



The Northern Mine Research Society Newsletter

Society News

December 2007

Proposed Changes to the NMRS Constitution

At the March 2008 AGM I wish to propose two minor changes to the NMRS

Constitution. I hereby give the required notice. Item 23 of the constitution currently states 'A General Meeting shall be held every quarter. The Annual General Meeting shall be held in the first quarter of the year'.

I propose that we change the first sentence to read 'General Meetings shall be held twice each year'. I propose that we change the second sentence to read 'The Annual General Meeting shall be held in the first third of the year'.

The reason for the first change is so that our constitution is in line with current practice. The reason for the second change is to allow for flexibility. Most years we would probably have the AGM in March - as in the past. However, some years it is difficult to find a convenient date in March, perhaps because Easter is in March and because so many other

societies have AGMs then: the proposed change would allow an AGM to be held in April if this was more convenient.

Sallie Bassham

Autumn Meeting – 20th October 2007

25 members turned up on the day at the Cross Keys Inn in Skipton. We enjoyed an excellent free buffet and 6 small presentations were given covering the following topics: -

1. Kilns, Kilns and more Kilns – Janis Heward told us about the further fieldwork she has undertaken on Chopwood Kilns. This talk added to the one she gave us last year on this subject.
2. Hushing but not as you know it – David Johnson described the fieldwork, research, and recording he has carried out with regard to the hushing of hills for limestone in Lancashire.
3. The Baile an Or project – Patrick Reeson described the history, and the recent mine

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surveying and archaeology techniques used to uncover the era of the Scottish Gold rush at Kildonan, Scotland.

4. 1812 Disaster in Arkengarthdale – Alan Mills talked us through the documentary evidence of an underground mining accident in the area.

5. Goodluck Mine, Derbyshire – Richard Platt showed photographic slides of the on-going surface and underground preservation of this small but complete 19th Century lead mine.

6. Martin Roe showed us slides on the various archaeological projects he has recently undertaken. These included West Turf Pits at Yarnbury, Hebden Gill, and the Middleton Park Colliery dig in Leeds. Finally photos of an underground limestone mine visited on holiday in Naples, Italy.

Recorder's report to the General Meeting, 20th October 2007

I would like to record my thanks to Rob Vernon, Martin Roe, Ian Spensley and Bernard Bond for material donated to the Records.

The rebound volumes of the annual Mineral Statistics are now on annual loan to the National Coal Mining Museum for England's library at Caphouse colliery.

I've attended three meetings of the Yorkshire Quarry Arts Community Project, which is discussing the future development of Threshfield Quarry. The project's plans revolve around a forming a cultural centre for the performing arts, in order to enhance the Grassington Festival. Other possible developments include a landscape studies centre, by Yorkshire Dales Landscape Research Trust, and a National Caving Centre by BCRA.

Draft texts for the new display boards at the Swaledale Museum have been sent to the museum for approval.

I've attended two meetings of the Historic Environment Committee of the Nidderdale AONB and, with Les Tyson, the AONB Heritage Day at Kettlesing – attended by around 70 people.

I've provided data on coal mines to the South Yorkshire HER (Historic Environment Record) for its landscape characterisation project.

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North Yorkshire County Council's Heritage and Environment Section is developing plans for the future of the Keld Head and Cobscar areas. Recent plans to convert the Keld Head peat house into a dwelling were rejected.

At Sallie's request I responded to a NYCC questionnaire on the Historic Environment Record.

Martin Roe and I gave talks on the Lead Industry at Kettlewell as part of the Kettlewell's Historic Industries project being run by the Yorkshire Dales National Park. I've also given talks to the North Bradford Retired Men's Forum and a Retired Teacher's Group in Bradford.

Mike Gill

Library News

Members, and non-members, continue to be generous with their donations to the library. Since the gifts acknowledged in the August Newsletter, I have collected more journals from Ray Fairbairn and Tony Oldham has sent bibliographies of Mines in Ireland and of Mines in Scotland. In addition to being extremely useful to researchers of these areas, they make fascinating reading. Thank you very much to all who donate copies of their researches, books, journals, reports and newspaper cuttings.

