



The Northern Mine Research Society Newsletter

Society News

May 2007

Annual Report 2006

This time last year the Society was in a state of crisis following the near collapse of the committee. Thanks to the continuing commitment of Sallie Bassham, Mike Gill, Alison & John Hunter, Alan Mills and Richard Smith together with the support of Richard Platt and Martin Roe, the committee was able to maintain the essential functions of the Society for a full year.

During the year we produced two publications, four newsletters and arranged a programme of events, including the Autumn general meeting. The library and recorder services continued as before. The stock of publications was moved from Sutton to Sheffield and the sale of our publications continued from there. The income from book sales, together with bank account interest, amounted to ~£5.5k, which although slightly less than the previous year's total when the Ingleton monograph sold out very quickly, is comparable to the annual sales totals for the few years

before that. The editor's report to the Annual General Meeting listed a number of manuscripts that have been submitted to us which provide sufficient interesting new material to publish in the coming year and probably the next year after that.

Two research grants were completed in 2006. One involved the radio-carbon dating of charcoal samples from bale smelting sites and resulted in paper in our 'Memoirs 2006' publication. It confirmed that this technique was in use in the 10th century. The other was an investigation into the use of the fire-setting technique in the Peak District, the results of which will appear in 'Memoirs 2007'. In addition the Society funded the digitization of Society Records.

The Society's membership numbers and financial position continued in a healthy state, with 400 full / honorary / overseas members and 37 family members in 2006. The Society's accounts showed total opening and closing balances of £35,820 and £39,800 respectively.

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Despite the number of members and the strong financial position, the committee continues under-strength. New members of the committee have not been forthcoming despite repeated appeals. We particularly need a Secretary and a Newsletter Editor; a membership secretary would be very useful too.

Alan Mills - May 2007

March 2007 AGM

It was good to see so many members at the AGM in March. We were made very welcome by the Mining Museum at Earby - many thanks to Ian Spensley for making all the practical arrangements and supervising refreshments for everyone. There was an excellent buffet, and time to see the refurbished museum. Everyone agreed on how good the museum looked. If you haven't been recently, it is well worth a visit. The space has been imaginatively used, the artefacts are displayed to good effect and the interpretative material is clear and well thought out. It has all taken years of hard work, and there have been many set-backs; but the members of the Museum deserve congratulations for all they have achieved.

As usual, the previous year's officers presented reports on various aspects of Northern Mine's activities. There was a lengthy debate on insurance. *{There are a number of continuing issues with this and the new committee is following them up.}* A new committee was elected - John Hunter (President), Martin Roe (Vice President), Les Tyson (Junior Vice President), Alan Mills (Treasurer), Richard Smith (Editor), Mike Gill (Recorder) and Sallie Bassham (Librarian/NAMHO rep). Also, Richard Platt volunteered to continue compiling the Newsletter as a "Freelance Editor". A few days after the AGM, John Hunter resigned as President.

The new committee has met since the AGM. Arrangements have been made for the Autumn meeting, and these are described elsewhere in this Newsletter. There has been another grant application.

Trustee Indemnity Insurance has been taken out for this year. There will be detailed reports at the General Meeting on 20 October; but if you want to know more before then, please contact one of the committee members.

Sallie Bassham



A view of the Earby Mining Museum with the Old Providence Crusher in the fore ground

Library News

Grateful thanks to David Johnson for his "The Sow Kiln Project" (a report of the Ingleborough Archaeology Group's work excavating clamp kilns); to Barry Hunt for four photocopies of mining/mineralogy material from 1839 issues of "The Athenaeum"; to John Bennett for copies of books 3 to 7 of "Mines of the Gwydyr Forest" and to Ray Fairbairn for two boxes of "Proceedings of the Geologists' Association".

