



The Northern Mine Research Society Newsletter

Society News

The committee structure is unchanged since the status report provided in the May newsletter, i.e. no new volunteers have come forward to help manage the routine business of running the Society. On the positive side and contrary to what I reported in the May newsletter, Mike Gill has kindly offered to continue as Recorder, rather than retire after the AGM in 2007. However, will members please note that the committee is currently operating without the help of a secretary and two vice-presidents. Therefore we would be very grateful if one or more members would consider volunteering for any of these positions, none of which is particularly burdensome. **A "minutes secretary" would be especially welcome at the present time** – attendance at Annual + Autumn General Meetings and committee meetings (normally 2 per year) to take minutes is all that is required. The committee currently meets at Wetherby, which (for members living on the east side of the Pennines) is conveniently close to the M1.

If any potential volunteer would like further information, please call me, John Hunter, on 0114 251 4883 or contact me by email: miner@aditlevel.co.uk.

Following the committee 'reshuffle' at the AGM this March, the **official address** has changed from that shown on the membership card and is now:

3 Leebrook Drive
Owlthorpe
Sheffield
S20 6QG

Publications

In May this year all of the Society's stock of publications was moved from Sutton-in-Craven to a new location near Sheffield and the publications sales address is now the same as the new official address, shown above. The sale of Society publications is improving and the committee has decided to increase the number of copies in initial print runs for

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future publications to try to avoid making early reprint orders. Owing to continued demand for the out-of-print publication BM46 (The Grassington Mines), the committee has also decided to order a reprint of this volume later in the year. Stocks of several other British Mining volumes are running low and there is no guarantee that any of these will be reprinted. Members are therefore advised to order any volumes they would like to have "while stocks last..." . For a list of available publications, refer to the back pages of the most recent publications, although some of these editions have since sold out. Please note, however, that 3 copies of BM48 (Memoirs 1993) turned up during the move. Labels on the back of these books show a price of £7.50, if anybody is interested. The usual members' discounts apply of course.

At the time of writing (this newsletter article), the preparation of the next Society monograph - BM79, Cape Cornwall Mine, is at an advanced stage, however the exact delivery date for the printed copies has not been finalised and if your copy is not included with this newsletter, it will be posted separately soon afterwards.

Newsletter

Although Alison Hunter is the newsletter editor serving on the committee, she is ably assisted by Richard Platt who attends to the compilation and layout of the content etc. Alison arranges for the printing and distribution to members. Please continue to send news items of interest for inclusion in future newsletters to Richard, whose address is shown on the back page of this newsletter.

Library

A updated version of the library list has been produced and will be distributed to all members, either with this newsletter or with the next publication.

NMRS Grants

Only one grant has been applied for and awarded so far this year, to John Barnatt and Terry Worthington. This is a contribution towards the cost of carbon-14 dating analysis of charcoal samples from locations underground in the Peak District where there is evidence of the use of firesetting in pre-gunpowder mine workings.

If any member would like to enquire about Society grants to assist with the costs of a mining history research project, application forms and copies of the terms and conditions of use can be obtained via email (miner@aditlevel.co.uk) or by post from:

John Hunter
3 Leebrook Drive
Owlthorpe
Sheffield
S20 6QG

British Mining - a note from the editor

It seems quite a long time since the NMRS AGM at the end of March this year. Few of those attending will forget how near the Society came to closing simply because there were too few people to take on the jobs which are necessary to run the organisation. In the end, all was saved because some of the old hands were persuaded to stay and one or two new people appeared. I was one of the latter and in many ways had a fairly free choice of which task I wanted to do - we really were that desperate. I decided to take on the editorship of British Mining simply because I felt it was too good a publication to allow to disappear and it would be easier to do from the Deep South than some of the other tasks. John Hunter moved over to become President of the Society and has since been a tower of strength in passing on advice and information on British Mining. During his term as editor, John has brought about several changes in the journal, the most

obvious being the change to 'full frontal' pictures on the cover and I take this opportunity to thank him for all the good work he has done.

