



The Northern Mine Research Society Newsletter

Society News

Message from the President

I am pleased to be able to report to members that, thanks to the efforts of our publications editor, Richard Smith, and our newsletter compiler, Richard Platt, the Society's annual memoirs volume and the accompanying December newsletter have been completed on schedule. I would also like to thank the other committee members for their contributions and hard work during the year. The committee is still short-handed, however, and I would like to repeat my previous appeals for new volunteers to help with routine management of the society. Subscriptions for 2007 will be due at the end of the year and a membership renewal form is enclosed with this newsletter. A nomination form for Society Officers is also enclosed and, for convenience, can be returned (hopefully with some nominees' names) with your subscription fee. Season's greetings to all members.

John Hunter

December 2006

Membership matters

Membership of the Society is for a calendar year so it is now time to renew for 2007. Once again, we have kept membership subscriptions at their current level : £15 for Full members plus 50p per additional Family member and £18 for Overseas members. Would overseas members please send their subscription in pounds sterling please, as it is expensive to convert small amounts of other currencies and our banks will not accept foreign coins. If this causes any difficulty please get in touch with me, preferably by email at alanfmills@lineone.net or by mail using the address on the form.

The sharp-eyed will notice that we have changed the renewal form this year in order to make it easier to complete. Apart from reverting to A5 format, it is now only single-sided and your name and address are required only once. We have done this partly to encourage as many as possible to complete the Gift Aid statement at the bottom of the form. If you pay income tax in the UK then by

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signing this statement you enable the Society to claim back from the Inland Revenue an amount equivalent to the income tax you paid on your subscription. We recently received a cheque for £1537 from the Inland Revenue relating to Gift Aid payments last year so by signing the Gift Aid declaration you can make a big difference to the Society's income. It does not matter if you sign a new one each year; what matters is that we have at least one signed and you continue to pay tax.

Finally, it would be most helpful to me if you would complete and return the renewal form as soon as possible. I will then process them all in January and your membership card will be posted to you in February together with the next Newsletter.

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

Alan Mills

Honorary Treasurer

Librarian's Report

Once again my delight has been postman's burden: nine heavy boxes of books, reports and journals have been donated to the library - our grateful thanks to Barry Job. These items are gradually being added to the Library List, but they are not on the paper copy so please email me if you want the most up-to-date version. The new material includes National Coal Board Reports and several volumes of The Mining Engineer. There are books on geology and on fossils, and additional volumes from the British Regional Geology series to add to our library.

My personal favourites include, firstly, studies on shovelling and tips (because they have lots of formulae and graphs). Secondly, it is good to have more of the Shropshire Caving and Mining Club Annual Journals - these are publications which are valuable for people like me who do not live near Shropshire and who need the practical information when visiting the area or have the pleasure of arm-chair

reading otherwise. Thirdly I have enjoyed reading nine issues of "Bands and Banners". These are about the Durham coalfield and were published in 1999 and 2000.

There are articles about current matters such as water in old deep mines, reminiscences of former miners and photographs of the Durham Miners Gala; but, for me, the most interesting material is that on Miners' banners. Having seen some of these in their communities, hung in churches, chapels and village halls, I am delighted to hear of more banners being valued and restored, or replica banners being made.

Sallie Bassham
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Autumn General Meeting - 14th October 2006. Miner's Arms, Greenhow Hill

27 members, also one member's son, attended the Autumn Meeting. After arriving at the Pub, it was a bit of a surprise to find that there was a notice on the front door announcing that it had closed down! But it also stated that it was opening for NMRS attendees only.

After a 'full and robust' society meeting, a free buffet lunch was enjoyed by all the members.

6 short talks were presented to the members. They were as follows :-

1. Chopwood Kilns by Janis Hewerd - her dissertation from the Department of Archaeological Sciences of Bradford University.
2. Exploitation of the Weardale Iron deposits by Bill Heyes.
3. Pateley Bridge Quarry Archaeological Mitigations, also covering medieval Greenhow and the dig at Gin Shaft, Burhill and Lollyscar mine Nidderdale by Martin Roe.
4. Mining on Greenhow Hill by Shirley Everett.
5. Summerley Colliery Beehive Coke Ovens, Nr Dronfield, Sheffield by John Hunter.

