



The Northern Mine Research Society Newsletter

Society News

August 2008

Autumn Meeting Saturday 25 October

This will be at Gayle Mill, near Hawes, with a buffet from 1pm; followed by a Business Meeting and members presentations. Mike Gill is willing to put material into PowerPoint for anyone wishing to give a presentation (oldgang@tiscali.co.uk). So that catering arrangements can be made, please complete and send in the booking form that is with this Newsletter.

The two parking spaces at Gayle Mill are for disabled drivers only. There is a charge for using the Hawes car parks, however visitors are strongly encouraged to park in the town as there is very little in the way of parking at Gayle village. If you park on residential roads please consider the needs and convenience of those who live there.

Peter Pearson suggested Gayle Mill as an interesting venue for the Autumn Meeting and has kindly made all the

arrangements. Many thanks Peter. Gayle Mill is now open to the public after a lot of work on the building, the leat and the machinery: it is a fascinating place to visit.

The agenda will be;
minutes* of the March AGM and matters arising;
reports (Treasurer, Membership Secretary, Editor, Newsletter, Recorder, Librarian, Website, Committee, Events);
future events;
any other business.

* Copies of the minutes will be available at the meeting: if you would like a copy in advance, please contact Sallie (sbassham@nildram.co.uk or 015 2424 1851).

Events in 2009

The AGM will be on Saturday 7 March. The venue has not yet been decided: if you know of a suitable place for eating and meeting, please let one of the committee know.

Inside this issue:

Society news	1
Ingleton Colliery	3
Brandy Bottle	4
Tribute	7
Book Review	10

There have been four offers of meets for 2009 (Cheshire, Cow Green and Wharfedale surface walks, and Nenthead area underground). If you have volunteered and I have forgotten my apologies, please remind me. If you have volunteered and have preferences about a date please let me know. More volunteers are needed if you know an area well, but are hesitant about actually leading a meet, please get in touch and we may be able to arrange someone to work with you.

Sallie Bassham (015 2424 1851 or sbassham@nildram.co.uk)

Library News

Thank you to Vin Davies for several boxes of geology journals and fascinating caving books and journals, to John Heaviside for a large box of mining books and journals, to Tony Oldham for a CD on mines of Ireland and a book on caves of south-east Wales and to Nigel Turner for more geology books.

If you want to reduce your postage costs when borrowing material, I can photocopy a few pages of a book or a journal for you instead of sending the complete volume. Overseas members are finding this option particularly useful. Sallie Bassham (Honorary Librarian)

N.M.R.S Publications

Having been recently installed as manager of publication sales I am keen to increase the number of books we sell. To this end I feel all NMRS members could help.

- Firstly on your travels if you visit somewhere you feel could be an outlet for our British Mining Publications please let me know including e-mail details and I will contact them.
- Secondly I hope you are aware of the generous discounts available

to members to buy back copies that might be missing from their collection. As we only do short runs they do sell out and then can be found at a premium at book fairs. The discount available to paid up members are as follows;

- One book 25% discount plus £1 p&p
- Two books 33 1/3% discount plus £1.75 p&p
- Three books 33 1/3% discount plus free p&p

A full list of available titles are available on our website. If you need a paper copy please let me know.

Barbara Sutcliffe
The Old Manse
93 Halifax Rd,
Nelson, Lancs
BB9 0EQ
e-mail mansemins@btopenworld.com

Events in 2008

Saturday 6 September Yorkshire Dales meet.

Leader Miles Johnson.

Slei Gill/Booze Moor. A surface walk and discussion of grouse moor management and mining remains. Meet at the Langthwaite car park (NZ 005 023) at 10.30. Maximum of 12 people. This will be a strenuous walk on rough terrain, please bring packed lunch, suitable footwear and clothing. Contact, miles.johnson@yorkshiredales.org.uk or 01969 652361

Saturday 11 October Hude valley, Teesdale.

Surface walk. Meet at 10am at the commemorative pump in Middleton in Teesdale for details of the start point for the walk. Contact sbassham@nildram.co.uk or 015242 51851. Peter Riley of Durham Dales Mining Society has very kindly agreed to lead this walk as Tony Fretwell is now unable to do so.