Sallie Bassham (Honorary Librarian)
sbassham@nildram.co.uk

Annual General Meeting 2008

The 2008 AGM will be held at the Swaledale Museum in Reeth on the 8th March. Thank you to Alan Mills for arranging this and to the Curator, Helen Bainbridge, for welcoming us to the Museum and also for being our Guest Lecturer. There will be a free buffet for all who book in advance (see the enclosed coloured insert), followed by the AGM and presentations. Thank you to Mike who has volunteered to convert any presentation slides or photographs to PowerPoint format: please contact him by the end of February - details on the booking form.

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It may seem a long time in advance to be thinking about AGM bookings and presentations, but the AGM is earlier in March than usual and the next Newsletter is due out in mid, or late, February; so this is the formal notification of the AGM. The NMRS Constitution requires nominations for the election of Officers to be made "in writing, with a proposer and seconder, to the Secretary, at least twenty-eight clear days before the date of the Annual General Meeting". No Secretary was elected at the 2007 AGM and Alan Mills has kindly agreed to receive nominations along with AGM bookings - see the back of the coloured form.

Treasurer's Report

The committee has decided to split the roles of Treasurer and Membership Secretary and so I would like to welcome David Neal as the new Membership Secretary. David will deal with all membership matters from now on, Starting with renewals for 2008.

Membership of the Society is for a calendar year so it is now time to renew for 2008. 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 David, preferably by email at dgmail22-nmrs@yahoo.co.uk or by mail using the address on the renewal form which is included in the mailing for this Newsletter.

The committee would like to encourage as many members as possible to complete the Gift Aid statement at the bottom of the renewal form. If you pay income tax in the UK then by 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 £1435 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 David if you would complete and return the renewal form as soon as possible. He 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

Member's Contributions and General News

Coal mining in Britain today

The future for Britain's deep coal mines looks brighter now than it has for years, though UK Coal makes more money from selling off former colliery land than from mining and, over the next six years, plans to raise up to £800m by selling thousands of acres for housing and commercial development. This has been boosted in the Selby area, where the requirement to return some sites to agricultural use has been revoked. In August the government supported plans for the regeneration of Gascoigne Wood mine to create new office and distribution facilities. The future of Kellingley Colliery, near Pontefract, was secured in August when planning permission to mine 3m tonnes of Silkstone coal was granted. In the short-term, this has saved 700 jobs and will give time to develop an area of Beeston seam, to the south and east of the current workings, as part of a £60m investment.

In the Doncaster area, UK Coal's Maltby Colliery was sold to Hargreaves Services

for £30.1m (£21.5m for the colliery, plus the assumption of a pension deficit of £8.6m) in February. The mine will supply coking coal to the company's Monckton coking plant which, even with a 30% increase in international coke prices, is seeing strong demand from Scandinavian customers. The new owners will also benefit from a new contract to supply coal to Drax power station at prices reflecting those on World markets. The mine was scheduled to close in 2015, but its life has already been extended to 2017.

Richard Budge's Coal Power closed Hatfield Colliery in January 2004. Most of this mine's output had come from the High Hazel seam, which was practically exhausted, but it had large reserves of the Barnsley seam. In March 2006 Budge's new company, Powerfuel PLC, announced a deal in which Kuzbassrazrezugol (KRU), one of Russia's largest coal producers, acquired a 51% shareholding in Powerfuel. This is said to have cost KRU £36m, with more investment promised as the mine was redeveloped. Work began soon afterwards and coaling resumed in March 2007. Most of the surface plant will be replaced and there are plans for a clean power plant, which will need a further investment of £800m from KRU/Powerfuel. When the colliery is fully refurbished and production is at full capacity, probably by 2009, Hatfield could be producing around 2m tonnes/year.

Two of UK Coal's Doncaster area collieries have not fared so well, however, Rossington closed in March 2006 and is to be redeveloped, while Harworth closed in August 2006, because the company could not secure a sales contract to justify the investment needed to access further coal reserves, and is now on care and maintenance.

In Nottinghamshire, UK Coal is considering plans to invest up to £50m at Thoresby Colliery to extend its life by up to ten years. With reserves in the Parkgate seam exhausted, the colliery has re-entered the Deep Soft seam, some 830 metres below ground, where it hopes to open up 11m tonnes of reserves.

Thoresby employs 500 people and produces coal for the Midlands power stations.

At Welbeck Colliery, which avoided closure in 2005, UK Coal is looking at developing new reserves which will extend the mine's life until 2011, producing coal for power stations and employing around 550 people.