I have always felt that British Mining was one of the things which the Society did well and it has certainly helped in bringing in funds to enable other aspects of mining research to be carried out by the members. This year there will be a bit of a hiatus while responsibilities are handed over and also because there has been a temporary shortage in the number of monographs coming forward. However, just as the monsoon follows the drought, there are three monographs in a fairly advanced state, so it's going to be a busy time over the next few months fitting it all in with the day job. The new monographs relate literally to the three corners of the British Isles: Pete Joseph has an account of the Cape Cornwall mine in the SW of England, Ron Callender writes on the Baille an' Or mine in Scotland and Nigel Chapman on the Van Mines of Central Wales. Although they are somewhat outside my own area of interest, I have found the manuscripts to be a good read, without exception and look forward to bringing these into print later on in 2006 and early next year. In addition, over half of the manuscripts for the 2006 Memoirs have arrived and the rest have been promised. In the longer term, there are several authors working on monographs and one or two reprints of older publications, with considerable additions and revisions planned. Life looks as if it is going to be fairly busy over the next twelve months.

British Mining has developed from a specialist caving journal to the professional standard which we have today thanks to the authors, editors and helpers who have contributed over the years. It relies completely on research by members and will always do so. If you haven't published a paper before or are unsure if you have something of interest then 'talk to the editor' and let's take a look. Although the mainstay of British

Mining has tended to be potted histories of mines, there have been other subjects which have added to the variety of topics and interest. Subjects as diverse as smelting and processing technology, sociology, community history, mortality studies, photographic subjects, mining other than coal or metals, ancient mines, woodland management, landscape studies, pollution effects and survey/examination techniques all come to mind. If you have something, however short, then let's take a look.

In conclusion, I am certainly looking forward to the job and the contact it will bring with members of the Society and with their interests. If there are any comments you have on British Mining then the newsletter editor, Richard Platt will be pleased to include them in these pages and I look forward to hearing them.

In the meantime, if you have any items for inclusion in British Mining then I am:

Richard Smith,
New House, Spring Lane,
Cold Ash, Newbury,
Berkshire. RG18 9PL.

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Mobile: 07785 508013

Librarian's Report

The library has recently acquired "The Great Orme Copper Mines" by Don Smith and "The Brimpts Tin Mines Dartmeet" by Roger Bird and Peter Hirst. Quite some time ago, I promised to write about "Copper Mountain" by John Rowlands; and the generous donor, Tony Fretwell must have long despaired that I would keep my promise.

"Copper Mountain" is a reprint of the 1966 original (described as an update of the 1833 "History of the Isle of Mona") and is a definitive work on Anglesey mining. Rowlands has used the Mona

Mine Manuscripts to produce a carefully researched and very readable book. He includes details of production figures; and maps to illustrate lands adjoining Amlwch Port, planned railways, Parys Mountain and its mines. There is also a magnificent photograph of Parys Mountain today and reprints of colour paintings of the mines in the eighteenth century and of some of the characters involved in the development of the mines.

Mention is made of evidence for Roman mining, and of Tudor and Stuart developments. The mining is set in the historical context of war-time needs, domestic uses and effects of taxation on extraction, processing and trade. Evidence for the alleged, unexpected, near-surface, rich find of 2 March 1768 is examined carefully and put into context. This careful weighing of different strands of evidence is a feature of the book. Similarly, the descriptions of mining, processing and transport of copper are interwoven with histories of the main characters involved. Thomas Williams, a Welshman, was a successful land agent before becoming business manager, legal adviser, "the real architect of the Parys Mine Company" and the "uncrowned king of the industry". He died in 1802 and was remembered for his generosity to local causes as well as being "the finest industrialist and financier which Anglesey has ... produced". There was some decline in Parys Mountain mining after Williams' death; but things were kept going by a Cornishman, James Treweek. He became Manager in 1811 and was not always popular. Perhaps because he often had unpopular tasks to carry out: he had to refuse work to miners, was responsible for medical arrangements and had to investigate thefts. He also had to deal with strikes. The fumes destroyed vegetation all around the processing works and Treweek had to deal with the angry farmers. Nevertheless, under his shrewd management the mines continued to show profits despite poor prospects for the copper industry as a whole. The smelting problems of this time

and various attempted solutions are described clearly and sympathetically. Treweek was gifted and hard-working and his death in 1851 marked the end of an era. No-one after him was able to halt the decline in the industry. In addition to the mining detail, Rowlands also writes about medical matters (eg bal surgeons), schools, Sunday Schools, churches and chapels. A fascinating book which will be of interest to those who know nothing of copper mining or Anglesey - before they start reading it - and also useful to researchers. The interplay between the mining industries of Anglesey and Cornwall, and the men involved, will, no doubt, also be explored by others. This book will be a valuable resource.