Meet reports

Hilton Meet Report

On 3 May, ten members of NMRS found themselves in an unfamiliar environment of un-signposted MoD land near Warcop in Westmorland. We peered out of our cars with some anxiety as the men in the landscape were dressed in uniform and under-taking seriously strenuous activities that appeared to be nothing to do with the sort of mines in which we usually take an interest. It seems that the MoD non-firing day was an opportunity for various other groups to book time on the Warcop Firing Ranges. Eventually we found our rendezvous point and met with three staff from MoD. Our starting place was re-arranged to avoid the other firing range activities that day, and we had an interesting walk in the best of weather cool, but without rain.

First, we walked up the old mine track towards the Long Fell Edge Mines and stopped at the former ropeway terminus. Exactly as Ian Tylers book, *The Lakes and Cumbria Mines Guide* describes, we found the old copper workings and evidence of their use for army storage. As we continued uphill to the baryte workings, members kept stopping and wandering off to look at open-works, evidence of underground workings, ropeway remains, dressing areas and buildings: there was plenty of ordnance lying around but we left that strictly alone!

A lunch stop enabled further exploration in an area which is not on any footpath and so can only be seen with MoD supervision. From the top of Long Fell, Christy Bank mine could be seen in the context of the wider landscape and we then walked down to look more closely at the geology, mine buildings, shaft and level.

Lastly, we visited Scordale and had a little time to look at the extensive remains in this area. On scheduled non-firing days, it is permitted to walk on the public footpath up Scordale telephone 0800 7835 181 for details.

Thank you to all who contributed to an enjoyable day to James for a very useful Dunham article, to Peter for geological maps, to Richard and Sam for sharing their research knowledge of the area, to Phil Abrahamson (the MoD archaeologist) for explaining about the conservation issues in Scordale, to all the MoD staff who helped make arrangements for the visit, and especially to those who tolerated our eccentric enthusiasms on the day.

Sallie Bassham

Other News

New Ingleton Colliery; the demise of the Weigh Bridge Office

On the first and second weeks of April 2008, at the site of the New Ingleton Colliery, the demise of the Weigh Bridge Office was recorded. The building was constructed in 1914.

Running alongside the railway was the railway; coals being taken to the Screening Plant, positioned next to the Ingleton-Clapham railway. (Ingleton coal has been traced to as far away as France.) The last Despatch Clerk and Weighman was Mr Joseph T. Walker of Ingleton - an employers reference for him has been found dated to 1st May 1934.

The remaining large building which can be seen behind the office has also been recorded (photograph 3). From the roadside gable, there were work rooms, horse stables, cart repair room and first aid office. At this point the building continued as the Locomotive Shed complete with working pit. The first of the colliery 0-4-0 locomotives was named Victoria, and built in 1901 by Peckett & Sons in Bristol. (See B.M. No. 76, page 98.)

Bernard Bond



Photograph 1 Constructed of red brick marked Claughton, the building details are as follows; 140 in length, 90 in width. Height to gutter level 96. Original window 60 x 56. Unseen external door 70 x 26. A standard gauge 48½ railway ran alongside the window.



Photograph 2 The falling of nearby trees unsettled the office gable, on the nearside to the A65.



Photograph 3 Alterations within the yard caused the next and final stage of collapse.