In Warwickshire, Daw Mill, UK Coal's largest mine, was closed for a month following the death of miner in a roof fall in January. His was the third death there in less than a year. The first, in June 2006, was caused by a build-up of methane, and the second, in August 2006, was the result of an accident with machinery.

In Wales, Tower Colliery, near Hirwaun in Glamorganshire, has been run by its workers since 1995, but is expected to be exhausted in late 2007 or early 2008. Its workforce is expected to move to two mines which are developing near Blaengwrach in the Vale of Neath and these will also pick up Tower's principal market, the Aberthaw Power Station.

The former Pentreclwydau South Drift Mine, near Cwmgwrach, is being reopened under the name Unity Mine. This mine, which closed in 1998, has estimated reserves of up to 90m tonnes and is believed to be capable of producing up to 1m tonnes/year of coal for the next 25 years. Its owner, Unity Power Plc is an amalgamation of Horizon Mining Ltd and Chian Resources Plc, an Australian-owned company. It is said that long-wall faces will be worked in the Six Feet seam and the drifts will be extended down to the Nine Feet seam.

In the same area, Energybuild Mining Ltd is developing Aberpergwm colliery to access to large anthracite reserves between the Neath and Dulais Valleys. This mine has an estimated 30 year life at its planned output of 440,000 saleable tonnes/year within the next three years, and 770,000 saleable tonnes/year within the next six years from the Eighteen Feet and Nine Feet seams.

The British Coal Corporation had begun developing this coal from its Aberpergwm and Treforgan mines, but they were

closed in September and October 1985 respectively. Aberpergwm was reopened by E.H. Bennett & Co. Ltd in 1996 and was acquired by Energybuild in 2003. Some coal was worked whilst British Coal's access drifts were being located, drained and repaired.

Energybuild also works the nearby Nant y Mynydd opencast coal mine, which currently produces 2,000-3,000 tonnes/week, and the Group has identified several potential opencast sites for which it intends to seek planning permission in the next few years.

As already noted, the expected closure of Tower Colliery should increase demand for Energybuild's coal, as well as providing an experienced workforce and the opportunity to obtain mining equipment. Most of the group's output is likely to be sold to Aberthaw power station, which is designed to burn the low volatile anthracite being produced. The station is currently being fitted with Flue Gas Desulphurisation equipment to ensure its productive life until at least 2018. It is hoped to develop domestic and industrial markets for the remaining coal.

There are a further nine small coal mines, of which two, Eckington in Derbyshire, and Hay Royds in West Yorkshire, are moderate producers. Of the rest, four are in South Wales, two in the Forest of Dean, and one in Lancashire.

Mike Gill

Ramsay Moralee Hutchinson. 18th January 1924 – 30th July 2007.

Regular visitors to the mines of Arkengarthdale who had the good fortune to meet Ramsay Hutchinson of the Red Lion at Langthwaite and chat with him on one of his favourite subjects, the mines of the Dale, will be saddened to hear that he passed away on 30th July peacefully in his sleep. The funeral service was held at St Mary's Church Arkengarthdale, attended by well over a hundred mourners, on Monday 6th August followed by a buffet held in the Methodist Chapel. Les Tyson represented the

Society along with five members of the Earby Mines Group.

Ramsay was the last surviving miner who worked at the Hungry Chert Mines until its closure and so was the last link to the mining tradition of Arkengarthdale. He had an extensive knowledge of the mines and landscape of the Dale and was always happy to share this with people he felt were genuinely interested in visiting the mines. He and his wife Rowena have always supported the Northern Mine Research Society by selling our publications.

Les Tyson

North Yorkshire County Records Office at Northallerton

Beginning on Saturday 6th October 2007, the North Yorkshire County Records Office at Northallerton will be open from 9.30am to 4.15pm by appointment only. Microfilms of mining records, parish registers, etc will be available. Any original records must be ordered in advance. Saturday opening will continue on the first Saturday of the month till 3rd May 2008. If you are unable to get to the Record Office through work or other commitments this is a perfect opportunity for access to the largest archive of Dales Mining Records. The office can be contacted at the North Yorkshire County Record Office, Malpas Road, Northallerton, North Yorkshire DL7 8TB. Telephone No. 01609 777585.

Or by email at www.northyorks.gov.uk/archives, where a search can be made of available records.