6. Bale Smelting – A summary of the NMRS Dales Study Project by Richard Smith.

MEMBER'S CONTRIBUTIONS

Mining Information - Can anyone help?

Talybont Mine and Henry Newmarch. (pronounced "Newmark")

Does anyone have any information on Henry Whitehurst Newmarch, 1849 to 1911? All I know is that he was a northerner who moved to Talybont Nr Aberystwyth in 1910 and was there instrumental in running Talybont Lead Mines Ltd on behalf of London investors until he died the following year. He is buried in the "New" Talybont cemetery. I desperately need information for a book that I am writing. I am also extremely interested in any documentation, share certificates, letters or whatever relative to mining operations at Talybont.

The background to this is of some interest. In July 2005 a group of friends from Welsh Mines Society and myself were successful in reaching the Talybont Deep Adit after finishing a vertical dig of about 75 feet deep in the bottom of a shaft. The current descent is by means of concrete/made up steps and fixed ladders, following 60 and 25 foot abseils. The entrance to the deep adit was buried in 1948 and now lies beneath a private garden. It was originally driven from the centre of the village in 1839 by the Flintshire Smelting Company of Eyton and Williamson, and cuts both of the two main mineral lodes crossing the Altycrib Hill. At the end of the drive, a winze was sunk by a later company. This was pumped by a power train running through the adit. The angle bob and adjacent horse whim chamber, complete with remains of the whim, are there to be seen today.

This whim is of the standard timber construction unlike the Vieille Montagne whim in the Scaleburn Mine at Nenthead, it does however have some ironwork in the form of a sort of collar for the horse. A second dig is currently in progress in an attempt to reach other workings.

The history of this mine is of considerable interest, having the involvement of many notable characters including the ubiquitous Francis brothers, Sir Hugh Myddelton, Thomas Bushell, the notorious swindler Joseph Fell, and many others. My researches to date have discovered many previously unknown twists and turns. The book itself will take a completely new approach telling the whole story of the mine from Bronze Age up to and including the modern explorers and our own digging project, which wasn't without incident.

The book will also include full computer simulations of mining scenes in the mid nineteenth century which will appear as if a colour photograph taken on a modern camera. Talybont Mine 1872 against the foreground of the Black Lion Inn, horse whim chamber 1850, and underground steam engine at Western Engine Shaft circa 1872

There is more than one way to "break new ground"!

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St Aidan's Dragline Open Day – 9th and 10th September 2006.

Quite a few families and individuals turned up for these very well organised Open Days. It was a perfect weekend to visit the giant walking dragline, as the weather was hot, dry and sunny. The dragline known as 'Oddball' is situated in a pleasant location. It overlooks the disused opencast mine site which has now been partially filled and grassed over with a large lake in the middle of it.

The B-E 1150-B walking dragline is truly immense in size, weighing in at 1200 tons, a boom length of 215 ft, and a bucket capacity of 19 cu.yd.

Sadly, it will be never move or work again. But when it was operating, it could dig from 140 ft depth and dump the waste

up to 410 ft from where it dug (180 degree arc). The feet are 48ft long, 8 ft wide and the tread is 7.6 ft and each foot weighs 27 tons. When it was walking, it had a maximum speed of 0.2 miles/hour. One of the 'Friends of the St. Aidan's Dragline' has a small working model of the dragline, and he demonstrated how 'Oddball' operated and more interestingly how it actually walked.



The BE 1150 Dragline located at St Aidens Opencast Coal Site Swillington, Nr Leeds

A tour around the inside of the dragline was very comprehensive. Starting at the rear of the machine we saw the motor generator sets and AC motors driving DC generators that provided controllable power for the working motors.

In the centre there are two rope drums for pulling and lifting the bucket, and at the front of the machine is the hoist drum, three swing motors and gearboxes.