Brandy Bottle Incline Restored by members of the Yoredale Mine and Cave Group

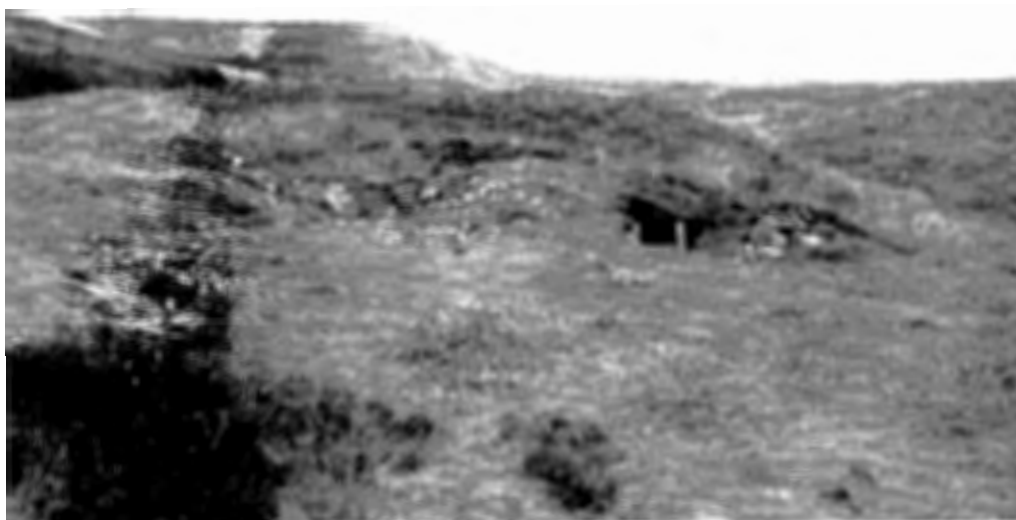
It was during a photographic trip down Brandy Bottle Incline following a through that sparked an interest in the 'mythical' second incline. Thursday 5th October found us on site looking for the second adit. Disturbed ground to the right of the existing entrance showed we were not the first to try. After hunting around for about ten minutes one of our team found a rabbit hole overgrown with nettles, and looking into it he saw a stone wall coursed on a slope downwards. Rabbits don't build walls do they? he cried out the second adit had been found! (see photograph 1)

By the end of the night, there was a hole big enough for two 'thin' men to squeeze in for a look around. They found it went down at a similar angle to the other incline for about 100 feet until the floor levelled out and eventually met the roof as a result of fallen shale. The width of the incline also became narrower after another couple of yards. As a matter of interest, both members needed pulling out as the hole was so small!

The next two weeks were spent enlarging the new adit, there were so many members present not all could take part in this digging, so the rest started investigating the other entrance. Low down a wall corner and return were found on the extreme left, and this was followed down until they reached the original floor of the incline sloping downwards at the same angle as that inside. Traces of sleepers were also found. An old 45 gallon drum inside the adit, was showing signs of rotting and was removed with the intention of putting in a new one.

Back at the pub however, new ideas were gathering pace. The original idea was to put in another 45 gallon drum on the new right side to match the one on the left. One of our members, a carpenter and builder, had other ideas, and that night the idea of digging out and rebuilding the arching of the two incline adits was conceived.

Photograph 1 Brandy Bottle Incline before...



Photograph 2 Brandy Bottle Incline after...



Work continued for the next 32 Thursday nights. Stone was recovered from both collapsed inclines, sorted and used to rebuild the arching upon centring built on site. About 15 feet of arching was built on each side in three foot sections to bring the facing in line with the front wall, which we had eventually found during the course of the work. The front wall along with a side wall on the extreme left of the site were not showing before we started. The wall between the adits is about 8ft 6in. high; 5ft 6in. being new build and 3ft of original.

A paved surface area was found under about 2ft 6in. to 3ft of rubble (good building stone and soil covered with grass) in front of the adits. This was all cleared and the 'rubbishy' stuff barrowed up onto the top of the new

and a return built at the end where we had found foundations. Further foundations have also been found in line with this return with 'doorways' left opposite the adits.

It looks as if the paved area was an enclosed yard with access through these two doorways. The present overgrown ground level immediately in front of the remains of this wall is some 18in.s to 2ft above the level of the flagged yard. In addition we found a floor sloping down from the door to the lip of the incline. It was only when we found the stone flags continuing under this false floor did we assume this was a later infill.

Further investigation in the area outside the yard is planned for this summer.

Mason Scar

NMRS member wins an award

Hazel Martell has been presented with an award for her writing. NMRS members know of Hazel's work through the articles she has contributed to British Mining and PDMHS Bulletin on ore dressing and smelting, and her seminal work on the NAMHO Research Guide which also featured in a British Mining article on how to research mining history. However, this year's award from the David St John Thomas Charitable Trust is for Hazel's self-published books and commends her "excellence and accomplishment". Congratulations Hazel!

Gold find in Ireland

According to "The Guardian" of 2 July 2008, the mining company Conroy Diamonds and Gold has launched a study into the economic viability of mining gold at Clontibret in County Monaghan. The deposits are estimated to be 440,000 ounces, with an additional 'inferred resource' of 590,000 ounces, and are worth up to £450,000,000. Although the grade of the Clontibret gold is low by world standards, the size of the find and the rising prices of gold may mean that it could still be very profitable and change life for the village's 300 inhabitants.