Les Tyson

Lindean Tunnel, Selkirkshire

Since my contribution on the Whitrighill Tunnel (Newsletter, May 2007) another similar tunnel in the Scottish Borders has been brought to my attention.

The tunnel runs south from the (disused) Lindean Reservoir (NT 504 291) for a distance of 200 metres to a disused waterworks (NT 504 289).

A Borders Regional Council booklet entitled "Lindean Reservoir" (1988, 16pp) states: "By the late 18th century the area of Lindean Reservoir, known then as Wester Lang Moss, was being excavated for marl by the lairds of Lindean and Greenhead ... Before the marl could be extracted the area was first drained and the peat removed. It was during the drainage process that a tunnel was dug under the hill on the south side by an Irish labourer and his wife for the princely sum of 1/6 per yard or 7.5 pence per metre ... In 1904 the South East of Scotland Water Board constructed a small dam at the eastern end of the workings to form a reservoir - at a total cost of £1752. The drainage tunnel was given a new lease of life as the overflow spillway for the reservoir carrying the water to Murder Moss. The tunnel is 4.5 ft (1.5 metres) high by 3 ft (1 metre) wide. If anyone knows of any similar tunnels that drain agricultural land or superficial clay deposits I shall be grateful to hear from them.

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NEW FRED DIBNAH RELEASES CAN EARN US MONEY!

The producers of the popular BBC2 series featuring Fred Dibnah have made an offer to help boost our club funds. The View From the North will contribute £1 for every DVD ordered directly from themselves which has on it our promotional code.

Some of the programmes shown on television, which were not released on DVD, are now going to be made available along with approximately 2 hours of extra footage not previously seen. This would have pleased Fred no end as his only complaint used to be that the best stuff ended up on the cutting room floor. However Fred's idea of the 'best stuff' often very detailed explanations of how something worked, although very

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interesting, was not suitable for a prime time BBC programme!

There are plans to release more of Fred's unseen material some of which will not be available in the shops so only those people on the mailing list will know of these releases.

So it's worth money to us to order DVDs directly from the production company The View From the North using our special promotional code 4452 and each DVD ordered from now onwards will earn £1 for our society. You can order the DVDs by post or by visiting the website www.theviewfromthenorth.co.uk

Dig with Dibnah £12.99

Victorian Heroes £12.99

Collectors Made in Britain

Programmes 1-6 £39.95

Programmes 7-12 £39.95

Add p&p £1.25 if order under £16

Order by post to : The View from the North, PO Box 15,
Appleby-in-Westmorland,
CA16 6WY

Order by phone : 017683 53255

AIA Awards

The Association for Industrial Archaeology (AIA) makes annual awards for Essays, for Publications, for Conservation and for Fieldwork & Recording. There is a Student Essay Award and a General Essay Award: "the purpose is to encourage the writing of original essays that enhance the understanding and scope of industrial archaeology". There are three Fieldwork and Recording Awards to "promote good archaeological practice in Industrial Archaeology ...the work should contain elements of recording of industrial sites/practices and an interpretation of any findings".

There are also two awards in memory of Peter Neaverson: the one for scholarship is awarded to the author of the work which "in the opinion of the judges, has, in the year in question, made the greatest contribution to the scholarship, knowledge and/or understanding of industrial archaeology". The Peter Neaverson Student Travel Bursary is for up to £2000 and will be awarded to "a student working

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on a topic of relevance to industrial archaeology within an undergraduate or postgraduate degree": applicants need to indicate the specific purpose for which the award is sought.

Full details of all the awards and entry forms from www.industrial-archaeology.org.uk or AIA Liaison Officer, Department of Archaeology, University of Leicester, Leicester, LE1 7RH.

Further News

David Johnson

Members who attended the Autumn General Meeting will remember the interesting presentation on Limestone Hushing by David Johnson. The Winter 2007 edition of Industrial Archaeology News describes David's winning of the Association for Industrial Archaeology Initiative Award for his Sow Kiln Project, with the Ingleton Archaeology Group, excavating clamp kilns.

Victoria Beauchamp writes "David Johnson gave a fascinating short presentation about the project ... funded by the Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust, the Yorkshire Dales National Park and an anonymous benefactor." A seventeenth century clamp kiln was excavated and field surveying across the Yorkshire Dales revealed a number of previously unknown sites that are now recorded in the HER. Archive research was also undertaken into early lime burning techniques. "The project has added substantially to our knowledge of clamp kilns and ... the work has shown that in theory it is possible to phase clamp kilns by their internal structure."