Whenever I send out library material, I get 'proof of posting' from the Post Office in case items go astray in the post, and I ask people returning loans to do the same. 'Proof of posting' costs nothing extra, but makes any insurance claim easier. However, we now have a number of rare items in the library: I do not want to restrict access to these (they are no use if no-one uses them!) but, after consulting the rest of the committee and those who attended the AGM, I feel that

it would be wise to reserve the right to ask members to pay for 'recorded delivery' on difficult to replace material. If having to pay this extra postage cost is an issue, please mention this when asking to borrow material.

Someone mentioned recently that they had not realised I am willing to provide photocopies. If you want only a few pages from a book or journal, please let me know and I will make photocopies for you.

Sallie Bassham
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ANNUAL MINERAL STATISTICS

A number of early issues of the annual UK mineral statistics were being thrown away by the British Geological Survey, when Richard Shaw (a NMRS member) rescued them from a skip. Fortunately, Richard knows of my interest in the annual *List of Mines* and other government issued mineral statistics, so he kindly donated 20 issues, from the period 1854 to 1880, to the Society.

These paper-backed books were in poor condition, through a mixture of age (acid paper etc) and neglect, so I applied to the Committee for funding to have them professionally conserved and rebound with hard covers. This was not cheap, at £2,300, but it has ensured that these valuable records of Britain's mining history remain available.

The work was done by Richard Reeve, a conservator at Wakefield, and each book now carries a plate recording the Society's sponsorship of their conservation and rebinding. The books will be loaned to the National Coal Mining Museum's library, at Caphouse Colliery near Wakefield, where they will be stored in a controlled environment and yet be easily accessible to *bona-fide* researchers. Moreover, they will complement the museum's run of later statistical volumes. Finally, I would like to thank Richard, for donating the books, and the Committee, for approving my application for funding.

Mike Gill, Recorder.

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MEMBER'S CONTRIBUTIONS

Making the most of Mining Tourism?

I was interested in the AIA quote for the World Heritage Site Gateway Centre based at South Crofty Mine, it says:- "Even allowing for the benefits and interest generated by World Heritage status, the projected centre is less than a mile from the existing Cornish Mines and Engines site at East Pool.... ." I came across this argument whilst trying to have a local water pumping station protected with possible conversion into a museum. There was already another pumping station museum nearby and it was said that there would be insufficient interest to support two sites. I wonder where this argument has come from? I would have thought that the opposite was the case; two sites close together would encourage visitors to travel who would not make the effort if there were only one.

Barry Job.

£30,000 lifeline for museum

The Herald 02/03/07

A MUSEUM that closed after financial difficulties last autumn is to receive executive cash enabling it to reopen. The Museum of Scottish Lead Mining in Dumfries and Galloway is to receive a one-off grant of £30,000, Culture Minister Patricia Ferguson said yesterday.

Whittrighill Tunnel, Mertoun Parish, Berwickshire

Whittrighill Tunnel is some 0.8 metres high and runs for 1150 metres under Whittrighill from Whitrig Bog (NT 621348) to Maidenhall (NT 620336). Originally it had six air shafts along its course, up to 20 metres deep.

According to information at a nearby Scottish Wildlife Trust Reserve "In 1790 nearby Whitrig Bog was drained by Lord Polwarth by tunnelling using Napoleonic prisoners of war. The draining work revealed substantial amounts of clay within Whitrig and a tile works which is still visible was established at the west end in about 1801 and closed in about 1900."

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This tunnel may be unique in its purpose to drain agricultural land (or superficial clay deposits). If any one knows of any similar structures in the UK; I shall be grateful to hear from them.

Alastair Lings

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Lancaster Guardian Friday 9th March 2007

Members of the Northern Mine Research Society remember Michael Goth of Hornby who passed away in December 2005, as 'Gothy'. On display in his garden were two prized 20" gauge quarry wagons, positioned on rails, which arrived from the Alston area in the mid 1980s. One wagon remains in Hornby kept by a friend of Mike. On Thursday, 22nd February 2007 the second truck made the 70-mile journey back to the Nenthead Mines Heritage Centre, nr Alston.

