



The Northern Mine Research Society Newsletter

Society News

May 2009

AGM

There was an excellent turn-out for the AGM at The Cross Keys in Skipton. Thank you to Caroline for an excellent buffet. Our guest speaker was Neil Redfern of English Heritage: he came in response to our concerns about Grassington Moor. Mike Gill and Martin Roe were not present but had sent background reports about mining on Grassington Moor. These were read out to provide the context. Following a useful explanation of Neil's role in managing archaeological sites, there was a lively question and answer session. Neil explained that the issues include water management, tracks and spoil heaps. When the mines were in use, the tracks and water-courses were maintained; now the water is trying to revert to its former routes and heavy rainfall brings crises which need immediate attention. A detailed survey of the area is being under-taken to provide information on which to base future management decisions. The roles of prosecution and education were discussed.

The AGM business followed. Reports were presented and officers questioned about their work. (Anyone who was not at the AGM and would like copies of the written reports, please contact Sallie for copies.) Votes were taken on public liability insurance and insurance of the Society's library. (The library contents have been professionally valued at £10,000) After some discussion, it was agreed to take out both insurances for one year. Committee members elected were; President (Sallie Bassham), Vice President (Barbara Sutcliffe), Junior Vice-President (Les Tyson), Secretary (Ron Callender), Treasurer (Tim Cook), Recorder (Mike Gill), Librarian (Sallie Bassham). There was discussion about an increase in subscription and it was agreed that with increasing costs this was likely to be necessary fairly soon.

Since there had been a guest speaker, there were no members' presentations; but we look forward, at the Autumn meeting, to hearing about recent research and activities.

Inside this issue:

Society matters	1
Future meets	2
Treasure Trove	6
Book reviews	8
NMRS project grants	11

LIBRARY NEWS

Ivor Brown has made another generous donation to the library, including several copies of Mining Magazine, two 2008 issues of Down to Earth (an excellent article on Allihies copper mines in one and a page on Levant mine in the other), another Lion Salt Works Newsletter, a set of photographs from Bradford Heritage Recording Unit and plans of Wheal Roots, Poldark. At the AGM, J.E. Baines gave me a copy of a fascinating report and survey of the Duke of Bridgewater's 46 miles of underground canals and Arthur Baldwin gave me photographs of Lancashire coal mines. At the Hudeshope meet on 11 April, David Young gave me lots of useful information on Skears and Firestone Level; see meet report on pages 3 and 4. Thank you to all of you.

The latest copy of Archive includes a fourteen page article on Burnhope Colliery: as usual, the text is well illustrated with maps and the quality of the photographs is excellent.

FUTURE MEETS IN 2009

Please, always contact the meet leader beforehand; do not just turn up on the day. If you have never been underground before and do not have a hard hat and lamp, contact the meet leader to see if a loan can be arranged.

2 May. Walk at Cow Green, Teesdale. Meet at the reservoir car park (NY 81 30) at 10.30am. If the weather is fine we will walk to the Greenhurth and Dubbysike mines (mostly on mine tracks): if it is raining we will concentrate on mines nearer the car park. Bring BM77 if you have a copy. Leaders are Ray Fairbairn and Sallie Bassham, 015 2424 1851.

16 May. Underground meet at Smallcleugh, Nenthead. Meet in the Heritage Centre car park at 10.30am. Leader is Ian Eeles, 01913 882275.

6 June. A tour of early mining remains on the Clowders at Arncliffe. Meet 10.00am on the green at Arncliffe. A surface tour of the fascinating small scale lead mining and processing areas, much of which may be medieval or earlier, in a little known part of the Dales. Please bring a packed lunch and appropriate clothing for the weather forecast. Stout footwear essential. There is a very steep climb at the beginning, then it gets easier. We will be finishing late afternoon. If you would like to come, please let the meet leader Yvonne Luke know in advance - either on 01943 602422 or e-mail ilkleymoor@supanet.com

4 July. Poynton Collieries. 10.30am start. Meet at Nelson Pit Visitor Centre, Lyme Road, Higher Poynton. NGR SJ944833. Plenty of car parking and bus service (191) hourly from Stockport. Walk looking at features and remains of collieries that last operated in 1935. Surfaced and unsurfaced footpaths, approx 5 hours including lunch break at Visitor Centre picnic area/pub/cafe. Maximum number 16 people. Leader David Kitching, 01625 423249 or email davidk@broccross.co.uk

25 July. Underground meet at Greenside Mine, Helvellyn. The mine is fairly dry and level, apart from a scramble to get in and out. Meet at the top end of the Glenridding Lake District National Park car park (NY 38 16) at 10am. Leader is David Young, 018 336 31165.