Sallie Bassham

More gold in Scotland...

In a similar vein, 'The Observer' on 29th June 2008 reported that explorations were underway at Cononish Mine, near the village of Tyndrum in Scotland. Scotgold Resources were hoping to evaluate the extent and value of the gold and silver deposits within the mine, which has not been worked for nearly a decade. An independent geologist has so far predicted returns of over £76m; enough to provide 60 new jobs for an area heavily dependent upon tourism.

Lynne Johnson
(And thank you to the member who sent this in.)

Coal Mining in Middleton Park: An Archaeological Investigation by the Middleton Park Community Archaeological Project

Middleton Park is located approximately 5km south of Leeds city centre and contains one of the largest areas of woodland in West Yorkshire. These extensive woods hide a secret industrial past.

This project has recorded and interpreted coal mining remains within Middleton Park, demonstrating the survival of a wide range of features associated with different styles of mining dating from the 17th to the 19th century, including over 270 shaft mounds ranging from small areas of shallow bell pit workings to deeper shafts wound by horse gins and steam engines. As well as coal mining, Middleton is also known for its railway, developed to Leeds in 1758. Within the park more than 2km of waggonway have been identified.

This lottery funded project, carried out by volunteers from the local community, has shown that Middleton Park is one of the most important historical coal mining landscapes in West Yorkshire.

This book is the most detailed study of its kind undertaken in South Leeds and has substantially rewritten the history of the area.

Book details

ISBN 978-0-9559477-0-4

Format A4, 50pp, 26 Full colour figures

Retail price £9.95 plus £1 p&p

Order direct from;
The Friends of Middleton Park
Tenants Hall
Acre Close
Middleton
Leeds
LS10 4HX

Website <http://www.fomp.co.uk> or
contact Gayle Graham 0113 2706903
extension 23, mobile 07914 729051 or
email: gayle.graham@fomp.co.uk

William Sandham Harvey : 1925-2008 *A tribute to a long-standing member*

When the telephone caller identified himself, I had a premonition. Bill Harvey had died on 21st May 2008. It happened soon after his 83rd birthday, but for me, he had always been around for friendship, advice and encouragement.

He was born in Clonakilty in southern Ireland and whilst living in Mitchelstown he began to develop his many interests by exploring caves in the area. Years later and now married to Helen, the family holidays were spent in Rushbrooke, (southern Ireland), and Bill delighted in exploring even more caves with his daughter and two sons. Mines replaced caves in the late 1960s, when the Harvey family purchased a holiday cottage in Leadhills, and Bill was able to explore the accessible adits in the locality. He soon joined the NMRS and, as a joint author, published *The Bay Mine*, volume 2 of the British Mining series.



Photograph 1. The historian Bill Harvey searched for gold in the Shortcleugh Burn (panned by Bevis Bulmer in the 17th century), and his persistence led to the recovery of three small nuggets.

Our friendship began in the early days of Wanlockhead Museum Trust. Geoff Downs-Rose wanted to move from a temporary summer exhibition and establish a permanent museum, and he gathered a group of experts to help him bring it about. By then, Bill had his cottage in nearby Leadhills, and often confided to me that he ought to be doing something for the Leadhills people, "rather than spending so much time on Wanlockhead". Together we dreamed up an exposition on local gold, which enhanced the mineral collection of the Miners' Library. Bill's loyalty to the village passed muster.

In 1984, we again co-operated in creating a very ambitious exhibition, which commemorated the 300th anniversary of the birth of Leadhills' local celebrity, Allan Ramsay. We discussed the need for visual material of the 17th century and, from somewhere - which was probably the depths of the Mitchell Library in Glasgow - Bill produced the goods. The display was a great success. We tackled some of our research in Carlops - Allan Ramsay's favourite stamping ground - but our joint memory remained the terrifying housekeeper who had grudgingly admitted us to the 'old' New Hall.