Northern Mine members Bernard Bond and Richard Chalmers of Ingleton trailed the wagon to the Heritage Centre and were warmly welcomed by the general manager and his staff. 'Gothy's Truck' will stand amongst other mining examples of the area.



Bernard Bond presenting the truck
to NPHT Executive Officer
David Flush

The mining centre is open from Easter to the end of October. More information about this heritage site can be obtained online from www.npht.com/nentheadmines or by phoning 01434 382726 or email info@npht.com

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FIELD MEET REPORTS

Gunnerside Gill meet, Swaledale. April 14th 2007

Thirteen members gathered at the car park in Gunnerside village, for the 10-30 am start of the meet. Some had travelled from as far afield as Bolton, Blackburn and Charnock Richard in Lancashire- 80 to 90 miles distance, and others from county Durham, Northumberland and York.

The weather on the drive up to Gunnerside was slightly misty, usually signifying that it is going to be a hot day, which turned out to be right. The mine we were proposing to visit, **Bunting or Bunton level**, is situated about three miles from Gunnerside, on the east side of Gunnerside Gill. Members were advised not to carry too much in their rucksacks, i.e. only a change of footwear, overall or old clothes, a lamp and helmet and something to eat and drink.

We set off, crossing the bridge in Gunnerside village, and followed the footpath up the right hand side of the beck, then turned right up some steps and through a gate into a field. As we followed the footpath the gradient got steeper and we passed a small trial level to our right. However having previously looked inside this level, which is open for a few hundred feet, we did not stop, but continued along the undulating path, until we could see the lower dressing floor of Sir Francis level. We waited here for the slower members to catch up with the leaders, and after crossing a small stile in the wall and passing through a field, we arrived at the lower dressing floor of Sir Francis level. The ore from Sir Francis level was trammed out, and then taken over a small bridge to the lower dressing floor. The bridge has long since disappeared. At the lower dressing floor there is a fine set of bouse teams.

As the path became steeper, the whole site of the Sir Francis mine was visible: we could see the old original entrance; the entrance I remember using about 40 years ago; and the newest entrance, where an electron ladder is needed to gain access. One of the two air receivers is

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still in situ above the original entrance. At the top of the slope, the path levelled out, and we again waited for all the members to catch up with us. Eventually our path met another track coming down from Wintering scar. Looking back up this track you can see a limekiln and also the spoil heaps from Barbara level. I had originally intended us to visit Barbara level, together with Rutters Hand level and Water Sykes level, as we had looked in these levels on our recce. However the day was really getting hot, and our band of explorers was straggling a bit, so we decided to plod on and just look in Bunting level. Bunting spoil heaps can be seen from this point. My original intention was, that, after the meet, we should return to Gunnerside, via the track on the other side of the Gill.

Arriving at Bunting Level, we inspected the remains of a wheel pit that was part of the Ore- crushing system and bouse teams, and which could do with some restoration work. We then sat down outside one of the old mine buildings for a bite to eat and a drink before getting changed into our underground gear.

We entered the mine at 1pm and walked in through ankle deep water to a small passage on the right. Here there was enough room to stack our rucksacks and one carrier bag. From this small passage a hands and knees crawl leads on to a passage with a waterfall about 6 feet high, and at the top of this water fall are the remains of some wooden rails. The passage ends in a rubble roof fall: possibly this passage was once connected with the surface, as we are now underneath **Bunting hush**, and the rocks are not mine waste. Retracing our steps back to the main passage, we continued walking along the level. The passage at this point is about 12 feet high and in solid rock. The first part, from the portal is stone-arched. The main passage is dead straight for the first 1000 to 1100 feet then it bears sharp left. This is Millers Cross Cut. A vein can be seen in the wall and the miners followed this by driving a rise upwards to explore the ground above the main level. The shaft appeared to continue

