. Sowan - Reopening an underground building-stone quarry at Gatton (Surrey) [Part 1] (pages 10- 11) [Underground quarrying had certainly been started by the 17th century, and quarrying (probably underground) is recorded from the 16th century; the quarry reopened was possibly of 19th century date; 'Reigate stone' samples were retrieved for scientific analysis]

Paul W. Sowan, Subterranea Britannica, 254 Pampisford Road, 14/01/2003 Derbyshire DE4 3NR. e-mail www.pdmhs.com

Monkton Farleigh quarry (Brown's Folly mine.)

Authors: Nick Beckett, Neil Reaich, I. Young, M. Ellis, and S. Neads

Survey at 1:2500 2002. Published by Shepton Mallet Caving Club, Price: £ 5 including p/p from Neil Reaich, 46 Marshfield Way, Fairfield Park, BATH, BA1 6HQ

Abstract: This A3 laminated plan depicts the underground building-stone quarry workings at Brown's Folly / Monkton Farleigh, Wiltshire, excluding the modified area formerly used for munitions storage. 19.6 km of surveyed passages are shown at 1:2500. Points of industrial archaeology interest are indicated, including

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cranes, loading bays, troughs, stables, and saw benches. Some main passages have railway lines. Surface detail and entrance locations are also shewn.

On the reverse of the sheet are safety and conservation notes, access arrangements information, and suggested routes.

Paul W. Sowan, Subterranea Britannica, 254
Pampisford Road,

THE SPRING MEETING (ANNUAL DINNER AND AGM)

This is to be held on **SATURDAY 22ND MARCH 2003** at The Wensleydale Heifer Inn, West Witton near Leyburn. The meal will begin at 1.00 pm to be followed by the AGM at 2.30 pm. Three courses £15.00 per head

DINNER MENU AND BOOKING FORM

Homemade Soup of the Day
Stilton and quince pate
King Prawns in filo with spicy plum sauce
Sautéed chicken livers in a creamy mustard sauce

* * *

Roast beef and Yorkshire pudding
Wensleydale chicken
Stir fry vegetables served with egg noodles
Grilled pork chops with spicy apple chutney and gravy

* * *

Burnt raspberry and lemon crème Brule
Bitter chocolate tart
Steamed apple sponge and custard
Selection of ice cream

* * *

3 courses £15.00 per head

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone _____ Number attending _____

Please put a tick against your choice(s) and return to: Mike Gill, 38 Main Street, Sutton in Craven, KEIGHLEY, BD20 7HD by March 15th 2003. Please make cheques payable to NMRS.