Sallie Bassham

Autumn Meeting

The Autumn Meeting for 2006 will be held on Saturday October 14th at the Miners Arms, Greenhow Hill, near Pateley Bridge. The committee has decided to experiment with a slightly different format this year's meeting, with the following schedule:

11.45 - 12.45 - NMRS General Meeting
13:00 - 13:45 - **FREE buffet** for all members attending
14:00 - 16:00 - short presentations by members on a mining topic, including our **guest speaker, Shirley Everett**.

The business meeting will kept deliberately short, with minutes of previous meetings being made available in printed form for members to read, rather than being read out aloud. Officers' reports will also be brief and will focus on current Society activity.

After the buffet there will be the usual opportunity for members to give an informal short talk on some current research project that they may be involved with or an aspect of mining history that they think will be of interest to others. Ideally, talks should be no

longer than 15-20 minutes, including time for questions. Projection equipment will be available for showing slides and Powerpoint displays.

At approximately 3:15 pm we will be hoping to welcome a guest speaker – Shirley Everett, from the Greenhow Local History Club, who will give an illustrated talk about Coldstones quarry, titled "Life on the Hill".

Hopefully we will be able to accommodate three or four talks from members before our guest speaker arrives and perhaps a couple more afterwards. Even though there will be no charge for the buffet meal this year, a booking form is still enclosed with this newsletter. If you intend to come to the meeting, will you please complete the form and return it to address indicated so that the committee has some idea of the numbers to cater for. Will those members who would like to give a presentation please use the form to tell us the subject of the talk and what type of equipment you will need. Alternatively, anybody wishing to save the cost of a postage stamp can email this information to John Hunter at miner@aditlevel.co.uk.

The committee is aware that some members may wish to attend the Society's general meetings but are unable to come because the locations that we often choose are too far for them to travel to. If any members can suggest some alternative venues that could be considered for future meetings, you are welcome to use the enclosed booking to provide us with feedback, even though you may not be attending this time.

National Caving Conference 2006

Members may be interested in the National Caving Conference, *Hidden Earth 2006*. This takes place at Leek High School, Staffordshire, 22-24 September. Contact bookings@hidden-earth.org.uk or Wendy Williams 01749 679839.

Members Contributions

Plans for Smelt Mill site unveiled

(taken from the Hexham Chronicle 3rd March 2006)

A new development on an historic site is opening up the possibility of valuable jobs and investment in the Allen Valleys. The site of the Allen Smelt Mill, on the Banks of the Allen near Thornley Gate, has been in various industrial and commercial uses since at least the 1600s. Now a local craftsman is planning an ambitious new development there.

Craft printer Christopher Bacon, who moved to the village several years ago, is planning to make the Allen Smelt Mill site into a workshop complex and heritage visitor attraction. At the latest meeting of Allendale Parish Council, Mr Bacon gave a presentation to councillors about his plans. "When we first came to Allendale. I was out walking one day when I saw this great site", explained Mr Bacon. "I knew it had potential and last August I bought it; I wanted to develop the site to encourage employment in Allendale."

Work on the 2½ acre site has already got under way. With the conversion of an old garage into a micro-brewery and printing works. Work on an old stable block is also progressing fast, with a tenant who wants to turn it into a bakery. "We want to bring as many businesses to the site as possible," said Mr Bacon. "In phase two we hope to construct two small workshops and to achieve charitable status." The site is presenting a number of opportunities. It is listed as a historic monument and Mr Bacon is working alongside Allendale community group Fawside to develop aspects of the site as a tourist attraction.