22 August. Sleil Gill, Booze Moor, Arkengarthdale. 10.30am at Langthwaite car park, NZ005023. A surface walk and discussion of grouse moor management and mining remains. Maximum of 12 people. A strenuous walk on rough terrain. To book, please contact the leader Miles Johnson - tel. 01969 652361 or e-mail on miles.johnson@yorkshiredales.org.uk

24 October. Autumn meeting at Hawes Countryside Museum (in the former railway station). A free buffet at 12 noon

will be followed by a business meeting and members' presentations, so if you do go on one of the meets, please take a few photographs to show at the Autumn meeting. There will be a booking form with the August Newsletter.

GRASSINGTON MOOR, JOINT NMRS/PDMHS 5 SEPTEMBER 2009

This year it is our turn to host the biennial NMRS/PDMHS event and we are going to look at some of the mining landscape of Grassington Moor. Thank you to all who have volunteered to help.

Walks will start from Yarnbury at 11am and tea and coffee will be available from 10am at Linton Church. Linton church is ancient and interesting; in the church yard are miners' tomb stones, including one for two Derbyshire miners. Free packed lunches will be provided and there will be hot drinks at Yarnbury from 3pm.

Some of the walks are dependent on obtaining landowner permission and four short walks and two longer walks have been arranged; the shorter walks will be repeated in the afternoon as needed. We have tried to provide as much variety as possible and to cover the more densely packed mining features.

Walk L1, 11am Cupola smelt mill, flues, chimney, Old Moss, New Moss, New Peru, Wet Turf Pits and Glory.

Walk L2, 11am Beever bouse teems, Cockbur, powder store, Duke's level, Bolton Gill, Cupola smelt mill, flues, chimney.

Walk S1, 11am and 2.30pm The incline plane and tramway at Yarnbury, Bowden shaft, Nixon shaft, Beever shaft, leat and reservoir.

Walk S2, 11am and 2.30pm Old Moor Lane, ES meerstone, Ripon

vein, Taylor shaft, Lupton shaft (chimney and flues optional), Cupola mill.

Walk S3, 11am and 2.30pm New Pasture, Nelson's level and Frankland Fold.

Walk S4, 11am and 2.30pm New Shaft and Yarnbury henge.

Directions

Linton is about 8 miles north of Skipton. Follow the B6265 and, at Swinden quarry, bear north-east for Linton village. Continue through the village following brown tourist signs for the church. The church is at SE 0050 6325; tea and coffee will be available from 10am, and we have permission to use the church car park. Before reaching the church, on the right-hand side of the road, there is a National Park Car Park with public toilets; there are also public toilets at the National Park Centre in Grassington. There are no facilities of any sort at Yarnbury.

Yarnbury is at SE 015 659. Drive north-east up through Grassington village and continue up Moor Lane until the tarmac ends near Yarnbury House.

Pre-booking is essential, so we can arrange lunches and walk leaders. Please use the enclosed form, or let Sallie know (sbasham@nildram.co.uk or 015 2424 1851).

MEET REPORT

Hudeshope meet

On Easter Saturday, the sun shone brightly after two days of heavy rain and high winds, the citizens of every town on the way to Middleton-in-Teesdale had put out signs advertising table-top sales, coffee mornings, special markets and

other tourist-tempting events, visitors parked cars on every grass verge not covered in daffodils, and NMRS held its first meet of the year. Leaving behind Middleton-in-Teesdale to its many cars and visitors, eleven of us drove up the Hudeshope valley and changed ready to go underground. This is an activity which always attracts questions from local dog walkers and the follow-up comment "Mines! Now, I don't know if you know about this one, but just up from here ...". To this, the only polite reply is "Thank you" not "We are accompanied by some of the most knowledgeable mining historians in Teesdale, who seem to know the answers to all our questions before we ask them!"

We walked up to Firestone Level on the west side of the valley. This level comes with the oft-repeated promise "No, it's hardly damp at all, certainly no more than welly deep". As ever, I came out with wellies full of water and trailing that special mine odour which permeates the house and car for days. Understandably, Firestone is also known as Clay Level.