upwards for about 30 to 40 feet, and had been explored by previous visitors to the mine. Some old mine rails were positioned at the foot of the level, to assist getting into the rise. All the mine rails and wooden sleepers are still in situ and in good order. Some of the sleepers are fastened to the floor with large iron "L" shaped pins. It was noticed that all the rails were out of the water, and as the level climbs, the water cascades down over the sleepers on its way to the adit level. Half way along Millers Cross Cut another passage goes off to the right. This is the passage which leads into Old Rake Vein and starts off beautifully stone-arched, but, after a few feet, the passage turns slightly right and here care must be taken, as a shaft in the floor leads down 100 feet into Sir George level. The passage beyond the shaft has now run in but a few years ago when I visited Bunton with other NMRS members we were able to follow this level until it was again blocked by a roof fall. This particular passage was driven to connect Old Gang with Bunting, but due to mismanagement, when the two levels met, Bunting was higher by 24 feet. We went back to Millers cross cut, and proceeded on, until the passage turned right: we were in the Fryerfold vein. The passage from here on is completely stone-arched and members commented on the quality of the arching. In a few places the walls bulged inwards, so one wonders how long it will be before a collapse here blocks the passage? In a few places along this part of the mine, calcite has seeped through the stone arching and cemented the wall to the rail. We eventually came to a place where the passage was almost blocked by mine waste, but when two members crawled onwards it was revealed that the passage was not blocked, but that the waste had created a dam for the water, which beyond the fall was chest deep. (The passage does actually still continue in deep water, gradually shallowing, and passing another passage going off to the right. The main passage continues, until it reaches a massive collapse, in the region of Fryerfold shaft).

We had not come prepared to go into deep water so, at this point our underground meet terminated, and we started to retrace our steps to the entrance. We had been underground for an hour. After we were all out of the mine and changed into more appropriate clothing, the original plan was to cross the Gill to Priscilla level, climb up to the track, and then head back to Gunnerside village. Five members asked for permission to leave the group, as they didn't want to go any further, and so returned to Gunnerside the way we had come.



Members of the team at the portal of Bunting Level
Photo by Malcolm Needham

The remaining eight walked down to the Priscilla level, noting that the abandoned mine tub was now at the east side of the gill. We had a quick look at the Priscilla level entrance, and then walked on a few yards to see the large cast iron pipe that used to feed the hydraulic winding and pumping engine in Sir Francis level, which is over 300 feet below.

At this point we had a short discussion as to whether we should return to Gunnerside, or walk up the Gill a few hundred yards, to visit the Blakethwaite smelt mill ruins. We decided on the latter, as it was an opportunity not to be missed by those, including myself, who had not visited this site before. The dilapidated shell of the smelt mill appears to have

been getting a bit of TLC from the YDNP, who have been preventing it from deteriorating any further, by using lots of cement. No work appears to have been done this year.

After a quick look at the smelt mill and its iron pillars, five of us ascended Blind Gill to look at Blind Gill level, leaving two members at the smelt mill. On arrival at the level one of our more adventurous members, Wayne, crawled inside and managed to work his way forward over 100 yards. On his return he told us that the level was still open, but required "hands and knees" crawling to proceed, and that the level was half full of sticky squelching mud. After Wayne had washed the mud off his clothes, we walked back to the track, where the two lads who had stayed at the smelt mill joined us.

During a nice leisurely stroll back along the track, we looked back across the gill to Bunting, Gorton, Barbara, Water Sykes and Rutters Hand level and, at the end of Winterings edge, the spoil heaps for Kinning level.

On arrival back at Gunnerside, we got changed and retired to the local pub, The Kings Head, for a well-earned pint of beer, before starting our long journey home.

Many thanks to everyone who joined us. I borrowed my wife's digital camera to try out underground, and the results proved well worth my taking it. Usually digital cameras have a poor flash, which isn't good enough to light up a very dark passage, but this camera exceeded all expectations. Members, who have an email address and would like to have copies of the photos I took, please let me know and I will send them as an email attachment

Members who attended the meet were: Paul Dollery, Richard Platt, Mike & Andy Richards, Alan Mills, Keith Turner, Peter Wilson, Ian Eeles, Malcolm McCallum, Wayne Martin, Peter Pearson, David Lewis, and myself: **Malcolm Needham.**

JOINT PDMHS/NMRS FIELD MEET

PDMHS members were the efficient organisers of the joint Field Meet on 12 May. They welcomed us to Magpie Mine

with refreshments when we arrived, an excellent lunch, and further refreshments after the afternoon trips. In addition to the minibus trips, there were guided tours of the Magpie site for anyone new to Derbyshire mining.