Cornwall

A recently closed tin mine aims to re-open in 2009. Europe's last tin mine could restart production in 2009, 11 years after it closed, says its owner Baseresult Holdings Ltd.

They bought the South Crofty mine in 2001, and have created a new company, Western United Mines Limited (WUM), to operate it. The firm said it would be spending more than £50m on restarting

the mine which closed in 1998. It said rising tin prices had given the mine, first opened in the late 16th Century, another 80 years of life.

Mark Thompson, chief investment officer with Galena Asset Management, a partner in the new venture, said: "New uses for tin, particularly in lead-free solder, will keep prices buoyant for many years to come and make an investment in tin mining a very attractive proposition."

Also from the Winter 2007 edition of Industrial Archaeology News -

Following a successful 2006 season with visitor numbers up 12%, Geevor Mine in Cornwall began work in June of a £3 million restoration project for 23 buildings on the site. Geevor has aspirations to open up some of the twentieth century workings to visitors with access from Victory Shaft.

The unique tin streaming works, Tolgus Tin, has re-opened for the first time since the demise of the Trevithick Trust in 2004. Owner Treasure Park is seeking funding for improvements. There were once hundreds of such works, with fifteen in the Tolgus valley alone, so its survival is as important as more glamorous artefacts.

Wales

In the South Wales coalfield, the first coal in a decade had emerged from the reopened drift mine in the Neath Valley. Unity Mine at Cwmgwrach has been closed since 1998, but it is estimated to have reserves of up to 90 million tonnes. The mine's owners stated that it would be capable of producing up to one million tonnes of coal a year for the next 25 years, and around 120 jobs should be created at the site by early next year. The drift mine is the first to be opened in Wales since Betws Colliery in Ammanford in 1974. Until Unity opened, the only major deep mine still operating was Tower Colliery at Hirwaun, owned by the workers, which is rumoured to be closing next year because its reserves have been exhausted.

In North Wales there has been sudden demolition and destruction at the Robey Incline Head at llechwedd Slate Quarry. The Robey steam winder, later converted by the installation of a large electric motor, stood almost intact in its house, along with compressors and other large machines. In late May 2007 all this was smashed when the site was suddenly bulldozed, apparently with no attempt to save the machinery for a museum. Cadw put a stop to further demolition.

NAMHO NEWS

Progress in scanning and indexing of non-coal mine plans

The following e-mail has been circulated to record offices and is of interest to members of NAMHO groups. Possible NAMHO involvement in an extension to this project will be discussed at the next Council meeting.

Subject: Non-coal Mine Plans

For the attention of archivists, mining records managers and mining enthusiasts, I thought you would be interested to know about the progress being made in regard to indexing and scanning of non-coal mine plans by the Mining Information Group; a consortium that includes British Geological Survey, Coal Authority, Health and Safety Executive, National Archive and Valuation Office Agency. Our intention is to create an index of non-coal mine plans for Great Britain. In the last 2 years the majority of the official (HSE) abandonment plans have been scanned by the Coal Authority on behalf of the group and BGS has scanned its collection of mine plans. We are now endeavouring to index and if permission is granted to scan plans held in other collections throughout GB.

The link to the Mining Access Portal gives you an insight into the web index we are trying to build for the official (and any other) mine plans. The web site is currently under development, I would welcome any comments or suggestions you have to improve it. <http://www.bgs.ac.uk/nocomico/>

Jenny Walsby (BGS)

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NEWS FROM AROUND THE UK AND IRELAND

Mine closure - Florence Mine

An item in the Guardian 5-10-06 reported that Florence Mine in West Cumbria was to close due to BNFL no longer requiring water from the mine for its plant at Sellafield. BNFL had previously pumped 400 tonnes of water per hour from the mine paying £100,000 per year. The mine was still producing about 500 tonnes of haematite a year but when pumping stopped, flooding would prevent continued production. It is understood that the visitor centre is unaffected other than the popular underground tours would no longer be possible. Can anyone clarify the position please?

NCMME "Changing Landscapes" Exhibition

The National Coal Mining Museum for England is currently developing a touring exhibition, with National Monuments Records, entitled "Changing Landscapes". The exhibition will primarily be photographic but with the inclusion of some maps/colliery plans and film footage.