Clay Level is fascinating. We spent four hours there and didn't see the half of it. The mine is much bigger than one would expect from the size of the tip. As well as extracting ore, the level connects through up to the Coldberry mines at the head of the valley, from whence ore came down and was then sent on down a hopper to Low Skears Level. Considering the state of the Hudeshope roads in winter, this must have made it possible to take out ore even in bad weather. There is every type of arching in Clay Level, most of it still in superb condition. There are more branches than I could count and there are hoppers, and rises, and sumps in the floor. In a couple of places, cave pearls form and one blind heading has beautiful, blue, calcited pools. Thank you for David and Peter, our very knowledgeable guides. They had dates and company names at their finger tips. They could answer every question; but

didn't mind having to explain things over again.

We walked past Low Skears Level and Low Skears Old Level in the valley bottom. At the end of the afternoon, those with more stamina than I went in Low Skears, which was originally a London Lead Company mine. The 1856 OS map shows a crushing mill downstream and the dressed ore was probably smelted at Blackton. The fine carved stone from the level entrance can now be seen in a garden in Middleton-in-Teesdale.

Clearly David, Peter and others have done an immense amount of work in these levels; not only clearing blockages, but also mending ladders and putting in new ones, so extended access is easy, even for those with arthritic knees. Enquiries about access to the level should be made to the Durham Dales Mining Society.

Thank you to Peter and David for a fascinating time. David has kindly given me some photographs of Low Skears Level entrance and several pages of information about Low Skears and Firestone Levels: I will put this in the NMRS library, but copyright remains with Durham Dales Society members.

NAMHO CONFERENCE 2009

This year's conference will be held at the County Hall, Matlock from 19 to 22 June. The theme of the conference is Archaeological Landscapes. Registration will be at Matlock Bath's Peak District Mining Museum until 5pm on 19 June and then at the County Hall. On the Friday evening there will be a reception with welcoming speeches, a talk about the early days of PDMHS (it is their 50th anniversary this year), a presentation from John Barnatt setting the scene for the conference and a photographic presentation by Paul Deakin and Jon Humble. There will be lectures at County Hall on the Saturday and Sunday and

underground trips and surface walks on Friday through Monday. More details and booking forms from;

www.namhoconference.org.uk and
<http://www.pdmhs.com/>
Accommodation information can be
obtained from
www.visitderbyshire.co.uk.

BRITISH ARCHAEOLOGICAL AWARDS 2008

Congratulations to Martin Roe. The Friends of Middleton Park were runners-up for the British Archaeological Best Amateur or Independent Archaeological Project Award in 2008. This is also known as the Pitt Rivers Award. According to Industrial Archaeology News (IA News), The Middleton Friends have been investigating the extensive early coal-mining landscape in the Park: bell pits going over to mining at a deeper level by means of shafts. This community project received a Highly Commended certificate. Of all the awards described in IA News, this was the only one to be accompanied by a photograph.

CORRESPONDENCE

Promotional Scheme for Fred Dibnah DVDs

Some time ago, we were invited to participate in The View From The North's promotional code scheme for distributing Fred Dibnah DVDs. An article in the Newsletter gave a code to quote when ordering DVDs and money was sent to NMRS for each DVD ordered. The scheme has now come to an end, and Acorn Media are the new distributors for The View From The North. Thank you to all who used the scheme to contribute to NMRS funds.

Churchill Fellowships

Never before (as far as I know) has the Society been sent details of the Winston Churchill Memorial Trust, so I assume the Trust thinks that this year's awards are of particular relevance to us. Each year, 100 Travelling Fellowships are awarded to UK citizens to travel overseas to undertake study projects related to their particular interests. The ten categories for 2010 include Science, Engineering and Enterprise (applications are invited from a wide spectrum of interests) and Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (this includes environment and conservation).

The closing date for applications is 6 October 2009, information is available at www.wcmt.org.uk and office@wcmt.org.uk and 020 7584 9315. If you are interested, I can photocopy the letter for you; but you will have to contact the Winston Churchill Memorial Trust if you are interested in applying and want more details.