Bill had great sense of humour. We went on a gold exploration to Kinnesswood in Kinross-shire. Bill had come upon a 19th century account of a gold rush, (which was based on the discovery of fool's gold), and he proposed that we investigate. We found no gold but enjoyed envisaging the scenes when the local people had come in droves to gather up the riches.

During the NAHMO meeting in 1980, Bill organised visits to the Barjarg limestone mines. There were not many takers and the entrance is hard to find, but Bill



Photograph 2. Bill Harvey (centre) in the role he enjoyed ... poised to take a group underground and deliver an authoritative commentary, packed with facts and complete with anecdotes.

swept aside a bush to reveal the entrance, and provided a great commentary of patter, anecdotes and explanations. He never wearied of the subjects he loved, and frequently surprised people with his knowledge of bats.

He was also very thorough in his mining research. He knew the Leadhills Library like the back of his hand and, requiring proof of a horse gin at Wanlockhead, created a diversion one afternoon in the library so that I could take an unauthorised copy of a contemporary illustration. I was fearful of expulsion, but Bill enjoyed the occasion and relished our bravado.

Bill had joined the Belfast Harland & Wolff in 1943, but moved to BP in 1957, retiring in 1985. Whenever he had to entertain company visitors from oil-rich Texas, he made a point of showing them the Forth railway bridge so as to emphasise Scotland's 19th century prowess in cantilever engineering. Time and again, he told me the story with a mischievous chuckle.

That is how I will remember my good friend, Bill Harvey.

Dr R M Callender

Opening this September at Geevor 'Hard Rock' a new museum of mining

Hard Rock - the new museum of Cornish mining - will be formally opened on September 6th: it is hoped that it will be open beforehand to the public as soon as the building and fitout work is completed in mid-August. The museum, in a converted mine building, is the centrepiece of a restoration project that has taken over a year to complete at a cost of £3.8m.

On Heritage Day - September 14th - there will be a free entry day for the entire site.

Bill Lakin

Pendeen Community Heritage
Geevor Tin Mine
Pendeen TR197EW
tel. 01736 788662

www.geevor.com

8th International Mining History Congress

Organised under the auspices of the University of Exeter, Cornwall and the Geevor Mining Museum

12 - 15 June 2009

The Penventon Park Hotel, Redruth, Cornwall, UK

The Eighth International Mining History Congress will be held in Redruth, at the centre of the once large and highly influential copper and tin mining industry of Cornwall and West Devon. From here labour and mining expertise was exported to the world, and much of the surviving landscape has recently been accorded UNESCO World Heritage status.

This Congress follows on previous meetings, the first of which was held in Australia in 1985, then Germany in 1989, the United States in 1994, Mexico in 1998, Greece in 2000, Japan in 2003, and India in 2007.

The meeting will start with a plenary session on the evening of Friday, 12th June, and will conclude at lunchtime on Monday, 15th June, with continuous paper sessions on Saturday and Sunday, 13th and 14th June. A pre-session event will include field trips to mining and related sites across Cornwall and West Devon and arrangements will be made to conduct delegates to another conference, organised by the British National Association Of Mining History Organisations in Matlock, Derbyshire the following weekend, 19th to 21st June.

Details at

<http://www.huss.ex.ac.uk/history/imhc/index.php>

Call for Papers

The congress seeks papers on all aspects of mining history, for example, socio-economic, technological, archaeological, geological, and health and safety perspectives, across all time periods. "If you are interested in presenting a paper, please can you contact Dr Peter Cloughton at p.f.cloughton@ex.ac.uk with a title and abstract of no more than 250 words by 1st December 2008. You will also need to complete a pre-registration form.

(Via Mike Gill)

**NAMHO 2009 Conference,
Matlock 19-22 June 2009
Call for papers**

The 2009 National Association of Mining History Organisations Conference will be held at Matlock on the weekend of 19-22 June. Celebrate the 50th anniversary of one of our founder organisations the Peak District Mines Historical Society and our own 30th anniversary. There will be the usual wide range of surface and underground field visits (at all grades of difficulty) extending from Friday to Monday, and a lecture programme on the Friday evening, Saturday and Sunday.

Contributions to the lecture programme are now invited: the main theme will be mining landscapes, especially underground, and contributions concerning overseas mining, in particular those relating to British ventures or technical linkages will also be welcome. Papers will be published in *Mining History* and written drafts should be available at the conference.