Allen Lead Smelt Mill was operating as early as 1692 at the site, when it was owned by the Bacon family (no relation). In the 18th century it was leased from Sir William Blackett by Lancelot Allgood and from 1786 the mill was owned by the Beaumont Company, which carried out improvements and extensions. The smelt finally ended production in 1896, but it

left a number of interesting buildings and flues, which can still be seen today. The flue system is extensive and was built to condense the noxious fumes produced by the furnaces. Three of the flues can be followed for two or three miles onto open moorland at Flow Moss where they end at two chimneys. It is one of the best-preserved systems in England.

"We want to make this a very exciting site," concluded Mr Bacon. "We have someone interested in bringing a glass-blowing business here and we are also looking at reinstating a water wheel. We even have someone who is interested in putting a horse and trap service in between the village and the site. We have had a tremendous amount of support already, and it has been great to find so much historical interest in the site." Mr Bacon is hoping that the whole project will progress quickly, and is looking to complete the initial phases within three years.

Paul Webster

Extract from the Holyrood Magazine 1st May 2006

Main Chamber of the Scottish Parliament 27th April 2006

Member's Debate: Alasdair Morgan – Wanlockhead Museum Trust and Museum of Lead Mining.

Members debated the following motion: "That the Parliament notes that 2006 is the 250th anniversary of the founding of Wanlockhead Miner's Library, established by the lead miners as part of their educational and cultural activity and now under the care of the Wanlockhead Museum Trust; recognises that the award-winning museum itself is a unique monument to industrial workers in the Lowther Hills, as well as being a valuable economic asset to today's economy, and believes that the Scottish Executive should act to ensure that arrangements are in place so that the museum's trustees can plan for the future with some degree of certainty instead of encountering the intermittent financial uncertainty which, on

occasion, threatens the very existence of the museum."

No questions were put.

Alastair Lings

Ingleton Second Hand Book Fair

This event was held in the Ingleborough Community Centre, Ingleton on May 28th 2006. Weather conditions on the day gave a small monetary turnover to the annual book fair, but we are pleased to report that the Ingleton Coalfield Book and NMRS British Mining publications were also sold. Our thanks to the Society members who called in to the Book Fair.

Bernard & Janet Bond



Janet Bond selling NMRS Publications

biab online - The British & Irish Archaeological Bibliography online
The British & Irish Archaeological Bibliography (biab) is a Council for British Archaeology service, funded by a consortium of key heritage organisations from the UK and Ireland. Since January 2005, the biab e-bibliography has been available as an online service to all (<http://www.biab.ac.uk>)
(Source: Conservation Bulletin, issue 51, spring 2006)

Alastair Lings

Field Meet Reports

Ingleton Coalfield Field Meet – Saturday 22nd April 2006

This is the sixth time that this Ingleton Coalfield Meet has been run. From 9.45 am the day's gathering was to reach a total of seventeen persons. The double garage displayed artefacts, photographs, and John Bentley's accurate copy of the end elevations to all the colliery shafts to be visited that morning. This copy was taken from the original drawing by G.I. Causton, which was made in October 1914.

The 1887 Auction Sale Book and its drawings of the Wilson Wood Colliery show a small building near to 1, Beech Terrace. Mr. J. Sutton of Wine Warth informed me in 1985, that the site of the now garage had been the shop listed in the James Ruston Sale which took place at the County Hotel in Lancaster on the 20th July 1887. From 1872 onwards, local miners and loaded coal cart wagons would pass by from their place of work.

The Weigh Bridge Office of the New Ingleton Colliery barely stands, and will probably suffer a total collapse by the middle of this year! This building still having some of its wiring and stove remains in their original positions.

The colliery site visits came to their conclusion at 2.00 pm by the Coalfield Memorial, which was erected on the Fiddle Case Land on New Road, Ingleton, A65 on the 14th June 2004.



Don Dalton, Archie Meadowcroft, Bernard Bond, Steve Mitchell and John Bentley standing at the Memorial Stone

A much needed lunch and pint at the Masons Arms re-energised the 'Time Team' to re-assemble on the skyline of Chapel Le Dale and the Granite Quarry. Map Reference SD 719752.

Our first inspection of the remaining quarry buildings began a productive discussion on the entire sloping of the Quarry Siding Building, known in 1950 to have a lean-to office at the Ingleton end. It really did leave us all with more questions than answers, this sloping floor being above the passing rail track and its loaded wagons. Further to this, it can be confirmed that the date of quarry closure was the 9th September 1957 when production moved to the present quarry (now Hansons).