We went to High Rake in the morning, and to Winster village in the afternoon. John Barnatt and Lynn Willies spoke with enthusiasm of their respective recent researches of these sites. An alternative afternoon trip was to Devonshire Cavern, a fascinating place brought to life through demonstrations of mining from different periods, evidence of underground processing and John's analyses of what had happened and why. Never mind doing their yearlong survey, I would have been lost a dozen times over without John Barnatt and Dave Webb's expert guidance. Indeed, I would still be down there without some assistance pushing and pulling me up unclimbable slopes!

Our very grateful thanks to PDMHS for an excellent day and for their warm welcome and thoughtfulness in all the arrangements. Chief organiser was Mavis Luff – congratulations and thank you Mave – and she was ably assisted by a small army of helpers. I was particularly impressed at PDMHS' ability to organise the weather (the sun came out as I turned off the A6 for Sheldon) and the flowers (there were hundreds of orchids in flower at Magpie, as well as cowslips and various lead-indicator species).



Dr John Barnatt describing the archaeological remains of the 1847 Winding Engine House at High Rake Mine

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Meet Sunday June 24th

Middleton Park Leeds

The park was once part of the estates of the Brandling family who developed the Middleton Colliery and railway from the foot of the park to fuel the growth of Leeds in the 18th and 19th century. A community archaeology project is currently recording the park and almost 280 mine shafts have been recorded as well as evidence for medieval management of the woodland.

The coal mining remains illustrate several different styles of mining, which probably date from the 16th to the 19th century. This is an opportunity to explore a fascinating and complex coal mining landscape. Refreshments will be available in the afternoon and there will be the opportunity to view an exhibition about the Middleton Park Archaeological Survey.

Directions

Middleton Park is easily accessible from the M62, M621 and M1. Drive into the main park gates on Town Street and turn right to reach the car park at SE 300918 28650.

Meet at 10.30

Contact Martin Roe 01422 251237 or email roe_martin@hotmail.com

Surface Meet on 21 July

We will start at 12.30pm on the north side of Surrender Bridge (NGR SD 988 999). Please note the unusual starting time. I decided to offer this meet after a couple of conversations with new NMRS members made me realise that not everyone is familiar with what I consider to be 'Famous Dales Lead Mining Sites'. This surface walk is intended for new members and those new to lead mining in Yorkshire.

I propose to look at Surrender smelt mill and then to walk up the flue to the chimney site. The flue has many interesting features and there is plenty of scope for everyone to have their own theories on interpreting them. If the weather is good, and if there is time; we

might be able to extend the walk and take a different route back.

There are no footpaths, so people need to be reasonably fit and dressed for moorland walking. If you have a little time to spend in the area before the meet, it is worth travelling north along the minor road from Surrender and looking at the remains near Fore Gill Gate or at Turfmoor Hush.

Please contact me beforehand if you intend to come

sbassham@nildram.co.uk or 015242 41851

Advance Notice of the Autumn General Meeting

The Autumn General Meeting will be held on Saturday 20 October at The Cross Keys in Skipton starting at 2pm with a free buffet. After the official business, there will be an opportunity for members to talk about recent work and show slides. We would particularly welcome contributions from those who don't get the opportunity to speak at large conferences: you should aim to speak for about 10 or 15 minutes.

Mike Gill has kindly volunteered to bring a PowerPoint projector. If you have slides or photographs and would like them put onto PowerPoint, please contact Mike well in advance and he will sort this out for you. There will be a reminder of this meeting date in the August Newsletter and a request then for numbers attending and special dietary requests.