Fe09 FOOTPRINTS OF INDUSTRY CONFERENCE

The Ironbridge Gorge Museum Trust with the support of Society for Post-Medieval Archaeology, Association for Industrial Archaeology, Historical Metallurgy Society and The Newcomen Society is holding a conference from 3 to 7 June to commemorate the 300th anniversary of the first successful use of coke to smelt iron. The Conference will consider the impact of the Industrial Revolution on the modern world, environmental change, social transformation, technological progress, leisure as industry and industry as leisure. Full details and a booking form are available from;

[www.ironbridge.org.uk/about_us/
ironbridge_archaeology/outreach/
conferences/](http://www.ironbridge.org.uk/about_us/ironbridge_archaeology/outreach/conferences/)

Sallie Bassham

PUBLICATION NEWS

We now have some copies of currently out of print memoirs for sale. They are all in good condition, priced at £8 each with normal members discounts available. A good chance to fill in your gaps in your collection at reasonable prices. Those available are BM37,39,41,43,45,48,50,55,57,61. Plus there are only a few copies of BM68, Oldham Coal left in stock, which was published in 2001. If you haven't one this is the time to buy before they are sold!

Please phone me on 01282 614615 or e-mail at mansemins@btopenworld.com for availability before sending a cheque made out to NMRS to;

Barbara Sutcliffe
The Old Manse,
93 Halifax Rd.,
Nelson,
lancs
BB9 0EQ

Consider recycling your old NMRS Publications

If any of our members either now, or in the future, have copies of Northern Mine Research Society publications which they no longer need or require I would be very grateful to receive them on behalf of the society. Any books donated could then be sold on to members requiring them. This would help in several ways:

- the society's funds would benefit
- members could stock up on missing copies at reasonable rates
- it could save copies being thrown out at some time in the future!

Please send them to the address above.

Barbara Sutcliffe

FUTURE TALK

Wednesday 16 September, 7.30pm,
Swaledale Museum, Reeth, Lead Mining

in Swaledale and Arkengarthdale, Mike Gill; Friends of the Swaledale Museum £2, others £3

ARTICLES

TREASURE TROVE

The New Code

In February this year, the Crown Office in Edinburgh unveiled the new code for treasure trove in Scotland, and emphasised that it involved everyone who found objects of archaeological, historical and cultural significance in Scotland. It had its origins in a review begun in 2003, and whilst the recommendations were being considered by the Scottish Executive, the principal members of the Baile an Or project were caught in the middle.

We had to deal with the Treasure Trove Advisory Panel, because the now-defunct Finds Disposal Panel only dealt with objects found from fieldwork commissioned by Historic Scotland. When the new code was published, the Queen's and Lord Treasurer's Remembrancer (who determines the future of objects on behalf of the Crown) admitted that "Treasure Trove has to date been an obscure area", and that "there is a difference between the law and systems in Scotland and England".

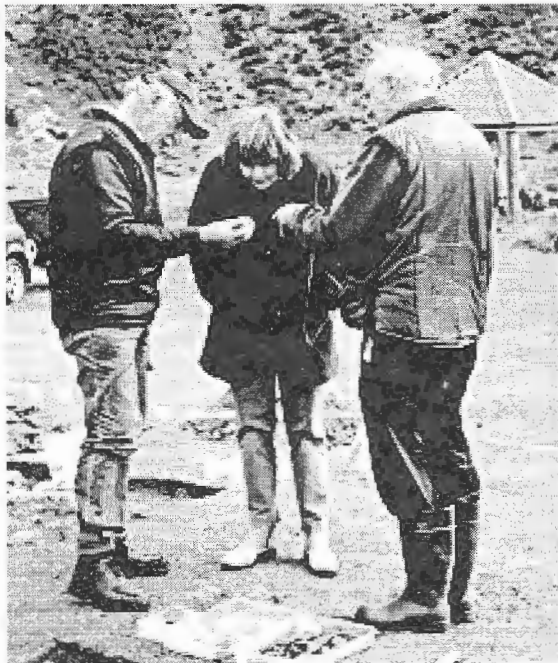
I welcome the new approach. It explains the steps that have to be taken "to ensure that objects are allocated to public museums the length and breadth of Scotland - and that finders are properly recognised." However, there is no reward for artefacts found on sponsored activities - such as the Baile an Or project, and the code acknowledges that there is no statutory definition of treasure trove, other than stating "virtually anything which has lain concealed and which is thought to be worth preserving for the nation".