Up a few steps you can visit the drivers cab, sit in the seat and imagine that you are controlling this monster of a machine! To complete the tour of the machine, you could walk along the horizontal catwalk of the jib to exit at the far end.

Outside the tour included viewing the walking feet and gears, Rotary Converter used to change the British 50 cycles/sec to 60 cycles/sec for powering this American dragline, and lastly the massive hauling bucket.

There was also a video presentation of some current working draglines being shown in one of the onsite buildings.

I was very impressed with the amount of time and effort the 'Friends of St. Aidan's BE 1150 Dragline' have been putting in to preserve this incredible machine, the only one of its type surviving today. At the next Open Day, it would be well worth a visit.

More information is obtainable from www.iarecordings.org/dragline/

Richard Platt

Mining in the Wörtegal (Wörge Valley)

In mid-August our walking holiday took us to the ski centre village of Kühtai, in the Stubai Alps, Austria. We came across this Mining Museum at Lake Pucher whilst following path route 148. To our amazement the building and machinery were found in an excellent restored condition. The building, at 1970 metres, contained various artefacts and information boards displaying both the history of this mine in the Wörtegal and also a little about the history of mining in Austria.



The importance of Mining in the Old Tirol.

The people of the Tirol had only a small amount of living space and had also to contend with natural disasters like avalanches and floods. Agriculture only provided sufficient for their needs in good years. That the land in the mountains in previous centuries had an important role to play was due to mining and to the fact that it could be easily crossed. There were two types of mining of importance in the

Tirol. The mining of silver for the production of coinage and the mining of salt, copper, iron, lead and zinc for the production of consumer goods. Of all the minerals, salt was for centuries a decisive factor in the economy of the country. Copper was produced far in excess of local needs and exported to Venice and Germany. The peak time for silver and copper mining in the Tirol was in the 15th century when, round about 1410 – 1420, the mines which had been exploited in prehistoric times were opened up again. With new methods of smelting especially with the Saiger Process, which they adopted from Nuremberg, it became possible to obtain not only the 30% copper content but also the 0.5% silver content. For the first time they were able to obtain silver for coinage and copper in quantities far greater than ever before. The silver was used in the new mint, which was built in 1477, for the minting of the first talers. The introduction of this silver coin, which had the same value as the gold gulden revolutionised the currency. It dominated the Austrian and European coin system until 1800.

The copper was used mainly for bell making in Innsbruck, Bozen, Brixen and Horbichen, the rest went mainly to Nuremberg. The lead and zinc mines on both sides of the pass were still supplying factories in Austria and Germany in the 19th century.

We would like to thank K. Bradshaw, J.S. Warbrick and R. Chalmers for translating the information boards at the Museum from German into English.

Bernard and Janet Bond



FIELD MEET REPORTS

Lee and Greens Moor Quarries Saturday 22nd July 2006

Fourteen members and one guest, former member Jim Parkinson, met at Stacksteads car park on a warm humid day. Jim's local knowledge was a great help, having been dragged round the quarries as a child by his father. Our destination was a large quarry in the Haslingden Flags, on the moor edge south of Stacksteads.

En route to Lee Quarry we passed impressive large flag fencing – a by-product of local stone processing. We followed in part the track beds of moorland mineral tramways. Four different tramways, dating between 1845 and 1890, converged on Lee and Greens Moor and photographs were shown of large stone processing works now buried under the modern tips.

Lancashire County Council now own the site and have managed a balance between landscaping and conservation. The more modern western part of the quarry has dramatic high rock faces with good geology and SSSI status for evidence of former riverbeds. The older eastern end at Lee is more interesting for industrial archaeology and a trail has been devised showing the main features relatively safely. This section of the quarry was worked by Thomas Ratcliffes until 1955, with no later quarrying. Features remaining include masons' banker benches, piles of large stones as crane counter-weights, track beds, loading platforms, and dynamite store. Some of the stone products still remain and include kerbs, radial kerbs, setts and manhole covers.