Members investigating the walls of the ruined Screening Plant Building

Further findings - Thanks to Dave Carlisle, Earby Mines Research Society and retired quarryman Ralph Gowland, New Village, Ingleton. The long building and its remains are to be considered to be a Screening Plant. Dave providing much information and a drawing. To Ralph this new information brought back lots of memories of quarry buildings and positions, all of which are long gone! During the afternoon, an underground visit by Richard Platt and Steve Mitchell into George's Dig which is situated above the main quarry building. George Hollinshead, Main Street, Ingleton, began exploration in the area in 1970. The Jane Eyre mystery cave system is still to be found.

We then drove the short distance back down the road to Storrs Common. From here we walked up the hill to visit the impressive 'Drum Top'. The 0-6-0 Manning & Wardle locomotive, named "Cyprus" would arrive at the Drum Top. It would then shunt its loaded open wagons to the Endless Rope System, this being a 1 in 6 gravity ropeway, which transported full and empty wagons to and from the Good's Yard at Ingleton. It should be made known that the Yard did have a possible 4 lever Signal Box for this traffic with all trackwork being standard gauge. Fine stonework does exist in the area of the tunnel before the line passes beneath the Ingleton /Clapham Old Road. The loco and its empty wagons also served as a means of transporting the quarrymen to and from their place of work.



Drum Top - Start of the gravity ropeway that went down to Ingleton Goods Yard

The group descended off Ingleborough at 5.15pm; the weather having been good to us all day. I wish to thank R.M. Chalmers, of Ingleton for the day's printed handouts and to John Bentley, the co-leader, for giving valuable insight into each site throughout the day. I would also like to thank my wife Janet, who provided the refreshments before the meet started. And finally, many thanks to all those who attended and provided input to the meeting.

Bernie Bond

Post Script

Janet Bond received a call from PDMHS' Mave Luff, Wash Lane, Ravenstone, Leicestershire. Mave offered her apologies for the lack of society members turning up for the Ingleton Coalfield Meet, this being due to the delay with their newsletter. It went out after April 22nd, thus missing the event. Janet told her, "wid etton hole a beef butties by time wid noticed um missin"

Coldstones Quarry Meet Details

Saturday 2nd September 2006

Meet at the quarry offices.

There are 2 entrances to the quarry one is from the road from Greenhow to Blubberhouses so is the easiest option from the A59. Turn right off this road at the Hanson sign just before Greenhow village and follow this through park in the car park by the quarry offices. The other entrance is on the B6265 Pateley Bridge to Grassington Road and is the old entrance to the quarry. The entrance is on the left hand side just before the Greenhow village sign if approaching from Pateley Bridge and on the right hand side just after the water tower if approaching from Grassington.

Please bring your own hard hats, if you possess one, as we only have a limited number of spares.

Shirley Everett

St Aidan's Dragline Open Day

Last chance this year to see the largest preserved walking dragline excavator in Western Europe on Saturday and Sunday 9th -10th September 2006.

Open between 2.0 pm to 4.0 pm - Admission free

Contact Paul Thompson on 07889286634

(For full details - see February 2006 Newsletter)

NAMHO NEWS

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

30 September 2006 Advance notice is given of a Day School to be held on Saturday, 30 September 2006 in the Town Hall, St. John's Chapel, Weardale. This will be a joint venture between the North Pennine Heritage Trust and the Friends of Killhope. The topic will be "Recent Industrial Archaeology in the North Pennines". It is hoped to produce a publication in due course.

For more information, please contact Ian Forbes at the Killhope Lead Mining Museum, telephone 01388 537505, or email Ian.forbes@Durham.gov.uk

IMHC 2006 - CANCELLED

The International Mining History Congress in Belgium has been cancelled due to inaction on the part of the group who offered to organise the event. The next IMHC will probably be in India in 2008.

NAMHO CONFERENCE 2007

The 2007 conference and field meet is being hosted by the Tamar Mining Group in association with other west of England bases NAMHO member organisations and will take place over the weekend of the 15th to 17th June 2007.