After we had submitted a schedule of the finds we found at Baile an Or in 2005, we were invited to propose a museum to which they should be allocated, and unanimously, Patrick Reason and I nominated Helmsdale's heritage centre, Timespan, where they feature in a new display opened in 2008.

During the excavations of the miners' dwellings at Baile an Or, great interest was shown in the finds which confirmed evidence of the former small township.

Dr R. Callender

John (left) and Patrick display a rare clay tobacco pipe to Mrs Reeves of Suisgill Estate.



The Old Code

Mindful of the need to conform to the Scottish law on treasure trove, I became involved in a bizarre incident in September 2005, when a German engineer (with limited English) showed interest in the archaeological work at Baile an Or. Karl-Heinze Heidler produced

the book, "Gold in Britain" (which I had written), so as to show Patrick Reason a photograph of the small township. Patrick then introduced me to Karl, who insisted on a signature before rummaging in his car and producing a large, corroded nail.

Sharing our limited knowledge of German and English, we established that Karl had found the nail while metal detecting on site some years earlier (which is forbidden in the Strath of Kildonan). I reasoned that it probably was a survivor from the construction of the wooden, gold miners' huts in 1869, and I was sorry that it was due to return to Germany.

We haggled. I summarised the law in Scotland. Karl found it difficult to understand the words "treasure trove", "confiscate", and "regalia minora" - the common law whereby the Crown receives all abandoned property in Scotland. We displayed our finds to him and emphasised these would be reported to Edinburgh. He gave in, gracefully, and passed over the nail, which we added to our schedule and it now remains in Scotland.



The nail which probably came from one of the wooden huts built by gold miners in the Strath of Kildonan in 1869. The scale is in centimetres.

However, before then, there was time to show it to my village blacksmith - an elderly man, who still makes horses' shoes. Without prompting, he identified its age and revealed the clues that indicated it was hand-made. With confidence, we were able to augment the description, and appreciate the value of photography before it passed to *Timespan* for safekeeping.



Ron Callender and Karl Heidler pose for a photograph in clinching a deal, whereby the nail remained in Scotland.

Appeal for help from a post-graduate student of Landscape Archaeology

For my MA dissertation at the University of York, I am looking at lead mining in Swaledale and Arkengarthdale. I would like to consider the landscape from a more social point of view rather than an industrial one by taking account of the miners themselves. I am particularly interested in the links between mining and farming, as well as the relationships between landowners, mineral lords and miners.

I would also like to look at the communication routes linked to mining,

and at the mining communities and their settlements. My aim is to link the miners to the wider landscape, hopefully through their life outside the mines. If you think that you can help, either by suggesting sources or through your own knowledge, please contact me by telephone: 07702 401677 / 01904 626550, or by email: fee_savine@yahoo.co.uk

Thank you in advance

Fiona Savine

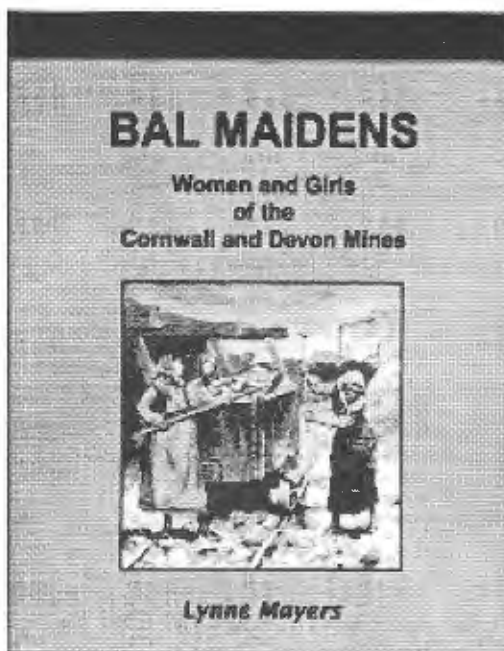
BOOK REVIEW

Bal Maidens. Women and Girls of the Cornwall and Devon Mines

Lynne Mayers,
300 pages : 175 x 250 mm paperback,
£14.95 + p&p from www.lulu.com

"Would you like to review *Balmaidens*?" I was asked. Not knowing one balmaiden from another, I agreed, and received two hefty books. Lynne Mayers had called her first edition *Balmaidens*, but for her second edition, she revised the title to *Bal Maidens* (two words) and added the explanatory sub-title. This act alone demonstrates the confidence and thoroughness that Lynne Mayers applies to her subject, and it is clear that she has made herself an authority if not *the* authority.