Lecture programme: contact Lynn Willies as soon as possible at
lynnwillies@Hotmail.com

Preliminary Conference Programme booking details will be available from November 2008 contact Robin Hall at:
www.peakmines.co.uk

Mining Books For Sale

I am moving to a smaller house and need to reduce my collection of mining books.

For the latest book list, please contact me on tonyfoldham@hotmail.com or
Tony Oldham
34 Park Road
Cwm Parc
Treorchy
CF42 6LE
United Kingdom

Book Review

Snailbeach Lead Mine, Shropshire

As part of its efforts to raise funding for further restoration work at Tankerville mine, the Shropshire Mines Trust has published a new book on Snailbeach, one of Britain's largest lead and barytes mines. As said in the preface, this book was "purposely designed to be read by someone with only a general interest", but it is far better than that.

The sections on the geology, history, working and living conditions of the miners are very accessible and extremely well illustrated, with photo's, sketches and maps. There are also sections covering the disaster at George's Shaft, the Snailbeach District Railway, the mine's wildlife, a glossary and a descriptive tour of the surface and underground. For the more devoted reader, there is a useful bibliography.

Because the book is printed on a higher quality paper than is often used for similar works, the photographs are reproduced at a quality which does them justice. Despite this the book is very reasonably priced.

On a personal level, not having been to Snailbeach for twenty years I am heartened to see the improvements made on this once derelict site. It is a credit to the work of the Shropshire Mines Trust and I hope that mining history enthusiasts will support them by buying the book.

A. Pearce et al, ***Snailbeach Lead Mine***, 2008

172 pages, 112 photos, 28 illustrations and 3 maps.

Just the right size to slip in your pocket as a field guide.

Retail Price : £9.00 (includes p&p)
ISBN : 978-0-9556081-2-4
Sales are being handled by
www.moorebooks.co.uk
Mike Moore (as Chair of SMT)
53 Vineyard Drive
Newport
Shropshire
TF10 7DF
01952-405105

There is also a Snailbeach Mine website:
<http://snailbeachmine.org.uk>

Mike Gill

Website review

www.minesandcommunities.org

I often find myself struggling with the dichotomy of being passionate about the environment, yet fascinated by mining. This website is the most comprehensive I have found that deals with the issues surrounding mining today. Thought-provoking and sometimes heart-rending, this site ventures into the darker side of the extraction industries and its exploitation of the people and environment, often in poor countries.

One particular expose concerns the mining of gold within the Hugawng Valley in Burma, which has resulted in human rights violations of the indigenous communities and very specifically their women. The gold industry has caused wholesale environmental destruction of one of the most important ecosystems left in south-east Asia. The report is all the more important, because of the paucity of research into conditions in Burma throughout nearly two decades of suppression of information by the military regime. It's scarcely surprising that the report's authors find the regime to be at the root of the abuses recorded, and apparently benefitting from them financially.

To read more, download "Valley of Darkness: Gold Mining and Militarization in Burma's Hugawng ValleyKachin", please go to:

<http://www.burmacampaign.org.uk/reports/ValleyofDarkness.pdf>

Lynne Johnson

And Finally... Food for thought

David Cohen reporting in New Scientist, (May, 2007) calculated the amount of time left before each mineral resource was exhausted, *if* they continued to be consumed at today's rates. He came up with some interesting figures;-

ANTIMONY	12-20 years
SILVER	15-20 years
HAFNIUM	c.10 years
TANTALUM	20-30 years
INDIUM	5-10 years
URANIUM	30-40 years
PLATINUM	15 years
ZINC	20-30 years
TIN	17 years
LEAD	8 years.

His message? We should 'minimise waste, find substitutes where possible, and recycle the rest.' I wonder what impact this could have on our mining heritage...

Lynne Johnson

Please note that the next deadline for newsletter submissions will be 27th October 2008.

Thanks to all who contributed to this newsletter.

Please continue to send material for the newsletter. Contributions can be sent by email to me. 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. **Next deadline for submissions - 27th October 2008.**

Lynne Johnson, The Croft, Hardraw, Hawes, DL8 3LZ
lynne.johnson99@gmail.com
01969 666822

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Data Protection Act

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