The Tamar Valley is an obvious location for a NAMHO conference; indeed a very successful event was hosted in the district in 1996. Few British Mining fields can claim such a rich and diverse metal mining heritage. We have a documented mining history dating back to the 1290s, John Taylor learnt his trade in the district and we can boast Britain's premier copper and arsenic mine: Devon Great Consols.

The importance of the Tamar Valley has been internationally recognised with its inclusion in the UNESCO Cornish Mines World Heritage Site bid. Mining aside, the Tamar Valley is one of the most beautiful and unspoilt corners of Britain and, if that is not enough, we have some jolly good beer!

The Tamar Valley has a massive potential for conference field trips. Above ground,

highlights include John Taylor's Tavistock Canal, Morwellham, and the well preserved remains of the arsenic industry. Below ground, we have an embarrassment of riches ranging from a miners train ride into the George and Charlotte Mine, to the vertical delights of Devon Great Consols which boasts some of the finest accessible mine timbering in the British Isles. We aim to offer trips for all standards of ability from easy walking to technical SRT.

It would greatly assist the planning of the event if you would register your interest in attending the conference either on line at www.tamarmining.co.uk or by completing the preliminary registration forms that were circulated at the 2006 conference.

UNDERGROUND ACCESS

At present, there are some underground access problems at Coniston and Nenthead due to collapses. The horse gin in the Scaleburn branch of Rampgill mine is now not accessible. A fall near the entrance of Hospital Level makes this entrance (or Paddy End through trip exit) impassable. Remedial work on Hospital Level is underway but may take some time.

PENDEEN COMMUNITY HERITAGE Good news for Geevor

The Heritage Lottery Fund has approved a £3.8million bid for building restoration work and the creation of a major new museum at Geevor. It will also include work on the biodiversity of the site in conjunction with the National Trust.

This project is a partnership between Pendeen Community Heritage, the site managers, Cornwall County Council and the National Trust; with 20% of the funding from Objective One European funding and 6.5% from the County and District Councils.

Project completion is expected by September.



Does anyone recognise this mine, which is thought to be in North-East England?

If so, please advise
Mike Gill, 38 Main Street,
Sutton in Craven, KEIGHLEY, BD20 7HD

email: martgill@legend.co.uk

The L and Y Society returns to the Dales

Bernard Bond has asked me to include this article in the Newsletter. It is not totally to do with mining, but, I am sure, it will be of great interest to those members who enjoy researching into Ingleton, and its past small mineral lines with their associated locomotives.

The Settle and Carlisle Railway Trust
Ribblehead Station and Visitor Centre
English Heritage Weekend
8th to 11th September 2006.

Visitor Centre now on display August to September - This second display of 50 photographs and detailed drawings consist of more local railways than of last year, consisting of the following items :-

1. The L & Y (Lancashire & Yorkshire) Rly C^o in and around Hellifield Station and both L & Y and M. R. (Midland Railway) Locomotive Shed.
2. Unseen photographs showing the Goods Train accident of 1961, on the Midland line at Stainforth Siding Signal Box. The derailed train closed

the line for 48 hours, virtually destroying the signal box and also blocking the nearby tunnel.

3. Ingleton's Coalfield past railway, with views of the two 0-4-0 locomotives used C 1905 /20 and to the more up to date coal train deliveries of 1953.
4. Further displays of the nearby Granite Quarry, and its locomotive, opened in 1887. Unknown to many, this standard gauge railway ran down Chapel Le Dale to the village of Ingleton. A drawing of 1869 showing the finer details of the Manning and Wardle loco, named "Cyprus" No 711, class F with wheel arrangement 0-6-0.

BOOK REVIEWS

Lancashire Mining Disasters 1835-1910

By Jack Nadin

Publication Date: June 15th 2006

ISBN: 1 903425 95 6

Paperback. Illustrated. 172 Pages £12.99

Our need for coal was achieved at a very high price. Thousands of men and boys perished in the coal mines of Lancashire and other coalfields. Initially mining accidents occurred as isolated incidents where one or two men died in small explosions. As the pits got larger and the demands of the Industrial Revolution increased then so did the number of fatalities, with dreadful consequences for the local families and communities.