The new edition is well illustrated but many of the images would benefit by a reduction in the application of black ink. Fortunately, there are references for all the pictures and the originals can be retrieved through the normal channels. That is, by form-filling, by paying a fee and enduring a long wait, so the pictures in *Bal Maidens* become more than acceptable. There are some I love - the penny tokens issued in 1811/12 by the mining companies, the turn of the century archive photographs from the collection of Paddy Bradley, and the neat line-drawings accredited to James



Henderson, who studied Cornwall's tin dressing techniques in 1858. These last ones have reproduced beautifully and help to simplify understanding of the specialised technical terms.

Before starting to read the book proper, it is essential to know the difference between spalling, bucking, jigging, dilluing, knocking, chimming, tozing and trunking, but fortunately, these technical processes are listed in an excellent glossary. Useful entries include vernacular items of dress ('yard of cardboard', 'garbaldis', 'kitty bags', and 'gooks'), and foodstuffs, ('hoggan', 'fuggan', and 'towrag' - a meal from dried cod). The mid-morning break was 'croust', whereas the midday meal was the 'crib', and taken at the crib house. Much can be gleaned from the glossary alone.

Chapter by chapter, the book covers a range of industries - from tin mining to clay pits, from copper to gold, and an improvement in this second edition is the listing of the footnotes (which ought to be called end-notes) at the end of the chapters, rather than altogether in one

big dollop as done in the first edition. The references to the sources are comprehensive and range from Agricola in 1556, to an up-to-date book published in 2007. The conventional index is augmented by two extras - an index to the mines, with heavy type indicating if an illustration is available, and four-pages listing the names of individual bal maidens featured in the text.

The author includes a verbatim account provided by the late Phyllis Locket in 2004, when the latter re-enacted her duties as a bal maiden in picking tin from waste during World War II. "It was hard work indeed ! The hooter sounded at 8 o'clock. The washer and the crusher were very noisy, sometimes we had to work until 11pm."

The book opens doors on a wide range of topics - working conditions, technical processes, economic influences, sociological effects and political factors. Consult any page at random, and the text is readable, informative and understandable. This is the kind of book I enjoy having on my bookshelf.

Dr R M Callender

Roughton Gill & The Mines of the Caldbeck Fells

Ian Tyler

At last this long awaited tome from the pen of Ian Tyler is at the printers and will be ready for sale in the next few weeks.

The content reveals the mining history of the Caldbeck Fells from the coming of the German miners in C. 1564, through to the hard-bitten baryte miners of the Potts Gill mine which closed in 1966 - resulting in a mining history covering a period of over 400 years. All the mines of the Northern Fells such as Driggeth, Sandveds, Silver Gill, Mexico, Ruthwaite,

Longlands and Red Gill puls many more are wxplained i detail. More than just a mining history, Ian has woven a tapestry of social and local history through the pages, along with many anecdotes.

This is the tweftth book in Ian's series on metaliferous mining in Cumbria, over the years his books have collected four Lake District Book of the Year Awards, and this maybe his last work.

This new book complements Ian's previous titles *Carrock and the mines of Skiddaw and Blencathra*, which covered all the southern aspect of the Caldbeck Fells, still available £17.99 + £2.01 postage. Also the *Lakes and Cumbria Mines Guide* can be purchased for £12.99 + £2.01 postage (plastic cover is £1.00 extra), and is a good introduction to locating the mines of Cumbria. Individual signed copies of *Roughton Gill and the Mines of the Caldbeck Fells* can be purchased directly from Keswick Mining Museum or by mail order for £20.00 plus £2.50 postage from;

Keswick Mining Museum
Otley House
Otley Road
KESWICK
Cumbria CA12 5LE

Deaths at Threshfield Colliery

On pages 84 and 85 of my recent paper on the Great Dales Coalfield (British Mining No.86), I described an accident, on November 22nd 1873, in which a man and a boy were killed. Contemporary reports do not name the dead, but comparison of census returns and death registers suggested:-

Thomas Paley aged 49

Richard Latham aged 14

I've since acquired their death certificates which confirm that they were both:-

Killed by falling into a Coal Pit such fall being caused by the slipping of a chain from a drum.