NCMME and NMR are selecting material for Yorkshire pits but are seeking material from museums and other organisations with coal mining collections to contribute material for the other five coal mining regions.

The exhibition will be hosted at Wakefield between January and June 2008 but will be on tour from July 2008 and partners to host the exhibition from July 2008 onwards are being sought.

Anybody interest should contact one of the organisers:

Imogen Holmes-Roe

Curator of Art & Photography

National Coal Mining Museum for England
Caphouse Colliery

New Road, Overton

Wakefield, WF4 4RH

or

Anne Woodward

Exhibitions Manager

National Monuments Record

Kemble Drive

Swindon, SN2 2GZ

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DEFRA - CONSULTATION ON PROPOSALS TO IMPROVE ACCESS TO THE ENGLISH COAST

Elsie Little, the British Caving Association (BCA) conservation officer, has passed me a copy of the DEFRA, June 2007, document for Consultation on Proposals to improve access to the English coast - a web copy can be found at <http://www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/consult/> BCA are on the consultation list but NAMHO is not.

By the time this newsletter goes to print I will have responded to the consultation document as the deadline is 11 September. There are, however, a number of points on which I would appreciate feedback. Could readers please look at the web document and highlight any areas they feel are of concern to NAMHO members.

Whilst the idea of improved access to the English coast is to be welcomed there are some areas I have noted as being of concern. They are as follows -

1) The overall concept that the English coast is a 'natural' environment is false. A significant element within the coastline is man-made and as a consequence has to be treated in a different way to the truly natural elements.

2) Along the English coast, as on the upland areas already opened up under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 (CRoW Act), are many man-made features, including standing structures, resulting from a range of human activities, including -

Farming and its associated structures historic fortifications and abandoned modern war-time installations Prehistoric and abandoned historic settlements Harbours and sea defences Mines and quarries, along with their associated structures

The consultation document makes virtually no reference to such features which constitute the archaeology of the coast. Table 6 makes brief reference to 'Cultural heritage impacts over up to 4,000 ha of SMS' with 'SMS' presumably meaning Scheduled Monuments, but makes no reference to the vastly greater

area containing unscheduled archaeological features. The mines and quarries are of particular interest to this association and its members but the comments below are equally applicable to other archaeological features.

3) The proposals under Sections 6.3 and 8.4 for a reduced level of occupier's liability for CRoW access land only removes liability in respect of natural features and walls, fences and gates through which visitors might pass other by use of a stile or gate assigned for the purpose. Liability for other man-made features is unchanged. There is therefore a strong possibility that land owners / occupiers will seek to reduce their liability by destroying such features with consequent damage to the archaeology and the historic landscape as a whole. This association would direct DEFRA and its consultants to the coastline of west Cornwall where the historic landscape is populated by mining features which are the basis for the recent grant of World Heritage status to the Cornwall and West Devon Mining Landscape.

4) This association would suggest that removal of occupier's liability should be extended to all historic features in the access land. The visitor might be warned, by the erection and maintenance of suitable signs by DEFRA or the local authority, at the point of entry to access land but all historic features should be retained without modification other than for conservation, unless approved by the planning process, as important parts of the historic coastal landscape.

5) The suggestion at 4) above might be applied retrospectively to the access land in upland areas already created under the CRoW Act.

Responses please to Peter Cloughton, Conservation Office, preferably by e-mail <P.F.Cloughton@exeter.ac.uk> or by post using the NAMHO address below.

NAMHO BURSARIES

At the last Council meeting it was agreed that the association would offer a moderate annual bursary to support

individual and group projects which advanced our knowledge of mining history.

Bursary applications should fit with the NAMHO constitution and "promote education and research in mining history". Applications should be made in writing. Normally one bursary a year will be available for between £50 and £200. The decision will be made by Council, after short-listing by Officers if necessary. The work should normally result in increased public awareness of mining history (eg. by interpretative material at a site, by a substantial article for a major mining history journal, by a book). Applications should be made by a NAMHO member for its organisation as a whole or on behalf of one or more of its members.

Applications are invited for consideration at the Autumn Council meeting.