(The Cross Keys is on the south side of the Ilkley road going east out of Skipton.)

Advance Notice of the 2008 AGM

The 2008 AGM will be on Saturday 8 March. Someone has volunteered to arrange a venue, but the details have yet to be finalised.

If you know of a good venue for the Autumn 2008 meeting and would be willing to do the local co-ordinating - please get in touch. We would be delighted to hear from you and can re-assure you about how little is involved!

BOOK REVIEWS

CALL THE ROLL - a compilation of mining disasters

Peter C. Navin

After working as an electrician in the Burnley coalfield, the author worked at Cynheidre Colliery, in South Wales, between 1971 and 1989. Like many former miners, he has an abiding interest in the industry, in this case disasters. One might be tempted to think, "yet more blood, guts, tears and dust", but in these days when the death of one person can bring calls for a major enquiry to be held, it is instructive to read of the very different attitude to death in not too distant times.

The author has chosen to illustrate six disasters, the inquests into which, as into many others, resulted in verdicts of 'accidental death'. He has used the inspectors' reports and contemporary local newspaper reports, and covers the following:-

The Diamond Pit, Bardsley Colliery, Lancashire (02/02/1858 - explosion)

Clifton Hall Colliery, Lancashire (18/06/1885 - explosion)

Mauricewood Pit, Pencuik, Scotland (05/09/1889 - underground fire)

Ravenslodge Colliery, Yorkshire (04/08/1892 - inundation)

Cadeby Main Colliery, Yorkshire (09/07/1912 - two explosions).

Cynheidre/Pentremawr Colliery, Carmarthenshire (06/04/1971 - outburst of coal and fire-damp).

There is also a short section on the workings of a coal mine, methods of working, machinery and gases, as well as a glossary of the mining terms used.

Call the Roll (ISBN 1-4120-9335-X) is published Trafford Publishing (www.trafford.com), 9 Park End Street, 2nd Floor, Oxford, OX1 1HH. It has 213 pages, 33 plates, 54 plans, maps and illustrations, and costs £11.99 plus £3.34 p&p.

Mike Gill

BONANZAS AND JACOBITES: The story of the Silver Glen

Stephen Moreton

The discovery of silver ore in the Ochil Hills, at what became the Silver Glen near Alva in Stirlingshire, coincided with Scotland's Jacobite insurrection of 1715. Sir John Erskine, the mine's owner, supported the rebellion, but his wife oversaw the mine when he went abroad to raise arms. Sir John, who was pardoned for his treachery, then let the mines to the London Lead Company which worked them until the 1730s. Cobalt ore was identified in 1759, during a second phase of activity. This was used for colouring porcelain blue and kept the mine going until 1765.

The description of the mines is packed with contemporary quotations and the author attempts to estimate the amount of silver raised. He also discusses the location of the fabled 'silver chamber', the source of Sir John's bonanza, and proposes that the long-held interpretation is incorrect.

Bonanzas and Jacobites (96 pp with 20 illustrations, ISBN 978 1905267 08 8) can be obtained post free from NMS, by sending a cheque for £9.99, payable to 'NMS Enterprises Ltd', National Museums Scotland, Chambers Street, Edinburgh, EH1 1JF or telephone 0131 247 4026 with credit card details.

Mike Gill

British Mining - a note from the editor

I am pleased to report that two more British Mining monographs are about to be published and hope that you find these as interesting as I have. Nigel Chapman has written an account of the Van Mines, which are near Llanidloes in mid-Wales and Les Tyson has produced 'Mashamshire Collieries' which is somewhat more than its title suggests. It covers not only coal mines but also the lead mines in that part of the Yorkshire Dales and the history of the Danby family. In addition, Ron

Callender and Patrick Reeson's, *Baile an Or* monograph is now going through the production process and is expected to appear later in the year. Anything which members can do to recommend these to friends or acquaintances will be very much appreciated.