Points for discussion included a well-built shaft amongst the tips. Maps suggest a water works shaft of 1871, but visually it looks much more like a hauling shaft for stone mines. We visited a 'family dig' organised for National Archaeology Week by Groundwork Rossendale. Lots of metal artefacts had been recovered, but no signs of building structures or foundations. Jim felt the area was residual landscaping of a blacksmith's shop at a lower level.

After lunch we followed former tramway routes dating from 1880's south to Jackson's Moor and returned to Brandwood Moor. Some tramway routes are hard to see in the moorland terrain and are not marked on any OS maps, but show clearly on Google Earth images. On our return route the sites of small shallow coal mines in the Sand Rock Mine were visited at Hall Cowm, Helm Clough and Bunker Hill.



Arthur describing the geology of
the Rossendale Flags
Photo by Malcolm Needham

Descending Rooley Moor Road, our trip culminated at a secret drinking den – the Kimberley Club – an original quarrymen's working man's club of 1901. A few years ago CAMRA, perhaps unfairly, described it as "a cross between a pigeon cote and a cricket pavilion".



The Kimberley Club

More recent CAMRA visitors from as far away as Peterborough and Kent are more enthusiastic and consider it the "most unspoilt club in the country". It really is a time warp and totally dependent on gas light, with no electricity. Members enjoyed a pint or two of Timothy Taylors, very welcome after a humid day. On the walls in the club are pictures of old quarries and stonemasons.

My thanks to the members who turned up and to Jim for his local knowledge, but especially for opening up the Kimberley Club! Should we book it for future power point-free AGM's?

Arthur Baldwin

Whitaside Mine Field Meet Report – 19th August 2006

14 members turned up for 10.30am. The day was cool, drizzly and overcast, which made a pleasant change from all the very hot weather we have had in the last couple of months.

The original level went in through the Smithy, but as this collapsed years ago, a new entrance was dug about 30 yards higher up in order to drop back into the level. Unfortunately, this shaft although only being about 5 feet deep is very small and tight in circumference. Hence great care had to be taken in using the entrance. I therefore, reluctantly, decided to limit the numbers of members attending the Meet. To minimise the waiting time at the shaft, we split into two teams of seven, Martin Roe leading the first team and myself the other team. The mine is generally dry, although very muddy, except for a short section of knee-deep water between the entrance shaft and near to the junction to Flank Level. This is due to a small roof-fall. The mine is not extensive, but there is a great deal of stone arching in the mine and also bits of natural passage and rifts to which the miners broke into. In the Murton Float area near to the final roof-fall, there are small workings containing small pieces of witherite and a clog. What is of great interest is the ore tally at the top of an

underground shaft. Small straight lines are cut into the wall of the shaft to represent the raising of each bucket of lead ore. Considering the number of rows of marks carved, there was a lot of ore brought out to the main level.



Exiting the tight entrance shaft
Photo by Malcolm Needham

Finally, I would like to thank everyone who turned up for this well attended underground trip, and especially to Martin Roe who offered to lead the other team.

For a detailed history, including an underground and surface plan of the Whitaside Mine area, please refer to British Mining No. 51 – The Grinton Mines.

Richard Platt

Coldstones Quarry, Greenhow Saturday 2nd September 2006

12 members turned up on a totally miserable dull day at 400m above sea level on the top of Greenhow Hill. Unfortunately, it rained very heavily the entire length of the visit. Before we started our visit we were given a brief introduction from our leader Quarry Manager Shirley Everret.

Luckily, being a Saturday morning, parts of the quarry were being worked so we started the tour by driving down in the company Land Rover to the bottom part of the quarry to observe a large hydraulic hammer or pecker breaking up the oversized blasted rock. We then drove

up to the bench above to look at a drilling machine. Its function is to dig rows of holes, drilled to the full depth of the face, to be later packed with explosives to blast the rock away.