Mike Gill

MINING HERITAGE

Heritage Open Days Tours of the Newcomen Beam Engine at Elsecar Colliery

On Sunday, September 13th Richard Lamb will be leading three tours of this unique engine beginning at around 11am, 1 pm and 2.30 pm. The tours are free and last between 1 and 1½ hours.

To find the engine (SK3874.9998), head for the Heritage Centre at the western edge of Hoyland, near Barnsley.

Geevor Tin Mine, Pendeen, Near Penzance, Cornwall

If you are visiting Cornwall this summer the new facilities on site at Geevor Tin Mine are well worth inspection. The £3.8 million Geevor Tin Mine Project to conserve 20 main buildings on the site and to create a new museum of hard rock mining are almost complete. More details of this can be found on www.geevor.com. The new museum tells the story of tin-mining in Cornwall and Geevor in particular. There is an auditorium with a new film about the site with previously unseen footage of Geevor when it was a working mine. There are galleries to browse containing fascinating artefacts, minerals and some new interactive exhibitions. There is also an opportunity to listen to the collection of oral history recordings 'real people telling real stories' about Geevor and the local community. There is also a Hard Rock Gallery where at the time of my visit there was an exhibition of contemporary art by Kurt Jackson who interprets the industrial landscape of Cornwall's mining past. Other events will be planned for

other exhibitions exploring Geevor in all its aspects.

The cafe with splendid views over the Atlantic is ideal for home-made snacks and drinks, and there is an opportunity to go underground. In all Geevor covers an area of 67 acres being the largest mining heritage site in the UK and the only place where you can see how tin was mined and processed. The gift shop has a good range of both local and mining books, including our own, with both this part of the site and the cafe being free entry. It is worth remembering that there is a small discount available to NMRS members who visit the other museum buildings or who go underground.

Barbara Sutcliffe

NMRS Project Grants

Members are reminded that, as part of its charitable function, the society has been making grants towards mining-related projects for some years now. These grants are made from money accumulated as surpluses arising mostly from sales of publications, gift aid payments from the Inland Revenue and donations.

We do not normally make grants towards the purchase of equipment, but have supported the collection of UK coal mining data, a project to study chop wood kilns in Wharfedale, the rebinding and conservation of statistical accounts of British Mining, C14 dates of charcoal from early lead smelting sites, archæomagnetic dating of an early limekiln structure, aerial photographs of mining areas in the Yorkshire Dales, research into a Scottish gold mining fraud, production of museum display boards relating to mining, and the purchase of an old map by the North Yorkshire Record Office (this led the seller to donate other material to the Society Records). We also supported an attempt to purchase a Roman pig of lead by

Nidderdale Museum, but this sum was not used because the museum was outbid.

Application forms should be obtained from Mike Gill (01535 635388, oldgang@tiscali.co.uk, 38 Main Street, Sutton in Craven, Keighley, Yorkshire, BD20 7HD) who will be pleased to discuss proposals. Completed forms should also be returned to him for distribution amongst the committee, which will normally give its decision within five weeks of the receipt of a completed form.

Mike Gill

Message from the Membership Secretary

Many thanks to you all for renewing your subscription and for the generous donations that so many of you have made. These are very much appreciated by the Society. The new form was well received and my records are now very much up to date. Of our members, 60% have provided your email address and, where necessary, we can keep you informed of matters that cannot wait for the next Newsletter. Over 30% of our membership have expressed an interest in renewing their future subs by Standing Order and we are expecting to send out the the form later this year.

On a separate issue, a request was made at the AGM for a Membership List to be available for NMRS members only. This was to allow members to find others in their vicinity or to contact them if travelling to an area. If this list was produced then we would operate an "Opt In" with the 2010 Subscription Renewal but if you have any views then please contact me at dgmail22-nmrs@yahoo.co.uk

David R Neal

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.

Lynne Johnson, Spen House, Skelgill Lane, Askrigg, Leyburn,
North Yorkshire, DL8 3JG
lynne.johnson99@googlemail.com

The views expressed in this newsletter are those of its correspondents and are not necessarily agreed with or shared by the Northern Mine Research Society, its Officers or the Newsletter Editor. The accuracy of statements made in articles submitted for publication will not normally be checked for validity by the Newsletter Editor. The responsibility for the contents of articles submitted by individual members, or groups, remains with the authors and cannot be accepted by the Society, its Officers, or the Newsletter Editor.

Visit our Website www.nmrs.co.uk

Data Protection Act

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

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