So far I have received two papers for the 2007 Memoirs and would obviously like more. If you have one of those projects mouldering away on the back burner or have just uncovered something new, then now is the time to dust it down and write it up. Ideally I would like to receive contributions by the end of August but may be able to include odd items after that.

On a different topic, the Committee have discussed in some depth the form which meetings should take and the venues which we should use. For example, we have traditionally had a programme of outdoor meets but are always interested in extending this and welcoming new meet leaders. The Committee have tried various approaches for the AGM and Autumn Meetings. Essentially these have been business meetings, sometimes run in conjunction with an outdoor meet or with a series of papers given by members. We are anxious to get some feedback on members' preferences. Would you prefer to keep the business aspects to a minimum, do you prefer a combined meeting with either a meet or papers, do you have suggestions for speakers or subjects, are there any other venues we could use where a good turnout can be assured and if so what form of meeting should we have? We would appreciate any views you may have on this. Please send them to the Newsletter Editor.

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

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Limiting liability - the way forward?

A personal perspective.

There has been much discussion recently as to whether it is necessary for the society to obtain both trustee indemnity insurance and public liability (including member to member) insurance.

The justification for these forms of insurance derives from the fact that the society is established as an unincorporated association. It is also a registered charity and thus is managed by the committee members, who are themselves charity trustees. An unincorporated association like our society, does not have a separate legal identity and as such cannot enter into legal relationships, for example contracts, in its own name. When the society enters into a contract then it is the individual charity trustees who are the parties to the contract, and they would be responsible for meeting its terms and liabilities. In the unlikely event of claim for personal injury arising out of an incident on a society meeting then the liability of the society, that is its trustees and its members, is unlimited. It is for this reason that the trustees of many societies have become concerned about their personal liability. This is why the society decided at the recent AGM to obtain trustee indemnity assurance at a cost of just over £300pa.

At the same AGM the members also approved the purchase of public liability insurance including member to member liability. At the following committee meeting it was decided that it would be prudent to consider this further and investigate alternatives to insurance. One of these is for the society to obtain incorporated status; that is, to become a company. Charities are increasingly recognising the need to identify the risks they face in delivering services in accordance with their stated objects. In many cases incorporation offers a sensible way of addressing identified risks. Where a society such as ours is a company, it is the company that is principally responsible for liabilities, not the

individual charity trustees nor the society members. However, if charity trustees have caused loss to the charity by misconduct or mismanagement, they may still be personally liable and so it is normal to protect against this by obtaining director indemnity assurance. Until recently the only way for charitable societies such as ours to become incorporated was to become a company limited by guarantee. Whilst this offers the protection of a company to the trustees and society members, it has the disadvantage of requiring registration with both the Charity Commission and Companies House and also the burden of making annual returns to both of these. In recognition of this burden, the recent Charities Act allows for the creation of a new form of legal entity, known as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation - a CIO. These may be created from October 2008 onwards and will have all of the benefits to us of a company limited by guarantee without the hassle of an increased reporting regime. There will be a one-off cost associated with changing the organisation of the society from an unincorporated association to a Charitable Incorporated Organisation but it is likely that this will be more than offset by avoiding the need to obtain member to member insurance. I will investigate this further and report on this possible way forward to the October meeting.