An Ingersoll-Rand Drilling Machine

The quarry currently covers an area of about 200,000m² (or 0.2Km²). It is worked on 3 benches, 15-20m high, to a depth of 346 O.D. in the centre of the quarry. (1997)

At each bench we got out of the vehicle to study the quarry workings, and on the third bench we encountered two massive parked 60 tonne dump trucks. This enabled us to shelter from the driving rain by standing at rear of the vehicles!

We then looked inside the Primary Crusher where the dump trucks tip the blasted rock. The crusher breaks it down into 200 – 300 mm pieces.

Finally we visited the Secondary Crusher & Screening Plant where the rock is crushed again and separated into different sizes and placed into different hoppers to be later weighed and transported to the customer. An impressive Operations Room with a control panel full of meters, switches and buttons receive continuously updated information from the sensors around the plant enabling the operators to constantly monitor and adjust the process. Close by is an Asphalt Plant where some of the crushed rock is dried and coated with hot bitumen.

Typical annual output is about 900,000 tonnes. Approximately 33% goes to

concrete plants, 22% is for other construction uses, 18% for road repairs and houses, 16% for asphalt, and 11% as fill.



Looking down into the quarry workings from the third bench

Note: the appalling weather conditions

Our thanks to Shirley for organising and leading the event. It was an extremely interesting and informative trip to a modern working limestone quarry.

Richard Platt

NAMHO NEWS

Research Access in Newcastle

The Northumberland Record Office at Melton Park, North Gosforth, Newcastle upon Tyne closed its doors on the 5th September 2005 in preparation for a move to the new purpose built premises at Woodhorn. It has been announced that it should have re-opened on the 28th October 2006. The web sites are as yet not very helpful but Woodhorn is near Ashington and to the east of the A189. Footnote: David G McAnelly produced 3 CDs in searchable Adobe Acrobat format based on his researches in the NRO Archive. These were initially produced prior to closure, and will be available from the re-opened NRO. The 3 titles are:

1. Abstracts from the minutes of the London Lead Company.

2. Newspaper Extracts Relating to Lead Mining and the people of Alston & Weardale.

3. Lead Mining in the North Pennines. Currently Newcastle City Library is closed. It is being rebuilt on the same site. A contact address is City Library PO Box 88, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE99 1DX and is posted on its web site.

Newcastle's Hancock Museum is also now closed until sometime in 2009 for refurbishment and extension. It will re-open as 'The Great North Museum', geology and mineralogy will get more space in the new museum.

The 7th International Mining History Congress (IMHC) will be held in India in December 2007 with further details available shortly.

Conference in North America

The 18th Annual Mining History Association Conference is to be held on the 7th to 10th June at Leadville, Colorado. For further details, look on the following website: www.mininghistoryassociation.org.

New Publication

Scottish Collieries: An inventory of the Scottish Coal Industry in the Nationalised Era written by Mile K. Oglethorpe and published by the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland

"This book examines one of Scotland's most important industries and covers the last 50 years of deep coal mining which, at its peak, satisfied 95% of energy demands. Comprising a brief history of this period, a gazetteer of all the collieries to have operated in Scotland since 1947, a glossary of mining terms, a timeline for the period covered and much more. This 344 page book provides an invaluable contribution to our understanding of the Scottish coal industry in the second half of the 20th Century". The book costs £15 including P&P and is available from RCAHMS, John Sinclair House, 16 Bernard Terrace, Edinburgh. EH8 9NX or see the web site: <http://www.rcahms.gov.uk/publications.htm>.

Bryngwyn Colliery Engine House

The surviving remains of the building, formerly housing an inverted Cornish type engine, near Bedwas in South Wales are to be conserved by the developer of the adjoining housing estate, Charles Church Homes. This is a favourable conclusion to a drawn out battle to save the structure from demolition. The late David Bick led the battle and it should stand as a fitting memorial to his tenacity.

Reports to NAMHO Council Meeting 11 November 2006

2006 Conference

The organisers feel that this year's Annual Conference, held at Llangollen in June was very much a success. It is difficult to be precise about numbers but there were around 200 participants over the weekend with approximately half at lectures and half on field trips at any one time.