This book chronicles the mining disasters in the Lancashire Coalfield from the 1830's through to the greatest single colliery explosion in the English mining history; The Pretoria Disaster of 1910. There were occasions when the miners themselves, using 'naked lights' (Candles) in 'fiery' seams were their own worst enemies; but there were of course cases where owners and managers were clearly at fault, even in the face of known safety rules and legislation.

Jack Nadin is a former miner who worked at Hapton Valley Colliery, near Burnley, East Lancashire's last deep mine. His uncles and grandfather worked at the same pit. Hapton 'fired' on 22nd March 1962, a couple of years before Jack worked underground, when nineteen miners lost their lives in what was Lancashire's last major mining disaster.

Astley Green Colliery Museum, Manchester

(Address below - Admission free but donations welcome)

Opening Times

Open all year except Christmas, Boxing, and New Years Day

Tuesday & Thursday - 1pm to 5pm

Saturday - by arrangement

Sunday & Bank Holidays - 10am to 5pm

For guided tours or special visits, please write to :-

The Secretary,
Red Rose Steam Society,
Astley Green Colliery Museum,
Higher Green Lane,
Astley,
Manchester M29 7JB

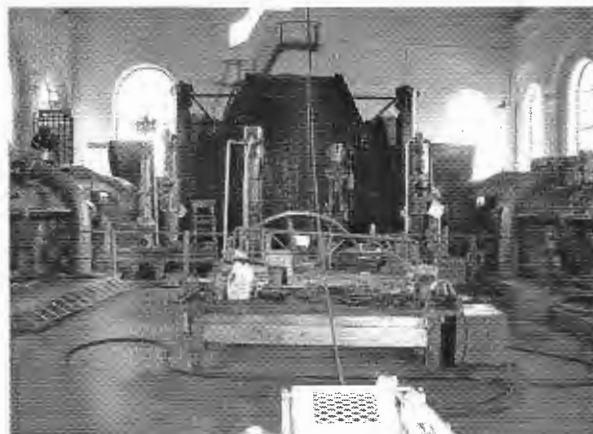
The museum is a little gem of a place, and is well worth a visit if you are in the area on the open days. The low-lying landscape ensures that the museum's 98ft high lattice steel headgear can be seen for miles.

This headgear and the surviving engine house have, thankfully, now have listed building status. Pride of place is given to the 3,300 hp twin tandem compound steam-winding engine, which is slowly being restored.

The engine and winding drum are truly immense in size and are basically complete. At present, there is a small 2ft gauge railway snaking around the site, but this is to be replaced with a larger gauge with fewer curves to satisfy health and safety regulations.

There is an indoor museum housed in a small building. Exhibits include a lamp room, tubs and rails from the Rossendale Coalfield, Emergency breathing

equipment, also photographs and plans of the sinking of the shafts together with the building of the colliery.



The 3,300 hp winding engine and cable drum

Outside, scattered around the 15 acre site, are dozens of mining artefacts.

These include locomotives and wagons, 3 Lancashire boilers, man riding wagons, huge drill bits, self-advancing supports, a giant kibble, and an emergency shaft-winding vehicle.



The colliery yard - the museum on the left and workshop on the right

The museum is run and maintained, on behalf of the community, by the Red Rose Steam Society Limited, a registered charity in Lancashire.

Richard Platt

Thanks to all who contributed to this newsletter. Please continue to send material for the newsletter. Contributions can be sent by email to me. Please limit these files to not more than 2 Mb because I am not currently on Broadband. Alternatively, you can post contributions either as text, or on disc, all are welcome. If you require anything returning, please ask and it will be returned to you as soon as possible. In particular, photographs, plans and pictures are welcome as long as they can be reproduced well in black and white.

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Visit our Website www.nmrs.co.uk

Data Protection Act

Members are reminded that the NMRS maintains a list of their names and addresses solely for the purpose of printing labels for membership cards and posting newsletters and publications. Such details are deleted from the database for any member who leaves the society, either after the committee has been notified or after it has been determined that an overdue subscription has not been paid for several months.

The Northern Mines Research Society is a
Registered Charity.
Its number is 326704