Alan Mills

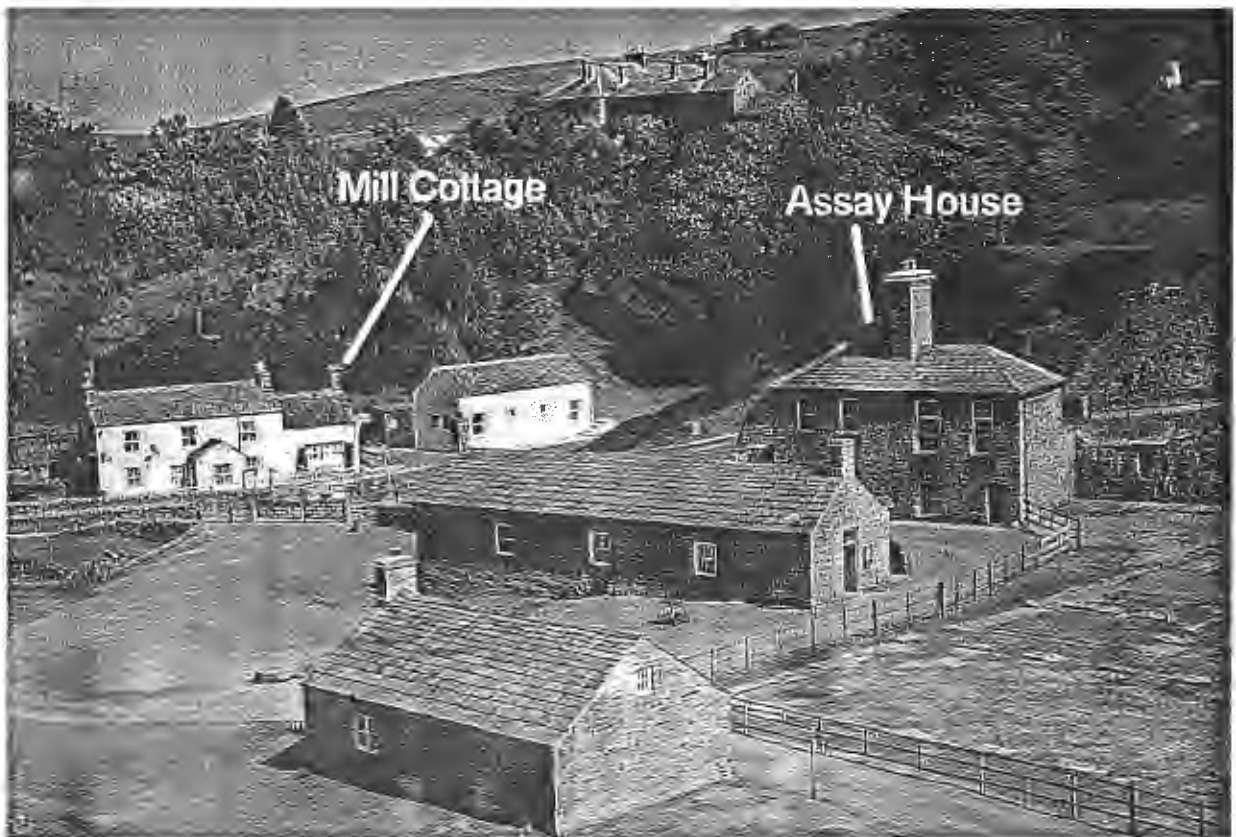
Bradford Colliery Photos?

Can anybody help me please? I am trying to find out some details and photos of Bradford Colliery in Manchester. I am hoping to include some aspects of it on my railway layout, and any information would be gratefully received.

Ronnie Frith, 123 Swannington Road, Leicester LE3 9AG

Or contact Bernard Bond on 015242-41857

Assay House & Mill Cottage Bunkhouses at Nenthead



Bunkhouses on the Nenthead Mine site, Nr. Alston, Cumbria

Sleep 18 (in 3 rooms), all usual facilities. Cost: £10 per person per night. Includes: electricity, heating, bed linen & quilts. A 50% deposit required.

The site is a Scheduled Ancient Monument and SSSI for geological interest. Ideal walking and cycling country, the C2C route passes the door. The area is well known for, industrial heritage, metalliferous flora and diverse fauna, set in a wild and tranquil upland landscape.

Take the opportunity to attend: The NPHT 'Archaeology Summer School', learning techniques of excavation & recording on the Nenthead mine site and Dilston Castle. Events of 'Northern Rocks' The North Pennines Festival of Geology and Landscape 19th May-3rd June.

The North Pennine AONB programme of forty or so walks on geology, plants, peat etc. April/October (contact: AONB on 01388 528801)

For further details contact: North Pennine Heritage Trust
Tel. 01434 382037 / 382726 or email bunkhouse@npht.com

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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