We have had many notes of thanks and comments on how good the event was. Possibly surprising was the favourable comments from the venues – the Royal Pavilion, the Hand Hotel (used for the Dinner and Sunday night get-together) and the camp sites used by many. I am guilty of not passing on these thanks, until recently, to other clubs who helped (and I have still do not have contact details for Grosvenor CC). The only obvious negative aspect was the apparent theft of some rare bottles during one of the trips to Williamson's Tunnels.

Events during the following week were reasonably well attended; particularly on the Monday and Tuesday.

Financially, with the numbers attending, a good surplus was made. This is currently ~ £2,000 but we anticipate using a large part of this to publish proceedings of the Conference and to provide copies free to all who participated. Any remaining surplus will probably be split between the clubs who helped to stage the event but we will also consider using this to support a 'mining project' in the Llangollen area. There were surprises and lessons to learn and these are noted for the benefit of future organisers:

1. Friday afternoon events were much better attended than expected.
2. It would have been better had we reduced the amount of formal activity on the Friday night and had the venue for longer – participants want the opportunity to meet and talk informally, particularly at the start of the event.
3. Surface field trips were generally poorly attended and we had to cancel some.
4. There is clear interest in extending the weekend activities – many stayed for the Monday and Tuesday. It would have been good if the most attractive underground trips could have been re-run mid-week.
5. It would have been better had we been able to recommend one camp site (the one most used suited our purposes well but had recently changed hands and we had no opportunity to vet it before the event).

BCA Insurance

Many NAMHO member clubs are only really interested in the insurance provided by British Caving Association membership and I will mainly comment on this, however, member clubs should be aware that BCA has money to spend (e.g. on gatering* or training). I have supported moves to make it more clear that money is available but past experience of bureaucracy and current poor understanding of what is available (even amongst BCA officers) can make this difficult.

* BCA gave a significant grant recently to the Council of Southern Caving Clubs for mine shaft capping in the Mendips.

Probably the most important item to note about BCA membership and insurance is that, unless there are major changes, the fees will remain the same in 2007 as they were in 2006. There were major problems with the organisation of membership in 2006 but these problems have been understood and addressed – there is a new membership secretary in place and club secretaries should already be seeing a more pro-active approach. Lots of questions are asked about BCA insurance that shows a lot of misunderstanding and due to the past

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difficulties with membership organisation, many questions remain unanswered. It may assist members to understand that BCA is not allowed to sell insurance. Insurance is a benefit of membership; therefore to be insured, you must be a member. For a club or group to be corporately insured, all of its members must be members of BCA. There are no categories of club/group membership** that can be except from BCA membership. Also BCA pays a single premium that is independent upon how many individuals are covered. BCA finds mechanisms to distribute that cost as fairly as possible across all participants.

** I believe membership means anybody entitled to a vote – either at normal meeting or at the AGM electing officers, trustees or directors to make decisions on their part.

It is also worth noting that government approaches to sport are changing and effectively external financial support to BCA is disappearing. It is inevitable that this is likely to be replaced by effective increases in the contributions from all members – fortunately membership is healthier than anticipated and the net costs (insurance plus costs of running BCA) are likely to be achieved without increase in the overall cost to individual members or clubs – the net amount on insurance remains the same but the proportion per individual will decrease. Some NAMHO members may not like the fact that part of their money going to BCA is to support BCA organisation, rather than just be on insurance but no BCA, no insurance!

Sallie Bassham

Friends of St Aidan's BE1150 Dragline 2007 Programme

At St Aidan's opencast coal site, Swillington, Leeds (Signposted). Admission free.

Saturday April 14th Working Party and Spring Open Day (2.00pm to 4.00pm)

Saturday June 16th Working Party and Summer Open Day (2.00pm to 4.00pm)

Sat/Sun Sept. 8 & 9th Heritage Weekend Open Days (2.00pm to 4.00pm)

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BOOK REVIEW



Cornwall "Down Under", by L. J. Bullen (2004).