ENGLISH HERITAGE RESEARCH AGENDA FOR THE EXTRACTIVE INDUSTRIES

Last year NAMHO was approached by English Heritage with a view to our preparing a research strategy for the extractive industries. Their remit only extends to England but, to be effective, it would be preferable for us to cover the whole of mainland Britain - Scotland, Wales and England. Consequently we are investigating the options for funding to supplement that which may be available from English Heritage. It is important to carry out this work which will allow us to influence the future direction of archaeological research.

Peter Cloughton, Conservation Officer

FUTURE NAMHO CONFERENCES

Council have accepted an offer for a conference in Derbyshire in 2009 - the 50th anniversary of PDMHS and the 30th anniversary year for NAMHO. A provisional programme is already in place focusing on ***Mining Landscapes and their elements*** with contributions from around western Europe. There will be firm details available early next year.

For 2010 we hope to visit South Gloucestershire with a view to exploring the history and archaeology of the coalfield and adjoining areas, involving more than just coal.

The 2008 NAMHO Conference will be 11 to 13 July at the Scottish Mining Museum, Newton Grange, Midlothian, EH22 4QN. (Please note the change of date and of venue.) The title for the lecture programme is "Mines and People: the Mining Industries of Scotland". Anyone wishing to give a lecture should contact John Pickin, Stranraer Museum, The Old Town Hall, George Street, Stranraer, Dumfries & Galloway, DG9 7JP (JohnPic@dumgal.gov.uk) or Peter Cloughton (P.F.Cloughton@exeter.ac.uk). There will be a range of surface and underground trips organised by the Grampian Speleological Group and trips over a wider area during the week following the Conference.

OTHER FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Open days at the St Aidan's BE1150 Dragline during 2008

Saturday 12 April; Saturday 14 June; and a Heritage Weekend 13/14 September. More information from their chairman, Paul Thompson, 0113 2892650 or go to their website - <http://www.iarecordings.org/dragline>

Proposed NMRS Field Meet

Saturday 19th April 2008.

Ingletton area, and a visit to the Cloughton (pronounced Claff-ton) Brickworks. Bernard Bond will be leading this trip, and further details will be announced in the February newsletter.

Library - Stop Press

Thank you to Ivor Brown for a bundle of journals which he has just given me. These include several copies of Mining Magazine and Engineering and Mining Journal, a delightful eight page leaflet about the Clee Hills with superb photographs and three Newsletters from the Lion Salt Works.

Sallie Bassham

BOOK REVIEW

Box Freestone Mines

The book "Box Freestone Mines" has been so popular that the first edition has sold out and the Cotham Caving Group has produced a reprint. The book has sections on the history of the Box stone mines, and the various uses they have been put to over the years. There are also sections on the geology of the Box stone strata, and the methods used to extract the stone. The rear part of the book contains descriptions of routes in the North, Central and Southern parts of the mines.

The book has 63 pages, 7 colour photos, full colour cover, 4 colour maps, 16 B/W illustrations, and 3 B/W diagrams. There are also a Glossary, Bibliography and an index.

The book can be obtained, post free, by sending a cheque for £7.95 made out to "Cotham Caving Group" to The C.C.G., C/O 25 Sunny Hill, Sea Mills, Bristol, BS9 2NG.

Books can be signed by the author if requested at the time of ordering.

Croftside colliery shaft capping

In the May of this year, I was in the fortunate position to witness the final operation to cap the collapsed air shaft at the former Croftside Colliery, Darcy Lever, Bolton by the Coal Authority. It was a big job and took quite a few weeks to complete.

68 holes in a rectangular formation were drilled around the collapsed shaft by a CTA (Central Target Area) drilling machine, and then 14 metre high steel piles, which were made up on site, were then sunk to a depth of 15.2 metres. After each hole was drilled, liquid concrete was poured down the hole and then the newly assembled pile was lowered into the concrete by the means of a huge crane to the required depth.

After all the piles were driven into the holes, the concrete was allowed many days to properly dry and then the top bit of the ground surface was removed to expose the top of the piles. A lattice steel

work frame was then made up and wired to the exposed pile tops. Concrete was then poured over the framework to produce a cap which would prevent any lateral movement. It was a huge operation but provided a permanent solution to a long-running problem.

Richard Platt



Assembling the steel piles on the ground, and with the aid of a tall crane the piles were lowered into the pre-drilled holes



The CTA drilling machine is digging one of the 68 holes. The holes are precisely dug with the aid of an onboard computer and monitor located in the cab.

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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