This 16-page illustrated booklet about Cornish miners in South Australia was commissioned by Camborne Pool Redruth Regeneration to celebrate the historic links between Cornwall and Australia on the occasion of a visit by the Australian High Commissioner to CPR during the Dehwelans Festival. Copies can be requested by writing to the author at 33 Wellington Road, Camborne, Cornwall TR14 7LH. The price is £2.30 incl p&p.

MORE FROM THE LIBRARY

As expected, publishing an updated version of the Library List has produced extra requests from members to borrow items. An unexpected, but delightful consequence has been several offers of additional material for the library - "I notice that you don't have ... and wondered if you would like this spare copy".

Thank you very much to everyone for all the latest donations: Bernard Bond, Tony Fretwell, Lynne Mayers, Alan Mills and Martin Roe. Thanks also to Nigel Turner who has donated a large armful of geology books - although he is not a Society member.

If you want me to email you an updated Library List, please contact me: it will be a while before an updated paper version is produced.

Sallie Bassham
sbassham@nildram.co.uk

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Peendeen Community Heritage Good news for Geevor

Bill Lakin has contacted me to point out that the Project completion date is September 2008. Unfortunately, my copy of the NAMHO newsletter had omitted to include the year in the article. He says "The completion date is September **08** which will allow time for a nervous breakdown as well as all the work. We still do discounted admission for NMRS members!"

Article in IA Review

Congratulations to Martin Roe on the publication of his article in this month's IA Review. The title is "Recording Mining Landscapes in the Yorkshire Dales: The contribution of the Northern Mine Research Society". Most of the article is about Martin's research work but he kindly pays tribute to the contributions made by others like Mike Gill and Mike Dickinson.

2007 Joint PDHMS / NMRS FIELD MEET

On Saturday May 12th 2007. The cost is £10 per person including lunch. The venue will take place at Magpie Mine in the Peak District (Map Reference SK 174682), and from 09.30 onwards during which time, tea / coffee will be available. We will have the use of mini buses for the day, and cars can be left at Magpie Mine with security staff in attendance.

At 10.30 am prompt – we will leave for High Rake site (SK 165779), where Dr. John Barnett will give a talk and tour.

12.30. Return to Magpie for buffet lunch and guided tours of the site.

14.00 pm. The buses will take us to Winstar (SK 240605), an example of a typical mining village, around which; Dr Lynn Willies will lead a guided tour.

16.00 pm. Return to Magpie for a 'cuppa' / chat before leaving.

Details will also be on the PDHMS website www.pdhms.com from December 1st. hopefully. Usual walking/weather gear required. There will also be an opportunity to join an underground trip into Devonshire Cavern / Mine lead by Dr. John

Barnett. It is restricted to no more than 10 people using their own transport. Booking for this event is based on 'first come, first served'. Participants need to bring their own underground kit, helmet and lamp.

MP calls for Council help over tribute

Taken from The Bolton News – 6th Nov 2006

MP Dr Brian Iddon has called on councillors to help fund a permanent tribute to town celebrity Fred Dibnah. A total of £33,000 has already been donated since the Bolton News and Bolton and District Civic Trust launched the Fred Dibnah Memorial Appeal. Fred died, aged 66, two years ago following a battle with cancer.

Civic Trust chairman, Brian Tetlow has written to local councillors calling for Bolton Council to give its financial backing to the appeal.

The council has already granted planning permission for a statue of Fred and one of his famous traction engines to be contained within a glass case alongside the Hick Hargreaves engine in Oxford Square. Bolton.

It is hoped to create a bursary in Fred's memory at the engineering department of Bolton University and present a trophy for the leading student each year.

Mr Tetlow said that a start on building the foundations for the memorial was imminent. Five sculptors have been approached by the Civic Trust with a view to quoting for the cost of a statue.

Wanted

The Gunpowder Mills of Cumbria, by Ian Tyler - Blue Rock Publications 2002.

Please telephone Bernard Bond on 015242 41857 (answer-phone).

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